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GARDENING Illustrated

Founded by W. Robinson,
Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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New Year's Beauty in the Garden

FOR weeks we have been enjoying a little bit of real sylvan beauty in the garden. Its source is a batch of well-browned Bracken Fern, in the midst of which, at ome paces apart, are two silver Birches, vhose whitish, glistening boles make a triking but most pleasing contrast, as they lways do, when and wherever so surrounded y the above lovely Fern. In addition to the arge silvery trunks of the Birch the delicate racery of the small branches and twigs of nany of our deciduous trees at this season is mine of marvellous beauty to the seeing eye, nd a stimulating influence upon the æsthetic emperament.

The foregoing in some measure applies lso to the evergreen trees s well as the deciduous. A nrub of the former—Pieris nponica—furnishes an exmple of delight just now y the vivid contrast shown etween the reddish-brown endulous racemes of ower-buds and its dark reen foliage. The spiny afage of the common urze is also attractive on ccount of its deep green ue of colouring and its nick clusters of future owers, as yet but tiny uds with the exception of n adventurous bloom or vo. Arbutus Unedo is rticularly compelling just ow, being in blossom and uit. A bunch of the latter ay be described as handme, its red and yellow louring contrasting well gainst the evergreen leafe. This subject is often ferred to as the Strawrry-tree.

Touching upon the beauty foliage, one is reminded rther of that beautiful grey glossiness so conspicuous in winter on Border Carnations, making them a special feature in the garden landscape at this season of the year. This is also true of Santolina, the Cotton Lavender, and, in a little less degree, of English Lavender and Nepeta (the Catmint).

Another fount of pleasure are the various-shaped buds on different trees, one tree calling for especial mention being the Cherry tree. See how perky-looking these buds are with their needle-like points all set so thickly together as if on guard! The Raspberry canes, too, in their amber-coloured dress, are a contributory cause of beauty and cheerfulness in the short days; more so when the sun shines upon them while they are still wet from a recent rainfall. Another type of stem with some interest is that of the Michaelmas Aster. These stems vary in their colouring, but generally they exhibit a lovely Hazel-nut brown tone which is the better appreciated when the Asters have a background of some evergreen trees or shrubs, and the silky seed-heads are still intact on the stems.

Equally important and engaging in their beauty are the berries of tree and shrub — in fact, many of these are much brighter in their dress than are foliage and stem. Of no tree is this more noticeable than the favourite Holly, this winter so plentifully berried. Less gay by far, but certainly not devoid of decorative value, is the common Ivy. And then there is the gorgeous Cratægus Pyracantha bush, with several of its congeners, which are a mine of brightness and beauty at this period.

These are a few of the fair things apparent in the garden just now to the awakened mind.

C. TURNER.

Arbutus Unedo and its fruits

This handsome evergreen tree is particularly attractive at this season by reason of its drooping panicles of white or pinkish flowers and its bright Orange-red Strawberry-like fruits

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Strawberry Tree (Arbutus Unedo)

THIS is one of the most striking and beautiful of hardy trees and shrubs in flower. It grows to a height of about 20 feet, and forms a well-balanced ornamental tree. Its white, bell-shaped flowers are borne in panicles, and when properly expanded have a charming effect against the deep green foliage, and large red Strawberry-like fruits, which are borne very freely. It delights in a sandy, well-drained soil, and though perfectly hardy, prefers a sheltered spot. A. Unedo is suitable for planting on the outskirts of the lawn. A. U. hybrida also makes a capital tree for planting in a sheltered corner of the garden. It is more vigorous than the first-named species, and its flowers are not only bigger but are borne in larger panicles.

Genista sagittalis

This differs from other species in its curious wing-jointed stems, which produce a rich evergreen effect. When once established this plant grows quickly, and in winter relieves to a great extent the bareness that is frequently associated with the rock garden at that season. The plant is perfectly hardy and valuable as a rock plant from its prostrate habit. The shoots may be allowed to fall down the sunny face of a rock or to spread into flat tufts on the level parts of the rock garden. It is a strong grower, and in an open spot soon spreads into a broad tuft. On any sandy soil it is suited for the margins of beds of dwarf shrubs, either as a single plant or in groups. I know of few plants that are more attractive in their season, and none that is better adapted for growing in hot, dry places. In addition to the rich golden colour of the small Pea-shaped flowers, they emit a rather strong pleasant fragrance, a feature that should commend the plant to many. The plant is easily increased by cuttings.

H. STEVENS.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Grapes Gros Colman and Gros Maroc

I NOTE (issue for December 11th, 1926, p. 750) that Mr. Burrell is seeking information as to which of the two above-named varieties of Grapes is the better for late work. Gros Colman is much the better of the two and far superior to Gros Maroc in point of quality, which, in my opinion, I consider to be but third rate. In other respects, such as size of berries and general appearance, matters are about equal. If anything, the bloom on the berries of Gros Maroc is perhaps more dense than on Gros Colman. Strictly speaking, Gros Maroc is a mid-season variety, and when grown with Lady Downe's and Gros Colman, it was the first to colour and ripen, and was cut and used long before the others had finished colouring. Again, Gros Maroc is not nearly so fruitful in its younger stages of growth as Gros Colman; in fact, I have found it necessary, until the roots attained some degree of stability, to resort to the long spur system of pruning to obtain good results. Gros Maroc colours and finishes quickly, while Gros Colman requires a considerable amount of time to bring out its best qualities. The best flavoured Gros Colman I have ever grown was from rods which were the result of working scions on Canon Hall Muscat, *i.e.*, Muscat treatment.

I see Mr. Burrell refers to Alnwick Seedling, which is a fine late keeping black Grape. There is, however, a wide distinction between it and Gros Maroc, as the berries of the latter are differently shaped or roundish, while those of Alnwick Seedling are more ovate and characterised by a distinctive suture. Alnwick Seedling also requires Muscat treatment to do it full justice, while Gros Maroc will, in my opinion, do with less heat.

W.

The winter-flowering Jasmine

It has often been rather a matter of surprise to me that one seldom sees the winter-flowering Jasmine (Jasminum nudiflorum) in florists' shop windows. Yet it is most attractive, lasts long in water, is very easy to grow, and blooms at a time when there is practically no other outdoor flower available. It seems that there is scope here for an enterprising grower to create a demand. A good show of the golden sprays would almost certainly attract attention in the dull days of winter, and they could be profitably sold at quite a modest price. If sold in bud, or with only one or two blooms open, the purchaser has the pleasure of watching the flowers gradually open. As everyone knows who has grown it, it is a most vigorous plant and propagates itself, whether one wants it or not, by rooted tips, so that a stock could be worked up very quickly, and young plants could be raised for sale as well as for cut bloom.

K. BARTRAM.

Pruning Lavender

I see in your reply to a correspondent on p. 766 that October is " much too late " for pruning Lavender. Mine is a late sort and never flowers till quite the end of September or later. This year it was not ready to gather till October 9th, and I cut the flowers and pruned the bushes the same day. I have no record of the date this was done in the two previous years, but it was doubtless about the same, yet the results have been quite satisfactory, and the hedge is quite compact and densely covered with flowers in the proper season. Possibly with so late a flowering kind spring pruning might be safer, but I never tried this, and should have expected to lose the flowers by doing so.

A. H. WOLLEY-DOD.

Apple Ellison's Orange

Referring to Messrs. Stevens and Sons' inquiry, issue December 11th, page 749, I have been growing this Apple for some years in North Somerset, but only as a bush, and I have no old trees. I consider it first-rate in all respects. It is a strong and healthy grower, and hangs on the tree well. It never fails to bear, and I should describe it as a good and constant cropper. If not allowed to ripen too much it should travel well, much better than James Grieve. I know no reason why it should not succeed equally well as a standard, and I consider it has all the necessary qualifications of a good market Apple.

THEODORE ROBINSON.

West Town,
Near Bristol.

A mighty mystery

I have in my garden some four dozen Black Currant bushes. Two dozen of these are six years old and are planted in a square, four rows with six in a row. The other two dozen are two years old and were until lately in the nursery bed. These bushes were all propagated at home from mite-free stock, have been treated exactly the same, have r ceived the same manure, and, so far as I c learn, there is not another Black Curra bush within several hundred yards of the Now these bushes—one of the six-year-o ones excepted—are perfectly free from mi This one was full of mite; quite 50 per cent. the buds were full of it, as you will see by t specimens sent herewith. I did not noti that any of the buds were enlarged last se son, and the bush bore a good crop of fi fruit this last summer. The above fac open up several questions. Where ha these mites come from, and how have th got to this one bush? If they have come the air, how is it that they have not attack the other bushes? We may know—or thi we know—all about the life-history of mit but do we? They develop in such una countable places and under such a variety conditions that it appears to me that there something yet to be learned of their orig Your advice will naturally be burn the bus root and branch. This has already be done and, I hope, the mites with it.

Teddington. R. B. LEECH.

Pyracantha angustifolia

This is one of the most attractive w shrubs in the garden at the present time, t plants laden with orange-yellow fruits. T specimen referred to is about 8 feet in heig with a similar spread of branches, some which, owing to the light thinning it receiv stand out 2 feet or more from the wall, givi to it a nice loose and natural effect. In t position—facing south-west—it fruits fre each year and is the subject of much admi tion, as its berries remain untouched by bi over a large part of the winter, whereas th of the red-fruited kinds are greedily c sumed. I have grown this shrub in the o where it was slightly sheltered by ot shrubs, and it reached a height of 6 f fruiting each year, but it eventually dis peared, and since then it has been grown a wall, where it has never been damaged any way. Evergreen wall shrubs are n too plentiful, and for this reason a sp should be provided for at least one exam of this pleasing and distinct subject. U like the better-known P. coccinea, which a native of South Europe and Asia Mir this species comes from West China, hav been introduced to this country by Li Jones in 1899 and later by M. de Vilmo Any pruning or thinning of the branc should be carried out immediately the ber have disappeared.

E. M

What to do with our razor blade

I suppose everyone who uses a safety r must, from time to time, have been wor by the problem of what to do with old bla A safety razor blade is a beautifully-m thing, and looks such a purposeful little ject that it seems a sin to throw it away a danger to leave it about. Yet what is to do with it? I believe there is a gadge can imagine its being sold at a certain s in the Haymarket—which converts a sa razor blade into a pencil-sharpener. Thi all very well, but how many men scri fast enough with lead pencils to keep t discarded razor blades usefully emplo sharpening them?

It has remained for the Six Hills Nur to discover a real use for these hitherto less by-products of the toilet table. S bright soul in the propagating shed found that nothing is so good for making tings, especially of small and delicate alpi as an old safety razor blade. I went in, morning, and found three or four propaga hard at it. Never had such clean and fect cutting been done at the Six Hills,

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vith many alpines a perfect cut is of vital mportance.

Sometimes the razor blade is held and andled naked, whilst another school of hought has evolved a simple handle, a cleft ane like a penholder, into which the blade s wedged.

It cannot be claimed that this discovery olves for everybody the problem of "What o do with our razor blades." But at least is a suggestion worth passing on to all uch good gardeners as do a little propaating. It is a help, too, to those who suffer rom a morbid passion for economy in the ings that cost next to nothing—the folk ho torture their faces morning after mornig by eking out twopenny ha'penny blades their bitter end—and a bit beyond. The ought that what is blunt to a beard is sharp a Saxifrage or a Campanula is very helpil to the taking of a fresh blade. But here dreadful thought occurs to me. The proagating shed does not solve the problem of What to do with our razor blades." It erely prolongs their usefulness. It does ot finally dispose of them. With utter oughtlessness I have never inquired what y propagators do with them when they are o blunt to cut alpines. Clearly there is a rtune awaiting the man who invents a esh and further use for old safety razor ades, but, clearly, it is beyond the wit of an to get *rid* of them.

Stevenage. CLARENCE ELLIOTT.

Cleaning marble and lead figures

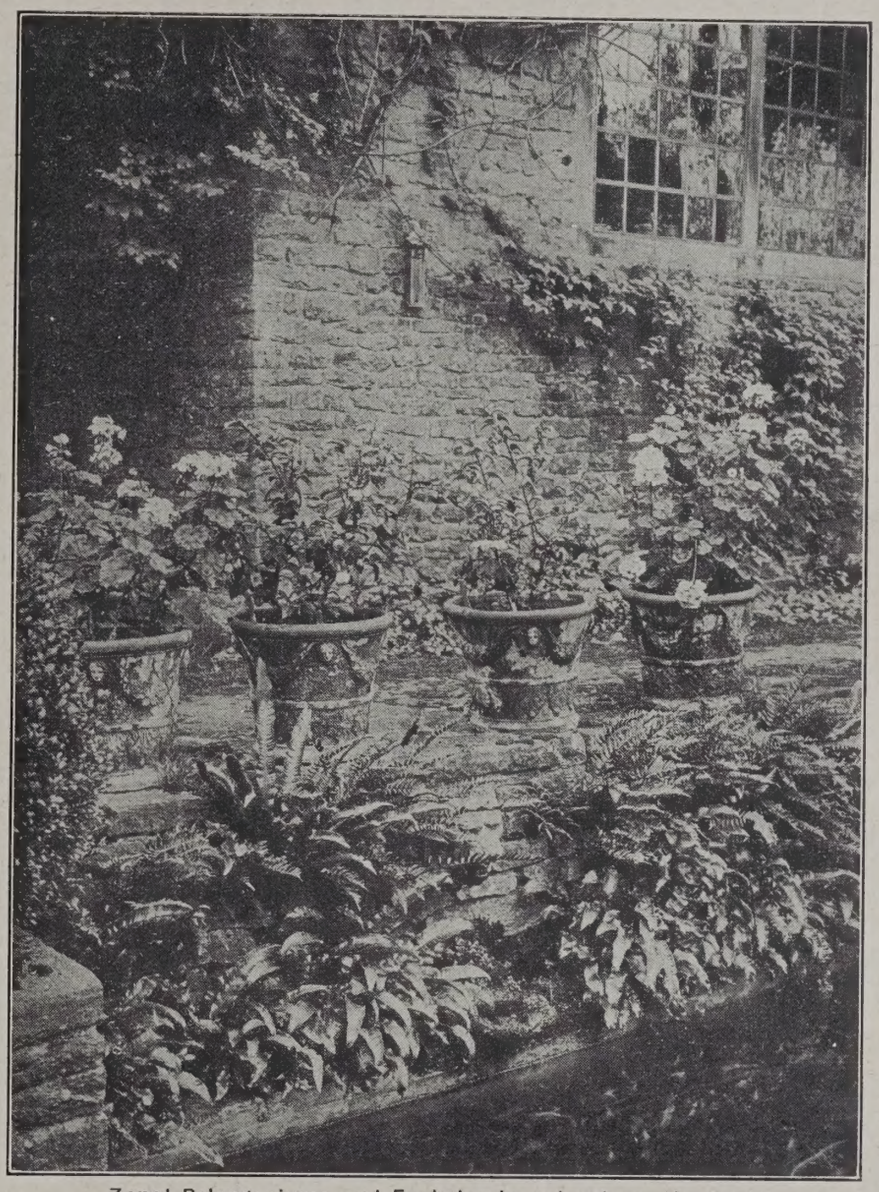
A neighbour here has a beautiful terrace ith several marble stone or lead figures on destals, all old and some very interesting. wo of the marble ones, specially, are getting vered with Lichen, quite thick, some of llow colour, even on the faces. Although lmitting that this had a charm, it seemed have reached a point where it was probly eating into the marble, so I advised my end to have it all taken off and the statues ashed with soap and water, as, after all, ey are more interesting than the Lichen. n going to another one, where a thin layer as growing all over, my friend made the ggestion that perhaps it preserved them! ell, I could not say. Kindly give an inion (1) if you advise the Lichen and Moss be taken off; (2) if I was right in advising hard brush and then soap and water.

JOHN H. LORIMER.

[This inquiry has been referred to the cretary of the Society for the Protection of cient Buildings, who kindly writes:—"In ply to Mr. J. H. Lorimer's question I am say that, in the opinion of the Committee, best way to clean marble is with soap and ter; possibly, also, ordinary washing soda ll prove useful if added. It is most imtant, when this is done, to make sure that marble is thoroughly rinsed with clean ter, so that no traces of either soap or soda left behind. With regard to lead statues, ir correspondent does not say whether se have been painted or not, but, again, best way of cleaning them is the same as uld be used for domestic utensils. In h cases, however, great care should be en not to damage the statuary by rough atment."—ED.]

Gentiana sino-ornata

Acquisition though it is, it always appears me that G. sino-ornata is still more cious for the garden than that charming ver G. Farreri that comes at a time when have a wonderful abundance of garden uties, while G. sino-ornata begins late and oms till well into October and November. at, in itself, would be a sufficient warrant its inclusion in our gardens, but it has supreme quality of beauty in addition, so that, combined with ease of culture and hardiness, it has a paramount claim upon us. It has now been sufficiently proved in all these points, and there are few dwarf flowers which can combine all these high qualities. I know of a garden in Perthshire where it is superb. I have not had the privilege of seeing it there, but I have seen photographs, and from what I know of the plant I can realise how fine it is. Its soil requirements are said to be a peat and loam bed, but it does not apparently crave for this fare, and will flourish in good garden soil, either in the border or the rock garden. It may be raised from seeds sown under glass in spring, or increased by division. S. ARNOTT.



Zonal Pelargoniums and Fuchsias in pots above the tank

Plants in Pots

IT is not quite easy to find suitable plants for pots that have to be stood in prominent positions. Zonal Pelargoniums are always satisfactory, and there are now so many varieties that it is easy to make a choice for habit, marking, and colouring. Of other plants, Fuchsias are among the most useful, and of these the red and white coloured kinds have the liveliest and prettiest effect. Four Italian pots stand on paving above a rectangular tank close to the house. On each side of the tank is a square landing, with steps up to the pavement and down to the garden. The wall of the tank is well clothed with Hart's-tongue Fern. The water comes in by a lion mask of Portland stone that spouts into a sculptured shell of the same, and so makes a little pleasant splashing before it reaches the water-level. The four pots above form a part of this decorative furnishing. This year the two outer pots held Geraniums, a good old sort named Mme. Lemoine, of a soft deep pink colour and with a handsomely-zoned leaf. Next year all will be Fuchsias, for though in the photograph the Geraniums make most show, it is the Fuchsias that are really the prettiest and the most suitable. The kind is Ballet Girl, with scarlet sepals and a wide filling of the white petals. It is in the same category with the taller and always delightful Mme. Cornellison and its smaller variety, Delight, all with scarlet and white flowers. The hanging blooms tend to a graceful bending of the branches, a feature all the more noticeable in Ballet Girl, because the doubling of the petals makes the flower heavier and the branches therefore more bending.

G. J.

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Should Fruit Trees be Root-pruned?

"A. L.," who writes from that fine fruit county of Stirling, propounds a very interesting query, concerning a Pear tree, in the issue of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED dated December 18th, and at p. 756 he says: "I have a Pear tree, planted about 18 years ago, I am told, which made 3 feet to 5 feet of growth this past season, flowered well, but only two small fruits were produced. What would 'A Scottish Gardener' recommend to do with it?"

Here is a query which is not an easy one to answer. "A. L." gives no data worth speaking about. The variety is not named, nor is it indicated whether the tree is a wall tree, a bush tree, or an orchard tree. It is not stated whether it is on the free stock or upon the Quince; the nature of the soil is not mentioned. Every one of these apparently insignificant details has a bearing on the subject, yet they are withheld, and I am asked to recommend a course of treatment.

One thing, however, is self-evident, and any craftsman would see it at once. If the tree is 18 years of age, if it bears only, and occasionally, two fruits per annum, and if it makes growths of from 3 feet to 5 feet in a season, then, it is plain, the tree is but a cumberer of the ground, and it ought, long ago, to have been grubbed out and burned. Let "A. L." follow this advice at once. By doing so he will do well and prevent further waste of time in pruning and attending to an unprofitable tree. Then let him procure a young tree of a suitable variety, and on the Quince stock, to take the place of the outcast. Clear out the soil to a depth of 2 feet, making a good-sized pit. Then let him mark this. In the bottom of the pit place a freestone slab, or a slab of slate or some similar material, and return to the pit some fresh soil from another part of the garden in which his new tree should be planted. The slab will prevent the roots from descending; they can be kept under control, and I stake such reputation as I possess that in four years' time "A. L." will have a tree in bearing and which will increase in fertility as it increases in size. Pears in Scotland, as "A. L." must know, and especially the finer varieties, are admittedly precarious when not afforded wall space, and when planted as standards in the open their blooms are frequently cut up by frosts and the trees make excessive growth. In the latter case I recommend "A. L." to peruse, very carefully, the highly practical observations of C. A. Jardine, who knows concerning that of which he writes. A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

—— I have followed with keen interest the different opinions of the various fruit experts regarding the vexed question of root-pruning. One important point, which none of those engaged in the controversy seem to have given the least thought to, is the manner in which the trees are intended to grow, whether as cordons, bushes, or standards, or if the trees have to be restricted to a small area. This point makes all the difference. It would, indeed, be folly to cut the anchor roots from standards, except in extreme circumstances, one of which is when root trouble is the means of causing canker to appear; but chiefly wrong culture and not root trouble is the cause of canker. In taking Apple trees as an example (this is very important) the grower should consider the type of stock his trees are budded upon. A stock which is usually employed for budding standards upon is the Free (Crab) stock, the natural habit of which is to produce deep-growing roots besides fibrous roots. Standards, as all growers know, will not produce fruit under a certain number of years, but once fruiting has commenced, the tree will continue to fruit for a great number of years, during which time, with but a little aid from the pruner, the tree will generally balance itself both in wood and fruit. If hacking and hewing the roots of young trees are adopted—although in rare instances such a disgraceful and ungardening-like act may succeed—such a procedure generally gives a check from which the tree never fully recovers—a tree spoilt in order to obtain a few inferior fruits. I was surprised to read of Mr. J. Duncan Pearson following Joe's unpractical advice, more so at his confession to such an act. Many readers might follow such a practice, often to their undoing. If root-pruning must be done, for goodness' sake let it be done in a proper manner. I always believe that the lifting of the tree and the turning of the soil has a more beneficial effect upon the tree than the actual pruning of the roots. I will now revert to the stocks. After standards come bushes and cordons, the stocks in general use being types 5, 9, and 2 (East Malling R.S. Numbers). Type 9 is very dwarfing, throwing out large numbers of fibrous roots from around the collar, and thus maturity is reached early. Type 9 and type 2 have a dwarfing tendency; at the same time some anchor roots are produced. These are the types most suitable for bush trees. It will thus be seen that if early fruiting is desired, trees which have been budded upon a dwarfing stock should be obtained; no amount of pruning will alter this fact. Concerning root-pruning, Mr. C. A. Jardine appears to have struck the happy note. Several writers advocate root-pruning, while "A Scottish Gardener" condemns it wholesale. Both are wrong. Mr. Jardine writes in this strain: "Plant correctly, give proper culture, prune correctly, and the bugbear of useless strong growth will seldom make an appearance. If it does come and root-pruning must be done, do the work in a careful and a methodical manner." With these statements I am in entire agreement, yet I cannot agree when he writes the excess of potash incites growth. We all know nitrates do so, but it has been proved by experiment that potash is little connected with growth. Potash increases scent, colour, and quality. I have seen growers treating Tomatoes correctly, planting them in good but not rich soil to keep them stocky, feeding them when fruiting commences, yet these same growers will do just the reverse with fruit trees and wonder why failure follows. L. F. PATERSON.

Conifers for a sanatorium

I note (see p. 767 of issue for December 18th) that a correspondent writes over the initials "S. A. M." asking for information as to which are the best Pines to plant in the grounds of a sanatorium. Among the names given in the reply there are two, viz., the Scots Pine and Douglas Fir, which I consider to be the two best Conifers for the purpose that can be wished for. Of the two, the Scots Pine is the better, although more sombre-looking and, to some, less pleasing in appearance than the Douglas Fir. The latter gives off a very pleasant odour, but not such a pronounced form as the Scots Pine, the sweet, resinous odour of which is given off by the trees, more or less, the whole year round. It is, perhaps, more powerful during hot weather than at any other time, and in the evening following a hot, scorching day, when the stems have for hours been sun-baked, the odour given off is sweet and pleasing.

Both are very quick-growing Conifers and should be planted fairly close together in large groups to obtain the best results for the above-named purpose, so that as the trees attain age and lose their lower branches the picturesque stems of the Scots Pine, in particular, will be seen to advantage. It is, of course, not only the stems of the Scot Pine which give off the resinous odour s much appreciated, but the branches an foliage also, and the last two remarks appl to the Douglas Fir as well. W.

Eremurus robustus

This is one of the noblest of our hard plants, and there are many positions in a gardens where it would add to the gener effect, for planting in groups in the wil garden in a clearing of trees or formin backgrounds its tall column-like spikes ar well fitted. So, too, it is valuable for bol and stately effects among dwarf growin shrubs in a sheltered corner, while it su ceeds admirably at the back of the herbac ous border. In whatever position it ma be the stately spikes invariably attra attention. A background is the great secr of getting the best effect out of the plant in which beauty of flower is the domina feature. To flower these plants successful they should be planted in early autumn, ar the sooner after the foliage dies down th better. In well drained soil it will thriv but is best in richly manured loam free mixed with old mortar rubble or charco and sand, in a southern aspect and in sunny position, to ensure the plants a goo ripening. Growth commences very early the spring, and the young foliage is ve susceptible to injury from frost and co winds. It is advisable, therefore, to affo some protection during bad weather, a fe evergreen boughs serving the purpose e ceedingly well. Slugs and snails play hav with the young growth of this plant, oft damaging it before the growth is apparer I usually make a practice of removing t soil carefully from the crown with my han then throwing in a good handful of lir before replacing the soil, while some fine broken clinkers placed round and about t plant will be an effective surface dressing H. STEVENS.

Sternbergia lutea

With reference to the note, issue Decemb 25th, 1926, p. 772, if Sternbergia lutea is in spot it likes, it is a most attractive a fascinating plant. I had it for years under south-east wall. No care was ever taken it, and it was often choked with other plan but every late autumn it came up a gloric patch, and the tall green with it was so eff tive. When we left we transplanted it a put it in an open place, sunny, but it ne recovered, and only had a few small flowe and finally died off. N. S. C

Godstone.

Primula Mrs. MacGillavry

I notice a question being asked ab Primula Mrs. MacGillavry (issue Decem 25th, 1926, p. 771). I have had this Prim for two years, and found it a quick, e grower. It is rather disappointing in colo lighter than P. Juliana, and not a very cl pink. I do not think it is worth a good pl in the Primula garden, but as it divi easily and spreads I have put it am shrubs and it is quite effective there.

Godstone. N. S. C

Potting Lilies

Like others, I have found that food for stem roots might as well be given at first subsequently, but then I pot Lilies twice, to speak. When the stems are about 3 inc high I drop the pots into others two or th sizes larger. I fill in between the pots w a compost of loam, peat, and bones, lett it get well up the stems. This new com becomes filled with roots, which give creased vigour to the plants. M. E. C

The Den, Cropthorne-on-Avon

THIS picturesque corner of the sunk garden and sundial, shut in on two sides by the quaint black-and-white building with its thatched gables, owes much of its charm to the luxuriance and simplicity, as well as gorgeousness of colouring of a few hardy plants, mainly annuals. In the sunk garden itself, grouped round the sundial are beds of Roses, while from the terrace, falling over and draping the wall, are masses of Nasturtiums in their varied and brilliant hues. Trained up the wall itself, round the door and window in the corner, are Tropæolum canariense and Tropæolum speciosum, or Flame Flower. In the terrace beds Phloxes of various hues, Coreopsis, Lavender, and various annuals have been used with good effect, whilst here and there in the crevices of the steps and the grey stone paving, Lobelia, Pansies, Musk, and other small plants help to break the monotony of the stonework and to add to the charm of the picture. The ordinary bedding plant is conspicuous by its absence, the effect having been obtained by the use of simple annuals and perennials alone.

Gardens of Old London

By Anthony Clyne.

It is scarcely credible that up to a century ago in the garden of a house in Gower Street, Bedford Square, Grapes were ripened by the sun in the open air, sufficiently free from smoke and impurities injurious to vegetation. Yet Lord Eldon often used to talk of the fine fruit he raised in his garden, and once mentioned in Court the deplorable effect the increasing smoke began to have.

Still more remarkable, yet resting upon trustworthy record, is the statement that a quarter of a century earlier William Bentham, of Upper Gower Street, displayed nearly twenty-five dozen large, sound, delicious nectarines, every one fit for the table, gathered from three completely exposed trees in his garden. The same garden for long afterwards continued to furnish Celery of the richest flavour and most tender texture in the greatest abundance.

It needs but a cursory inspection of maps of Old London to learn how numerous were the open spaces of the Metropolis. The medieval city possessed many goodly gardens and pleasaunces, such as the poets described and the limners portrayed in illuminated manuscripts, with narrow paths bordered with box, Lilies in vases, and seats of turf whereon fair ladies loitered, reading the courtly romances of chivalry and looking ever and anon upon the formal beds of flowers.

Gardens for use as well as pleasure there were. Vineyard, kitchen-garden, and orchard were attached to the town-house of the Bishops of Ely in Holborn. Shakespeare makes the Duke of Gloucester, later Richard II., address the Bishop thus:

> My Lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn,
> I saw good strawberries in your garden there;
> I do beseech you to send for some of them.

This passage the dramatist took almost literally from Hall's "Chronicles," and it appears the garden was celebrated for the fruit. In Queen Elizabeth's time it produced a profusion of Roses. That monarch rather unceremoniously ejected the then Bishop in favour of her handsome Lord Chancellor Hatton, for a rent of £10 per annum, ten loads of hay, and a red Rose at midsummer. The poor prelate managed to reserve the right for himself and his successors of free access to the garden, and of gathering each year twenty bushels of Roses.

From an account still extant, rendered to the Earl of Lincoln by his bailiff in 1295, it appears that his garden, from which Lincoln's Inn derives its name, occupied twenty acres of ground, enclosed by a paling and fosse, that it produced Apples, Pears, Nuts, and Cherries sufficient, in addition to supplying his lordship's table, to yield by sale £9 2s. 3d., equivalent to about £175 to-day. The vegetables cultivated were Beans, Onions, Garlic, and Leeks. Roses are the only flowers mentioned, and those sold fetched 3s. 2d. There was also a pond in which pike were reared.

There still may live someone who remembers the last remaining relic of the convent garden which anciently bounded the Strand on the north and extended from St. Martin's Lane to Drury Lane, these two then literally lanes, and the only approaches to the neighbouring village of St. Giles'. There was a venerable but vigorous Fig-tree at the back of a house in King Street, Covent Garden. Eventually the trunk was cut down to make room for a wall built on the site, but for years afterwards shoots continued to sprout from the roots.

Figs, indeed, came to full maturity at the Roll's Garden, in Chancery Lane two centuries ago. There is evidence of the abundance of Vines in many surviving names. A few examples are the Vine Streets in Saffron Hill, Drury Lane, and Westminster. The name of Saffron Hill refers to the old Ely garden. Upon this sunny bank grew the Crocus plants from which saffron was obtained, to be used for the illumination of monkish manuscripts.

> So many gardens dressed with curious care,
> That Thames with royal Tiber may compare.

Izaak Walton quoted from a contemporary German poet that allusion to the gardens extending down to the river which belonged to the noble mansions lining the south side of the Strand.

To delve into the topographical history of London is to meet constantly with the strangest contrasts between past and present. There is Houndsditch, for instance, three centuries ago a delightful rural locality, in which the villas of the wealthy were beginning to be built. That worthy old chronicler, Stow, writes of "Fair hedgerows of Elms, with pleasant bridges and easy stiles to pass over into pleasant fields." Spitalfields were real open fields, and old plans depict horses grazing and men practising archery in that now densely populated district.

From Houndsditch to Shoreditch Church were the houses only of rich merchants, surrounded by spacious gardens. With such Londoners a favourite locality for suburban residences was Bishopsgate Without, where Sir Thomas Gresham, the founder of the Royal Exchange, had a house, and in the reign of the first Charles a magnificent country mansion was erected by Sir Paul Pindar. From his windows Sir Paul enjoyed a charming prospect, gazing past "hedgerows, Elms and hillocks green" to meadows wherein cattle grazed,

> While the ploughman near at hand
> Whistled o'er the furrow'd land,
> And the milkmaid singeth blithe,
> And the mower whets his scythe.

It was all open country then between the gardens here and Hackney, Hoxton, and Kingsland, quiet rural parishes, the inhabitants of which—as may be seen from Ben Jonson's play, "The New Inn"—spoke of a broad country dialect unintelligible to the cockneys.

Numerous spaces comparatively near the centre of London, which had been private gardens, became places of public resort and entertainment in the days of the Stuarts, and subsequently, their numbers continually dwindling, but a few remaining until the beginning of last century. A French visitor in 1663 remarked upon the number of bowling greens, "where it was as pleasant to observe the facility with which the bowl ran over the smooth grass, as to see the dexterity of the players." Such places often gave their names to streets erected on their sites. Baldwin's Gardens, Holborn; Booker's Gardens, Leadenhall; Hop Gardens, St. Martin's Lane; Shepherd's Gardens, Minories, are a few out of many instances.

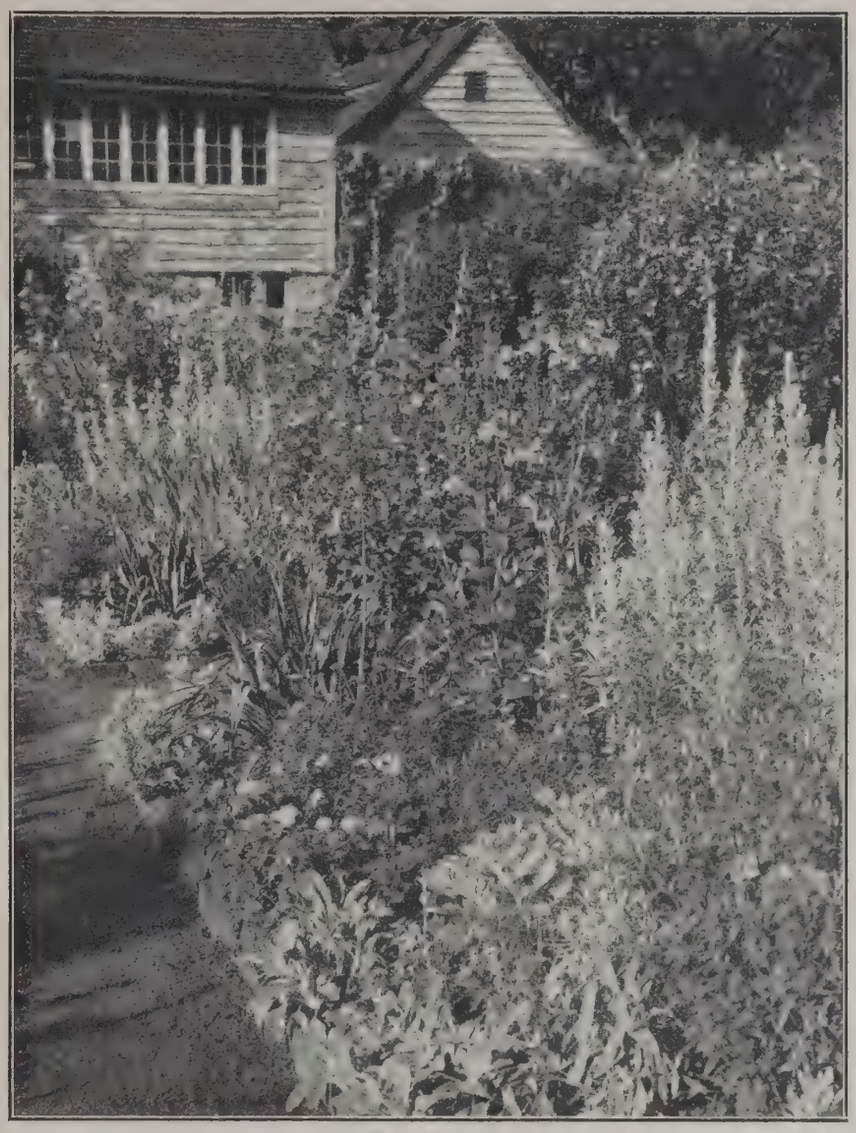
It is comparatively not long since Pall Mall really had more than one "shady side," for Elm trees to the number of a hundred and forty were growing on both sides. Mrs. Pepys strolled in Gray's Inn Walk under the trees and among the flowers, "to see the fashions." As late as Queen Anne's day Drapers' Garden was a favourite walk of city beaux. Originally the garden of Thomas Cromwell's mansion, it had been purchased by the Drapers' Company on his attainder in 1541. Moorfields was laid out in 1606 as a park, with grass plots and flower beds and tree-shaded avenues and walks. Even as late as 1663 beyond it stretched open country.

Clary and Galega in the flower border

Grey foliage in the flower border

THERE are many late summer flowers of pink and purple colouring that never look so well as when they are accompanied by grey-leaved plants. A short piece of double flower border has been given to such colouring, and the arrangement may be confidently recommended to those who care to have something of the nature of living pictures of flower beauty. The setting of grey foliage consists of Stachys and Artemisia stelleriana to the front, with Cineraria maritima also near the front and a little further in. For taller grey there is the invaluable Artemisia ludoviciana, 4 feet high. It is a most accommodating plant, as it allows itself to be cut back to any height from 6 inches upward. Every year, when the effect of the border is noted, and the hope of something better for the future is entertained, the drifts of grey are made larger and more continuous, and the coloured planting is simplified. This picture shows the tall silvery Artemisia ludoviciana, with Cineraria maritima at its foot and a front planting of Stachys. Clematis Jackmanni is just beyond the Artemisia and a pink Star Dahlia. Snapdragons of a quiet pinkish colour (Mauve Queen) are just below, and quite to the front dwarf Ageratum. A cross path cuts across the middle of the borders and has Artemisia stelleriana at each angle. Further along there is Lavatera Olbia at the back, cut hard back in the spring, and a mass of a good, deep purple annual Delphinium Consolida, with Echinops, and at the back of all pink Hollyhocks; these are only in bud in the picture. The border then has a bold mass of Godetia Double Rose, one of the very best annuals; then again tall Artemisia, and a big bush of Gypsophila.

The end of another border that leads to the grey planting has much the same colouring. Clary (*Salvia Sclaria*) is quite to the left of the picture (page 6), with purple Galega; on the opposite side are Sea Lavender (*Statice latifolia*) and grey foliage. G. J.



A groundwork of grey foliage

The Anchusas

Blue is ever welcome, and few plants are capable of supplying it more freely than are the Anchusas; they are not fastidious, succeeding admirably in most soils, including chalk. Well-grown plants will attain to a height of five or six feet.

Massed planting is the most effective, and a generous drift of Dropmore or Opal is a lovely sight. When in flower some support will be requisite, and this is well supplied by "twiggy" wood similar to that used for Peas, the resultant effect being far less obvious than that obtained from the use of formal stakes. It is well, too, to keep the supports below the tops of the inflorescences, or they will ruin that blue cloud effect which is the great beauty of these plants. The Anchusas are true perennials, but sometimes are not long-lived, becoming exhausted by profuse flowering. It is advisable to occasionally propagate fresh stock from root cuttings. The plants are easily raised from seeds, but seedlings vary, so that cuttings must be resorted to as a means of true perpetuation. The varieties of A. italica, itself quite a pretty plant, are Dropmore, of intense gentian-blue colouring, Opal in sky-blue, and Pride of Dover, this producing flowers of an intermediate shade of blue. An interesting and beautiful little species is A. myosotidiflora, with Forget-me-not like flowers and somewhat heart-shaped leaves. It flowers in early spring, and its one great "burst" is followed throughout the season by intermittent blooming. This distinct plant is valuable alike for rock-garden or hardy flower border. RALPH E. ARNOLD.

The Plume Poppy

Bocconias, or Plume Poppies, are stately border plants which rapidly attained popularity as soon as Bocconia cordata was introduced. This was followed by the introduction of B. microcarpa, a closely related species, which, had it been brought to our gardens prior to the advent of B. cordata, would have found room in many places. Unless the owner wants to have a large collection he will be well advised to content himself with one or the other. B. cordata has, if anything, a nobler stature, and in ordinary gardens is about a foot taller than B. microcarpa. This is a great consideration when effective plants are concerned. It ought to be borne in mind that these are not plants which are cultivated for showy blooms, but for their general air of distinction and the pleasing colouring, quiet though it is. These Bocconias should have a sunny place, but this is not so essential as with many plants. B. cordata is a handsome plant, six feet or more in height. It has lovely silvery or glaucous leaves of delightful outline and plumes of small creamy flowers. B. microcarpa, which, on an average, is about a foot less in height, has small brownish seed-pods, which look very attractive in autumn. S. ARNOTT.

Salvia uliginosa

On September 9th, 1913, this plant was exhibited by Mr. C. Turner, Slough, and the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society gave it an Award of Merit. It was said to be a native of Brazil, and also that it was a hardy herbaceous perennial. Since then opportunities have occurred to test the question of hardiness, and there is no doubt that it will pass safely through the majority of English winters. It is advisable to lift a few young pieces and keep them in a cold frame till March. S. uliginosa is a free, upright plant, the numerous growths being rather slender and somewhat suggestive of the North American S. azurea grandiflora, which was known under the name of S. Pitcheri. The leaves of S. uliginosa are smooth, each about 3 inches long, ½ inch wide, and serrated at the margins. The light bright blue flowers are produced in long dense terminal spikes, and as the flowers drop these elongate, thus assuring a supply of fresh blooms for several weeks, from early September till cut down by frost. With good culture the plant will attain a height of 6 feet, but, as a rule (at least, in many districts), it will not be quite so robust. It is a decided acquisition, and I am surprised it is so rarely met with. Propagation is effected by cuttings and division. The latter will form roots in September, and the plants are best divided and replanted in the spring. B.

The New Sweet Peas for 1927

By "East Anglian."

THERE is a steady demand for novelties of all the popular flowers of the present time—Roses, Dahlias, Gladioli, Carnations, Sweet Peas, etc.; indeed, there is no doubt that a factor which counts in determining the popularity of any one species of flower is the capacity of that species to consistently produce variations. Up to the present Sweet Pea lovers have had no reason to complain in this respect, for on an average upwards of 30 novelties are placed on the market every autumn. Although it may truthfully be claimed that most of these novelties are different, if only a trifle, from existing varieties, in colour, form, or habit, rarely more than half-a-dozen of the 30 ever become really popular. Take the novelties introduced in any one season, say that of 1923-24 (the season Charming, Youth, Royal Sovereign, etc., made their appearance), and we gather that not more than four or five are now to be found in the average up-to-date catalogue. It is just the same with Roses and Gladioli, and for every novelty which attracts and holds the favour of the public for any reasonable length of time there are eight to ten which do not. Sweet Pea enthusiasts have every reason to be gratified at the steady improvement which has taken place of late years in the flower, nor need we be at all apprehensive that this rate of progress will not be maintained in the future. The 1927 novelties are, on the whole, an interesting group, and contain several varieties which one confidently expects to head their respective colour classes. I have seen most of them growing, and in many cases have been able to compare them with older ones of similar shades. These are my impressions. For convenience I have given the name of the raiser (or introducer) in brackets immediately after the name of the novelty. The abbreviation "A.M., N.S.P.S." denotes that the variety has received an Award of Merit at the National Sweet Pea Society's Trials held in 1926, while "C.M., Scottish" indicates a Certificate of Merit given by the Scottish Sweet Pea Society. Many of the novelties were sent to one only of the two sets of trials, some to neither.

WHITE.

Giant White, Re-selected (Messrs. Stark and Son).—This is evidently a new and improved stock of the white, closely resembling Constance Hinton, introduced by Messrs. Burpee some few years ago and which was also raised by Messrs. Stark. It is a large and vigorous dark-seeded white.

Model (Messrs. R. Bolton and Son), C.M., Scottish.—Until I have actually grown Model and Constance Hinton myself, both naturally and on the cordon system side by side, I am unwilling to claim superiority for the former, for Constance is one of the old favourites which have successfully resisted the rivalry of many newer Peas for public favour for years. I can, however, say that Model is more likely to supersede Constance Hinton than any other dark-seeded white we have. The raisers assure us that "no white yet in commerce can compare with Model." It is very large, frilled, with plenty of substance and vigour, and an excellent Pea in every way.

Snowball (The Waller-Franklin Seed Co.).—A white-seeded pure white of the Edna May type. I have not seen this American introduction, but the raisers claim that it is vigorous, "is so heavily laden with substance that it stands out among others of its class as a snow-capped mountain" and (a very unusual quality for a white) has an "abundance of perfume." It will have to be a very good Pea, indeed, if it is better than, or even equal to, Avalanche, the best white-seeded white I know of.

PINK.

Carmelita (Messrs. C. C. Morse and Co.), A.M., N.S.P.S.; C.M., Scottish.—The colour is clear light rosy-pink, slightly suffused salmon on a white ground. The margins of the petals are slightly lighter. Although a really good Pea, Carmelita is very near Mrs. Horace Wright, one of the best 1926 novelties. The latter is slightly larger-flowered and more vigorous, but a trifle lighter in colouring.

Gladness (Messrs. W. Atlee Burpee and Co.).—A soft and delicate pink of a shade somewhere between Elegance and Supreme, with just enough coral-pink to give a warm, pleasing tone of colour. The raisers describe it as a "geranium-pink." A very pretty decorative variety.

MAUVE.

Chieftain (Messrs. Cullen and Sons), A.M., N.S.P.S.; Gold Medal, Scottish.—This is one of the best, if not the best, novelty of the year. It is a deep, rich mauve self, quite free from the objectionable purple shading which has been the drawback of almost all the older mauves, such as King Mauve, The Lady Eveline, etc., making them a dull, harsh tone. This advantage is supplemented by the sterling qualities of large flowers, long stout stems, and a very robust habit. Two other good mauve selfs are being sent out as well as Chieftain this season, Royal Mauve and Guardsman. All three are first-class, and appear to be so near to one another in colouring as to be almost identical. I believe Chieftain will, however, eventually become the most popular of the trio.

Guardsman (Messrs. E. W. King and Co.).—I have already referred to Guardsman. It is described by the raisers as "a pure, soft mauve, free from the slightest trace of purple or magenta, with a silvery sheen radiating over the bold, wavy standard."

Pioneer (Messrs. Ireland and Hitchcock).—I do not know much about this novelty, a colour between mauve and purple.

Royal Mauve (Messrs. Bolton and Son), Silver Medal, Scottish.—A clean, satisfying, and solid colour, a rich bright mauve, not harsh, and, in the words of its raisers, "rendered radiant by the thick veneer of satiny sheen which overlies the flower." In size, vigour, and length of stem Royal Mauve leaves nothing to be desired.

PURPLE.

Olympia (Messrs. E. W. King and Co.), Gold Medal, Scottish.—Undoubtedly this is a better Pea than Royal Purple or Purple Perfection. Seen growing in the row it is a very solid deep and rich self colour. The blooms are very large, well placed on stout long stems, and the habit very robust. A novelty I can confidently recommend.

Purple Beauty (Mr. Damerum).—This is a deep purple I have not yet had the pleasure of seeing. It is claimed to be distinct in shade from any other of its class.

ORANGE.

Colorado (Messrs. R. Bolton and Son).—I shall be very surprised if this new bright orange-red does not take a high place in its colour class. For an orange it is vigorous and large, and of a charming colour quite different from anything else in commerce, aptly described by its raisers as "richer than orange, brighter than prawn-red, a smooth blend of both, with an absence of any dulling effect of rose shading." Certainly a acquisition.

CREAM.

Cream Perfection (Mr. F. C. Woodcock)—Apparently an improvement on Matchles (of which popular variety there are, unfor tunately, some poor stocks now in existence) large, vigorous, and true to type. It shoul appeal especially to exhibitors.

What Joy (Messrs. R. Bolton and Son) A. M., N.S.P.S.—Messrs. Bolton have give us some of the best creams in the past, an the fact that they expect this latest additio to surpass all others is no light recommenda tion. What Joy, although white-seeded struck me as being nearer Daffodil (a dark seeded variety) than Matchless, rich in tone large, and very wavy. I liked the look of i at the N.S.P.S. Trials.

CRIMSON.

Red Gauntlet (Messrs. Dobbie and Co.) C.M., Scottish.—A large, deep, and ric blood-crimson, very much like Crimson King Although a fine variety, I do not think it i likely to displace Sybil Henshaw, the bes crimson to date.

Ruddigore (Messrs. Cullen and Sons) C.M., Scottish.—This novelty is described a brilliant blood-scarlet, but my own impressio is that it is not so bright as Red Gauntlet o Sybil Henshaw. It is large-flowered, and th colour seems to be rather an uncommo shade of ruby-crimson.

CERISE SHADES.

Although I have placed no less than si novelties under this heading, it must not b assumed that they are all of one shade, fa from it. All have a good deal of cerise i their composition, but not one is a pur cerise.

Daventry (Messrs. E. W. King and Co. C.M., Scottish.—A bright, sun-proof, reddis orange-cerise, large-flowered, and of a robu habit. The colour is pleasing (a lighte Grenadier or Pimpernel perhaps best convey it), equally effective either growing or whe cut. Quite a nice Pea in every way.

Delightful (Messrs. W. Atlee Burpee an Co.).—Claimed to be a distinct new colou rich terra-cotta cerise, suffused orange. It not unlike 2LO, bright, sun-proof, and see at its best in sunshiny weather. A tellin colour for indoor or outdoor decoration.

Del Monte (Messrs. C. C. Morse an Co.), C.M., Scottish.—There is no dou about Del Monte being a new shade in Swe Peas, and a very pleasing shade at that. rich salmon-cerise pink showing a good de of white at the base of its petals. Nothing wanting in size or vigour, and I recomme all to try it, with every confidence that it w give general satisfaction. By artificial lig it is superb, and the colour description do not convey its brilliance.

Dominion (Messrs. Ireland and Hitc cock).—As I have not seen this Pea I w repeat the raisers' description only, "Ri rosy-cerise, several tones deeper than in a other in this colour section." By this, o presumes it to be a deeper Coralline so far colour is concerned.

Patience (Messrs. Cullen and Sons). "Soft salmon-cerise" hardly conveys t colour of Patience as I saw it exhibite There is cerise in its "make-up," also c rose, and it seemed not unlike Rose Maiden

Rose Marie (Mr. J. Stevenson).—Anoth novelty somewhat similar to, but deeper tha Rose Maiden, described by the raiser "grey-rose or pale wine." The colour unique and may appeal to those who favo uncommon tones.

BLUE.

Two deep rich blues of the old "Lo Nelson" class, but in Spencer type, "ma

their bow" this year. Both are deep and bright, but I doubt if either will be found great improvements on Commander Godsal. We should welcome a deep violet-blue of the calibre of, say, Sybil Henshaw or Chieftain.

FORTUNE (Messrs. R. Bolton and Son), A.M., N.S.P.S.—I believe this is the better of the two. The wings are deep blue and the standards rich violet. It is claimed by the raisers that "even novices will have no difficulty in producing fours and fives on long, rigid stems."

ROYAL BLUE (Messrs. Burpee and Co.).—The description of this American novelty reads, "The colour is a true, rich navy or royal blue, glowing and bright." "Royal Blue, with its great advance in colour, will be eagerly welcomed by all lovers of Sweet Peas."

LAVENDER.

GLENEAGLES (Messrs. Dobbie and Co.), C.M., Scottish.—It almost seems that another distinct shade in lavenders would be an impossibility, yet Gleneagles is quite distinct, a pure, soft, and yet bright lavender, with just a trace of blue; brighter and deeper than Wembley or even Mermaid. It is large, long-stemmed, a strong grower, and certainly a very fine Pea.

BLUSH.

LILAC QUEEN (Mr. F. C. Woodcock), C.M., Scottish.—A rich, light lilac-blush on a white ground, very large-flowered and vigorous. It should easily supersede Elegance. I believe Mr. Woodcock has had some little difficulty in "fixing" this Pea, but if it is now quite true to colour I have little doubt about its future.

CREAM-PINK SHADES.

DELIGHT (Mr. J. Stevenson).—Well named, for its charmingly dainty colouring is, indeed, a delight. Although by no means weakly, it is not one of the extra vigorous kinds, and I advise those who grow Delight to give it good culture. The soft salmony-apricot pink on cream ground gives a rich yet dainty effect. I will pass on its raiser's advice, "To grow it to perfection it should have a cool, sheltered position."

RONA (Messrs. Ireland and Hitchcock).—"Pale apricot on cream, suffused with a delightful shade of pink."

THE BEST DOZEN NOVELTIES.

Public taste is not easy to gauge, and it would be a difficult task, indeed, to foretell accurately which dozen of the 28 novelties I have mentioned will eventually become the most popular. My own taste and experience lead me to choose the following:—Model, Carmelita, Chieftain, Olympia, Colorado, What Joy, Red Gauntlet, Daventry, Del Monte, Gleneagles, Lilac Queen, and Delight.

Some small Dianthi

The "Cushion" Pinks are a sheer delight in the alpine garden or when grown in pans for furnishing the alpine house, and that tiny tot, D. Freynii, in silver and pink, is one of the most beautiful; its white form, D. F. albus, is choice and pretty, but hardly so captivating as the typical form. D. microlepis rumelicus, with rounded hummocks of green, studded with small rose flowers, is reminiscent of D. glacialis, a lovely plant with silvery-pink flowers. D. neglectus is a very satisfying plant and very pretty, with its small grass-like leaves and large pink flowers, buff on the outside. It is "easier" than many of its congeners, and is quite happy on a sunny ledge in a well-drained gritty soil. D. alpinus is a general favourite, and is possibly one of the best of alpine plants, as is its chaste white variety. Other pretty liliputian pinks are arvernensis, arenarius, and subacaulis, and with those already noted they enjoy full sunshine, a gritty soil, a surfacing of granite chippings, and protection from excessive damp. To realise their beauty in its fulness, each of these small species should be colonised in irregular drifts, a half-dozen plants being vastly more beautiful and effective than an isolated specimen. RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Gladiolus Defiance

Gladiolus Kelway's Defiance

THIS striking variety gained an Award of Merit when brought before the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society in August last. The flowers are of extra size, bright crimson, and flaked with darker crimson, with a slight yellow line and speckles on the middle of the lower petal. There is a future for this bold variety, the flowers of which are of remarkable substance. It is a strong grower with six to eight well-set flowers expanded at one time on a long spike. H. C.

Primula Eureka

This is a very fine type of a P. obconica hybrid and ought to be much more widely cultivated than it at present seems to be. The treatment necessary to produce good plants is identical with that required by the ordinary giant-flowered strains of P. obconica. Sow the seeds in February or March, germinating them in only moderate warmth, and afterwards growing on under cool and shady conditions. From May till the end of September a shady cold frame is the best place for them. When large enough to handle, the seedlings should be pricked off, 2 inches apart, into boxes of good light compost, and later, when they are becoming crowded, transferred to 3-inch pots. While it is no advantage to keep the plants in the small pots too long, it is better to do so than to repot too soon. A proper time is just after the 3-inch pots have become well filled with roots and not really pot-bound. The flowering-pots should be, for the strongest specimens, the 6-inch size, while the weaker plants do nicely in 5-inch pots. In any case perfect drainage is imperative, and the pots must be quite clean. A suitable compost for the final potting consists of three parts best fibrous loam, two parts sweet leaf-mould, with enough coarse clean sand to ensure porosity. I do not favour the addition of farmyard manure, but, instead, find that a 6-inch potful of bone-meal and a 5-inch potful of Thomson's Plant Manure to each barrowload of soil are very beneficial. To encourage the building up of strong, good-sized plants pinch out all flower-stalks as they appear up till the end of November. Careful watering is of great importance, for, like most of the members of the Primula family, both excess of dryness and excess of moisture are equally fatal to success. As soon as the flowering-pots are well filled with roots gentle feeding should be resorted to, clear soot-water, weak liquid-manure, and a tablespoonful of Ichthemic Guano in a gallon of clear water being all of great value to this plant, and may be given on alternate weeks. Twice a week, as a rule, is often enough during the winter. C. BLAIR.

Preston House, Linlithgow.

Success with house plants

IT is well to recognise that many difficulties have to be faced before plants can be grown successfully in an ordinary dwelling house, but, by giving careful attention to cultural details, these can often be overcome. The hot, dry atmosphere, the fumes of gas, insufficient light, and great variation in day and night temperatures, all tend to make their cultivation difficult.

However, in spite of these drawbacks, it is possible to grow a fairly large variety of plants in an ordinary house, and one need not be limited to the ubiquitous India-rubber plant. It is among the so-called fine foliaged plants that the greatest number of suitable subjects for the purpose under consideration are to be found. The Boston Ferns, Dracæna, Pandanus, Aspidistra, and Sanseviera are well adapted to withstand adverse conditions. In selecting flowering plants, those should be chosen, as far as possible, which make a large part of their growth out-of-doors. Among this class of plants are the forcing bulbs, such as Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocus, and the well-known Azaleas. Primroses and Cyclamens will also last a fairly long time in good condition.

The best aspect for the majority of plants is in a window facing south or south-west, as there are comparatively few plants that will grow satisfactorily without abundance of light. If a well-lighted position is not available, one's choice is almost entirely restricted to fine foliaged plants. A bay window on the sunny side of a house will provide almost ideal conditions for a considerable number of plants, and a delightful effect may be obtained by growing them either in pots or in boxes constructed to fit the window.

TEMPERATURE is an important factor in the successful cultivation of plants, and violent fluctuations should be avoided as far as possible. If warmth-loving plants are grown in a room which is unheated at night, as often happens, they should be protected in some way during severe weather. This may be done by removing them to a heated room or away from the windows. If this is impossible, they can be protected by covering them at night with paper or other non-conducting material. Bound up with the question of temperature is that of

VENTILATION.—Plants object to impure air as much, or more, than human beings; therefore, the room in which they are grown should be ventilated whenever possible, taking care, however, that cold draughts do not blow directly on the plants.

WATERING.—There can be no fixed rule as to the quantity and frequency of the application of water to plants; so much depending upon the humidity of the room in which the plants are growing, the nature of the plant, and the capacity of its roots to absorb water. Whenever watering is done it should be done thoroughly, so that the soil is wet all through.

No further watering is needed until the earth shows signs of drying out, when another application should be given. Thorough watering is most important, otherwise the soil on the surface of the pot may have the appearance of being moist, while an inch or so below the surface it may be dust dry, greatly to the detriment of the plant.

REPOTTING.—No definite rule can be laid down as to when plants should be repotted. If they are making vigorous root growth this may be done at almost any time; but, as a general rule, repotting is best done in early spring, just before the plants begin their new growth. Repotting into a larger pot should be done only when the pot is crowded with roots, otherwise harm rather than good will result; indeed, much of the unhealthiness in house plants can be traced directly to attempting to grow them in too large a pot. It sometimes happens that repotting is necessary because there are too few roots in the pot rather than too many. This occurs when, through over-watering, the soil becomes sour, and, as a consequence, the roots are unable to maintain themselves in a healthy condition. Plants in this condition should have the soil gently washed from the roots previous to repotting them in fresh, sweet soil. Use pots large enough to contain the roots without crowding them. The new pots should be washed clean and allowed to dry before using.

DRAINAGE.—This is very important, in order that superfluous water may be readily carried off, and this is best obtained by placing a layer of broken pots or coarse ashes over the bottom of the pot. When repotting into a larger pot, the plant should be turned out of the old pot, placed in position, and earth filled in around it, tamping the earth down with a piece of lath or something similar, in order that it may come uniformly into firm contact with the roots. Care must be taken not to pot the plant too deeply: the old ball of earth should be covered with about one-fourth inch of soil.

Owing to the lack of facilities for syringing, plants in dwelling houses rapidly become coated with a layer of dust, and this must be removed if they are to be kept in good health. Those plants having large, leathery leaves are best dealt with by washing, using a soft sponge with tepid, soapy water. This process is too tedious an operation in the case of Ferns and plants having small leaves, which should be washed by spraying them with water from the faucet or garden hose. Advantage should be taken of warm gentle rain by placing the plants out-of-doors, as they are greatly benefited by this.—*From a Bulletin of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden* by MONTAGUE FREE.

Our Calendar Writers

FOLLOWING our usual practice we change our calendar writers in the New Year. We regard the weekly reminders as one of the chief features of the journal. This year we have secured the services of two able gardeners whose names are well known and to whom readers can turn with confidence for reliable and interesting information.

MR. ERNEST MARKHAM.

It is now close upon 30 years since the writer for Southern Counties commenced his gardening career at Newbottle Manor, Northamptonshire, the old home of the Cartwright family, where he learnt a good many lessons which in later years proved sound and valuable.

In this apprenticeship he assisted with every branch of the work—not one department only—and thus obtained a fair insight of gardening generally. After three years in this place, where some of the home woods were carpeted with Snowdrops and Aconites, a move was made to Crown East Court, Worcester, the then seat of H. Branwell, Esq., where fruit-growing, both inside and outside, was largely carried on, the great vineries were erected over large arched cellars, where Mushrooms were grown and a few Pines were still grown in the stoves.

In the open, large quantities of Pears, Peaches, and Morello Cherries were grown, and grown well. The Dell, King's Norton, Birmingham, was his next move, and this proved to be a place of first-rate character to a keen gardener, the glass accommodation being very fine and practically everything in the way of flowers, including quite a number of Orchids, fruits, Roses, etc., grown.

Rock gardens, then in their infancy, were represented with a nice example of its time, built by its enthusiastic and clever gardener, George Burrows, until quite recently Superintendent of the Maharajah of Patiala's Indian Palace Gardens. To Wortley Hall, Sheffield, the seat of the Earl of Wharncliffe, was his next move, but for a short time only, as this once famous garden had fallen upon bad times, and therefore progress being his ambition, a move was made to King's Walden Bury, Hitchin, the home of the Harrison family and a place of note. A very large staff was employed here and everything of the finest quality produced. Cut flowers were grown in immense quantities for indoor decoration, and this was Markham's first insight into departmental control, where each department had its own foreman.

Four years were spent here, the last three as leading foreman, and this was followed by his being appointed head gardener to Lady Chichester, Arlington Court, Devonshire, but a few months only were spent in those delightful surroundings, as a more progressive position having been offered and accepted as head gardener to Lady Marcus Beresford, at Bishopsgate, Surrey, he moved there and found a garden full of rare and beautiful treasures, trees and shrubs in endless variety, Roses, herbaceous and alpine plants, Lilies in vast numbers, both rare and otherwise, and, in addition, an employer with a passion and fondness of flowers and choice subjects. After five years in Surrey he accepted his present post, where he has now spent (three years' Army service excepted) nearly 15 years.

Gravetye Manor is so well known and has so often appeared in the pages of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED that we need attempt no description here.

MR. CHARLES BLAIR.

When 13½ years of age Mr. Blair started his apprenticeship in the gardens at Gribton, Dumfries, and had the privilege of working there while the whole place was remodelled and enlarged. It was, no doubt, hard, but most interesting work, and of great value to him later. He next served as journeyman in the famous gardens of Newbyth, East Lothian, under the late Mr. Lawrence Dow, one of the foremost hardy fruit growers of his day and an excellent all-round gardener. Subsequently, as foreman at Gogar Park, near Edinburgh, Blackwood House, Lanarkshire, and Mountquhanie House, Fifeshire, he considerably widened his knowledge of the profession, and was then appointed head gardener to the late Colonel Malcolm Burnfoot, Dumfriesshire, where he served for over five years. Next he took charge of the gardens at Binny House, West Lothian, for seven years, coming to his present appointment 25 years ago. While all sections of gardening are greatly appreciated at Preston House Gardens, the main features are Roses, hardy perennial plants, Cyclamens, Chrysanthemums, Primulas, Begonias, Pelargoniums and Tomatoes. Mr. Blair is a well-known judge at important shows, including Edinburgh, Falkirk, and Bo'ness. In a recent letter to this office, Mr. Blair writes:—

> "GARDENING ILLUSTRATED was the first horticultural journal I became acquainted with, my father buying for me the monthly parts and encouraging me to study it closely. I remember, at first I used to read every word, including advertisements. I have never since lost my regard for this admirable paper, and still enjoy it weekly."

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

E. Markham

Vineries

It is quite time for removing Chrysanthemums and other plants which usually occupy these houses, in order that the washing and cleansing of both houses and Vines may be put in hand. Warm water with a little paraffin soap added should be used in washing the house, and care taken that the final washing-down of the sashes and glass should be thorough, otherwise much insect life will be left behind. If the Vines are healthy they may be pruned back to about two sound eyes, and after removing all loose bark, especially about the spurs, apply a dressing of sulphur and soft-soap made into a thin paste, or Gishurst Compound, wetting thoroughly all parts of the rods. This done, skim off the surface of the border and apply in its place a light dressing of good loam to which has been added a little Vine manure.

Stove and greenhouse plants

Before replacing these on the stages, following the cleansing of the houses, all pots should be scrubbed and broad-leaved subjects sponged, as this will save a lot of work later on and the plants will be available whenever required. The same applies to indoor climbers. Air should be freely admitted to plants in bloom on all favourable occasions, and the atmosphere of the house maintained in a rather dry state.

Chrysanthemums

Stools intended to supply cuttings are best accommodated in a frost-proof frame where a little heat may be applied or not, according to the state of the weather. Being close to the glass the cuttings are sturdier and give greater satisfaction than those from stools occupying the floors of tall greenhouses.

Violets in frames

Examine these frequently during the dull weather, for if serious damping takes place it will often eat away half the plants in quite a short time. Give air freely, removing the sashes altogether on fine mild days, and admit a little air during the night unless frost threatens.

Fruit trees

The planting and pruning of these are a daily occupation at the present time, for it is most important that planting, especially, should be kept well forward whenever weather permits. It is convenient at times to plant during the early morning and late afternoon, as on those occasions pruning is out of the question on account of cold.

Gooseberries and Currants

These should be pruned, and, after manuring the bushes, all possible ground must be dug up and exposed to the weather. In pruning, leave the centre of the bushes as open as possible in order that sunshine and air may reach all parts. Gooseberries required for extension, also Currants of all kinds, may be planted during the month.

Salads

Place a number of roots of Chicory in large boxes or pots unless a Mushroom-house is available, in which case the roots should be planted in beds, maintaining a moist temperature of about 55 degs. If, however, no Mushroom-house is available any warm dark place will do for bringing forward and blanching the leaves. Large-leaved Dandelion, of which several kinds are now grown for this purpose, should be treated likewise, keeping up a constant supply from this date.

Roots of Seakale and Rhubarb

These respond to similar treatment, and a number should be constantly introduced to the same quarters, as these two vegetables are much appreciated early in the year.

Roses

Push forward the planting of Roses of all kinds whenever the soil works kindly, and wherever the soil is of a heavy, soapy nature it may be improved in porosity by a free addition of chalk or unslaked lime. Roses on fences, walls, and pergolas should be pruned without delay, otherwise it often happens that strong plants get torn from their bearings during winter storms, and suffer accordingly.

Climbing plants

These, with few exceptions, may also be pruned and thinned at the present time and the remaining growth firmly secured to the supports, as nothing is more annoying than to find a large climber collapse in the middle of summer through the ties having given way. For main growths there is nothing more serviceable than good, stout, tarred string.

Manure

Take advantage of frosty days to wheel manure upon plots remaining to be dug, and should continuous frosts arrive, it is advisable to spread the manure over the ground, as this will prevent the surface from becoming frozen hard and enable digging to continue.

Celery

Apply a light covering of straw litter to the tops of rows of Celery when frosts are severe and continuous, but remove this during milder spells. E. Markham.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

C. Blair

Best wishes for 1927

Will my readers allow me to extend to them heartiest good wishes for the year just beginning? May it be happy and prosperous in every respect, and not least so in connection with their gardening operations. As we say here in Scotland, "A guid New Year to ane an' a'."

Chrysanthemum cuttings

Now that we have got past the shortest day Nature begins to show some little sign of awakening, and among these signs is the increasing ease with which roots are produced by these cuttings. For general decorative purposes cuttings secured during January and February are preferable to those inserted earlier. All single and decorative varieties can be secured, therefore, as they become ready, while the shy sorts should be encouraged to send up suckers.

Perpetual-flowering Carnations

This is a good time for inserting cuttings of these. The best cuttings are neither too stout nor too slim, but sturdy and fairly firm shoots. At this season it is advisable to plunge the pots of cuttings in a propagating-case, but too much heat will result in failure. A temperature of 60 degs. to 65 degs. is ample.

Sowing seeds of Begonia

To ensure the resulting plants blooming well the first year an early start is advisable, but unless a steady, moist warmth of 70 degs. can be maintained it is better to defer sowing for another month or so. As is so often pointed out in these columns, very careful handling is necessary when sowing these minute seeds, for the least puff of wind may carry away many shillingsworth, and there is no chance of recovering them when once scattered.

Gloxinia and Streptocarpus

These, too, if wanted to bloom early, should be sown in the course of the next two weeks, the treatment suitable for the raising of Begonias serving equally with these two fine subjects. In every case secure good strains, these being quite as easy to grow as are poor kinds, while the satisfaction of producing really fine flowers greatly outweighs the little extra cost.

Hollyhocks from seed

This stately plant, if the seeds are sown now, will bloom freely the first year, and in this way the dreaded disease may be avoided. Sow thinly in boxes or pans of light, open compost. Place in gentle heat until germination has taken place. Afterwards only very moderate warmth must be employed.

The seed order

An hour or two may be pleasantly spent going through the various seed catalogues and deciding what is to be cultivated during the coming season. It is always advantageous to all concerned when the order is made out and dispatched in good time.

Choosing novelties

Most of us have a "weakness" for new kinds and new varieties, but it is well to curb our inclination for such, as much disappointment is certain to follow the indiscriminate use of such. Choose, therefore, with caution these expensive items, and grow only in small numbers until you have proved their suitability for extended culture.

Vegetable seeds

The above remarks apply equally to the ordering of the vegetable seeds, and, if anything, discrimination is really more necessary here than when the flowers are under review. Good standard sorts that have proved their worth in former years must be mainly relied on when an unbroken succession of good vegetables has to be maintained. At the same time, it is interesting to always secure a few new sorts so that one can calmly study their behaviour under ordinary cultivation.

Digging and trenching

The working of the soil is, owing to the long-continued wet weather, very much behind this season, so every endeavour should now be made, when the weather is favourable, to push on the digging, double-digging, and trenching, as the case may be, so that the elements may purify and enrich the ground, as they alone can do properly.

Rhubarb and Seakale

Introduce at suitable intervals further batches of these into the forcing-house, so that an unbroken supply may be maintained. As the season advances, growth is more rapid, and, as a rule, the produce of better quality. C. Blair.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

VEGETABLES

Winter salads

LETTUCE, of which the Cabbage varieties are the more useful at this season, are soon spoilt if left unprotected, that is, if the plants are full grown and ready for use. In many gardens frames are not always available, being required for a host of half-hardy plants, but if fruit-houses that can be freely ventilated are available the plants with full hearts, if lifted with a ball of earth, will remain good for weeks. I have, to maintain a daily winter salad supply, adopted various shifts, and frequently the rough-and-ready ones are more effective than those requiring more attention. Years ago, in the north, at this season, I used turf-pits largely, and from these I was able to maintain a regular supply for the winter; indeed, till the forced material early in the spring was available. I always lifted those plants with full hearts or at all blanched during early October. These, of course, were used first, as the plants which are green can be lifted later, a few degrees of frost not injuring them like those fully matured. With a scarcity of lights I have used thatched hurdles to advantage, and in severe weather given an extra covering of dry Bracken, which, cut when green and dried, is a splendid protector. If the plants at this season are lifted with a good ball, care being taken that the soil is moist before lifting, the plants do not suffer. All useless leafage is best removed before bedding in, making the soil, which should be light, quite firm round the roots. If frames are not available one can do much in the way of shelter by banking up the soil under a south wall, planting on the banks, and covering with boards or dressed covers and litter or Bracken in severe weather. No matter how protected, it is essential to remove the top covering in open weather and freely expose the plants. Little Gem, a dwarf Cos Lettuce, is an ideal winter variety for its size and hardiness. This, sown in the middle of August, will give a winter supply. I have for weeks in the open protected this with dry tree-leaves placed between the rows, and had really good material till the end of the year. Among the Cabbage section I found the smaller growers the best. I have referred to plants less advanced in growth which will provide the later supply. Of course, if these can be got into their winter quarters so much the better if space is at command.

In the winter, with an extra demand for Lettuce, one may readily supplement the supply by sowing Lettuce seed thinly in boxes in heat, with Mustard or Cress, and cutting over when large enough for the salad-bowl. The hardier

ENDIVES will not take much harm. These can be covered when full grown by placing flower-pots over them, and some of the hardier varieties should get shelter under walls, as advised for Lettuces, if frames are not available. I have in well-drained soil placed these in front of houses in shallow beds if the plants are not too large, and with a little cover in severe weather they have been good well into the spring. For this purpose the Round-leaved Batavian is the best, though the ordinary Green Curled is much hardier than many think. T.

Winter Lettuces of the Cos and Cabbage varieties protected in a frame

FRUIT GARDEN

Cooking Cherries

THERE are a few varieties of Cherries more adapted for cooking, preserving, and bottling than for the dessert, although some appreciate them even for this purpose. The majority of Cherries are, as is well known, termed sweet Cherries, and have a firm flesh, which renders them unsuitable for cooking, as it remains tough and not melting like that of the Morello, which occupies a foremost position for the purpose under consideration, and is more largely employed for cooking, and especially for bottling and making the famous Cherry brandy than any other variety. It has a good constitution, and is generally accorded a position on a wall facing north or north-west. It also succeeds as an orchard standard, but this is not an economical method of growing it for private consumption, where a prolonged supply is required, owing to the ravages of birds and the great difficulty of netting this form of tree. Where wall space is limited much the better way is to cultivate it either as bushes or pyramids. In this form it bears most abundantly, the fruit is usually very fine, and is easily protected, either with ½-inch string or wire netting; this in the latter case being permanent. For the sake of economy in regard to the question of affording protection, it is best to plant the trees in a row by the side of a path, the number varying according to the demand. Half a dozen to a dozen trees will, when established, afford a long and continued supply.

The next variety in point of utility is the Kentish Red. This is a heavy cropper, and the fruit is much sought after for bottling and preserving. It does well on a north wall, but in my experience yields the best results when grown as a bush. I have a very pleasant recollection of a row of bush trees some 9 feet in height, and as much through, which were at one time in my charge, and the very heavy crops of fruit they yielded. The Flemish Red is very similar but later. The next to be mentioned are the varieties belonging to what is termed the Duke section, the most of which, if not all, possess a certain amount of acidity when ripe. The flesh is soft and juicy, and all are admirably adapted for tart making. Of these there are Archduke, May Duke, Royal Duke, and late Duke. Empress Eugenie and one or two others are classed in this category, but I have had no experience of them as culinary fruits. May Duke and the others previously mentioned succeed well as bushes, and the same with regard to wall culture. On a wall facing south the fruit of May Duke is, in a warm locality, sufficiently ripe for cooking by the end of May. The other sorts do well on a wall facing east, and may, of course, if desired, be left to become fully ripe for the dessert, which is really an additional advantage in their favour.

Bushes or pyramids should always be on the Mahaleb stock, and my practice has been to plant them in rows 9 feet apart, and with a fair amount of lime rubbish mixed with the soil. When they become established they appreciate a liberal mulching of manure every season, which serves to maintain them in a fruitful condition. A. W.

Cordon Pears for small gardens

Mention of the smaller Pears of first-rate quality that are also good croppers, in a recent number, reminds me how useful they are as cordons for small gardens where there may be a short stretch of wall. Such walls, when built, are not often provided with coping, or even a tiny projection, and where this is so it is a good plan to fasten a length of plank on the top of the wall so that something may be fastened to protect the bloom when required. Such material is necessary for Pears twice in the year, to protect from frost in spring and from birds in autumn. Pear blossom is very sensitive, and if only a slight frost follows a stormy day there is no much chance of a crop from unprotected trees. The trouble with birds varies with localities. I have been in places where one was never worried by them, and in other where half the fruit would have been tapped failing protective measures. One can save fruit after slight tapping with the aid of plaster of Paris, but earwigs and wasps are apt to follow close on the heels of the birds and the holes are soon widened.

It will be found advisable for beginners with this cordon system of culture to get a little occasional practical advice, and this particularly in the matter of the summer pruning or pinching, for there are hardly two varieties quite alike either in the time of the partial ripening of their wood or more or less vigour of growth, and one has to be careful both as to the time and method in the curtailment of summer growth. A few good sorts for the beginner are Fondante d'Automne, Beurré Hardy, Thompson's, Nouvelle Fulvie, Winter Nelis, and Beurré Alexandre Lucas, the last not quite in the front rank from a quality standpoint, but one of the best cropping Pears in cultivation.

E. BURRELL.

Pruning Fruit Trees

ONE of the matters in which fruit-growers differ is the pruning of newly-planted trees. Many gardeners like to eave the pruning of newly-planted bushes or standards until February. Certainly it is a very good month for the work, though I do not find that it makes any difference when hey are pruned, so long as it is done before growth starts in the spring. The great thing s to prune hard. Hundreds of trees are ruined every year by neglect of the first heading back. Amateurs are loth to sacrifice the nice strong shoots of the newly-bought tree. The method of pruning fruit trees must be determined by the form the tree is intended o assume. The question often asked is, Will not pruning undo the work of the nurseryman, who is a skilled man and has devoted a great deal of attention to the trees before selling them? The answer to this is, hat loss of roots in transplanting, with concomitant destruction of the balance which existed between branch-system and root-ystem in the nursery, has taken place. The general rule is a certain loss of roots, which requently has the effect of throwing the tree nto fruiting, and the strain of bearing a crop alling on a weakened root-system results in veakly growth, so that at the end of a year n its new quarters the tree has lost ground. The result of cutting back, also, is to increase he number of branches, and to produce plenty of strong growth. The general rule s to remove two-thirds of the length of each hoot, but if the growth is weak it is advisable to prune even harder. If there are any side shoots not wanted as main branches hese can be cut back to about 5 inches to orm spurs. All cuts should be made close bove a bud pointing in the direction in which he new shoot is to extend. Usually this neans pruning to a bud pointing outwards, ut a drooping shoot is naturally cut to a bud ointing upwards. Any irregularities in hape can be corrected by cutting to the right ud. It is not the method of pruning on which expert growers differ, but the time, as lready stated. Some people do not cut back heir trees until the second winter after planting, but allow them to stand for their first eason as they are, cutting back hard the ollowing winter. They look more or less miserable during the first summer, but they ertainly grow away all right the next year fter pruning. However, having experience f both methods, I find that in the warmer fruit-growing districts pruning the same season as planting is to be preferred. In the older districts, on heavy, damp soils, pruning ack after the first season's growth has been made is to be preferred, on the ground that earlier pruning is followed by a weak break. f you are in any doubt whether to cut your oung trees back or not, a safe rule is to horten the branches by one-third after planting, to balance the loss of roots, and defer he full shortening until a season's growth as been made.

PRUNING MAIDENS.—If maidens—one-year-ld trees—have been planted, and it is desired to make them into bushes or standards, ut them to a bud 3 inches above the point om which the lowest branches are to spring. Often, if they are strong maidens, there are several side shoots. These should not be cut ff if a stem 3 feet or higher is required, but hould be pruned to about 2 inches, and any ubsequent growth pinched back during the ummer. These shoots help the stem to hicken. They can be cut clean off in the ollowing August. In the case of a stem less han 3 feet there is no actual need to leave hem at all, as such a short stem will thicken without their aid. If a tall stem is required, nd the maiden is not high enough to make it when planted, allow it to grow on for a year, or more if necessary, until it is tall enough to cut down into stout wood and make the stem required. In this case all side shoots must be regularly checked by pinching to prevent them competing with the main shoot.

CORDONS AND ESPALIERS.—Newly-planted cordons should not have the main leading shoot shortened unless it has a fruit-bud at the tip. All side shoots should be pruned to about 5 inches to make spurs. This treatment will form fruitful spurs sooner than if they were cut back to the orthodox two buds. Espaliers, or horizontally-trained trees, are treated in just the same way, each branch being considered as a single cordon. The central leading shoot must be shortened to the point from which the next pair of horizontal branches is to spring. A young tree that is to be fan-trained against a wall or trellis is cut back much as if it were a bush. That is to say, the main shoots are shortened to about a third of their length, or still harder if they are weak. The object is to increase the number of branches and produce strong growth. In the case of all trained trees, and of maidens, cutting back the first year is essential.

BUSH FRUITS.—Bush fruits are by no means immune from the general rule of hard pruning after planting. In the case of Red and White Currants, cut the leading shoots, which are to form the branches, back to a third or quarter their length, and make spurs of any side shoots not wanted as branches by shortening to 2 inches. The object should be to get from five to seven main branches and not to allow them to multiply, spurring all side shoots. Cut back young Gooseberries in similar manner. In most varieties the growth is drooping. Therefore cut in most cases to a bud pointing upwards to keep the branches off the ground. It is as well to delay the pruning of Gooseberries until late in March, or as late as possible before growth actually starts, because this gives the birds less chance to pick out the buds that are wanted. Black Currants need to be pruned to within 3 inches of the ground the first time, no matter whether they are planted as maidens or two-year-old trees. This causes them to throw up strong shoots from the base, and if some come from below ground so much the better. If they make three or four strong shoots as a result of this pruning they may be allowed to fruit. If they make fewer cut them down again the next winter. Newly-planted Raspberry canes are often left unpruned to secure a little fruit the first year. This is a great mistake, as it means that few young canes are produced. They should be cut to within 9 inches of the ground and generously treated. The result is a nice lot of young canes to bear a crop worth having the next year. The same treatment serves for Loganberries, etc. C. S. W.

14, *Elmswood Road,*
Egremont, Cheshire.

Perpetual Carnations

THERE is less to do just now than usual, and with more time on our hands one has the opportunity to observe how slow the development of our plants has been since the last few weeks of dull weather—a marked contrast to that of spring—when we never seem able to keep up with the work. The cold snap in October, accompanied with a shortage of fuel, which followed the hot spell at the end of September, was a little too drastic a change, and too sudden for their welfare. As a result of this sudden change I have seen plants in more than one part of the country with flower-buds in a kind of petrified condition from which they will probably never recover.

It must be remembered that the Carnation is a hardy plant. When outside, the coming of wintry conditions simply sends it to sleep. Under glass, plants feel extremes of heat and cold the more acutely, and amateurs, having had no fuel to warm their houses, need not write the Editor to inquire why they do not bloom, for Carnation flowers will be scarcer than usual this winter. Nevertheless, those who are so fortunate as to have the means to warm their houses will appreciate their flowers the more. The mere fact that their neighbours may be paying from 10s. to 18s. per dozen for their Christmas flowers will not be the only reason for the satisfaction of having grown one's own.

In a normal season it would not be too early to count one's Christmas flowers now, as those buds which are fully developed and inclined to show colour are the ones which one may reasonably expect to open about the second week in December. Those which are merely the size of Peas are the ones which give us bloom at the season when they are scarcest—in January and February. There is a pleasure in the intelligent anticipation of an opening bud in winter.

THE WINTER APPRECIATION OF COLOUR.—Just as fashions change with the seasons, so our tastes vary according to the time of year. We may like pale pink, white, or crimson in spring or summer, but in the dull days it is the warmer shades which appeal to us. Of these, Winter Glow naturally comes first with its Indian-red shade of pink. The scarlets are all welcome, but not all reds are at their best when for weeks the sun is little seen. Among this section Aviator (although not a large flower) is reliable, and Brilliant retains its shade well. The new variety, Spectrum, can be recommended as one of our best for mid-winter, and it is quite a good plan to have three varieties of any shade in order to secure a succession.

In one respect our tastes coincide with the gifts of Nature, for winter does not create a demand for yellow, and it is the yellow Carnations which come most slowly of all at this season. On the recent departure of the Queen of Roumania for America all the growers combined could not produce sufficient yellow Carnations for the special decoration of her boat, yellow being one of the national colours of Roumania. The real lover of flowers, however, is less fastidious as to colour than many who merely value them to decorate their rooms.

THE NEW SEASON.—Just as the new season's flowers open, so many think of next year's young plants, and those who propagated in early autumn have the problem on hand of keeping their young plants going without forcing them. Young plants recently potted need care. The secret of growing all soft-wooded plants (to which the Carnation belongs) is to grow them quickly without a check, but while bearing this in mind it should be remembered that the Carnation must not be forced, and, in reality, young plants are not as easily grown at this period of the year as flowering plants. For this very reason I always advocate making the cutting early in the year.

Young plants need a moderately warm and light position near the glass. They must not be crowded together, but have sufficient room between them for air to circulate, otherwise they become hard and wiry, a condition

which they cannot be grown out of when the spring days arrive. Small pots suit them best for the first potting. Plants in pots 1¼ inches to not more than 2 inches in diameter do not require so much root-action to enable them to get well hold of the soil. An overpotted plant is a step in the wrong direction at a season of the year when root-action is so feeble. However skilful one may be, it is impossible to water an overpotted plant without doing it harm, unless great care is taken at this season, when a ball of soil has no roots permeating it. The amateur who grows his plants in pots has a big advantage at this season of the year over the commercial grower of cut flowers who grows his plants planted out in beds for the reason that in pots each individual plant is more easily controlled in watering, while at the same time the roots, being restricted in pots, the plants grow and produce more bloom.

Bush Hill Park. LAURENCE J. COOK.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

Pruning a young Holly hedge

(V. H.).—If your Hollies are growing nice and bushy there is no necessity to touch them with the shears, but if they are thin you should take out the tip of the leading shoot. It is, however, quite unnecessary to clip young Hollies in good health until they have reached 3 feet in height, when the tips may be taken out of the leading shoots, and if any of the lower branches seem to be making too much headway cut in sufficiently to secure uniformity of the bushes. Once the desired height is reached they should be cut annually with a knife between July and September.

Thickening a Hawthorn hedge

(V. H.).—To thicken your Hawthorn hedge cut the plants back about a foot and tip any side branches which may appear to be too vigorous. A little cutting back each year will encourage a denser growth, but it is not absolutely necessary if the plants develop a good bushy character. Once the desired size is attained cut the hedge over between July and September each year.

Treatment of Beech trees for hedges

(V. H.).—Remove all side shoots, keeping the leading shoot only until the desired height is obtained. These should be cut off neatly and close to the stem. There will be no necessity to thin the trees for several years, close planting being the correct method where tall, straight trunks are desired, as in this way one tree assists in drawing up its neighbour. The first thinning usually takes place when the trees are from 15 years to 20 years old.

FRUIT

Protecting fruit

I have a soft fruit cage about 45 feet by 18 feet. I surround it with 6 feet wire-netting and in summer put a string netting on top. This is a little troublesome. I thought that perhaps it would be satisfactory if I put a permanent roof of wire netting over about two-thirds of the area, leaving one-third uncovered in winter for the birds to get at the ground and covering up this one-third with string netting in summer. Would you kindly let me know if this would be the best plan? Do drippings from the wire-netting roof injure the fruit bushes? F. W. MANN.

[Yes, you may certainly cover in the enclosure in the way you mention, but you would save yourself much trouble if you were to cover it in entirely with wire-netting. This obviates the necessity of putting on and removing the string netting after the fruit is gathered every season. If there is an entrance to the enclosure in the shape of a wire-covered door this could be left open for birds to pass in and out during the autumn and winter; that is, if you are not troubled with birds which pick out and destroy the buds of Gooseberries and Currants, in which case the door should be kept closed. No harm whatever will result from rain or moisture dripping on to the bushes.]

VEGETABLES

Diseased Shallots

Can you, please, tell me if these Shallots have any disease? They were put in with farmyard manure dug into the bed and were given water and soot-water while they were growing. Our Shallots have always done well and been perfectly healthy before, but this year they had only been lifted a few weeks before they began to go rotten. Those strung up, including the string, in the warm, dry kitchen went the same. DARTMOOR.

[We are incubating the specimens you have sent in to try and find the cause of the trouble. Bulb mite is present, but we do not think that this is the cause of the bulbs rotting.]

FLOWER GARDEN

A list of dwarf plants and annuals

(Fred Bostock).—The following would suit your purpose:—Tunica Saxifraga, Campanula garganica, Helichrysum bellidioides, Gypsophila cerastiodes, G. fratensis, Geranium Pylzowianum, Achillea tomentosa, Asperula Gussoni, Bellium minutum, Calamintha alpina, Campanula pusilla, C. pusilla Miss Willmott, C. garganica hirsuta, Azorella pedunculata, Dianthus deltoides, D. cæsius, Epilobium macropus, Erodium chamædryoides rosea, Menthella Requieni, Genista pilosa, Euonymus Kewensis, Geranium lancastriense, Hypericum reptans, Hutchinsia alpina, Linaria pallida, Lysimachia Henryi, Mazus reptans, Nurembergia rivularis, Phlox amœna, P. stellaria G. F. Wilson, P. Vivid, Raoulia australis, R. glabra, Saxifraga apiculata, S. Salomoni, Thymus Serphyllum coccineus, Sedum dasyphyllum, Silene Schafta, Vancouveria hexandra. The following dwarf annuals may be added:—Platystemon californicum, Sedum cœruleum, Ionopsidium acaule, Erinus alpinus in rose, white and purple shades (this comes freely from seeds dropped in the crevices of stones but is of perennial duration), Linaria alpina, Nemophila insignis, Abronia umbellata, Collinsia grandiflora, Dimorphotheca aurantiaca, Kaulfussia amelloides, Leptosiphon hybridus.

Good late Chrysanthemums

(F. Whitchurch).—In reply to your reques for a list of a few good late Chrysanthemum to provide a nice display round about Christ mas, this is far easier to-day than it was 1 to 20 years ago. The undermentioned varie ties are good and dependable, and represen the best of the older and newer sorts o proved merit:—Black Prince, a very distinc sort, reminds one of the old sort, Jeann Delaux; colour, dark crimson. Chestnu White, a free-flowering, vigorous-growin sort, good either disbudded or undisbudded Glistening white aptly describes the colour It is the most widely-grown December white Balcombe Beauty: This is a sport from De cember Bronze. The flowers are of goo size and the colour rich golden-yellow December Bronze, a dependable variety pro ducing flowers of good size with stiff florets colour, distinct bronze. This variety pay for good culture. Favourite, a pure whit flower of good size, rapidly increasing i popularity. Pink Favourite: This is a spor from Favourite; colour, pearl-pink; goo habit and growth. Winter Cheer, one of th most distinct late sorts; colour, deep pink dwarf. Pays for good culture; valuable Christmas. December Pink: In the opinio of the best market growers there is nothin better than this sort; colour, silvery-pink— pretty shade. Exmouth Crimson: Althoug this variety has been in commerce for man years it is still the best December crimso variety for disbudding. It is a good varie for Christmas. Crimson Wilcox: U doubtedly the most effective spray kind f late cutting. The blossoms are small, b beautiful in sprays. P. Dove: This is an i curved flower, and, when disbudded, beautiful; colour, white. Rosalind, a di tinct bronze. The plant flowers from D cember onwards.

MISCELLANEOUS

Carnation maggot

We are greatly indebted to "R. C." f kindly sending us along further specimens the Carnation maggot for further observ tion. For reply see issue December 18t 1926, p. 768.

Insect to name

Kindly name this insect. It was found a Banana, and is, at the time of writing, st alive and active. It is evidently a forei species and rather a curiosity.

Suffolk. S. G. COLEBY.

[The insect enclosed is a green cockroa (Panchlora exoleta Burm). It is a native Central America, probably from Briti Honduras, and is not infrequently introduc with Bananas. The insect was dead arrival, but they may be kept alive for mont if provided with Banana skins.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

F. F., Hants.—Thuya plicata Don (Lobbi hort). It is distinguished by havi the underside of the foliage streaked w white. In T. occidentalis (Arbor Vitæ) foliage is green beneath.

H. W., Caerleon.—1, Pyracantha coccin Lalandei; 2, Berberis Hookeri.

A. B.—The flower you send is that of Er Bowieana, from South Africa. It is hardy in this country, but is grown in p in large numbers by florists for ind decoration.

Worth Horticultural Society

The annual meeting of this old-established Society was held at Turner's Hill Schools on December 8th, when a good number were present. Mr. H. H. L. Miller presided. The report was presented by the Secretary (Mr. F. C. Peachey) and was considered very satisfactory. The financial statement showed a balance in hand of £30 17s. 7d. Mr. Peachey was congratulated on this very satisfactory position of the show's finances. The report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted. Sir John H. Luscombe was elected President for the ensuing year, and Mr. C. H. W. Buckley was warmly thanked for filling the position last season. The Vice-Presidents were re-elected. Mr. Russell was re-elected Chairman of Committee and Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. F. C. Peachey Secretary. The Committee was also re-elected, excepting Mr. Bowden, who had left the district. Messrs. Middleton, Usher, and Powell were added. All the officers were thanked for their past services. It was hoped to arrange for next year's show to be held as near Three Bridges as possible. During the evening the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, presented Mr. W. Woodfine with a silver teapot to mark the occasion of his recent golden wedding and as a token of the appreciation of his services to the Society. Mr. Woodfine was a member of the Committee for a number of years from 1889 onwards, and still takes a keen interest in the Society. When gardener to the late Mr. T. Lavenshaw, of South Hill, Worth, he staged some excellent groups and rendered valuable service in many ways.

Royal Horticultural Society's Awards for Services to Horticulture

The Council of the Royal Horticultural Society, at their meeting on December 14th, 1926, awarded the following cups and medals:—

VICTORIA MEDAL OF HONOUR.—To Mr. L. G. Alexander, Mr. R. L. Harrow, Mr. J. T. Musgrave, Mr. W. W. Pettigrew, Prof. F. V. Theobald, M.A., Mr. W. E. Wallace, Mr. A. Watkins.

THE LAWRENCE MEDAL.—To Messrs. R. H. Rath, Ltd., for Daffodils.

VEITCH MEMORIAL MEDALS.—Gold medal to Mr. George Forrest, V.M.H., for his explorations and introductions. Gold medal to Mr. James Hudson, V.M.H., for general services to horticulture. Gold medal to Rev. J. H. Engleheart, V.M.H., for his work on daffodils. Gold medal to Mr. H. B. May, V.M.H., for general services to horticulture. Silver Medal and £25 to Mr. W. Camp, late foreman to Messrs. Rivers and Son. Silver medal and £25 to Miss M. Smith for her botanical draughtsmanship.

THE CORY CUP.—To Mr. F. Howard, of California, for *Crinodonna memoria-Corsii*.

THE LODER RHODODENDRON CUP.—To Mr. Lionel de Rothschild for the work he has done in furthering all movements concerned with the introduction and cultivation of rhododendrons.

THE GEORGE MOORE MEDAL.—To Mr. C. F. Moore, V.M.H., for Cypripedium Mr. Trevor.

THE SANDER MEDAL.—To Baron Bruno Schröder for Brasso-Lælia-Cattleya Margery.

These cups and medals will be presented at the annual general meeting of the Society on Tuesday, February 8th, at 3 p.m.

The following Veitch Memorial Medals are offered for award in 1927:—Silver medal and bronze medal. To be awarded by the Deputation of the Council at the Centenary Show of the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France. A medal for the best exhibit of irises by an amateur at the Iris Society's Show on June 2nd, 1927.

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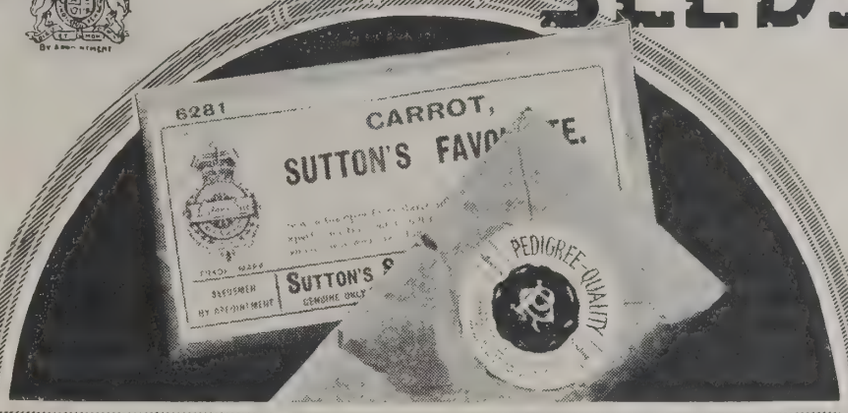

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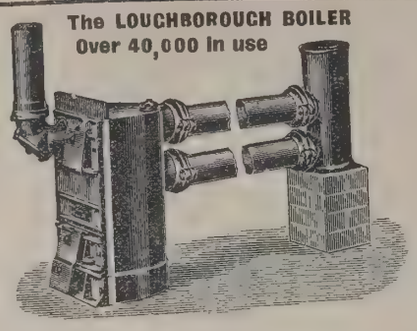

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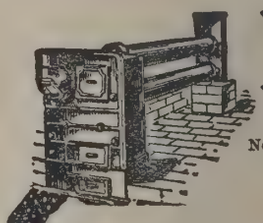

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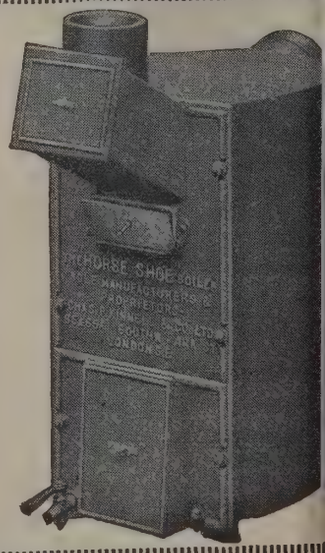

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Delphiniums and Their Cultivation

Selection of varieties for garden effect, and lessons from the Wisley trials

)F all the plants which adorn the herbaceous borders of our gardens none catches the eye so prominently or is more nired than clumps of well-grown Delniums, and by Delphiniums I refer to ose which are really blue and not mongrel ades of colour, such as mauves and the called whites, which are not white, but at best cream. The number of varieties is vildering, and would-be growers of Delniums have great difficulty in making a ection from a catalogue. One n of nurserymen, I notice, ered no fewer than 257 in their alogue this season, and then not include such well-known amples as Capri, Harry etham, Henri Moissan, nnonia, Mrs. Townley cker, Sir Douglas Haig, and eodora, to nearly all of ich the Royal Horticultural iety has given its Award of rit. Those desiring to grow best varieties cannot do ter than consult the list of ards issued by the R.H.S. ards are given to Delniums at Wisley after two rs' inspection by a committee experts. No plants are more ing to the eye, whether at a ance or near by, than a up of 10 or 12 Delphiniums one variety, but for the best ct it is advisable that the ups should not be too near ether—say, 30 feet or even e apart—with appropriate nts between them and a good kground of Conifers or er foliaged shrubs. The rieties I recommend for nting are Sir Douglas Haig nd spike of deep purple), licent Blackmore (blue and ouch of mauve), Mrs. H. J. es (Cambridge-blue with ner slender spike), Nora guson (pale blue and pink), Pannonia n which there is no richer blue), the ke (deep blue semi-double), and Theodora nflower-blue). These can be supplented by other varieties according to the wer's taste.

s to cultivation, the best course to adopt o dig the space designed for Delphiniums in August or early in September not less n 2 feet deep, breaking up the bottom leaving it loose, and then adding a sonable quantity of half-rotted manure v or pig for choice), giving the site about a month wherein to settle down. Plant in October or November if the ground is fairly dry and free from frost. There should be an average space of 3 feet or so between the plants. Avoid touching the soil after heavy rain. If prevented from planting in one of these months opportunities generally occur in January or February of which advantage should be taken, but autumn is the best season. Give a mulch of manure round each plant early in March and at the same time prick up the soil, the surface of which will have been beaten flat by heavy winter rains. The mulch will help to protect the roots against the effects of the summer sun. Plants can be divided in the usual way, but it is not advisable to do so if grown for effect until they are three years old.

A well-grown clump of the pale blue and soft pink Delphinium Nora Ferguson

The dwarf varieties, Persimmon, an improvement on Bella Donna, and Capri, a beautiful pale blue, should be planted nearer the front of the border than the tall varieties. Sidalcea candida, S. Rose Queen, and Salvia virgata mix well with them.

Fortunately, Delphiniums are practically free from disease.

As soon as the plants are about a foot high they should be staked. Delphiniums are easily broken by wind, so it is advisable to use three or four Bamboos round each large plant with tarred twine.

In periods of drought Delphiniums require a thorough soaking occasionally.

Avoid planting near big trees as the roots will rob the plants of food. An open border is the best position. A month or so after the main stems have finished flowering they should be cut down to ground-level unless seeds are required for sowing, in which case leave one stem. Although some growers encourage the plants to flower a second time I do not advocate this being adopted, as prolonging the flowering season tends to weaken the plant for the next season, and the flowers are seldom worth seeing. It is interesting to sow Delphinium seeds of one's own saving, as by this means a good variety is often obtained.

Unfortunately, if one can judge from Delphiniums which were exhibited at Vincent Square last year there is a tendency to spoil them by growing abnormally long spikes and extra large individual flowers. Some I saw there might well have spent 12 months on a sewage farm. Awhile back the Council of the R.H.S. instructed their judges not to recommend awards for extra large vegetables. This had a good effect, as more attention is paid now to quality than size, and it is to be hoped that a similar course will be followed with Delphiniums.

The Delphinium trial, it is understood, is to be continued at Wisley this year. All readers who can do so should see it and read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest all they may see.

Delphiniums will soon be showing above ground, and as slugs are particularly partial to the succulent shoots a ring of coal-ashes should be placed around each plant to ward off attacks. When well grown—but not overgrown—the Delphinium is one of the most lovely of all hardy herbaceous flowers; the tall, stately spikes of bloom make it a delight in every garden. B. Newbury.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

National Rose Society

THE 50th annual general meeting of this Society will be held at Caxton Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster (nearest station, St. James's Park), on Tuesday, January 18th, at 2.30 p.m., when the annual report of the Council and the Hon. Treasurer's statement of accounts will be presented. Voting papers are being sent out, and the result of the election of the Council for the ensuing year will be announced at the annual general meeting. Members of the Society are cordially invited to tea and light refreshments after the meeting, which is expected to be over by 3.45 p.m. No tickets will be required.

New Potatoes at Christmas

Amateur growers in the Worthing district have been encouraged by the results of their efforts to produce new Potatoes at Christmas. Briefly, the method of procedure is to plant retarded old seed in August and to lift the crop at Christmas after protecting with straw. This novel method of cultivation was introduced to the notice of Worthing growers by Mr. Joseph R. Holmes, the founder of the Buckinghamshire Christmas Potato Society. In a letter dated December 25th, 1926, Mr. H. Hasgood, of the County Club, Worthing, writes:—"I am glad to say that the Potatoes have turned out a success, and we have had new Potatoes at our Christmas dinner to-day. They were excellent." We should be interested to hear the experience of others.

Saxifraga Wallacei

Among the best of what are known as the mossy species is S. Wallacei, an Edinburgh-raised hybrid, which has large foliage for a "mossy," and has many pure white flowers in spring. I always think it ought to find a place in almost every garden, where it would form a good edging or rock plant. It does best in comparative shade, as large plants in full sun occasionally become bare in the centre. It likes a light, but not too dry, soil, and is increased by cuttings.

S. A.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Should Fruit Trees be Root-pruned?

I THINK that Scottish Gardener (issue January 1st, p. 4) gives "A. L." some poor advice *re* his Pear tree. I would advise "A. L." to leave the long growths on his Pear tree for two years, doing little pruning at all. I should also advise him to plant another Pear tree, a different variety, to flower at a similar time; any nurseryman would tell him a variety needed.

He would, I am sure, get more satisfaction than he would if he throws his 18 years old Pear tree out to plant a young tree in its place. I have been very interested in the subject of root pruning, and note that "A. L." has had some experience of the same. But I think a lot of root pruning is only necessary where spur pruning is carried out. There are trees in this district that resemble clipped bushes after summer pruning every year. A. M.

Ripon.

—— The discussion on this has been very interesting and instructive. The advice given by "Scottish Gardener" (issue January 1st) to grub out the Pear tree planted 18 years ago is the easy way out of the difficulty. The tree is a standard, the branches spreading out over 20 feet, and, only having had charge of it for two years, I prefer to try root-pruning, which I have done to one-quarter and will await results. If not satisfactory will do another quarter next season. In regard to placing a stone slab beneath trees, I have done so many a time, but I had an experience in one garden where there was a floor of concrete laid down 6 feet out from the walls. One lot of cordon Apples and Pears were not giving satisfaction. I examined the border and found the thick roots, when they came to edge of concrete, went right down to the subsoil. I lifted them, cutting back the thick ones, and laid all the roots in good loam. I was long enough there afterwards to see the improvement.

I could give numerous other instances of good results from similar treatment. If a fruit tree is not giving satisfaction examine the roots, bring them nearer the surface if too deep, giving them soil suitable to their kind.

In regard to C. A. Jardine's method of three cuts, ½ inch wide, equidistant apart round the tree, the length according to size of tree, how this is to check the spring flow of sap and bring a tree into a fruit-bearing condition is not clear to me. However, when the opportunity comes I will try. Never too old to learn. A. L.

Stirling.

—— In the discussion which has been going on in the columns of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED relative to "root-pruning of fruit trees" I am surprised to see no reference to "summer pruning" as a factor in the production of fruit-buds and of fruit (given suitable conditions of weather at the time of flowering). I am only an amateur and not a "Scottish Gardener," but my small experience has proved the advantage of summer pruning. J. M. S.

Willaston, Wirral, Cheshire.

Apple Bismarck

We have noticed the correspondence with regard to Bismarck Apple and your reference to ourselves as suppliers of trees (issue December 25th, 1926, p. 771).

We have grown the Apple for over 40 years, but have now discontinued doing so for market purposes, although we still grow a limited quantity for those who have suitable soil on which to plant it. It cannot, however, be recommended for general planting on all soils, but does well on gravelly or other warm, well-drained soils of a loamy character. Its advantages are: Large size when well grown; bright colour; white juicy flesh; good for cooking; heavy cropper when growing happily. Good for exhibition. Eatable, but not of high dessert quality. Its disadvantages are: Tendency to scab in cold, wet weather, unless trees are systematically sprayed, especially in low elevation; subject to Apple mildew in some seasons.

If allowed to grow naturally it makes a large tree, but is more satisfactory if pruned fairly closely.

Our reasons for discarding are: Its tendency to scab; unpopularity in London markets when compared with such varieties as Bramley's Seedling, Lane's Prince Albert, Newton Wonder, and others.

THE BARNHAM NURSERIES, LTD.

The mystery of big-bud infection

I would suggest that a very probable so tion of Mr. R. B. Leech's mystery (iss January 1st, p. 2) may be found in our friend the Bumble Bee. His soft, ha body, like that of the mole, is an excell home for parasites, and he is busy on Black Currants just at the time when Pl toptus ribis is taking his walks abroad. am very partial to Black Currants, and h taken considerable trouble to cope with big-bud pest. A few years ago I bou a property, and in the kitchen garden wa patch of about a dozen very large well-gro bushes of Black Currants, and full of bud. In another part of the garden wa row of three-year-old bushes, obviously a ferent variety, slightly infected. I got pos sion of the property in December, and January my gardener and I cut the old bus completely to the ground, and after burn everything dressed the stools and gro with lime sulphur. The three-year bushes we thoroughly hand picked, got a fine crop of Currants; the old st made fine growth, which was judicio thinned out during the summer, and the lowing season there was a fine crop of f and no big bud. In the meantime, in another part of the garden, I planted B koops, followed by a dozen Daniels S tember Fruiting. The third year from ting down the old trees were again b infected, so were grubbed up and bu The others, Seabrooks, were kept in h by picking and cutting out old wood fre Boskoops became infected, but not sever Daniels so far have been immune, and possible that the buds are late in forn and too hard for the mite to penetrate. would appear that, given the space, a si solution is to have three separate plantati cutting one to the ground each year. moved my bushes to this garden last spr cutting Daniels and Boskoops to the gro planting also a third variety from anc source, which were free from big bud.

Sussex. MEILOR BRIDGMA

Alpine Geraniums

The interesting correspondence of a weeks ago on this subject might have confusing to certain lovers of alpine pl I will try to give them the benefit of m perience.

GERANIUM ARGENTEUM, CINEREUM, SUBCAULESCENS belong to the same ori type which gave three different species m fied by the different conditions of cli subsoil, etc. G. argenteum is a lime plant of the southern préalps and of ce Apennine, between 2,000 metres and metres. It grows in hard stony gravels, prefers the meagre soil to the rich one South Tyrol, in the Valle di Gorge Modena (Apennine), it always grows in limestone soil. But its centre of dispe seems to be on the high, barren sun which surround the town of Digne (B Alpes) and in the Champsaur, near There, especially between Digne and Vallée du Haut Verdon, the summit covered with the delicate plant o argenteum. There you may see nothing than Geranium argenteum, Oxy cyanea, and Berardia subacaulis. No nothing other than these three sober p which grow in a hard, gritty soil made limestone débris.

About the shades of colour. They d seem to vary very much in nature, apart some cases of albinisms very comm Geraniums. But as soon as they com our gardens they become quite foolish. had some pure white as well as some dark purple forms. One year we had seedling giving us not 20 per cent.

Gentiana Sino-ornata in a Perthshire garden

genteum. They varied in forms and lour between the three species, argenteum, nereum, and subcaulescens.

Of course, they cross very easily with their ngeners cinereum and subcaulescens, which e grown at Floraire. So we were obliged, order to keep our seeds pure, to grow G. genteum alone in our mountain experi-ental station on the Jura. G. cinereum in other garden we have some 100 metres gher and G. subcaulescens here.

G. CINEREUM is the West South European rm and grows as well in South Italy as in e Pyrenées. I always found it in the lime-ne débris, in morainic ground, and on cool ces. Sometimes it grows on rock crevices s G. argenteum in some cases), but always damp places. I never saw it varying in our, neither found white forms of it.

In cultivation G. cinereum seems to stand rich soil better than argenteum. This last es when in good soil.

G. SUBCAULESCENS is the East European rm of cinereum. It has more erect leaves, eping intermediate between argenteum d cinereum. Its flowers are large, ep crimson-purple, and the whole plant ems to be more robust than its rela-es.

In the north of Spain MM. E. Boissier and resche found another dwarf Geranium th pink flowers and many other specific stinctions which is the G. subargenteum ange).

Another species very near to cinereum is nanum (Coss.), which was found on the ebel-Ghat (Atlas) in 1882. It is a very arf little gem covered with white hairs d never exceeding 1 inch in height, with le purple flowers. HENRY CORREVON.

Floraire, Geneva.

Apple Lane's Prince Albert

I do not agree with William Reynard sue December 25th, 1926, p. 771) when he rs that Lane's Prince Albert will not do grass. This last season it was our best cropper, and all our trees are on grass. Your correspondent would perhaps like to know that here Gascoyne's Scarlet, Wellington, and Improved Cockpit are very good croppers, besides the three he mentions, viz., Bramley's, Lane's, and Lord Derby. Lord Grosvenor is, of course, much earlier, but it also crops very well. A. M.

Ripon.

Gentiana Sino-ornata

I CAN heartily endorse all that Mr. S. Arnott has to say in praise of this lovely Gentiana (see issue January 1st, p. 3). Not only does it flower late, continuing well into October and November, but it is such a free-flowering species of a delightful clear blue colour. It is beyond doubt one of the finest garden plants of recent introduction, and no garden is complete without it. C. T. K.

[The accompanying illustration, taken in mid-October, shows the freedom with which this glorious Gentiana flowers in the garden of Mr. A. Harley, Kirkcaldy, Perthshire.—ED.]

Cleaning stone figures

With reference to the recent inquiry *re* the cleaning of stone figures on a beautiful terrace (see issue January 1st, page 3), it is interesting to note that a party from the Architecture Club paid a visit recently to Westminster Abbey, where they were met by Professor W. R. Lethaby, who showed and explained to them the cleaning and reparation work which is being carried out in the Cloisters and other parts of the building. The general principle followed for the preservation of the stone fabric is that of lime-washing after preliminary brushing to remove loose particles. Some chemical authorities say that the lime-wash has a definitely curative action upon the stone by checking the degeneration caused by free acids in the town atmosphere, which are encouraged in their fell work by the deposition of soot, and by killing the bacterial growths which find their soil in the same deposit; but in any case dirt is the chief cause of decay—apart from what it does by concealing refinements of workmanship.

The results of the treatment in the Cloisters are remarkable. Not only is the beautiful tracery and the fine carving over doorways brought out clearly, but even differences of colour in the stones used in the 13th century walling are plainly perceptible through the wash. Before treatment the shafts of Purbeck marble look as if they had been tarred; by careful removal of the deposit and a final rubbing with wax they come out in their original polished perfection. The lime-wash treatment is also being applied to the exterior of Henry VII.'s Chapel, to the great advantage of its elaborate carving. The process of cleaning, reparation, and preservation, which is being warmly encouraged by the Dean and Chapter, is necessarily slow, but it is adding greatly to the interest and beauty of the Abbey. Marble and lead figures are probably best cleaned with soap and water, but there is much to be said in favour of lime-washing stonework.

C. T. K.

Mina lobata

There is frequently room in the garden for annual as well as perennial climbing plants, and it is a great pity that they do not receive a little more consideration. A capital climber, and one of great beauty, is that called Mina lobata in most seed catalogues. Its correct title is Ipomæa versicolor. M. lobata is a half-hardy annual, and, if sown in heat in spring and planted out against a wall or trellis in late May or the beginning of June in good, rich soil, well manured, and in a warm and sunny position, will soon cover a large space. I have a vivid recollection of M. lobata growing against a sunny wall about 12 feet high, and although I had seen it before and since, the plant was so fine that it remains in my memory after many years.

S. A.

FRUIT GARDEN

The early Peach house

IF an early start is contemplated, or if, say, ripe fruit is required by the end of May or early in June, it is time that both trees and structure were put in order for so doing. The first thing claiming attention is to get the trees pruned. Pruning, it may be said, is best done before the branches of the trees are cut loose from the trellis, as a much better idea is then gained as to which of the young wood should be retained and which cut out. In regard to this matter, a great deal of discretion is required, as it is the well-ripened shoots and such as are well furnished with bloom buds which should always be given the preference in the selection of the wood to be kept to supply fruit for the coming season. And, again, seeing that when re-tied to the trellis the young wood should not be closer together than 3 inches to 4 inches in any part of the trees, the pruner can form a very good idea as to the number that he should leave.

Much more than has been outlined will need to be done where the trees were not relieved of the old bearing wood and in dispensing with superfluous growths after the gathering of the crop, as such must be cut out now, after which the procedure is the same as has already been stated above. The pruning is best performed with a good sharp pruning-knife, secateurs not being altogether suitable for the purpose. In the case of trees which have been producing rank growth, steps should be taken, if it has not already been done, to rectify matters by a partial lifting and shortening of the strongest of the roots. Although late in the day, it would be better to perform the operation now than run the risk of aggravating the evil during the coming season.

A thorough cleansing of the house should, on the completion of pruning, be effected, especially if red spider has been rampant during the past season, and paying particular attention to the washing of the roof-glass, both inside and out, in the vicinity of towns and districts subject to smoke-laden fog. Well limewash all brickwork afterwards, adding paraffin to the wash to render it the more efficacious. To admit of all of the foregoing being conveniently and expeditiously carried out, the branches and young wood may be tied into bundles for the time being and suspended from the roof out of the way. The cleaning of the trees will be the next consideration, and if brown scale is present it must be most carefully done. In an ordinary way a preliminary washing with tepid soapy water suffices, but when the pest just mentioned has to be dealt with, a well-proved insecticide should then be employed for the purpose. A good old-time remedy is Gishurst Compound, and this may also be used to dress the trees with after they have been washed over. The great thing with regard to this preparation, in fact all insecticides, is to use it according to the directions given on the box in which it is sold. In connection with the dressing of the trees, either with Gishurst or other remedies, care must be taken to use a soft brush for the young wood and to always work it from base to tip, never in the opposite direction. When dry, the trees will be ready for re-tying to the trellis, after which, if it has not already been done, comes the top-dressing of the border. With a fork loosen and remove the surface soil to a depth of 2 inches or 3 inches, according to the number of roots found, and replace it with suitable compost, of which either a fruit tree manure or lime in some shape or other forms one of its component parts. Until the date for starting keep the house fully ventilated unless severe weather sets in, in which event close the house for as long as may be necessary. A. W.

Bullaces

Bullaces are seldom met with, this fact being no doubt attributable to the erroneous idea that the quality of the fruit is far inferior to that of the Damson. Even were this true they would, I maintain, pay for growing, not only on account of their free-bearing character, but because the fruit hangs on the trees long after Damsons have fallen, even well into November, and when once the markets are cleared of the general run of popular Plums and Gages, the public, having no other alternative, eagerly buy any late consignments. Probably more Bullace-trees are grown in Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk than in all the other counties put together. The variety most commonly met with is the Small White, round in shape and mottled with red on the exposed side. All three varieties ripen in October, but improve in flavour if allowed to hang on the trees until November. Amongst lovers of British wines, that made from the Bullace is much esteemed. Bullaces also make a delicious jam, are excellent when bottled, and in East Anglia Bullace pie is held in high esteem amongst farm labourers and cottagers generally.

Bullaces, more especially the Common White variety, are not particular as to soil, growing and thriving fairly well in a compost that would almost starve the Damson, although, as in the case of all other hardy fruits, if worth growing at all they are worth growing well. One of the chief recommendations of this fruit is the extreme hardiness of its blossoms, it being but seldom that the crop is lost through frost. On this account those who grow Bullaces for sale usually plant them on the margins of orchards as a screen for more tender fruits. On one estate in Sussex there exist rampant hedges formed of Nut-trees and Bullaces. They both grow well together, and in autumn the joint crops are both profitable and interesting. In South Notts the name Bullace is almost unknown, the fruit being known by the term Winter Crack. The Essex Bullace is somewhat larger than the Common White, having a yellowish-green skin and a more juicy, sweeter flesh. The Royal Bullace has much larger fruit, the yellowish skin carrying a thin grey bloom, the flesh brisk, but refreshing, and splendid for tarts. C.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Single Chrysanthemums

UNDOUBTEDLY this form of the autumn flower is rising in the estimation of the flower-loving public, and it is charming at its best. Unfortunately, the early November exhibitions rarely see the perfect single, as the middle of the month and onward appear to be its more suitable period. A characteristic type is as nice in leaf as in flower. The leaf should not be large. Each leaf should be tapering as it reaches the top, and immediately under the bloom the stalk should be of fair length and small, although rigid. Singles are pretty often spoiled by resorting to a method of culture I, at any rate, have not found of benefit—referring to topping the young growth in spring and summer. A natural habit, subject to thinning of branches, suits them best. The former method may produce the big blossoms, but it certainly provides also that fault, or rather a want of character, in thick wood and big leaves. The singles, indeed, may easily be overgrown by a too severe concentration of growths.

A system of culture which seems to sui them admirably may be described in a fe words. Start the rooting of cuttings early i the New Year. When this has taken plac put the rooted plants in pairs into small pot choosing a couple in each instance as muc of one size as possible. Then grow on a one. In this way one can get a compara tively larger number of blooms to each po as well as obtain the side branches of eve length finally. Subsequently shift into po of the 6-inch size, and last of all those know as 16's, which vary in size, but rarely go ov 9 inches. Referring to soil, just plain loan that is, rotted turf with broken mortar refus This added in greater quantity when th loam leans to a heavy, clayey nature is simple compost, and this favours short-jointe growth.

The points of the plants are not interfere with, these just go to their natural heig according to variety and to the time in th year the flower-buds are set. The branchin will come in due time, and then the numb to be retained is settled. Each plant ma carry up to half-a-dozen, which would pr vide up to 12 to each pot, and if exhibiting the aim, then I should retain the first flowe buds which show on the branches. The are what is known as crown buds and furni a large bloom comparatively. Singles, s called, have more than one row of these modern times, but if we wish the spray for of bloom the branches, in the first place, a limited; yet no note is taken of the ear flower-buds. It is the latest-formed whi come in clusters.

Flowers from the late growths indicat when each branch is thinned to one give, my thinking, the single Chrysanthemum i best, with usually that tapering folia also noted. Usually such are a bit late f early shows. Raisers of new varieties a alive to the defects of big leaves, and t more recent sorts will be found pretty fr from the fault.

For spray samples of the singles one wou choose similar varieties to those the better f exhibition, because the latter are selected wi a flower-stem that excels in being rigid. T old type of spray as furnished by a on favoured variety, Mary Richardson, had habit of not holding the bloom upright, a for purposes of decoration this is detriment

A dozen good varieties. Their names a short descriptions follow:—Absolute (amb with yellow zone), Annette (bronze suffusio on yellow), Crimson Dawn (bright a taking), Elegant (bright amber), Hon. Ed Smith (pink), J. Barrell (chestnut and gol Molly Godfrey (bright pink), Mrs. R. Har (yellow), Mrs. Thos. Hancock (pretty fa shade), Nona (pure white), Phyllis Coo (rich yellow), Susan (rose on yellow).

H. S

Campanula Barrelieri

Window gardeners, in a general w affect Campanula isophylla and its white fo for their particular purpose. While th two plants are admirably adapted for wind culture, it may be pointed out that in subject of this note they have a formida —though comparatively neglected—riv Grown in fairly rich, porous soil, the vari forms a neat, bushy plant in spring, wh toward midsummer the shoots grow until t drape the pot in a graceful way and prod pale purplish-blue flowers in great abu ance. A good potful may be used as a ha ing plant, and the blooms show to grea advantage when the plant is suspended. may be partial, but for strictly window I prefer C. Barrelieri, distinct in every way habit from C. isophylla, C. pulla, C. binata, or C. fragilis. R

THE FLOWER GARDEN

Polygonum molle

HE larger Polygonums, though so handsome, are such troublesome plants, from their strong-rooting and ambling ways, that it is not always an easy atter to find their right places in the gar-en. It was thought that the group shown the illustrations—the same group photo-aphed from both sides—had been safely anted, but it has invaded and almost ocked the path, and has even thrust its ggressive roots under what remains of the otway, and is throwing up strong growths the border opposite. It is the one com-only known in gardens as Polygonum olle, though I believe the proper specific ame is polystachyum; but correction is in-ted if this is incorrect. Properly placed, ere can be no doubt as to its beauty, for it a stately plant, refined in flower and with andsome foliage. It is suitable for such a lace as where garden joins woodland, and it as been successfully placed at the foot of a ump of Bamboos that show bare stems for me feet from the ground. When at its best, the early days of October, it gives off a elicious scent like that of honey. The retty soft white bloom and noble foliage ake it desirable for room decoration treated ather boldly, but before putting it in water is a good precaution to cut a notch reaching the middle of the stem between each node at will be under water. G. J.

Polygonum molle from the south

Ligularia macrophylla

Like all the family, L. macrophylla requires eep, moist, and, if possible, peaty soil. This ariety is remarkable for its bold and hand-ome foliage, and is a robust perennial with n erect stem bearing a long dense spike of ellow flowers at the terminals. L. macro-hylla may be usefully employed for grouping the herbaceous border.

The annual Adonises

We seldom see Adonis autumnalis, al-hough it is quite showy and decorative. t has small, deep crimson flowers above eautiful, finely-divided foliage, and reaches a height of about 2 feet. Still very sel-dom seen is A. aleppica, about 6 inches dwarfer, and having pleasing blood-red flowers. Both of these bloom in autumn, and require only the ordinary treatment of hardy annuals. They may be sown in April where they are to bloom, but if they are to take the place of early-flowering bulbs, after the foliage of these has died down, they may be sown in a reserve bed and trans-planted. S. ARNOTT.

Polygonum molle from the north

Dahlia Jersey Beauty

This new variety, introduced only last year, was represented in superb form at the show of the R.H.S. at Holland Park Rink, Lon-don, W. Two or three trade specialists set up huge stands of ideal blooms. The flowers are classed as large-flowered decorative. They are large without being coarse; as a matter of fact, they are refined in appear-ance. The florets are broad and of good length, and are evenly arranged. The colour may be described as a pleasing shade of salmon-pink. The flowers are borne on stiff, erect flower stalks, well above the foliage, and for this reason are ideal for the garden. Height, about 4 feet. D. B. C.

Parochetus communis (Shamrock Pea)

The number of plants blooming in the open at the present time is decidedly small, for which reason this charming and graceful little Himalayan plant, with its fresh green clover-like leaves, freely studded with Pea-like flowers of the most beautiful blue, ar-rests the eye very quickly. It creeps about the ground in cool, moist places, forming a lawn-like carpet of fresh green foliage. It bears quite a mass of bloom both in winter and spring. The flowers are borne in pairs on slender stalks 6 inches high. E. M.

THE PRIORY, ORPINGTON

1.—Wall dividing parterre from tennis lawn beyond 2.—Steps leading from upper lawn to parterre 3.—The terrace

More Garden Planning—I.

IN my account of the planning of the garden at The Priory, Orpington (published in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, December 6th and 13th, 1924), I left off at the stage indicated in the small bird's-eye sketch (Fig. 9), reproduced page 24. As I mentioned at that time there were further developments in view, and some of these have now been carried out. The most important, both as a structural undertaking and in its ultimate effect, is the removal of the long grass bank leading down to the tennis lawn and the substitution of a high retaining wall which not only encloses the upper parterre with its small sunk garden, but completely shuts off the lower, or tennis lawn, section (see Fig. 10).

It is, perhaps, worth mentioning that the erection of this wall revealed things to me in an aspect in which I had not previously observed them. The first remark of one of my friends in inspecting it was, "Ah, now I can see what you were driving at," and I confess that I was rather taken aback. I had not previously realised that the scheme whic was in gradual development gave the garde a vaguely unfinished look. Not being in position to carry out the whole scheme in on year I had pictured in my mind an advanc by slow stages, which tackled, in turn, series of units and gradually pulled them t gether until they were no longer more or les detached, but unmistakably essential, parts a whole. The sudden realisation by the vis tor of what I was "driving at" proved th I had, to this extent, failed. Possibly in th circumstances the ideal was hardly capable achievement. In laying out a garden gradu ally one should certainly aim at somethin which will not require to be constantly ex plained with some such excuse as "Yo must see it the year after next when we hav done so and so." That is the kind of r mark, of a class with "What a pity yo did not come when the bulbs were all i flower," which gets the garden-lover th reputation of a bore.

However, I am, perhaps, making too muc of a small matter. My friend may have bee particularly unimaginative or he may ha been one of those people who always want see a bit farther than you are showing the at the moment. The fact is that the schem at the stage which it had reached at the en of my former article pleased very many vis tors, who wondered how on earth in t future I should occupy my winter month for surely the end had been reached.

But to get down to details. The schem as already described, was based on an ax line, AA (see plan, Fig. 11), drawn from t central window in the part of the house whi overlooked the garden. Having crossed t lawn adjacent to the house and proceed across the old croquet lawn, now a parter with sunk garden, on the lower level, th line had arrived at its limit. Had I be working after recognised Italian models ought, perhaps, to have followed this li right through the 100 yards or so of meado which lies beyond the levelled space a introduced a perspective of features all visi from the house. I was not anxious, ho ever, to interfere with the natural frame which the cultivated part of the garden set, so I decided against that course.

In showing the garden to a visitor generally follow from the house the path le ing between the herbaceous borders bel the old brick wall and along through archway (Fig. 4) to the terrace (Fig From the terrace an interesting view is tained of the house away to the left and of sunk garden in the parterre which lies belo

The direction of the new developments w on an axial line BB (see Fig. 11) crossing old one at right angles and running from centre of the terrace, through the sunk gar den, across the tennis lawn, and on throu

4.—The Priory, Orpington: Archway leading to the terrace

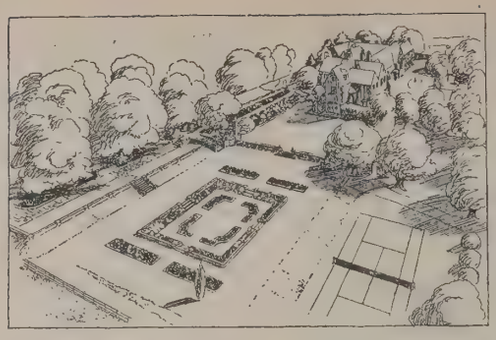
5.—Parterre with sunk garden (terrace to the left)

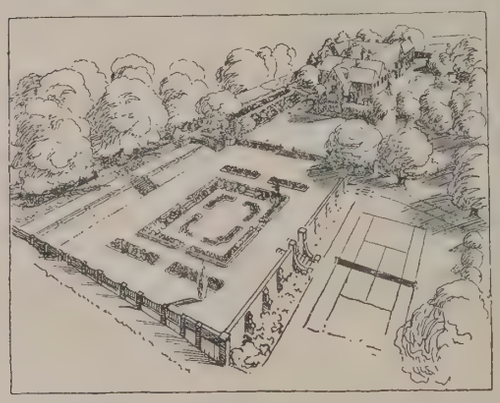
6.—Wall enclosing parterre, with sunk garden

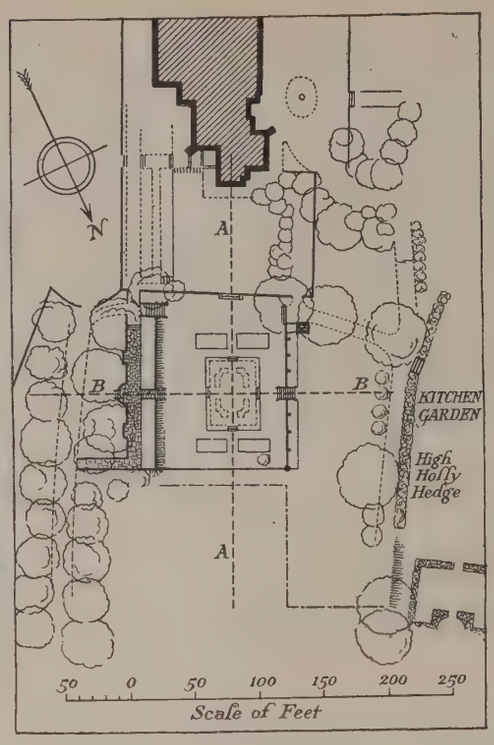
7.—Wall with panels of wrought iron

8.—Main entrance

THE PRIORY, ORPINGTON







9 (Above),—Bird's-eye sketch of garden
10.—Further development of same, showing retaining wall
11.—The garden plan

the tall Holly hedge which shuts off the kitchen garden beyond.

The first thing we had to tackle was the completion as a definite unit of the 100-feet square level space containing the sunk garden. It had a wall boundary on the house side (see Figs. 2 and 3), and a bank surmounted by a low wall on the terrace side. The two remaining sides were open, one to the meadow and the other to the tennis lawn, and some sort of enclosing feature was required to complete the square. The ideal method, so far as the tennis lawn side was concerned, was, as it seemed to me, to do away with the sloping bank and substitute a retaining wall flanking the tennis lawn. A hedge or a wall on the top of the bank might have served the purpose, as seen from the top, but there were drawbacks to these as seen from below. The wall scheme was finally adopted, and the view (Fig. 10) shows how it came into the picture. With its actual erection I will deal later. At the moment it is enough to say that it provided the sunk garden parterre with a wall boundary on one of the open sides—that overlooking the tennis lawn (see Fig. 1).

The enclosing of the fourth side, that towards the meadow, still presented a problem.

The obvious thing to do was to return the parapet wall, continuing the level of the top of the big retaining wall, but here the obvious thing was not the best. When the parterre was laid out four years ago we got from the house a foreground of lawns with a distant prospect of meadow bounded by tall trees. It was necessary to complete this view with a barrier which would serve the double purpose of separating the wild from the cultivated and of setting a definite boundary to the foreground in order to give a greater effect of distance.

When I first went to the Priory this demarcation was effected by a Chestnut paling with its stakes diagonally crossing one another, an unsightly erection, and one seemingly aiming at the pseudo-naturalistic or picturesque which is typified in rustic trellis-work. As a temporary measure iron hurdles (as indicated in Fig. 9) were substituted, and they had the quality of being almost invisible. This was at once an advantage and a defect, for while, on the one hand, they were not very noticeable objects, on the other hand they occupied a line in which something definitely visible was required. For some time I was puzzled over the final solution of this difficulty. When the big wall had taken the place of the bank it seemed, as I have suggested, to follow naturally that the fence should give place to a wall, which, returning from the big retaining wall, would complete the enclosure of the square.

But to continue the 2½ foot parapet wall round at the same height would have interfered with the distant view of the meadow from the house. By chance I found in a "junk shop" four panels of wrought iron railing and these solved the problem. I had a fifth panel made to match, and the five panels were inserted in the wall between 22-inch piers of brickwork (see Figs. 6 and 7). A small gate of similar pattern gives access to the meadow at the far end. The series of piers gives an illusion of solid continuity to the length of wall, and the wrought iron panels enable one to see through it. Architectural readers will probably chuckle at the idea that this method of dealing with the problem should not have leapt instantly to the mind even of an amateur. I must face this and derive satisfaction from the reflection that the solution did eventually present itself.

C. E. H.

(To be continued.)

Eucryphia pinnatifolia

One of the most interesting of our hardy shrubs is Eucryphia pinnatifolia. Although this was introduced to this country as long ago as 1859 it does not appear to have become very popular, as it is seldom that really good specimens are seen. It forms a neat bush, and during late summer is covered with exquisite white blossoms. Last year in common with many other little known shrubs, it flowered even more freely than usual. The dark green foliage provides a pleasant setting to the delicate blossoms which are fully 2 inches in diameter and produced moderately freely. They owe much a little of their charm and gracefulness to the large central boss of feathery-looking stamens. The shrub is perfectly hardy. It is not happy as an isolated specimen owing, I believe, to its inability to withstand the sudden spells of heat we often get at sporadic intervals. The shrub requires more than anything else cool, moist conditions at the root, and this may be obtained by planting it in association with Erica mediterranea or E. carnea. The Heaths keep the ground permanently shaded and cool. At planting time a few barrow loads of peat and leaf mould should be placed about the roots. When out of flower the green foliage of the Heaths makes a beautiful carpet.

H. Stevens

12.—The west front
13.—Parterre and sunk garden

THE PRIORY, ORPINGTON

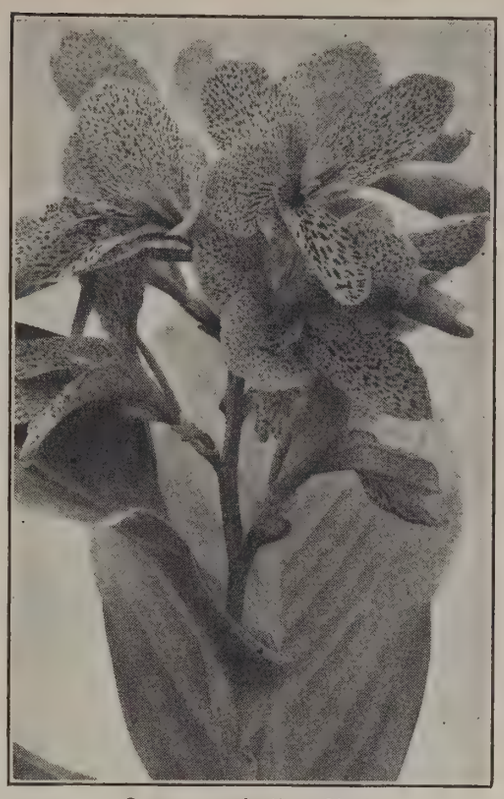
INDOOR PLANTS

Canna (Indian Shot)

FOR producing a sub-tropical effect, in conjunction with tall grasses, the Canna cannot be excelled. It blooms from early summer until the flowers are destroyed by winter frosts. Few bedding plants give the glorious display of varied colour in both flower and foliage the Canna does. It succeeds in almost any part of the country, and certainly the most decorative in either garden or greenhouse, requiring a sunny situation. It thrives in almost any kind of moist soil. The best results are obtained when the ground has been trenched 2 feet deep, well manured, and liberally supplied with water during the growing period. The position best suited is where the plants can have shelter from high winds. As a pot plant for greenhouse or conservatory during the summer and autumn it has few equals, and may be grown by any amateur. Cannas are worth growing for the handsome, large green and bronzy foliage alone, and when the tall flower-spikes rise above the foliage with Gladiolus-like flowers in all shades of yellow, orange, carmine, and scarlet, many being beautifully mottled or spotted. The varieties are endless, but those offered by any good house may be relied upon as giving the best results. Roots may be potted at any time from February to March for greenhouse or conservatory decoration in a rich, loamy soil, decayed leaf-mould, and coarse sand. Water liberally when growing, and give a dose of liquid-manure when showing flower-spikes. The plants must not suffer from want of water when growing. If for outdoor decoration, pot as aforesaid, and plant out in a sunny situation at the end of May or early in June, applying water liberally, and during spells of drought water daily.

Lift and store the roots in boxes of soil in September, and keep in a shed or cellar which is frost proof. The plants may also be placed under the greenhouse stage until the spring. The Canna is propagated by division in spring and by seed, which must be steeped in lukewarm water for about 24 hours. To assist germination remove a little of the outer skin by making a slight notch with a file. Sow ½ inch deep in light soil in a temperature of from 75 degs. to 85 degs.

W. L.



Canna, or Indian Shot
Golden yellow, spotted scarlet

New Year's Carnation flowers

There is a time when not only the days are shortest and darkest but when all Nature seems asleep. There is no growth, yet we may gather flowers even if they are less plentiful and open so slowly.

This period, which extends from Christmas until the end of January, is but the darkest hour which precedes the dawn, and so we may welcome it, accompanied as it is, in the Carnation world at least, with some reward of our efforts during last spring and summer.

Given a comfortable atmosphere of about 52 degs. with open ventilators and the maximum light, buds slowly unfold. I recently watched a bud which took three weeks from the time it showed colour until it was fully expanded. In warm weather in summer only about three days would have produced the same results.

It is good to realise that we do not at once feel the ill effects of dull sunless weeks; this follows later on when bursts of February and March sun show up the weak stems and soft growths.

Among varieties which are the slowest to open during dark days, the yellows are prominent, while most of the scarlets and rose pinks deteriorate in colour more than the others. Fancies least of all feel the effect of sunless days; even the yellow and orange ground fancies, such as Sheila Greer, Dainty, and Orange Sunstar, suffer less than the yellow selfs, while Winter Glow is as good (and retains its perfume) as in summer.

Some twenty years ago, when we depended upon the American varieties for our best things, one and all of them showed serious deterioration at this season, but to-day we are much better off with our home-raised varieties which are more acclimatised to our conditions.

However, walking into the Carnation houses at this date, I find the American-raised Topsy showing up well, and the scarlet Spectrum is nearly as good as the British-raised Brilliant, while Aviator makes a good third in this colour. On the other hand, Laddie, seen so fine at the shows during spring, summer, and autumn, is not nearly so quick as Eileen Low, my favourite salmon Carnation.

Among other good varieties for the dull days not already mentioned may be seen Mrs. Ward Improved or Improved Ward, Master Michael Stoop, and Betty Low, the three best in rose colour. Sybil, with its fragrant flowers of the novel violet colour, and Ruby Glow, also fragrant with its seasonable colour, are among those showing well.

Strange to say, the whites are less in evidence. The giant White Pearl comes slowly, and there are more flowers open on Crystal White and White Enchantress.

The fancies, as already mentioned, are much in evidence. Shot Silk looks bright and interesting; Lady Hindlip, than which no other variety in any colour is more free flowering, is white striped with red; the solid petals of Rani in heliotrope, striped with cerise, stand the sunless days well; and Wivelsfield Apricot, although weak in the stem, is a novel piece of colour.

The actual value of one's Carnation flowers at this date is considerable, and one finds this out when buying them at a florist's shop.

LAURENCE J. COOK.

Bush Hill Park.

Clivia miniata

Will some reader of your journal please say what are the cultural details for growing Clivias? Are there any improved forms of the old C. miniata, and how may they be obtained?

A. SAUNDER.

[The merits of the Clivia as a handsome, fine-foliaged and flowering plant are by no means so fully recognised as they should be, particularly by the amateur with but a single greenhouse, for it is by no means difficult to cultivate, and is effective at all seasons. When in good condition the long strap-shaped leaves are of a particularly rich green tint, and when they are well over topped by a rounded head of bright terra-cotta blossoms a large specimen forms a most imposing feature. It is also a good window plant, and may be kept in health for a long time in a dwelling-house.

The Clivia has been greatly improved under cultivation during the past few years, and the fine group shown at the R.H.S. Hall last spring showed clearly the great improvement that has been made in the size of the trusses and flowers and the colour of the same.

Unflowered seedlings are obtainable at a cheap rate, and from among these some handsome varieties may often be selected. Apart from the distinguishing features of the newer kinds mentioned above, the colour of the blossoms is, in some instances, much brighter, being, in fact, of quite an orange-scarlet tint.

In addition to the numerous varieties in cultivation, there is one introduced from Natal several years ago which is perfectly distinct from any of them. This is

CLIVIA MINIATA CITRINA, in which the flowers are of a pale cream tint, with a tinge of orange at the base. It is as yet very rare, but will, doubtless, before very long be more common.

C. NOBILIS has broad, rather upright, dark green leaves, and stout flower-spikes, bearing a great number of drooping blossoms, each not much more than an inch in length, and in colour yellow tinged with orange and tipped with green. It was first introduced in 1823, and large examples are sometimes to be met with in old-fashioned gardens.

C. CYRTANTHIFLORA.—This, a garden hybrid between C. miniata and C. nobilis, has one advantage over C. miniata, and that is that whereas the flowers of C. miniata do not expand until the spring, those of C. cyrtanthiflora are at their best quite early in the new year. The partially-drooping flowers in a crowded head are smaller than those of C. miniata, and do not open so widely. In colour there is a good deal of individual variation, but the usual tint is some shade of salmon-yellow.

C. GARDENI.—A little-known species, but which, blooming as it does in late autumn and early winter, is valuable for this reason alone. It bears from 10 to 14 partially-drooping flowers in an umbel. They are tubular in shape, and in colour salmon-red tipped with green. Like the rest, this is a native of Natal and the Transvaal, and was introduced in 1862.

CULTURE.—The soil best suited for the different Clivias should consist mainly of good yellow loam, lightened by an admixture of sand, nodules of charcoal, and leaf-mould. The best time to repot is immediately the flowers are past, and in carrying this out it is very essential that the pots be clean and well drained. After potting, the plants should be kept in the greenhouse, giving them a good light position. When the pots are well

filled with roots, water may be liberally supplied, while overhead syringing is, in the height of summer, very beneficial. In winter much less water should be given, as in this way the plants get a partial rest. When large they can be kept in health for years without repotting, in which case they are greatly assisted by an occasional watering with weak cow-manure and soot-water mixed, taking care that it is quite clear, as if at all thick it is apt to clog up the drainage and the plant will then soon fall into ill-health.

Any grower of stove and greenhouse plants should be able to supply plants of the various Clivias.]

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Seeds

The annual catalogues are now arriving, and no time should be lost in getting out the seed order. Notes will have been made by the observant gardener of any failures or unsatisfactory results due to the seeds of the past year, and changes made accordingly. Celery seed must be chosen with infinite care, for there never was a season known to equal the past when Celery was so seriously afflicted with disease, and, rightly or wrongly, many place the cause of this dreaded trouble to the seed. A few novelties, both of flowers and vegetables, should be given a trial, as it is by trying these on one's own soil that their real value is proved. On no account depend upon old seed kept over from the past year, as it often leads to a great waste and loss of time.

Peach houses

Some of these will still be occupied by half-hardy plants, such as Indian Azaleas, Chrysanthemums, and Cassias, but an endeavour should be made to get the earliest of them cleared to enable the house to be washed and the trees pruned and cleaned. In pruning Peach trees it is inadvisable to leave more shoots than would furnish the supports at 5 inches apart, for if this is not done the wood becomes so crowded during the summer that none of it receives its proper ripening. After pruning wash the trees with Gishurst Compound applied with an ordinary paint-brush, lime-wash all walls and pillars, and after removing the sour surface soil to a depth of 1 inch apply a light top-dressing of good loam to which have been added a little bone-meal and wood-ash. Continue the cleaning and rearranging of plant-houses and transfer to cooler and more airy quarters those plants now coming into bloom. Introduce a batch of Lily of the Valley and Narcissus to a warm house in order to secure early flowers, and remove others which have been plunged in ashes in the open to cold frames successively as they are seen to be ready. The best results are obtained from Cyclamens, Primulas, Cinerarias, etc., when these can be brought along in cool houses or frames, and, when so grown, there is less danger of attacks of the dreaded grub which often destroys the roots of the first.

Chrysanthemums

Secure cuttings when available and dibble them into small pots or boxes filled with sharp sandy soil, those intended for large blooms being inserted singly in 60-sized pots. Plunge the pots and boxes in ashes in air-tight frames placed inside a house having a temperature of about 45 degs. at night, as such plants struck under these cool conditions are invariably more satisfactory than those rooted in heated pits.

Carnation houses

Maintain a temperature of about 50 degs. to 55 degs., admitting air freely during mild days. Water with extreme care and keep a sharp look-out for thrips and green-fly. The surroundings should for the next few weeks be maintained on the dry side.

Apples and Pears in store

Examine these carefully at frequent intervals, removing any showing signs of decay, and, whereas the Pear-room should be maintained at a temperature of about 45 degs., Apples keep better under slightly cooler conditions, and although a little moisture, such as that arising from a York stone or concrete floor, assists in keeping the fruit plump and fresh, air should be admitted on all favourable occasions.

Raspberries

Plant these in rows 5 feet apart and 14 inches from plant to plant, choosing a moist part of the garden when making new plantations as the Raspberry is a moisture-lover. Newly-planted rows should be given a protective mulch of strawy litter.

Trenching

Any plots set apart for this must now be taken in hand, manure and other available material being wheeled to the ground during frosty weather, and any necessary draining should be carried out at the same time.

Make up hot beds

This consists of fresh horse manure and leaves in the proportion of one of the former to two of the latter. Build to a height of about 5 feet as, when allowance has been made for sinking, the height will be about 3 feet. The beds should measure 18 inches more in length and width than the frames which are to be placed upon them. Leave to settle down before placing 6 inches of soil upon them.

Trees and shrubs

The planting of these may be carried on whenever the soil works freely, deep trenching beforehand, especially upon light land, being most important. The pruning and thinning of many species must also receive attention and beds or shrubberies left tidy for the winter. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Raising Begonias from seed

An early start enables the resulting plants to bloom the first season. This is a distinct advantage, for even the finest strains produce some poor colours, and it requires a large amount of time, and space, to grow on the second year unbloomed bulbs. If sown, therefore, within the next fortnight, and given decent treatment, all may be expected to produce flowers before winter sets in, when, of course, all the finest may be marked for future cultivation, the others being relegated to the rubbish heap, if not required for the flower garden.

Begonia Gloire de Lorraine

The bulk of the plants of this is now well past its best, and may be cut back, so as to induce the production of cuttings. Be sparing with water for 10 days previous to cutting over, and also for a week or two afterwards. They may, however, with advantage, be sprayed overhead twice daily with luke-warm water, so as to encourage the plants to break into growth, and furnish cuttings.

Seedling Cyclamens

The little plants, raised from seeds sown last August, should now be removed to slightly cooler quarters, a house, or pit, with a temperature of 50 degs. to 55 degs. suiting them nicely. Pricking off into 2-inch pots, of light, sweet compost, should receive attention early in February. Always endeavour to keep the plant growing on steadily, but not too rapidly, from now on till the blooming period.

Secure Carnation cuttings

The present time is well suited for rooting cuttings of this popular plant. Insert sturdy, short-jointed side shoots, using very sandy compost and 3-inch pots. Three cuttings may be placed round the edge of each pot, and the soil made quite firm. Water well, and then plunge the pots in a propagating case. Strong heat is neither desirable nor necessary. Pot off singly before the roots become matted.

Pot Roses

It is now well to introduce the pot Roses to a little warmth, but before doing so the pruning of the plants should be carried out, and that with judgment. The pots should also be scrubbed clean, and, if necessary, a top-dressing of rich soil with a good quantity of bone meal and good artificial manure added. Spray the plants overhead on fine days, so as to induce the buds to break quickly and strongly. Water the soil with great care, and do not sour it by applying daily drenchings.

Verbenas from seed

A well-grown batch of this old-fashioned plant, blooming in pots, is a very attractive sight. Seeds should be sown now, but too strong heat must be avoided. Secure a good strain and grow on steadily near to the roof glass, to prevent undue lankiness of growth.

Raising large Onions

Whether for exhibition or for early use in the kitchen, the next 10 days are the most suitable time in which to sow the seeds. Use boxes of rich, light compost, and do not cover the seeds more than an eighth-of-an-inch deep, but at the same time be careful to see that they are all covered, seeds of onions allowed to germinate lying on the surface never doing any good.

Forcing dwarf Beans

Where suitable accommodation is available a start may now be made with this popular vegetable. Select 7-inch or 8-inch pots, and see these are well drained. A rich, open compost is best suited to the requirements of the plant. About six plants to a pot are sufficient, but several more seeds can be allowed, the surplus being pulled out after they are four inches high. Only fill the pots about three-parts full at sowing time, thus providing for future earthing up, or top-dressing later on.

Cauliflowers in frames

Keep a sharp eye on these, airing abundantly on every favourable occasion, removing weeds and dead foliage and destroying slugs and mice, should either of these pests put in an appearance. An occasional stirring of the surface soil, with a pointed stick, is very beneficial to all plants in frames.

Horseradish

Where there is a demand for this root it is advisable to lay down fresh beds every year or two. Deeply trench the ground and plant some 12 inches deep. C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

VEGETABLES

Trenching vegetable plots

THIS is often performed without considering the quality of the soil beneath or what crop is to follow. People are often warned against bringing up clayey or sandy material to the top, and the advice is good so far as it goes. Yet I have known both the depth and quality of soils having a lower layer of clay or marl improved by lifting a few inches of the latter with a five-tined fork and placing it on the surface in ridge form, say, in December or January. In an average winter this will be well pulverised by March by the action of frost and wind. Levelling and incorporating may then take place, the best way of effecting this being to take out an opening at one end of the plot and with a fork throw the soil forward, mixing it well till the end of the plot is reached. If some burnt soil or coarse wood ashes be added, so much the better. If this process is repeated annually for several years good clean Parsnips, Beet, and Long Red Surrey Carrots may be grown. This is very different from bringing up a full spit at a time and allowing it to remain on the surface.

An old-fashioned plan of deepening and improving such soils, one which does the work once and for all, is to dig up the clay in quantity, wheel it to some spare plot, and thoroughly burn it over a slow fire, afterwards incorporating it, adding also wood-ashes and leaf soil, as above described. Where the soil is fairly deep, trenching is beneficial, inasmuch as it allows of the semi-exhausted portion being placed at the bottom to be rested and gradually enriched. I am certain it is often overdone in gardens where the soil is light and porous, the mischief being most apparent in hot, dry summers. There would be less need for it if liberal mulching of vegetable crops were more generally practised. As regards Strawberries, I do not believe in going two spits deep and digging the manure into the bottom, as the roots of the plants do not reach it the first year, which is when we expect the finest fruit. One spit and crumbs, then dig in the manure, is, I consider, best, and as Strawberries are surface rooters, and few gardeners now keep the plants more than two years, rich mulching does the rest. Trenching in gardens generally cannot be carried out by rule of thumb, so much depending on the soil and subsoil.

T. P.

Batavian Endive

This is more reliable than Lettuce as a winter salad. The plants should now all be lifted and placed closely together in cold pits or frames, taking care to retain as much soil as possible on the roots when transplanting. After planting, give a good watering to settle the soil about the roots. The lights should be removed from the frames on dry days, as the atmosphere must not be allowed to become damp or stagnant. Blanching is effected by lifting a few plants from the frames as required, placing them in boxes, and standing them in a dark corner of the Mushroom-house.

Preparing the ground for next season's crops

The particular treatment of vacant plots must depend upon the nature of the crop it is intended to grow upon them, and this should be decided now, so that the ground may be treated accordingly. Deep trenching should be practised wherever possible, and if this is done some manure or decayed vegetable matter may be placed in the bottom of the trench. Endeavour to get the whole of the soil as speedily as possible into a suitable condition for vegetable crops. This is only possible by frequently bringing some of the subsoil to the surface. Leave the surface as rough and lumpy as possible. Ground which has been occupied by vegetable crops for a number of years will be benefited by a liberal dose of lime and soot, working it in during the process of digging or trenching; also a good surface dressing when the work is completed. Wet or retentive soils need not be trenched before spring; but the surface may be given a liberal dressing of such as wood ashes, old mortar rubble, lime, and soot. All rubbish collected in or about the garden should be burned or charred on vacant pieces of ground, and the residue after burning will greatly benefit the soil.

Tomatoes and rich soil

In my apprentice days, now nearly 40 years ago, we were taught that the poorest soil that could be found was the best for Tomatoes, and that comparative starvation induced fertility. I have seen bench sweepings, exhausted soil from other plants, and much sand used as a compost. Certainly, after five or six bunches were set, feeding with liquid manure, or by top-dressing, was resorted to, and really surprising crops resulted from this treatment. It must be borne in mind that, in those days, Tomatoes were not grown so largely as they are now; indeed, but few people could be induced to eat them. As the taste for Tomatoes grew, and the cultivation of the plants extended, new ideas as to their culture arose, and it was found that instead of semi-starvation a liberal diet suited them better. Healthy and robust foliage means vigour, which, in turn, means productiveness, and, naturally, these can only be obtained by the use of rich soil. The question, then, is, What is meant by rich soil? My definition is a good, sound loam, without any addition whatever, except a few wood ashes and a little lime-rubble. If necessary, and should the crop appear to warrant further assistance, liquid manure or top-dressing should suffice.

T. R. S.

Cropping small kitchen garden

Many having large kitchen gardens have no idea of the trouble and anxiety inseparable from the task of supplying even an average establishment from perhaps an acre or an acre and a half of ground. There are far too many such instances, the case being worse still when such permanent fruits as Strawberries, Raspberries, and Gooseberries have also to be accommodated. Much may be done, however, by a little forethought. Of course, it is useless to talk of spare plots in such gardens being rested and turned up roughly for exposure to the weather. One crop must follow another as quickly as possible. In such gardens the dwarf kinds of Peas should always be grown, as they do not obstruct the light from other crops, and various dwarf vegetables may be grown between the rows. For instance, between dwarf varieties may be planted early dwarf Cauliflowers, protected in frames through the winter or raised in heat in spring. The best of Spinach may also be secured from the same position. Where more than one row of second early and successional vegetables is grown side by side, the same course may be adopted. Perhaps, however, a row here and there at a considerable distance apart is the best. All that is then needed is just sufficient walking room between the rows of Peas and the other vegetables to allow of picking. The same remark applies to Runner Beans, which in such gardens should be supported by ordinary brashy Pea-sticks, the haulm being pinched when the summit is reached.

The great point to be observed in growing one kind of vegetable between others is equality of growth, especially as regards height. The short to medium-haulmed Potatoes should be grown, there being many of such character very free-bearing and of good quality. If these are, say, 2½ feet apart in the rows, various green crops, such as autumn Cauliflowers and winter Broccoli, Kales and even Brussels Sprouts, may be planted between without fear of being smothered. We would not, however, advise the planting of many midwinter and spring Broccoli in these small gardens, as they so often succumb in severe weather, and the loss can be ill-afforded. A valuable winter vegetable in small gardens is the Rosette Colewort. It is indispensable, as, being compact in growth, the plants may be set out 15 inches apart. The thing is to sow the seed at the right date. So many, especially amateurs, make a mistake here. From July 7th to 21st, according to locality, is a safe time for securing plants that will heart in in rotation throughout November and January. As for their quality, when grown on fairly good ground no winter vegetable surpasses the Rosette Colewort. It may follow Strawberries, second early Potatoes, Tripoli Onions, or indeed any crop which is cleared off the ground about the middle of August.

FERNS

Greenhouse Ferns

THOUGH comparatively few new Ferns have been raised of late years, this need not be taken as evidence that Ferns are less popular than was at one time the case. Apart from the hardy ones, which are, to a greater or less extent, represented in most gardens, immense numbers of greenhouse kinds are grown, some market growers laying themselves out almost entirely to the production of Ferns. While the different greenhouse Ferns will thrive in a structure in which the winter temperature does not fall below 45 degs., and for which no fire-heat is needed during the greater part of the year, those sold in the streets are often injured by exposure. This is, to a great extent, due to the fact that in order to obtain saleable plants quickly they are frequently grown in a warmer and moister atmosphere than is really necessary for their well-being.

When Ferns are purchased this fact should be borne in mind, and care taken to gradually harden them off. In this way the amount of exposure they will bear without injury is very great compared with that which follows their being taken from the house in which they have been growing into a dry and draughty spot.

A great many Ferns are particularly suitable for greenhouse decoration, in which, apart from their cool and restful appearance, they serve as a foil to brightly-coloured blossoms. Specimens grown in the greenhouse under these conditions may be taken into the dwelling-house for a time without injury. This is, in a general way, far more satisfactory than keeping them altogether in the dwelling-house. When this last, however, cannot be avoided, a few points may be borne in mind that will greatly assist towards keeping them in good health. One very essential feature is to see that they are not allowed to get too dry at the roots, while another point of equal importance is to take care that no water is allowed to stand permanently in the saucers or vases in which they may be placed. A good plan when they need water is to soak the pot in a pail or some other receptacle in which the water is of sufficient depth to cover the ball of earth. When air bubbles cease to rise it may then be concluded that the soil is thoroughly moistened. A short time being

allowed to drain, the plants may then be returned to the room, where, though light is very necessary, draughty windows and exposure to full sun should be avoided. At the same time, if properly hardened off, Ferns do not require the amount of shade that was at one time considered requisite. The question of a suitable

SOIL for the general run of Ferns has undergone considerable modification within recent years. Time was when a mixture consisting largely of peat was considered indispensable for nearly all Ferns, now many are successfully grown without any peat. A compost made up of equal parts of loam and leaf-mould, with a good sprinkling of silver sand, will suit the general run of Ferns. In making a selection of Ferns for greenhouse decoration the different forms of Pteris occupy a prominent position, and much the same may be said of many of the Adiantums. Some of the Aspleniums, too, are very suitable, as well as the various kinds of Nephrolepis and Davallia.

Sunlight for Ferns

It is in the winter that one realises how great the value of well-grown Ferns is compared with that of others that have been kept heavily shaded all the summer. No greater mistake can be made than to think heavy shading necessary; it is injurious in every way. Badly-grown fronds damp off now, while those that have been hardily grown keep far better. Our market growers especially have found out the advantage of ample light, and the amount of sun allowed their Ferns would surprise most private growers. The Ferns look the picture of health, the charming tints on the young fronds giving the plants a gay appearance. In contrast to this, one may enter scores of private gardens and find the fernery heavily shaded quite early in spring and in late autumn. There are some Ferns that have an especially charming appearance when grown in the fullest light. Adiantum macrophyllum is one of these, and the bright red tints on the young fronds are exquisite. Several of the Nephrolepises, again, show very pretty tints. In the Gymnogrammas, again, there is no comparison between plants that have been grown in a good light and others that have been weakened by being kept in the dark.

One of the chief things in Fern culture is the surprising amount of variety in tints of green as well as form of the fronds, but to grow all in a shady house is to destroy a lot of this. That fine Fern, Microlepis hirta cristata, as an instance, may be brought to a very deep green by growing it in a cool shady house, but this is not advisable, as the pale tint natural to it is very distinct and pretty, besides which the tassels form more freely in a good light. I could not grow Adiantum Capillus-Veneris fissum well until I brought it up to the light, but since then I have had no trouble with the centre-damping, as it used to when growing away from the light. Many more instances could be given if necessary, but those cited will be sufficient to call attention to this phase of their culture. C.

Hardy Ferns

Many make a big mistake by cutting down the fronds of Ferns growing on rockeries and other places as soon as they become discoloured in autumn. These form a valuable protection to the crowns of the plants during winter, and are best left until the new fronds advance in spring. Where planting of these is anticipated it may be done at any time during open weather.

Some of the Best Flowering Shrubs

I AM not acquainted with a more beautiful flowering shrub than

BERBERIS DARWINI. If it were tender it would certainly be considered worthy to be grown for the embellishment of conservatories. Many of the tender things grown for this purpose are not nearly so ornamental as this flowering shrub, which is, except in very severe winters, quite happy in the open air. The difficulty with this Berberis is that it is not so easily suited in the matter of soil, as is the case with so many flowering shrubs grown in English gardens. Therefore, really well-grown specimens are not plentiful. Where it is not happy it has a rather miserable appearance, and more often than not finds its way eventually to the rubbish heap. It prefers a nice light, warm, well-drained loam. It refuses to grow in cold clayey soil, and is not happy in very light soils verging on sand, unless they are plentifully enriched with leaf soil or fibrous matter of some kind. The best group of this Berberis I have ever seen is on roofwork close to a dwelling. These plants are the picture of health, bloom profusely and bear quite an abundant crop of berries, which are distinctly ornamental. In the case of soils not very favourable, the only way to ensure success is to take out a hole 3 feet square of the natural soil, and 2 feet deep, add leaf-mould and decayed vegetable matter, and, if possible, a little peat with a portion of the natural soil. The labour that this work entails will be amply repaid by the increased luxuriance of this Berberis, which, when in full vigour, is ornamental in winter and beautiful when in flower. Its near relative, B. stenophylla, is more easily satisfied in the matter of soil, but is not likely to thrive in a cold, heavy soil. In sandy loam it is at home. There are some beautiful varieties of this species, one of which blooms late in the season. This Berberis, being of more lowly habit, shows to better advantage in an elevated position. As an ornamental plant the old

B. AQUIFOLIUM is not to be despised. It will thrive in very poor, sun-baked soil, where free-flowering shrubs would not give any satisfaction. It is also at home under trees. During the past 50 years many thousands of this species have been raised from seeds, with the inevitable result it now exhibits considerable variety in leaf colour. I know of a group of this Berberis which forms a very attractive feature, especially when under the influence of the spring sunshine. Those who may think of using this Berberis should stipulate that only plants exhibiting some variety of leaf tint should be supplied.

PIERIS (ANDROMEDA) FLORIBUNDA is not very frequently seen in good condition, in fact, in villa and medium-sized gardens, it is conspicuously absent. This is a pity, for it is one of the most distinct and beautiful flowering shrubs in cultivation, but unless it gets the kind of soil which it likes it is unsatisfactory. It is not likely to thrive in heavy, clayey ground, and very light, sandy soil needs the addition of loam and leaf-mould. I have a plant which for some years was perfectly healthy, but which bloomed very sparsely. Annual top-dressings of leaf-mould made no difference, so as a last resource I gave it a rather heavy top-dressing of dung. At the present time it is well furnished with flower spikes. I mention this as it may be helpful to others who have been disappointed with this flowering shrub, which, by reason of its deep green Myrtle-like foliage and Lily of the Valley-like blooms, forms a very pleasant feature in the outdoor garden throughout the year. I cannot pass by its near relative, P. Andromeda japonica, which is one of the aristocrats of the outdoor garden, but which is certainly not a plant for every garden. An ideal place for it would be the clearing in a wood, where there is shelter from biting winds, and where the annual fall of the leaf supplies the necessary nourishment. In many places, however, there are sheltered spots where it would flourish, and it is so distinct from other flowering shrubs that it is worth any pains that may be taken to promote its welfare.

ZENOBIA PULVERULENTA (SPECIOSA PULVERULENTA) is, by reason of its glaucous foliage, very distinct. It is sometimes grown in tubs for indoor decoration, but it is hardy in the southern parts of England. The

CAMELLIA is hardy in our southern counties, but the plants I have seen, although fairly healthy, were certainly deficient of vigour and the flowers were small. In some parts of Cornwall, I understand that it thrives with native vigour, which is, of course, owing to the exceptionally favourable conditions of soil and climate. The man who plants a Camellia under glass prepares the soil with care, generally using a compost of loam, peat and leaf soil; the same man, planting in the open ground, is contented with the natural soil. Under glass the Camellia needs constant care. In the open it practically takes care of itself, and, therefore, should be worthy of the same care in planting that is bestowed on plants grown under glass.

DESFONTAINEA SPINOSA is very distinct and charming when in bloom. It is, I think, but little known at the present time, but is hardy in the southern parts of England. Like the Camellia it needs a very free-rooting medium, and loves a little peat in the soil. It is worthy of a place among the choicest flowering shrubs, and should be given a sunny sheltered position.

SPIRÆAS cannot be omitted from this list. They are very ornamental and very easy to grow. The varieties of S. Callosa, S. C. rubra bumalda, and alba and Lindleyana are very effective, but there are many others to choose from. Once well planted they last indefinitely—all they need is space for development. J. CORNHILL.

Magnolia grandiflora

The Magnolia family comprises a host of really useful and beautiful flowering trees and shrubs. M. grandiflora is a stately evergreen tree, which in its native habitat grows to a height of from 70 feet to 90 feet. Whether regarded for its large smooth bright green leaves, or the beauty of its white cup-shaped flowers, which fill the air with a delicate perfume during July and August, it is unsurpassed, and stands out as one of the most valuable members of the genus. Even when out of flower, it is handsome by reason of its distinct foliage, and in winter it is very cheerful. Unfortunately it is not in every garden seen in a flourishing condition. A very sheltered part of the garden should be selected for it, but it will be found safer to plant it against a wall provided plenty of head room is available. It succeeds best when planted in good turfy loam, enriched with leaf-mould or peat earth, facing south or south-west, and on no account should it be planted in a cold, wet or badly-drained soil, with a north or north-east aspect, as the cold spring winds are more destructive to it than frosts of ordinary severity. In planting, care should be taken not to injure the roots, as it is not a very

ood plant to move unless it is in a small tate. The roots should be spread out in very direction, so that they may be enabled) take up nourishment on all sides. When lanting is completed a good watering should e given to settle the soil about the roots, nd if dry weather should ensue the plants 'ill derive much benefit from frequent supplies of water. It does not require very much runing, but when it is necessary to prune ery early spring or immediately it has done owering is the best time.

Shrub planting under trees

It is often difficult to know what to plant iat will flourish under the branches of overanging trees. The first thing before plantg should be to cut off as many branches as ossible not to make the trees unsightly. [any are afraid to cut trees much, but nine cases out of ten they are improved by being judiciously pruned. Comon Laurel is the best of all shrubs to plant nong large forest trees of any kind, and hen the Laurels are annually pruned to bout 2 feet or 3 feet high they soon form dense mass of greenery. English Yews kewise grow well under trees where they in have a little more head room than the aurels, and they do not bear quite such close runing in this position, but where plants) feet and 12 feet high are required they e among the most useful to plant. Portual Laurels grow well in such positions if lowed freedom, and it is surprising how eep green they get when so grown in some ils; of chalk they are very fond. Where oping banks are formed under overhangg boughs of large deciduous trees the folwing plants do well and are very effective hen planted in masses, viz.:—Berberis Aquifolium planted thickly and associated with two or three golden or silver Hollies. In autumn and winter the Berberis assumes a bronzy hue, which contrasts well with the silver or golden Hollies. This Berberis will bear annual close pruning, and grows luxuriantly in such positions. Next to the Berberis and Hollies may be placed a patch of common Dogwood, which grows well under trees, and its red stems in winter show themselves off to advantage. Another plantation may consist of common Savin, medium-sized plants of which are very effective, and contrast well with the Dogwood. It grows close and requires little trouble to keep it in good condition. Aucuba japonica in a mass intermixed with a few plants of Berberis Aquifolium makes another charming combination. The Aucubas grow well in such positions, and are not over particular as to soil; if strong, so much the better; clay with some manure added to it is what they revel in. Leycesteria formosa in a mass grows amazingly fast under trees, and when in bloom its long, drooping catkins are very effective. Hypericum patulum is a dwarfer growing plant, and where not too much under overhanging branches it grows and blooms freely. Where variety in the way of blooming plants is desired the flowering Currant (Ribes sanguineum) can be employed with advantage; owing to its blooming before the trees overhead get into leaf, it is not much interfered with. Forsythia viridissima, too, grows and blooms freely under trees, its yellow flowers being produced in quantity in early spring; it is amenable to pruning. Berberis Darwini makes a compact-growing bush, and when in bloom its bright orange-coloured flowers, set off to advantage by its dark green leaves, are very effective.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* ARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correondents follow these rules: All communications ould be clearly written on one side of the paper ly, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING LUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. tters on business should be sent to the* PUBSHER. *The name and address of the sender are quired in addition to any designation he may sire to be used in the paper. When more than e query is sent each should be on a separate ece of paper, the name and address being added each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent press some days in advance of date, queries nnot always be replied to in the issue immedely following their receipt. We do not reply to eries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

GREENHOUSE

creasing Begonia Gloire de Lorraine

How do I obtain cuttings from a Begonia oire de Lorraine which is just finishing wering? What is treatment of old root d new cuttings until growth commences ain? V. S.

[There is no difficulty in propagating Beonia Gloire de Lorraine, provided good cutgs are obtainable. This is the principal stacle, for it is useless to strike the flowerg shoots, as they never form effective nts. To obtain suitable cuttings the nts should be taken in hand within the st few weeks, when their flowering period over, or nearly so, and cut back below ere the first flowers have been produced. en in a short time young shoots will be shed out towards the base of the plant, d when these are from 1½ inches to 2 hes long they form the best of cuttings. th a sharp knife they should be cut off se to the main stem. Then dibble them o well-drained pots of sandy soil (about cuttings in a 4-inch pot are very conuient), give a gentle watering through a fine rose, and place in a close propagating case in the stove or intermediate-house. They must not be watered more than is absolutely necessary, and the case should be opened occasionally to dry up any superabundant moisture. In this way nearly all the cuttings will root in about three weeks, when they must be gradually hardened off and finally potted singly into small pots.]

Red spider on Carnations

(H. C. H.).—From your letter we think that you are giving too much fire heat, this causing the plague of red spider about which you complain. Unless the outside temperature is very low we should use far less heat than you are doing. Too much heat invariably leads to an attack of this pest. Painting the pipes with sulphur is a good remedy, but you must be careful not to overdo the heat. A chink of air in fine weather should also be left on during the night.

An uncommon Salvia

(C. G.).—Salvia Pittieri is an exceedingly handsome species, with bright scarlet flowers. It is quite distinct from the blue flowering S. Pitcheri (syn. S. azurea grandiflora), and is more clearly allied to S. fulgens. Salvia Greggi is distinguished from the common red flowered species by the fact that only the lower lip is showy. This is carmine, and the rest of the corolla dull purplish.]

White fly on Solanum plants

What is a good thing for destroying white fly on Solanum plants? I have tried fumigating with nicotine preparation, but with very poor results. V. S.

[We advise you to try XL All White Fly Vapour, and to follow the instructions carefully.]

Forcing Dielytra or the Bleeding Heart

(D. B.).—These are very effective in late spring if taken in hand at once. Commence by lifting one or more roots which have not been disturbed for at least two years. Shake off the loose soil and expose a number of shoots or crowns, from 1 inch to 1½ inches long, each with white roots attached. With a thin, sharp knife cut off each crown close to the old root, taking care not to injure the new white roots. Pot each one with the tip 1½ inches below the surface of the soil. Use ordinary potting soil and water well. Plunge in a cold frame with at least 12 inches to 15 inches between the top of the pot and the glass, and cover with 2 inches to 3 inches of straw or hay. Also cover with boards in very cold weather, but take them off when the sun is shining. About March 1st take off the straw or hay and work just as you do a cold frame.

Taking cuttings of Chrysanthemums

At times one reads much about Chrysanthemums to grow naturally or to stop. My three years' experience proves that to grow them from the natural break for early November exhibitions the cuttings must be inserted at the correct time, and one must also be able to keep them growing, or, on the other hand, they must be stopped. I grew mine from natural breaks, plants bought at nursery each year. Some were too early and some too late; very few fit for early November. Some on the next buds have come almost single. A friend of mine stopped his from a catalogue, and I must say he has had 75 per cent. more blooms to time than I have. I think if correspondents were informed about what date, approximately, they should make their break it would help them considerably. This is my third year, and I have done with big Japs. It is a lottery for amateurs. So I am going to try a few singles if I can get the information I require. Could you kindly inform me when to insert cuttings of the following varieties. I would like, if possible, to grow them on a first crown bud, as I thought I might keep them dwarfer if I grew six blooms on each two plants in a 24 pot, or, if advisable, three plants, four blooms on each. My main concern is about what date they should make their natural break, and which buds give the best blooms for early November shows. The names of the varieties information is asked for are as follows:—Molly Godfrey, Mrs. R. Harris, Sandown Radiance, Lizzie Robertson, Sportsman, Mrs. Collins, Phyllis Cooper, Miss Joyce Moore, Ennismore, J. Barrell, Ethel Russell, Mrs. W. E. Catlow.

A DISAPPOINTED JAPPER.

[You will do well to start with cuttings in January, and if subsequent growth goes on satisfactorily the plants should branch some time during May. The flower-buds that follow would be crown buds, and these should be selected for early November shows. The second week of that month is an ideal time for singles in the south; the first week some-

what early. The size pot named is small except for one plant; if two, therefore, employ 16's, which are usually less than 9 inches in diameter. We hope you will not be disappointed with singles as with big Japanese varieties; at any rate, stopping need not cause anxiety. Cultivators with 50 years' experience behind them have found the practice anything but helpful only in exceptional cases, and fortunately, perhaps, for amateur growers, catalogues have left the singles alone in this matter.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Mistletoe growing

How do I grow Mistletoe from the berry? I have both Oak and Apple trees in my garden—on a south-west slope. I presume it is of slow growth and requires moisture. Have seen it growing in France—I believe on Poplars. H. ENDERBY.

[Just at this season the olive-green twigs and pearly berries of the Mistletoe are thrown upon our attention, so it often happens that many attempts are made to increase it now. This is wrong, as the berries are not ripe. The ordinary notion as to the propagation of Mistletoe by means of berries is to slit the young bark of the host plant, and then push the berries into the slit. The best way is not to slit the bark at all, but to press or rub berries on to a smooth, young, healthy branch of an Apple or Hawthorn with the fingers. The berry is very slippery at first, but as the viscid pulp dries the seed becomes firmly fixed to the clean bark. Two or three berries thus stuck on may be covered with a piece of black muslin or crepe to protect them from the birds. If the bark is slit or cut the edges at once turn brown and harden into corky layers of tissue. The right time to affix the seeds to the bark is in April or May, because then the berries are ripe and the seeds fully developed. Having rubbed on the ripe fruits the seeds will appear to gradually shrivel away, and seem to vanish, but unless picked off or knocked off they will not really have done so. The first thing that happens is the protrusion of the green growing point. In order to support the growth the contents of the seeds are gradually absorbed, and finally only a mere scrap seems to remain where the plump seed had originally been. If the bark is examined, say, six months after sowing, the bark of the host plant will have swollen above and below where the seed was placed, and perhaps a green point or two of growth may be seen about the centre of the swelling, and by the spring the first twin pair of leaves will have developed and the plant be firmly established under the bark of the tree.

Host plants are the Apple, Crab, Hawthorn, Pavia, Lime, or Poplar. It does not succeed on the Oak, though there may be a few solitary instances in which it may be found; neither does it grow on the Elm. Growth is exceedingly slow, especially for the first few years.]

VEGETABLES

Diseased Shallots

(Dartmoor).—Your Shallots are affected with a bacterial rot caused by Bacillus carotovorus (Jones). This disease attacks many kinds of garden plants. Celery, Carrots, Onions, Cucumbers, Melons, and Iris are all subject to attack. It is a common disease, and it is difficult to state how it got into your garden. It may have been present in a less acute form for a season or so, or it may have been introduced with the manure you used for your Shallots. We advise you to burn all the affected bulbs, and it will not be wise to use any of the stock for sets next year. It would be best to obtain an entirely new stock and grow them on a fresh site next season. If you are very keen on keeping your own stock you must be prepared for some of them to go wrong. All bacterial diseases are difficult to control; the use of sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate of lime tend to bring about soil conditions which are not so favourable to these organisms. Lime tends to increase the attack of Bacillus carotovorus.

SHORT REPLY

J. S.—Get some cordon-trained trees and grow them on a wall with south aspect, and they will no doubt succeed well.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

Alexander and Brown, Perth.—Garden Book, 1927.

John E. Knight and Son, Wolverhampton.—Guide to garden success.

E. A. Webb and Sons (Stourbridge, Ltd.), Stourbridge.—Flower and vegetable seeds for 1927.

Cross and Co., Wisbech.—Seed Potatoes.

W. J. Unwin, Histon, Cambs.—Sweet Peas, Gladioli, Dahlias, etc., 1927.

Toogood and Sons, Ltd., Southampton.—Guaranteed garden seeds, 1927.

ORCHIDS

The hardy Cypripediums

THE interesting Ladies' Slippers may well find a place in many gardens where congenial conditions are present. Most of the species amenable to cultivation are indigenous to the moist and shaded woodlands of North America, and it is not difficult to provide the plants with similar conditions in our gardens. The wonderful exhibit of these fascinating plants at the Chelsea Show of 1925 will doubtless have stimulated interest in hardy Orchids, and have "brought home" the fact that certain very beautiful species may be enjoyed under conditions more refreshing than those under which the heavy tropical forms and home-raised hybrids are grown in this country. Pride of place must be assigned to

C. SPECTABILE (The Moccasin Flower), or C. Reginæ, as I believe it to be now designated. The soft, rich rose and white flowers of this beautiful plant are in striking contrast to the light green downy leaves. It enjoys a half-shaded situation in moist loam and peat and should remain undisturbed, and with an annual surface-dressing of fresh soil it will quickly grow into a generous mass. It flowers during the early summer, and came from the Northern United States so long ago as 1731. We claim as a native

C. CALCEOLUS, but it is now, alas, very rare in English woods, and has only been recorded, in recent years, from a single station in Yorkshire, although the Horticultural Register of 1833 states that then it was occasionally found in the Derbyshire woods. It is a pretty plant with a brown and yellow "slipper," and dark green glabrous leaves. A woodland soil rich in humus will grow this interesting native to perfection.

C. ACAULE has very showy flowers in rose and purple, produced in early summer, and the broad light green leaves are clothed with downy hairs. Cultivated in Britain since 1786, it is an ideal plant for a moist, shaded position in the rock garden, as is also C. MONTANUM, a lovely little plant in white and brown. The very small

C. ARIETINUM, with greenish-brown sepals and petals and red and white veined lip, flowers in May, and is only 8 inches or 10 inches high. It is happy in a peaty soil, and like so many of its congeners it is very happily placed in a Rhododendron or Azalea bed.

C. PASSIFLORUM and C. PUBESCENS are very similar, both having brown and yellow flowers in diverse shades; and others of this interesting family which may assist in forming the nucleus of a good collection of these beautiful Orchids are

C. CANDIDUM, white and brown, and C. JAPONICUM, a lovely Japanese plant with green, red-spotted sepals and white, stained crimson petals and lip.

There are several others, and selection of these hardy and, for the most part, easily grown Orchids will lend a unique and pleasing feature to any garden, and will strike a most distinctive note. As I write, I can visualise in memory a magnificent clump of C. Reginæ growing happily for many years in a shaded nook of a rock garden, and profering annually a most charming display of its rose and white flowers.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

PLANTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Senecio Grayii

Of the shrubby Groundsels there are few suitable for the rock garden, the front of the shrubbery or even the mixed border. One of the most attractive of those is Senecio Grayii, which closely resembles the plant distributed as S. laxifolia, although the two are not synonymous. It flowers well in summer, but I must confess that I am not enamoured of the yellow flowers, as some are, and like the plant for its silvery leaves. It looks well at almost all seasons. S. Gray is a native of New Zealand, and has not been in cultivation for many years. I first came across it when it was a comparative novelty. I have seen it in many gardens since, and have grown it myself. It appears to be hardy, but I must admit that I have not come across it in any northern garden. S. ARNOTT.

Mesembryanthemum Browni

Although this is only suitable for summer its grace, charm and colour are such that it is a welcome addition to the rock garden. In mild winters it may be hardy in sunny chinks, if some light protection is afforded. The plant is useful for hot, dry soils, and should always be planted in open sunny spots or some arid declivity between two rocks firmly packed with sandy or stony material. Cuttings strike freely in a cold frame. Short young tops should be used, and may be inserted pretty thickly in small pots. A dry sunny bank, often devoid of plant life, might be made beautiful with this plant.

H. STEVENS.

Stachys corsica

This is one of the miniature gems to which the ardent alpinist is partial. It is by some recommended as a carpeter, but it looks much better, and gives more delight, if allowed a place to itself without any taller plant rising from its lowly carpet. In a good place in the rock garden it soon makes a plant a few feet across, with charming leaves, and miniature flowers of white, clinging close to the foliage, and eventually becoming tinged with pink. Stachys corsica is lovely in light, dry, sandy soil in the rock garden, but it is equally charming in a moraine, and I have had it very fine where there was a small proportion of lime among the chips. It may suffer a little in wet winters in some localities, but, as a general rule it gives very little trouble. S. ARNOTT.

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Some Fetishes Concerning Digging

T is a curious thing how even civilised people cherish their pet fetishes. Some big man in a certain walk of life makes a nce statement about a particular thing on ch he is supposed to be an authority, his nediate satellites echo the great man's rds like parrots, and in a short time all small fry are doing the same, in season out, without any reference to the peculiar umstances that probably gave birth to the nier statement, and, after a time, this omes a dogma to challenge which is often rded as sacrilegious.

However, in this journal we stand behind l scientific fact, common sense lied to the most ent science of and, as the ship of fetishes s men's minds ay and, in the of gardening, ses much useless k and does much n, they can find countenance . One of the st popular shes refers to the edness of the spit. Some gar-ners seem to rate the top so much that are afraid to any deeper for of losing it. hers will so nge their plan digging that it s on the top for and aye, with-a thought of t it has become. ow, there are es and circumstances where it is neces-to retain the top spit almost indefinitely, thank goodness! in these fertile isles are not frequent. In far more cases the ious top spit would be much better 2 feet w the surface. There is always a danger pplying a principle to every case in-iminately, and one wonders how many s of manure the too universal application his has cost. Because if that top spit not give results, more manure is always idered to be the remedy. It seldom s to enter some people's heads that, a time—longer or shorter according to ature—that top spit becomes sour, worn-and in need of replacement.

course, if there is nothing below save le sand or hard, coarse gravel the burial of the dead top spit cannot be accomplished. The best thing to do in such a case is to cart away a load or two of it and replace with some good deep loam, which will be better than the same quantity of manure to mix with what is left. If manure is applied, get off the top spit entirely and place it on the sand below. Then dig it into the sand, spade deep, mixing well both together. Then replace the top soil. In the case of a coarse, hard gravel, fork this over and place the manure upon it, then return the top spit. In both cases this job should be done in the late autumn so that the winter frosts can sweeten and purify the sour top spit. Before planting in the spring sprinkle lightly a little chalk over the surface.

The south terrace in Mr. A. C. Kenrick's garden, Waltham House, Elstead, Godalming

Now let us consider those more numerous cases where, happily, the top spit can be more easily replaced, but is just as zealously preserved. "Oh," says some reader, "what about my garden on solid clay." Yes, what about it? If ever there were any reason for changing the top spit it is here. The clay beneath being firm and impervious affords no drainage, and the liquids and vapours in the soil above that have become sour and stale find no escape. Such a top spit soon becomes sour unless thrown up rough each autumn for the frosts to sweeten it, or if left long without lime—a state of things common to many London gardens.

In such cases the proper course to pursue is to turn over the top spit. Dig down another spit and throw it on the other. In the autumn this should be done, and the winter frosts will pulverise those hard lumps of clay and make them as mealy by spring-time as Barley-flour. Then dig up old and new layers of soil, mixing them well together, and see what glorious results come in summer—better than manure will bring.

Now we come to deal with those deep, rich soils which, happily, abound in most parts of the country, and where the retention of the top spit beyond two or three years means a sheer waste of manure. In these cases the burial of the top spit can be performed without any poignant regrets. Only—especially where the land has been heavily manured for years—the lower soil should be brought up in time to catch the winter frosts. It may be very fertile, but in such cases it may also be more than a trifle sour. The writer last winter treated an old garden with a deep, rich, loamy soil in this manner, and the results during the past summer were astonishing, even to an old hand at gardening.

In conclusion, incidentally we come to another fetish—that concerning deep digging. Not that it has such a following as the sacredness of the top spit, because it means hard work, whereas the other just simply allows things to remain very much as they are—a principle almost as sacred to some people. While deep digging is undoubtedly invaluable, it needs doing with discrimination. As we have seen, if it involved bringing the lower soil to the top it would do more harm than good in certain cases, which shows that neither the burial nor the retention of the top spit should become a fetish. In few cases should deep digging be omitted. Dig deeply when possible, but dig sensibly, with discrimination and with special reference to the nature of the soil, top and bottom.

Gold Digger.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Daphniphyllum macropodum

THIS shrub, which comes from Japan, is one of the most striking evergreens during the winter. It forms a handsome shrub with me, and now measures 7 feet in height and 6 feet in diameter, the stout growths freely adorned with vigorous Rhododendron-like leaves, each nearly a foot in length and glaucous on the underside, sufficient of the silvery sheen rendering the shrub conspicuous. The flowers are small and inconspicuous, and possess a noxious odour when examined closely. These are succeeded by rather small but pretty blue-black fruits coated with a whitish bloom. The great beauty of the shrub, however, rests in its imposing leaves, which, borne upon red stalks, droop in a distinct manner from the vigorous shoots. It is recorded as becoming a small tree in its own country, and I would not be surprised to find the same happen here. At present the bushes are full of leaves right to the ground and, in effect, very ornamental. As to hardiness, the bushes in this part of Sussex have passed through the last 12 winters unprotected and unharmed, and this on a cold, clayey soil. Growing alongside this handsome form are others with red leaf-stalks, smaller leaves, and of a weaker constitution. The leaves are paler in colour; in fact, in point of beauty these are poor in comparison with the noble form which inspires this note. Nevertheless they are larger in all their parts than D. humile, which is the only remaining species described by Bean in his "Trees and Shrubs."

Sussex. E. M.

Lychnis Arkwrightii

In many gardens the brilliant Lychnis Haageana is not to be relied upon, and there has been a desire to obtain something of the same colouring combined with the hardiness of L. chalcedonica. This has been accomplished by the hybridising of these two Lychnises, with the result that L. Arkwrightii has been produced. I speak of them in the plural, as L. Arkwrightii represents a variety of shades of colour, ranging from scarlet and crimson to salmon and other shades, yet practically all most brilliant. These flowers are borne for a long season. The height of the plants is about 18 inches. These Arkwright hybrids love a sunny position and a light but rich soil. Plants may be purchased, but much variety may be obtained by sowing seeds. They are excellent border plants, and a few in a garden add much to its brilliancy and interest. S. ARNOTT.

Wisley trials

The Royal Horticultural Society will car out trials of Annual Poppies, Sweet Sultan Culinary Peas (late varieties only, ½ pint each required), Onions, Parsley, Sweet Cor and Beet during the coming season. O packet of each variety should be sent to rea the Director, R.H.S. Gardens, Wisle Ripley, Surrey, on or before March 31 1927. Goods via Horsley Station, Southe Railway.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Eschscholtzias

THE beginning of a new year is generally regarded as a time for turning over ever so many new leaves and forming ever so many good resolutions, the majority of which, I am afraid, are never meant to be kept. It may, however, be taken as a sign of grace that, on glancing backwards, one sees and admits the failures and shortcomings of the past, and determines to profit by these same failures in the future.

Such being the case, I hasten to don the white sheet and do penance for my neglect, hitherto, of these charming Californian Poppies. I have (for more years than I care to say) at various times had a few patches of the old Eschscholtzia californica, but previous to last summer I had not grown the many colours and shades which can now be had, and was really ignorant of their value as summer-bedding plants.

I find it pays in this upland district, even with hardy annuals, to sow thinly in cold frames and transplant straight to their flowering quarters. So early in June I planted a bed 35 feet long by 4½ feet wide with nice little sturdy Eschscholtzias, with the result that throughout the late summer and autumn this was probably the most attractive bed I had. At any time there were thousands of blooms of every imaginable shade, and in brilliant sunshine (the sun does sometin shine here) the effect was dazzling. Anoth thing I learnt was that they are of consid able value as cut flowers if cut in the bud a in the early morning. Arranged with th own foliage they also make a very delic and effective dinner-table decoration.

G. WATT

Iris histrioides, the earliest to wake up in Sweden

New Potatoes at Christmas

I was very pleased to see the note on p 18 of last week's GARDENING ILLUSTRATED "New Potatoes at Christmas," and it m interest readers to hear that, in addition Mr. Hargood, the following members of Worthing Allotment Holders' Associati Mr. Inkpen and Mr. T. C. Brown (Se tary), dug up on Christmas Eve a very g supply of new Potatoes, and that I, Treasurer of this Association, have ha good quantity of new Potatoes now on e of the last three Christmas Days. I writing to Mr. J. R. Holmes, informing of our success, and I know he will be hig gratified. FRANK COR

Worthing.

Mistletoe-growing

Many of your readers will have seen interesting note on Mistletoe-growing w appeared in the issue of January 8th, nowhere has it been so successfully pract as in the Botanic Gardens at Oxford, w it may be seen flourishing on the follo trees, all within 1 acre of ground:— Limes near the road, the Willow trees on river bank, the Pyrus Malus, P. A Cotoneaster Lindleyi, Juglans nigra, Rob Pseudacacia, Cratægus orientalis, C. tar tifolia, Æsculus octandra, Ostrya car folia, and Acer monspessulanum. On Ostrya some 50 plants are to be seen g ing, all having the characteristic gc tinge, while the bushes on the Æsculus Cratægus bear smaller leaves of a Holly-green tint. Viscum album is ofte be seen on the Aspen Poplar, and in Pine forests abroad there is a variet Mistletoe which grows so rampantly th is regarded as a pest, and it has also found upon the Cedar of Lebanon anc Larch. I once saw Mistletoe growing on a Gooseberry bush in an Essex co garden, and in another cottage garden by the Glastonbury Thorn was flowering at Christmas. H. H.

What to do with our razor blad

Mr. Clarence Elliott has solved quite a blem when he states, under the heading (issue January 1st, page 2), tha safety-razor blades form excellent in ments for preparing cuttings of alpines other soft plants, and there is no doubt these will make cleaner and less inju cuts than any knife. Another use to these blades may be put concerns the h

e, and that is, when trimming a lamp-k, lay the wick on a flat surface and run blade across. This will form a much ıner and truer cut than can be made with ssors. Readers may not be aware that ellent pruning-knives can be made by cing a sound handle on the blade of a dis-d old-fashioned razor. I have used one many years and have found no knife to ıe up to it. W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Iris notes from Sweden

R. H. B. GOODWIN, of Airedale, Solsidan, Saltsjöbaden, Sweden, sends the accompanying illustrations and the owing interesting letter dated January , 1927:—

the Editor of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED.

s you show a complimentary interest in wedish Iris-lover's observations, allow me send you, with my New Year's wishes n our land of deep, deep snow and of no e during five more winter months of ping spit into workable soil, a copy of Cèdergren's "Gardener's Almanack, 7."

o this I have contributed a little illus-ed essay on my own experiences with es from all parts of the world. It was tten chiefly as homage paid to the ad-able work of the late Mr. Dykes, but also the fundamental botanical researches le before into the genus by your country-n, Baker, Foster, and Hort, and again, a different sphere of the subject, to the ticultural insight in Iris cultivation wn by the brothers Hoog, of Haarlem. don't expect too much from one that is a owl at the Athens of the Rainbow ldess.

f course, since I, in 1907, the first time ted Dykes, in Godalming, and admired then small trial garden for Irises—I en-e a photograph I took of the scholar ling pincers with pollen in his flower-ling hand—the contagion with that ase which we might call Iriditis has ved a blessing to me. I never wish to ver, and am now plodding and muddling ıg with what material for my wilderness len I can acquire.

flatter myself to have consistently pro-led on the lines drawn up by Dykes. I e also found it advantageous, under the litions prevailing in Sweden, to concen-e on seed-grown plants and to avoid erial that is vegetatively propagated. eover, to prefer the true botanical species garden forms and hybrids. But most of I stuck to the astoundingly large choice e is, even in Sweden, among reliable, y hardy species, in preference to that ady overbred, often sterile, most sham-ly, probably originally Mediterranean ıcle of centuries of cultivation. I mean , in spite of Dykes' energetic researches searching nearly all over Europe, the matic jumble, which by Linnæus roughly sketched as the species Iris "ger-ica." The origin of that misleading e is simply to be found in the fact that species reached Linnæus (as it reached rest of the world) in the form of speci-s found "growing wild" in Southern nany and Austria. Now this species like the East European sibirica, been ıd wild in Sweden, but no present-day dish botanist would dream of even ecting it to be indigenous. Hyacinthus ıtalis has from gardens spread all over ope! The real difficulty begins with e seedlings, Kharput, Koehii, Linnæus's entina, squalens, and sambucina. I must ess to being still baffled as to what stuff are made of, whereof they are born.

Of what I have had in cultivation in sufficient numbers and long enough to feel authorised to state my view, the strictions and idiosyncrases of that fine scholar and observer, W. R. Dykes, have, even on close examination, and especially from our Upper Swedish horticultural point of view—I cannot speak for the southmost counties, only from the horizon of the capital—proved to be sound and correct. But this had been apparent to me years before I read Dykes' last work, the "Handbook." Whatever I have under observation in my two trial allotments (my own garden in the inner skerries and my natural rock garden in the far-off little island of Utoe), conditions prevail there which are really most trying for a little "Liliifloretum" of a professed wilderness gardener. This is how I was able to demonstrate, during the long spell of an exceptionally long warm autumn, including nearly all November, how well-founded Dykes' outlook is. Evergreen leaves seem to prove the southern origin, to distinguish I. Chamæiris Bertol from I. pumila L., the Xiphiums of the lower "œcotype" from types from higher alpine regions, and while variegata, aphylla, pallida, all the spurias and most other apogons had gone hiemating, the germanicas (which certainly ought to be distinctly re-christened cult. germanica) played at summer-life just as if my Airedale was situated at the Mediterranean instead of at the Baltic (nearly 60° North Lat.). I could follow this spectacle from my windows, and next spring will repeat it—to the extent the naughty lads who refuse to get to bed are awakened by the sun of an April, which is "Spring Month" of the Swedish lyrical poets! Our earliest to wake up, sometimes in a warm period of midwinter and often in February or March, when its tiny flower-stalk succumbs to frost and revives in thaw, is that excellent little doer, this fairy child, I. histrioides, which Swedes must not confuse with I. Histrio, nor with any other more tender reticulata.

I have, in the true Dykesian spirit, tried to do clean work, exposing about 70 names of Irises current in Sweden, as nomina nuda, errors or confusions, also attempting and but seldom succeeding to reduce certain Iris names in trade lists to their correct species, sub-species, varieties, or forms, most often mere local forms or nurserymen's own would-be botanical distinction. Of these perpetual cruces of nomenclature a few have puzzled me long and puzzle me still; the whole "Gueldenstaldtia" tangle, which I do not think Dykes completely unravelled, and the English and Continental seeds lists' "tricuspis" and "daënensis." Here I must appeal for help at the hand of those who in Dykes' land continue his work and are the warders of his heritage.

H. B. GOODWIN.
Airedale, Saltsjöbaden, Sweden.

Should fruit trees be root-pruned?

"Scottish Gardener" has "let the cat out of the bag" on page 4, issue January 1st, when he replies to "A. L." on what to do with a tree that makes shoots 3 feet to 5 feet in length and bears no fruit, although it flowers well. Evidently this particular tree, that bears bloom and no fruit, does not need the drastic measures given by "Scottish Gardener," neither does it require root-pruning. In this case the blooms were either injured by frost or else the tree is self-fertile and requires another tree planted in the vicinity for fertilising purposes. "Scottish Gardener" proceeds to advise "A. L." how to plant the new tree that is to take the place of the outcast. He says: "Clear out the soil to a depth of 2 feet, making a good-sized pit. Then let him mark this. In the

The late Mr. W. R. Dykes in his first Iris trial garden, Godalming, in 1907

1. Retaining wall looking north

2. Retaining wall looking south, tennis lawn on right

3. Central steps in the retaining wall

bottom of the pit place a freestone slab or some similar material, and return to the pit some fresh soil from another part of the garden in which his new tree should be planted."

He states make a good-sized pit, but does not say how wide or how broad. He says plant the new tree in this, but he does not explain whether it is to be planted in the bottom on the stone slab or so many inches from the surface; neither does he say whether the roots should be trimmed and spread out to their entire length. He leaves all the most important details to the knowledge "A. L." may have.

Coming, now, to the most important subject, where root-pruning may be entirely abolished as an old-fashioned and barbarous method. Mark you, by placing a stone slab under the roots I wonder if "Scottish Gardener" imagines this a new method of preventing the roots penetrating the subsoil. It may interest him to know that 26 years ago I had the opportunity of helping to plant an orchard containing 250 choice standard Apple trees in that well-known fruit-growing county of Herefordshire. The soil, being of a wet, clayey nature, a slab was placed under each one. True, in that case it was a complete success, but it is not a method that I should recommend where wall and dwarf trees are grown in light garden soil.

There is no method more successful in making fruit trees bear that are making gross wood and bearing little or no fruit-buds than root-pruning done properly. Rather than risk danger the inexperienced will do well to place the work in the hands of a practical man. The late John Wright, V.M.H., in his prize-winning essay written for "The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers," published in 1889, states: "Large gross-growing trees that produce little or no '*blossom*' ('not fruit') should have a deep trench dug round them about one-third the distance from the stem that the trees are in height, chopping off all the strong roots with a sharp spade, retaining the fibrous portions, and, particularly, the tree should be undermined for severing strong, vertical roots. Pare the roughly-chopped ends of the roots smoothly with a sharp knife, fill in the soil, adding a dressing of lime and gritty matter, such as wood-ashes, place the mixture around the roots with the hands, adding more soil in which to spread the fibrous roots; then make all firm or almost hard. Do this at the end of October and the whole character of the rooting system will be altered."

As regards my experience with ringing fruit trees, in 1910 I met with disastrous results on a number of young Pear trees operated upon by an alleged fruit expert and adviser.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

More Garden Planning—II.

(Continued from page 24)

THE enclosure of the 100 feet square parterre completed the scheme based on the axial line AA (see page 24) running from the central window facing the garden.

I now come to the second axial line, BB, at right angles to the first, and to the building of the big retaining wall. It may be recalled that the line of the terrace had to be swung forward to bring it parallel with the old axial line, the bank being made up with earth excavated from the sunk garden. A similar adjustment was necessary in the line of the retaining wall in relation to the bank which was cut by it in a slanting direction, giving, by the way, a curiously distorted effect to the tennis lawn until the final straightening out was complete.

The erection of the big wall was the first part of the whole planning scheme which entailed a building contract. I decided that the real strength of the work should be in concrete, and that for the sake of appearances the concrete should be faced with brick. If for this I incur the disapproval of architects and other purists (whom I genuinely admire) I hope I may be forgiven. After all, many fine old buildings are merely an unsightly shell faced with stucco. My only excuse is that while concrete is simplest and quickest to handle, I prefer the appearance of brick. Moreover, the brick facing could be done under my own direct supervision, whereas to have the whole structure in brick throughout would have meant the relegation of it to an architect, or at least to a builder, and I should probably have had as a result a structure in which plumb line and spirit level had played far too serious a part.

Anyhow, I decided on the brick-faced concrete, and a local builder erected for me a concrete wall 12 inches thick, and with a wider footing going a foot into the ground. This concrete wall, which took a very short time to erect, rose from the tennis lawn level to the height of the upper level—4 feet. It provided everything that was necessary as a retaining wall, and earth could be safely levelled up behind it. That done, we got to work on the decorative part—that is, the masking of the concrete with a facing of brick. The man who did this for me is, strictly, a bricklayer's labourer. He knows how bricks are laid, but as a rule he prefers his eye to a plumb line or level. His work gave me certain accidental irregularities which add definitely to the general effect. I got a garden wall built in precisely the same way, I imagine, as that in which the old red brick wall bounding the immediate surroundings of the house was built. In this the bonding of the bricks is of no cognisable kind. The whole wall loo straight and upright, but I doubt wheth any part of it is strictly vertical, or any cour of bricks absolutely horizontal. That is h my new retaining wall has turned out, a without any deliberate faking it match the old one very well indeed.

As to the designing of it, there was o one important point which had to be tak into consideration. The whole object w to shut off the lower part of the garden al gether from the upper part, so that any terest which might be added to the lo stretch of level ground where the tennis la is would be invisible from most spots in upper part; and that the upper part sho be even more invisible from below. C of the chief faults with the original gar was that most of it, apart from the veg able borders, could be seen at a glance fr almost any part of it, and the developm up to the time of the building of the big w had not done very much to counteract defect. The wall, therefore, had definit to be too high for anybody on the lower le to see over it. The actual difference betw the two levels was only about 4 feet— height of the concrete interior. Thus parapet had to carry it up another 2 f or 2 feet 6 inches. I decided to make 2 feet 6 inches, giving a total height o feet 6 inches, and I think that on the wh this is right. A 2 feet 6 inches parapet too high to look over comfortably when is sitting in a chair, and this is perhap drawback, but, with its 14-inch stone copi it is a very convenient height to lean o and not at all bad to sit upon. There is question that the effect of the extra 6 incl as seen from below, is very much to the go

The front of the wall was broken buttresses at regular intervals (see F 1 and 2). I am not quite certain whe architecturally they are justified, but give it an air of respectable solidity. For rest, the brickwork followed a sin pattern; the only variation from the p face being a series of long panels on the of the parapet between the tops of buttresses. These were formed by step two courses of the brickwork back an at a time at the bottoms of the panels stepping forward similarly at the top.

The central steps gave me a good deal n trouble, but the design shown in Fig and 4 was finally decided upon. There eight steps, four on each side of the w The little figures on the tops of the cur side walls are stone copies—very vigo for their size—of the well-known I

arved by Canova. They are modern, but ıey were a lucky find in a Venetian antique ıop.

At the foot of the wall we made a wide order for herbaceous plants, and Roses were ut in to be trained against the front. Beond the herbaceous border allowance was ıade for a grass path 7 feet wide, with a ight of steps at the far end in a line with ıe path leading from the house. I say that llowance was made because at this stage f the work there were no developments eyond the herbaceous border at the foot of ıe new wall. Here, until the next season's ork began, the tennis lawn remained intact. /hat happened then must be left for another rticle. C. E. H.

(To be continued.)

INDOOR PLANTS

)ouble Primulas and their cultivation from cuttings

)F all flowers which we cultivate, either for the embellishment of the conservatory, the dinner-table, or for making ɔuquets, none to me has the charm that elongs to the double Primula. Assuming ıat we have good cuttings in May, we proeed as follows :—The first thing is the soil, hich consists of two parts loam, one part af mould, and one part sharp sand. We ıen crock small 2½-inch pots, filling each to ıe rim with this compost; then we take ıem to the propagating house, set them all vel on the floor, and water them. When ettled, we commence to put in the cuttings. ach cutting being taken off with a heel, e make a hole in the centre of the soil and sert it, filling in the hole with sharp sand ıd making all firm. We then tie up the liage to a small stake very carefully. ouble Primulas strike freely in a bottom eat of from 70 degs. to 75 degs. The pots e plunged to their rims in cocoa nut fibre. very great point in their propagation is ever to let a leaf flag; therefore, as each ıtting is potted, place it in the propagating ıse at once. When the case is filled give em a slight watering and leave the lid of ıe case open until the foliage is quite dry; en put in two or three dozen lumps of ıarcoal to take up the moisture. Keep the ıttings close and carefully shaded from the ın. They take from five to six weeks bere one can see the roots at the sides of the ots; we then give air and gradually harden em off. When the roots, in plenty, but not atted, can be seen, the time for

REPOTTING is at hand. These cuttings we ift into 4½-inch pots—that is, if for flowerg. If for stock, we shift all the best ants into 6-inch pots, keeping them in the me house, if possible, until all danger of ugging is over. They are then placed in dinary three-light frames, under a north all on a good bed of coal ashes; and here must note that they should be quite shaded ɔm sunshine and kept close. I may be told at the sun seldom shines on the north side a wall, but on a hot day in July, when the n is working round to the west, the plants ffer if not duly shaded. They will want it little water for the first week, but a ight bedewing with the syringe is very neficial to them. The great point in bringg these Primulas to perfection is the waterg; therefore give water to those that are y only. By the first week in October all ese little cuttings will be fine strong stubby ants throwing up flower-spikes. They ould then be moved into a light, airy use and set on shelves. This house should kept at from 50 degs. to 55 degs. at ght; opening the top ventilators in fine weather will enhance the colour of the flowers and the stubbiness of the plants. About the end of November they will be in great beauty, when each should have a top-dressing of sifted, light, sandy soil, with a little artificial manure added; slightly stir up the surface and apply the top-dressing. When placing these plants in their flowering pots we use the following compost, viz.: Two parts good turfy loam, one part charcoal and sand, and one part sifted manure from an old hotbed, of which the greater part is leaves. If the old flowers and dead foliage are kept picked off, they will look well in their respective positions until the middle of March. They are then well cleansed and again top-dressed and placed near the glass on shelves, when they make fresh growth, and this growth forms the cuttings with which we begin in May. A. G.

Forcing the Lily of the Valley

Provided the necessary heat is available and the right class of roots obtained there is no difficulty in forcing Lily of the Valley into bloom during the winter and spring. The best kind to obtain is retarded crowns of Dutch or Belgian origin. These are usually tied in bundles of 50. When these arrive they should be potted at once in a light compost consisting of loam, leaf-mould, and sand. Twelve crowns will fill a 6-inch pot comfortably, and the tips of the crowns should be ½ inch above the surface. When potting is over a good soaking should be given. The crowns should be placed in a cold frame or a sheltered spot beneath a wall and covered with 2 inches of Cocoanut fibre. Here they may remain for six to eight weeks, when they will be ready for placing in heat, which may be in a frame placed on a hotbed or in a propagating case in the greenhouse. In either case the bottom heat should average 80 degs., and all light should be excluded until growth commences. This is helped immensely by keeping a moist atmosphere, always using water of the same temperature as the house or frame. When the crowns have grown 2 inches remove the shading from the glass and the fibre from the surface of the pots, allowing them to remain plunged. Gradually inure them to the light until the first bell has opened, when they may be brought into the forcing house and kept near the glass. Liquid manure may now be given in a mild form. If as growth proceeds they are given a cooler temperature the foliage will also become of a beautiful green. A pot of these will last at least 10 days in an ordinary room if not over-forced. Some gardeners pot the roots and force them right away, but I find plunging much the better. With these retarded crowns it is possible to have Lily of the Valley in bloom at all seasons of the year.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

4. Steps in centre of retaining wall leading from parterre to tennis lawn

White Laurustinus under glass

This is a variety of Laurustinus in which the flowers, when grown under glass, are entirely devoid of that reddish tinge which is common in the ordinary form. It is a very desirable plant for greenhouse decoration in winter: the only thing needed is protection from frost to have it in bloom for several months, and when no longer required it can be placed outside, care being taken during the summer to keep it supplied with water. Though but little seen in this country, this white variety of Laurustinus is grown on the Continent for flowering under glass, and imported from there to a limited extent generally in the shape of small standards, which, though pretty when in full flower, have a somewhat formal appearance. They, however, look well when judiciously intermixed with other plants.

THE FLOWER GARDEN

Sidalceas

THIS is a handsome perennial of erect habit, and very seldom requires staking. The Sidalcea is so great a favourite and there are so many beautiful forms that those who want a border of them may choose the kind and colour they like best. The cultivation of the plants does not call for any special skill or treatment. These flowers are useful for so many purposes that they should find a home in every garden.

The lover of flowers will find no more interesting phase in their cultivation than raising a batch of seedlings. There are several reasons why we should adopt this method. Not only can a vast number of plants be thus secured quickly, but frequently some of the seedlings possess greater vigour and produce larger flower-spikes than those secured by division. There is also the pleasurable anticipation of some new and possibly superior shade of colouring.

The question of the most suitable time for sowing the seed is a debatable point. Many believe in sowing in February or March, but after giving the matter close attention for some years I have come to the conclusion this is too early, for if the plants grow as they should do they make too large a plant, which does not, as a rule, stand the winter so well as those of medium size. The end of June, I find, is a good time to sow seed. Seed may be sown in boxes or pots and raised in a cold frame. These must be well drained and filled with soil of an open nature. When it is intended to adopt the more natural method of sowing out of doors a bed should be prepared in some open spot where the plants from the outset can develop a sturdy habit. When large enough to handle, prick out singly into rows 1 foot apart, allowing a distance of 6 inches between the plants in the row.

In early spring the plants may be planted into permanent quarters, or the plants may remain where they are, to weed out any useless specimens or mark any plant that shows superior colouring. H. F. STEVENS.

Chepstow, Mon.

Spiders and Pernettya

THE illustration shows one of the pretty incidents of the October garden, a number of small spiders' webs in a patch of Pernettya, weighed down and made visible by a covering of the tiniest globes of moisture. I do not know what kind of spider spins these webs, why they are all placed horizontally, or what kind of prey they are intended to attract, but one likes to think that it looks as if a goodly company of fairies had chosen it as a place for a night's rest, had slung their fragile hammocks in the bush, and had left the imprint of their tiny bodies in the sagging of the webs. G. J.

Dahlia Acclamation

I believe there is some doubt in regard to the proper name of the variety under notice. Friends of mine tell me it is of Continental origin, but that, for some reason or other, the English name above mentioned was given to it. The name, perhaps, does not matter very much so long as would-be growers can obtain plants of the variety. I saw a splendid batch of plants of this variety growing in the front garden of a Chingford Dahlia specialist before the plants came into flower, and I am informed by a well-known horticulturist who visited this same garden a few weeks later that the plants of Acclamation were a wonderful sight. I have some plants in my own garden, and they are also grown in Hyde Park with much success. The habit of the plant is excellent, and the height about 2½ feet. The flowers are about 3½ inches to 4 inches in diameter and may be classed as small-flowered decorative. The colour of the flowers is largely responsible for its popularity, and this may be described as bright Cherry-red, shaded Plum. The flowers are borne on erect stems and the plants produce an abundant supply of useful decorative blossoms. D. B. C.

Spiders and Pernettya

Campanula kewensis

This is a dwarf, free-flowering plant which sends out runners under the soil and forms a compact little tuft of short leaves and produces numerous blue flowers quite distinct in colour and form from familiar members of the family. The flowers appear abundantly in summer and are arranged in loose clusters, each flower drooping from a stem seldom more than 4 inches high. The roots ramble very much and form neat spreading patches. It succeeds in deep sandy loam and is best on the ledge of a rock garden, where the plant may spread in a free way. The plant must have sunshine, for though it will grow in shade it will not flower so freely, and it i too dwarf to take care of itself among bi plants. It will thrive in the driest place provided there is abundance of open soil fo its underground network of roots to ramb into. It is well to work a top-dressing sand in and about the plants in autumn an spring. This not only provides the plant wit nourishment, but helps to keep away slug which show a decided liking for Campanula. H. STEVENS.

Choice Roses

DAME EDITH HELEN appeared to me the most striking novelty of 1926. The raisers, indeed, have won many honours with blooms of it, not the least of its valuable traits being its fragrance. It is a lovely variety. The colour is rose-pink of a soft shade, the flower faultless in shape and large enough for any purpose. Its blooms have been presented consistently well throughout the year, and it is claimed for the growth that it is disease-proof. Rarely is so promising a variety introduced.

SHOT SILK is in general commerce and is regarded as first-rate. In the nursery lines throughout the season the flowers have shown up most effectively, and the growth of the plant is taking. Light cerise with yellow suffusions would shortly describe its colouring, which is at once distinct and pleasing; shape and size desirable, too, with handsome outer petals. A favourable opinion was formed of

DAINTY BESS, a pretty name, by the way, for a single flower of soft pink shade. This is bound to become favoured for table and other decorations, the plant providing long, graceful branches of blossom. A grower at Ashford, Kent, distinguished himself by rearing something worthy of a gold medal, which it obtained in the summer of 1925.

PRINCESS CHARMING.—This was obtained by the esteemed variety the Queen Alexandra sporting a branch, the blooms of which had more yellow colour in them than found in the type. This trait was fixed, and an exquisite variation is now within reach of th enthusiast in Roses. A nice yellow colour found in the flowers of

MRS. BEATTY, and the shapeliness, as we as size, compels one's admiration. Th variety has been on view a couple of season and one's notebook tells that it has improve on acquaintance. The blooms of

BEDFORD CRIMSON may not be large, but th plant is surely not wanting in freedom. produces a wealth of its glowing crimso samples, and is therefore likely to be great in favour as a massing—a bedding Ros Crimson-coloured varieties have really bee prominent among the new ones of the pa year or two. As many as three have wo the distinction known as gold medal vari ties, the highest of honours for new kind but somehow the one named

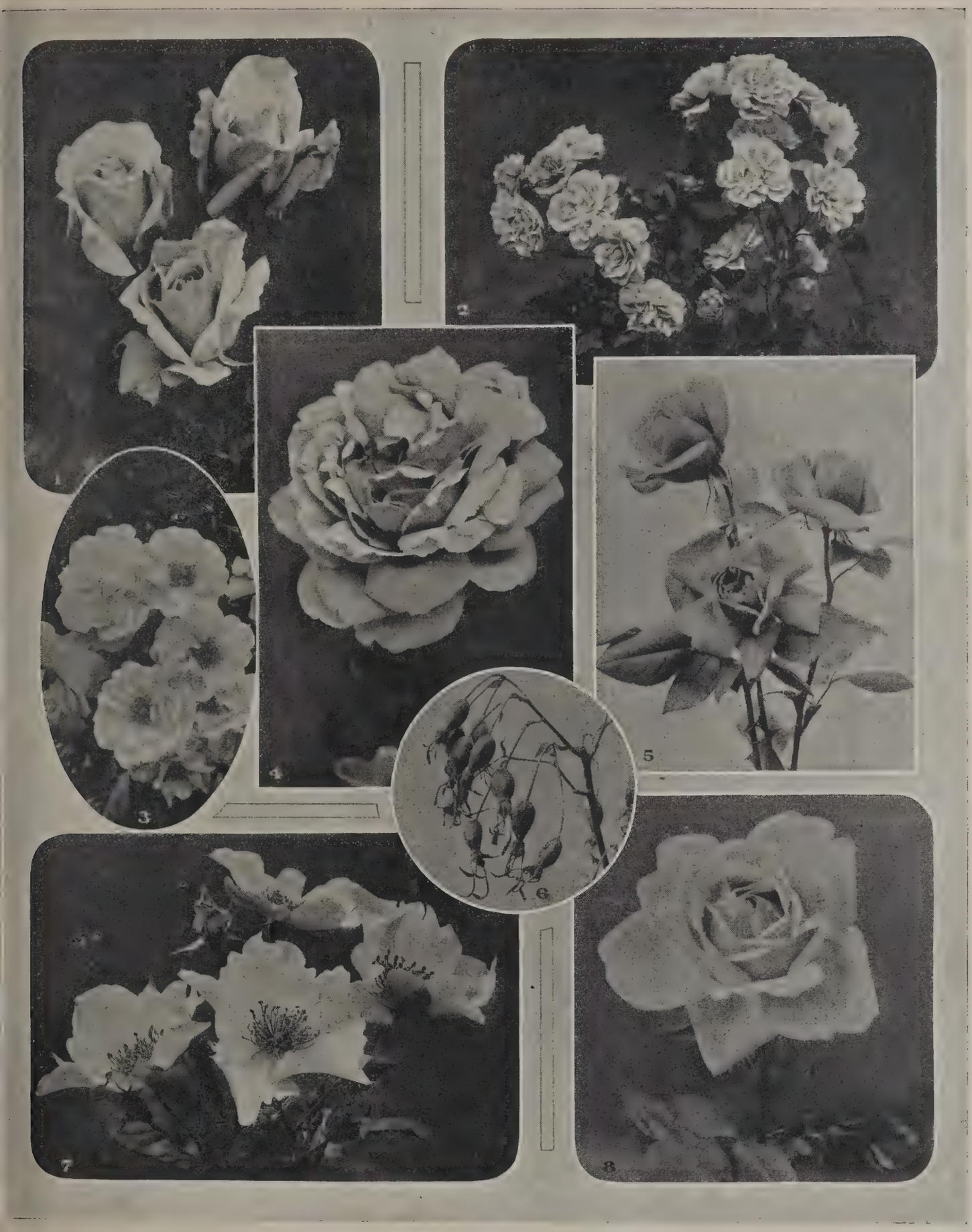
LORD CHARLEMONT appeals more than a one of the trio, and this not exactly a novelt for it has been in general cultivation sin 1922. It is a capital Rose without doub The growers for market have taken to and this is not an unfavourable sign. Gro ing cut bloom for sale reminds one of

LADY SYLVIA, an Ophelia-like variety character of flower and shading. T former has more colour, however. Th should be noted by anyone desiring som thing choice under glass. When referring crimsons,

JOHN RUSSELL should have been includ It is of the deep velvety maroon shadi with faultlessly-shaped flowers. Unl many of the style, however, this is noticeable for fragrance. A bed of variety was among the better items in R culture that came one's way in the seas First impressions seldom fail in regard to new variety, and thus the early estimation the worth of

MRS. BECKWITH has been borne out time. In the mind's eye the blooms peared like those of Melody. These w thought likely for table decoration, but a yellow bedding sort the variety is coming the fore. The flowers are not big, but t are of exquisite formation. The fla shading which makes Wilhelm Kordes so markable has probably been missed by ma otherwise the variety would be seen m often than it is, for it has been known s 1922. A striking Rose this, raised by expert grower known to some of us be he was forced to leave this country to defend his own. The man survived and sequently raised one of the more attrac Roses in colour that exist.

MARGARET MCGREDY is the last name t mentioned in these remarks, although at sent plants of it may be unobtainable. T seasons back, when flowers of it first peared in public, it was looked upon a splendid novelty. Since then samples h not been less attractive, and, to my taste, this is about the grandest red Rose reared. The blooms are like those of



A SELECTION OF ROSES

. Columbia, clear soft rose of beautiful form.
. Callisto (Hybrid Musk), perpetual flowering bush with golden-yellow clusters.
. Penelope, another Hybrid Musk; clustres of shell pink shaded salmon.
. Zephirine Drouhin, a time-honoured favourite of the sweetest fragrance.
5. The golden yellow Mrs. Beckwith; flowers not large but of exquisite form.
6. The brilliant red hips of Rosa fasciculata.
7. Dainty Bess, a Rose of singular beauty for table decoration.
8. The Ophelia-like Lady Sylvia, suitable for cultivation under glass.

Queen Alexandra, with no gold shading, and they are fuller as well as being double the size.

On the subject of new Roses it is much easier to provide a lengthy list than a short one, yet the latter can be managed when the merits of older varieties are carefully weighed. That improvement is going on is certain, but still the limited number of standard sorts requires something of special attractiveness before they become supersede It may be new colour, charming shape, ext vigour in growth—one might, perhaps, a perfume; anyway, the old kinds are diffic to beat. H. S.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Autumn-sown Sweet Peas

Whether sown in the open-air or in pots and kept under glass, it is advisable to scarify the surface of the soil at frequent intervals when it is dry enough to be workable and dust a little soot and lime about the plants. The seed has germinated remarkably well with me this season. Sweet Peas growing in the open are 5 inches high, very robust, and as a protection against birds they are covered with wire Pea-guards. Admit plenty of air to those growing in frames, the plants will then develop a strong stocky growth. Very little water is necessary at present.

Raising shrubs from cuttings

Those who do not possess a sand frame and desire to increase their stock of various shrubs may do so by forming sandy beds in the open, a position on the north or east side of a wall being very suitable for the purpose. The cuttings should be from 9 inches to 12 inches long, detached from the plant with a heel in the majority of instances, and laid in in lines about 4 inches deep with an inch or more of sand at the bottom and about 12 inches from row to row. One very important point in propagating of this kind is to see that the base of the cutting is made very firm, a small rammer being used to ensure that this is so. Most shrubs and trees may be increased in this manner, including such evergreens as Berberis stenophylla, Oleasters, Golden and other Yews, Cupressus, Grevillea rosmarinifolia, Desfontainea spinosa, and Myrtles.

Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Kalmias and Enkianthus

These and similar shrubs growing in masses derive great benefit from a sprinkling of soil at this season. It should be scattered over the surface of the beds with a shovel—any odd soil free from lime will do—the object being that of holding down the leaves accumulated, which in due course become the food of the plants, the latter rooting freely among them and above the former level. Digging such beds is wrong and should be discouraged.

Lettuces

Plants growing in cool frames are very healthy and will be encouraged by a light sprinkling of artificial manure at intervals of a month or so. To maintain growth keep the surface soil frequently stirred. Never permit the borders or beds to become unduly dry, even in the depth of winter; at the same time avoid wetting the leaves unduly.

Corn salad

There is always a demand for this, and where, for any reason, there has been a failure with the outdoor crop a few seeds should be sown either in boxes or in a frame. Beds of this plant now in use in the open must be kept clear of leaves and weeds.

Spring Cabbage

Work the hoe among the plants and remove all weeds on favourable occasions to encourage growth. The plantations are looking exceedingly well at present, and these frequent stirrings of the surface are most beneficial. The same applies to autumn-planted Lettuce, such as Hardy Winter White Cos and Trocadero; also Broad Beans and Green Peas which were sown in the middle of October and are now 5 inches in height.

Pruning fruit trees

Endeavour to complete the pruning of trained trees in the open in order that spraying may be commenced. Winter spraying will effectively reduce Mosses, Lichens, fungi, and many forms of insect life. Many good washes are to be obtained, but up to now I have found nothing better than caustic alkali for this purpose. The operator should be supplied with rubber gloves and a suit of overalls when using these caustic washes.

Vines

Where early Grapes are in demand the vinery, having been cleaned and the Vines pruned and dressed, should now be closed, a temperature of 45 degs. to 50 degs. being maintained during the night, with a slight rise during the day. On bright days a little air may be admitted, and when closing down the ventilators the rods may be dewed lightly over with the syringe. The atmospheric moisture must, however, be governed to a great extent by the weather.

Flowering plants

Where whole houses are devoted to one subject, as, for instance, Cyclamen, Cypripediums, Cœlogynes, Primulas, or Begonias, most of which are now in bloom, the temperature should at no time exceed 55 degs., and this with a chink of air through the ventilators on the sheltered side of the house. The houses should be maintained in a rather drier condition than would be desirable during growth, at the same time an occasional damping of the stages is beneficial and refreshing to the foliage of such plants.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

The Peach house

The Peach is very easily excited into growth, so it is advisable to have any necessary pruning seen to at once, for as soon as the buds begin to swell they are very easily knocked off when tying in the shoots and washing down the house. A neatly-trained Peach tree is a very pleasing sight to most gardeners. It is well to take some pains to make them trim and neat.

Young Pelargoniums

Rooted cuttings of these attractive plants may now be potted off singly, using moderately good soil and 4-inch pots. While the Pelargonium dislikes strong heat, a little gentle warmth at this season will start them away nicely, while they may be removed to cooler quarters later on. Do not over-water, but, at the same time, never allow the soil to get really dry.

Gloxinias from seed

A well-grown batch of this fine subject is most desirable, and to ensure seedlings blooming the first season the sowing of the seeds should no longer be delayed. A first-class strain should be procured. It is just as easy to grow fine flowers as those of inferior colour and form. It is advisable to maintain a temperature of about 70 degs., and a mo genial atmosphere to secure best results.

The Streptocarpus

This plant has been greatly improved recent years, and a well-grown batch provi a striking display, the large, elegant flow being produced in great abundance and lovely shades of red, pink, and mauve, sides pure white. From seed sown now f plants should be available by late sum and throughout autumn which will prod a long succession of bloom.

Tuberous-rooted Begonias

Whether for pot culture or as outd bedding plants the Begonia has few superi during the summer and early autumn mont and by making an early start and growing steadily the plants may bloom the first seas Being among the very minutest of all see very careful handling is necessary at sow time. The compost should be light, fre and sweet, and be finely riddled. All abundance of drainage to the pans or p used. Make very level and smooth on surface and plunge the receptacles to the ri in tepid water for a few minutes, so that whole mass may be made uniformly mo Allow to drain for a couple of hours and t open the packet over the pan and scatter dust-like contents as evenly as possible. not attempt to cover the seeds, but sprinkle a pinch or two of silver sand all o the surface. Lay a piece of glass and a sh of paper over each receptacle and set i temperature of 65 degs. to 70 degs.

Feeding Cinerarias

Plants of these showy subjects intended spring blooming will be greatly helped having a little gentle feeding from now wards so as to build up good sturdy pla that will bloom well in due season. C soot-water and well-diluted liquid made fr sheep or cattle droppings are excellent, may be used on alternate fortnights, while the event of these being difficult to procur small tablespoonful of Ichthemic Guano n be used with good results. About tw weekly is often enough to use any of stimulants named.

The herbaceous Calceolaria

These gorgeously-spotted flowers are quite so popular as they were at one ti but still have their uses. If wintered 5-inch pots they may, very shortly, be po into the flowering size, very good specim being produced in 7-inch pots. Use g fresh compost, and that in rather rough dition. Drain the pots well and pot mo ately firm. Return to a house or pit f which frost is just excluded, shading fro sunshine.

Sweet Peas

Even for garden decoration it pays to the seeds in boxes or pots about this d Old Chrysanthemum soil is excellent for ing pots and boxes, while these recepta may either be set in a greenhouse or frame. If in the latter, germination wil much slower, but the result will be q good. In any case keep a sharp look-out mice, these little pests being very fond of seeds, and have also an annoying habi gnawing through the young shoots wher inch or two long. C. BLAI

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Viper's Bugloss

ALTHOUGH one of the most beautiful of the whole Forget-me-not family, not more than eight or 10 species are known gardens, and only half-a-dozen of those n be safely classed amongst hardy plants. ere are over 20 species known to botanists, ese being chiefly confined to Southern rope, the Canary Islands, etc. Only two ecies—E. vulgare and E. violaceum—are und in the British Islands. All the species ve more or less panicled or spiked flower-ads and brilliant blue or purple flowers. e South European species often live out in gland during the winter, but unless well ened the previous summer or protected ey can rarely be trusted out of doors even sheltered spots. A light and sandy or dry il suits them best, and they should be nted where they can catch all the sun ssible. When the ground is rich they ow coarse and scarcely flower, and never ve such richly-coloured flowers as when e plants are more or less starved. E. antagineum, violaceum, rubrum, vulgare, d creticum are little more than biennials duration, but as they ripen seeds freely in dinary summers they are readily kept go-g. The seeds should be sown almost ectly they are gathered.

ECHIUM WILDPRETTI.—This striking mem-r of the Boragewort family is well adapted r the decoration of the greenhouse. It is native of Madeira, and has now been own in this country for over 20 years. It a biennial, and, when raised from seed, rms during the first season a dense rosette long, narrow, silky leaves. The second ar the centre of the plant elongates, and rms an erect spike a yard or so in height. is is for the greater part of its length fur-shed with closely-packed flowers, in colour very peculiar shade of reddish-pink. It is somewhat difficult plant to grow. Seed ould be sown in the spring; it will soon rminate; and if the seedlings are potted on en necessary they will become established pots 6 inches or 7 inches in diameter before nter. The plants thrive in a mixture of m, leaf-mould, and sand, and, when grow-g freely during the summer, they need nty of water. An excess of moisture in winter is, however, very injurious, as at t time they are liable to damp. They st at that period be kept safe from frost.

callithyrsum, a native of the Canaries, is larger grower, with more of a shrubby aracter. The flowers of this are of a de-htful shade of blue.

E. CALLITHYRSUM.—This has been intro-ced many years, although now rarely met th outside botanic gardens. It is a green-se shrub or small tree, and during sum-r produces hundreds of flower-heads. en flowering is over, all the old stems or nches are cut back, when the plant breaks ay again, and in this way may be had in om almost at will. Cuttings strike freely, d as these begin to flower when quite ng, they make delightful pot plants for conservatory. Seedlings do not, how-r, bloom so quickly, and invariably attain good size before showing flower. Where ce can be afforded, E. callithyrsum should planted out in the greenhouse or conserva-y, as it then attains a good size and makes apital centre plant for a bed or border.

E. FASTUOSUM.—This is the most hand-ne, though not the largest of the shrubby iums, its flowers being of a peculiarly liant, though deep blue. It forms a ub from 2 feet to 4 feet high, having long e green leaves, which are covered with t white hairs, and a branched stem, which surmounted by a large dense panicle of p blue flowers.

E. GIGANTEUM.—This is a striking and very handsome plant, growing from 6 feet to 10 feet high, with a branched stem, smooth hoary branches, and large thyrsoid panicles of white flowers, which become purplish as they fade.

E. CANDICANS.—This, a native of Madeira, is notable for its generally hoary appearance throughout, which is owing to both leaves and stem being covered with silvery-white hairs. The flowers, which are comparatively small, are blue striped with white, or white throughout.

E. SIMPLEX.—This, a native of Teneriffe, is a comparatively low-growing species, not exceeding 3 feet in height, and usually less. It is a biennial species, with large silky leaves and a very long cylindrical panicle of white flowers.

Echium Wildpretti
A stately biennial from Madeira

ORCHIDS

Sobralias

IF the flowers of the Sobralias are somewhat ephemereal, compensation is provided by a succession of blooms extending over a considerable period during the summer. Being of the easiest culture, Sobralias may well prove of value even in establishments where Orchids are not greatly favoured. Being terrestrial plants, a strong soil similar to that used for Cymbidiums is required. It should consist of the fibre from good loam and Osmunda or A1 fibre in equal proportion, to which may be added some chopped Sphagnum, sand, and crushed crocks. A surfacing of Sphagnum is enjoyed by the plants, and is a useful guide to watering. The plants succeed admirably in an intermediate temperature, and perhaps enjoy rather more atmospheric moisture than do most Orchids. The finest examples I have seen were growing on a stage over a tank at the shady end of a lean-to house, where a minimum temperature of 55 degs. was maintained. During the growing season copious supplies of water are required, but afterwards much less will suffice. The stems are produced in thick tufts, and in some species attain to an appreciable height, S. dichotoma, for example, reaching in Peru up to 20 feet, but the generally cultivated species have a range of from 1 foot to 7 feet or thereabouts.

Propagation is easily effected by division, and repotting should be done immediately the plants have flowered, guarding against a superabundance of root room and making provision for ample drainage. The Sobralias are natives of the Andes of Tropical America from Peru to Mexico. The flowers are large and showy, a few in a terminal axillary raceme, sometimes solitary. The most generally cultivated and best known species are S. macrantha, of crimson colouring and aromatic; S. macrantha alba; S. leucoxantha, white and yellow; S. xantholeuca, yellow; S. Lowi, deep purple rose; S. Forgetiana, rare, deep red; S. Hodgkinsoni, another red species of dark colouring. Several hybrids have been recorded, such as Ameriana (xantholeuca x Wilsoniana); Dellense (Lowi x leucoxantha); Siebertiana (macrantha alba x Warriniana); Veitchii (macrantha x xantholeuca); Colmanii (Veitchii x xantholeuca concolor). Other notable species are Charlesworthi and Ruckeri, both from Colombia.

Several of these distinct Orchids are reasonable in price. They are easily managed and should make a strong appeal to the small grower, or to one who has to grow a varied collection in one structure. They are ideal plants for furnishing a corridor or conservatory, their bamboo-like stems being in themselves decidedly attractive.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

The Gardens, Kiftsgate Court, Campden, Glos.

Oncidium ornithorhynchum

This should find a place in the smallest collections of Orchids. Flowering, as it does, during the autumn and winter, it should make a special appeal. It succeeds admirably in a cool house, and may be accommodated in a pot which must be well-drained, the rooting medium being fibre and Sphagnum moss, with a few pieces of charcoal. Abundance of atmospheric moisture is at all times enjoyed, and during the growing season the plant will require copious supplies at the roots. The colour of the flowers is somewhat evasive, but perhaps soft rose-purple is a suitable description, and fragrance, somewhat reminiscent of heliotrope, is present in a marked degree. The scapes are produced in the greatest abundance, and the drooping panicles are very thickly laden with the rather small flowers. The habit is dwarf and compact, the flowers are freely produced, fairly persistent, and useful for cutting. A white form, O. albiflorum, is known, but is, I believe, somewhat rare in cultivation. This species is indigenous to Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru, and was introduced in 1826.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

An Oxfordshire Cherry Area

THERE are some miles of country, just within Oxfordshire and over the Berkshire border line, and lying between Wallingford on one hand and Henley on the other, which form a not inconsiderable Cherry-growing district. About Kidmore End, Stoke Row, and adjacent villages comprised within the topography of this article, one may see dozens of Cherry trees which, in the season, are temptingly thirst-assuaging, not only to the juvenile passer-by, but to more adult and decorous users of the King's highway. Acres and acres of land about there have been laid down—in one case we noticed an orchard of eighteen acres of the succulent Cherry. In addition, there are many acres of trees which have had their day, and are being cultivated for fruitage no more, for some reasons which are plain and some which are not. While these Oxfordshire Cherries find a ready market, it is not claimed that they have achieved the fame of the Kentish, but it is claimed that much more might be done to enhance the prosperity of the neighbourhood if a little more pride and enterprise were shown in cultivating and marketing the local product.

One of the best known Cherry growers in the locality, Mr. John Allwright, "Fairview," Kidmore End, in reply to some questions by our representative some time ago, was quite informative on the subject of the Oxfordshire Cherry-growing. Aged over 72, he had been Cherry-growing for half a century. He explained that, while there was still considerable Cherry-growing in the district—this class of fruit had diminished in recent years. He said that most people did not seem to have pluck enough to replant their orchards; for the fruiting life of a Cherry tree was fifty years. He himself replanted with wild Cherry trees, of which there was any quantity in the neighbourhood, and these he budded. It is necessary, in recultivating Cherries to plant enough trees; for one has to make ample allowance for the depredations of birds, etc., and for seasonal difficulties. Of the many miles of Cherries which grew in that country, they could show many varieties. They grew what they called locally White Cherries; also what were known technically as Kentish Cherries. Then there were Carnation Reds, which were very good for preserving; Flemish, a better quality Cherry, which, however, was not a good cropper; and May Dukes, which cropped somewhat spasmodically. Mr. Allwright also spoke of their Caroon Cherries, an early black, and what they called Cocksetter, a still earlier black. Regarding the latter, he said there was once a gentleman living at Goring Heath whose name was Cox, and the Cherries he grew people began to dub as "Old Cox's Setter." This name, in the slightly varied form, has clung to that type of Cherry ever since. Of the late Cherries supplied by the neighbourhood, there are Purple Hearts and Black Eagle, a Kentish Cherry.

Our representative then proceeded to make further inquiries in the district. He found then that the past Cherry season was the worst the growers had had during the four years, though between four and six years before was a season which failed to produce any at all. Too much wet weather spoils the Cherries, which crack as a consequence, and, moreover, when the crop is ready for the market, a spell of really hot weather is desirable to bring about their consumption. While in some Cherry-growing districts the system of grafting on wild Cherry trees is adopted, in this Oxfordshire district budding is the prevailing incentive to output. The making of roads and paths in the district has been somewhat detrimental to cropping, for Cherry trees, unlike other fruit trees, cannot stand having any of their roots cut, while the placing of cattle in some orchards is also against the development of the Cherry.

When trees have finished bearing they are cut down and fresh ones planted, but not in the same place, it not being desirable to plant Cherry trees where such trees have stood before. One of the reasons why a good deal of land has gone in recent years in this Oxfordshire area out of cultivation is because of the cost of Cherry-picking, so it is declared locally. Where forty people were formerly busy picking, there are now about half a dozen. Many years ago men were paid for Cherry-picking 3s. per day and women 2s. 2d. per day; but now men are asking 10d. per hour and women 5d., and the quantity of Cherries picked now per day is considerably less than it was.

Another reason why there is not the same enthusiasm as there used to be for Cherry cultivation in this neighbourhood is (so it is complained) the abnormally high rents charged for the land. Some of the troubles of the grower are no doubt due to the unsettled state of the country as a result of the war. As the country increases in prosperity so should the Cherry-growing industry, and so we may again see the Oxfordshire area here described giving full measure of output.

C. EVANS.

The evils of overcrowding fruit trees

It is a common experience to find garden as well as orchard trees much crowded in branch and spur, greatly to the detriment of the tree itself, and the crop which it bears from year to year.

MANY fruit growers are nervous of cutting out mature branches in some instances, probably because of the possible sacrifice of fruit resulting therefrom. When crowding of bush and pyramid trees in the garden is allowed to continue to go on indefinitely, their heads become mere hedges of green spray and the fruit loses all its common characteristics. We have recollection of samples of that prince among Apples, Cox's Orange Pippin, so absolutely devoid of colour, size, and character as to be quite unrecognisable—indeed, they were in appearance no better than common Crabs—and this from no other reason than want of more rational pruning in winter-time. The trees under notice were large and vigorous and capable of producing three or four bushels each. Only a severe thinning of the mature branches can suffice as a correction to such overcrowding, and the sooner such work as this is carried out the better for the future crop. A small, well-sharpened saw is necessary for the operation, this to be followed by the paring of the jagged edges with a sharp knife. Then the wounds heal quickly, and new bark extends over the shortened limb. Apples and Pears are the trees which most frequently suffer from this fearsome pruning, but Plums and Damsons are often thickets of barren growth.

Wall-trees, too, are by no means exempt, it matters not what the sort or kind may be. The shortening of spurs on wall-trained trees is all-important. It is true spurs are allowed to extend outward so far that the prime object of the wall is lost. We have seen trees with these extended spurs, and they have even been allowed to assume such a crowded mass that the practical mind wonders that fruit of any character is produced at all. We have seen trees thus badly neglected brought into an improved state by removing one-half of the spur growth in one winter season, the remainder being taken off the next year or two seasons following. It is an extreme measure, and the operation a severe one; but when trees have lapsed into such a sad and unfruitful state there cannot be any loss because of their removal. If a tree is healthy and vigorous it will soon push new growths, even should the whole of the spurs be shortened at one operation; but should the tree be enfeebled by branch and root neglect, then less drastic treatment must be practised. The standard tree-pruner is a capital implement for dealing with aged espalier wall-trees when the cutting-blade is kept well "honed." One can, with the aid of this useful tool, prune trees quickly and effectively from the ground. Pears and Plums and especially the former, are trees one finds in old gardens in need of this thinning of the spurs. The Morello Cherry is another subject of the garden often found in a hopelessly crowded state. On this a deal of wasted time is spent in the use of nails and shreds, which not only defeat the object of the planter, but make, at the same time, its culture unnecessarily costly. Morello Cherries are among the most regular and heavy-bearing of fruit-trees; often they will flower and produce fruits, even to a three-fold extent and attempt even to carry this weight of fruit to the ripening period. However, the crisis comes in the process of stoning, the result of which is wholesale collapse. The trees themselves, from their annual excess of attempted profit, show the effect of over-strain in dying branches. We have actually seen the growths of Morellos so closely nailed that the finger could scarcely pass between them. It is nothing less than folly to practise such extravagance in nails and shreds, because there is in each and every incident direct loss, and the vitality of the trees is being sapped without beneficent result. Severe pruning in the case of Cherries must not be undertaken without the exercise of judgment, for gumming is easily set up when this is undertaken, and the consequence may be serious.

Mulching fruit trees

The value of mulching is well exemplified in a prolonged drought. Opinions may differ in respect of the best time at which to apply the mulch, but as to the benefit derived from the practice there can be no two opinions. When it can be done, I believe in mulching at the present season. Let all newly-planted trees be mulched, and even, if need be, let them be watered previously. It is occasionally objected that mulching is unsightly, but surely, when this objection is raised, it is a simple matter to "blind" the material with a little soil or leaf-mould. The benefits derived from mulching trees planted in shallow soil cannot be over-estimated, for, in such cases, the roots are very often nearer the surface than when the soil is rich and deep. In the former case the roots are liable to be exposed to cold and drought alike, and extremes of either are most certainly prejudicial to the welfare of the trees.

M.

Pruning of Apples and Pears

This is an important matter and must be carried on at every opportunity. In the thinning of large old trees the aim should always be, free admittance of sun and air to all parts of the tree. On wet days examine and put in thorough working order all spraying machines.

Terrace Shrubs

HE terrace being the show place of the garden, the arrangement of beds and borders must be very carefully planned. ıere is always some little difficulty in aming one's idea as to the laying out this area, for there is quite a number shrubs eminently suited, so that it a pity to waste valuable space by ling the borders with something altother out of keeping. Considerations to be ken into account are the height of the ıilding and its style of architecture, for, hilst the Yucca, for example, would look ajestic in the vicinity of a fine mansion, would appear ridiculous adjacent to a squat ıilding. Then, too, a new red brick buildg could hardly be surrounded by the same rubs, etc., as one of Kentish ragstone. ıch conditions, as also the climate of the cality, would have to be taken into conderation. The Boxes in variety, and more rticularly Buxus Wallichiana (Himalayan ox), a shrub of some 8 feet in height, is very desirable addition to the odd corners the terrace. It has leaves about 2 inches ng and ⅝ inch wide, dark green of colour. ıis particular Box is very rarely seen. ıere is one some thirty-five years old at ew. It is possible to propagate it by cutıgs, but with very indifferent success. ıxus prostrata might also prove useful. It a 3-foot shrub. Terrace borders freıently lend themselves to the use of Buxus ffruticosa, the well-known edging Box, so ten to be found in vegetable gardens. This, not desired for edging, can be allowed to ow to any height up to 4 feet. Cassinia lvida is a densely growing evergreen which tains any height up to 6 feet, and may well ıim a place of honour. It has very tiny ıves, which are crowded on the branches, d are dark green with yellowish downiss on the back. The vast group of ›toneasters may be made use of very nsiderably and several of them are worthy a place. Among the tall growing Cotonsters C. buxifolia is an evergreen 12 feet in ight. There is a grand specimen of this Kew—it must be 12 feet high by about feet in width. It has white flowers in ısters, and round red berries some ¼ inch diameter. As a disguise for old or unghtly fences or walls it has hardly an equal. her tall Cotoneasters include Francheti monsi, frigida, multiflora, and Henryi. ıere are one or two good Cotoneasters for v walls, such as those sometimes found on races, of which C. horizontalis is perhaps ›al, seeing that its growth rarely exceeds feet, and its natural habit is to spread horintally. In May this shrub flowers prosely, the flowers being followed by bright l berries. It may be readily propagated cuttings. C. microphylla is suitable for vering slopes, attaining an average height only 2 feet 6 inches, whilst nothing equals humifusa as a carpet growth, it being of eping habit. The selection of a Cytisus eds some thought, and probably two may chosen as worthy of a place—C. Andreanus d C. praecox. Of the Deutzias, D. carnea can well be made use of.

Rhododendrons make a glorious show if ›ely grouped, the dwarf kinds being most uable. Hydrangeas are regular occupants the position of honour, and when well own lend a majestic appearance to the ıole place. Undoubtedly the best effect is ›cured by a pink variety.

Yuccas may be used in suitable localities. filamentosa has leaves some 2 feet long, d yellowish-white pendulous flowers, or Y. ıuca, with its fine long 4-foot stem of wers, may claim attention.

The success of the gardener's efforts will considerably depend upon the clothing of the house or mansion walls, hence it is necessary to deal next with suitable climbers for this purpose. Tecoma radicans, often incorrectly called Bignonia radicans, produces magnificent clusters of orange-coloured flowers in August and September. For a building of some height nothing finer can be mentioned. Cydonia japonica can be trained horizontally with much effect. Choisya ternata is a great favourite for walls and is to be recommended. Solanum jasminiodes is a particular favourite in the south-western counties, where it succeeds admirably.

Weigelas are very adaptable as wall plants, whilst such shrubs as Wistaria, Clematis, and some Roses need hardly be mentioned.

In choosing clothing for a wall, and especially for the wall of a residence where there is a terrace, it is advisable to omit any shrub which is of too free-growing a habit.

BRUCE HEWITT.

The Tarentum Myrtle (Myrtus communis tarentina)
A useful shrub for walls or terraces. It is hardier than the big-leaved type or Common Myrtle

Climbing plants you should grow

The judicious use of climbing plants cannot be too strongly advocated. It is unnecessary to dilate upon their beauty and the purpose to which they might be applied. To cover walls, to clamber up poles, or over rough shrubs and trees, are only a few among the many uses to which they can be put.

For climbing plants to do well the soil must be dug deeply and plenty of decayed manure and leaf-mould mixed with it. At this season of the year we think of the perennial climbers that have to be planted before the spring. First among these are the

VIRGINIAN CREEPER and its varieties, which have such beautifully tinted leaves in the autumn. They are very useful for covering large spaces quickly, and give no trouble as they are self-climbing. They thrive best on west walls and love a full south or south-west aspect. The

WISTARIA is a climbing shrub which covers porches, house walls, fences, etc., with lovely chains of light blue and white flowers. When trained and pruned it blooms profusely. The Wistaria grows best in a warm aspect, on a south or west front, but does not do well in the north except in very sheltered positions. To my mind the

CLEMATIS stands unrivalled. It is very fond of chalk in the soil. The best time to plant is from September to the end of November, if the weather is suitable, of course, or from February to March, but late spring planting is apt to be followed by trouble, especially if the site is a hot one and the soil poor and dry; the plants do not establish themselves, and dwindle away instead of growing. If you grow any of the Jackmani or Viticella varieties they should be cut down to within 6 inches of the ground in November. If this has not been done, cut down at once. These varieties flower on the current year's growth, and not on old wood. The other groups—patens, florida, lanuginosa, and montana—should have their weak growths removed during February. No other pruning is necessary, as these flower on the old wood.

JASMINUM NUDIFLORUM is probably the most welcome because it flowers in winter in advance of its leaves. In a very mild spell this useful plant produces its flowers in opposite pairs along the stems, and calls to mind its summer-flowering relative, which has

scented white flowers. There is another kind of Jasmine called Beesianum, with bright red flowers. C. W. S.

Rare and interesting trees in pleasure grounds

The occasional notes that appear in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED on rare trees and shrubs are very interesting to the older generation of gardeners, for in bygone days, before "making the garden pay" was the first and foremost consideration, the pleasure ground was an attractive feature, just as well cared for as the more remunerative parts of the garden. It sometimes happened, however, that an inmate of the pleasure ground was unexpectedly remunerative. I remember, for instance, two fine specimens of the Service-tree, the one a rather dwarf, spreading tree like the ordinary Apple, the other a tall, fine specimen with a long, shapely trunk. The latter came down in a gale and would have been consigned to the wood-yard, but remembering that the wood is much prized for special purposes it was offered to a cabinet-maker and fetched quite a handsome price. A good specimen resembles a large Mountain Ash and bears a profusion of its small fruit annually. The fruit is passable when in a ripe condition, after the style of a Medlar, but with a sharper flavour. Another tree that came down in the same gale was an almost unique specimen of the Kentucky Coffee-tree. Other trees had been cleared away from it on the prevailing wind side, and, being rather shallow-rooted, it failed to stand the exposure. Both this and the Pyrus, together with others like the Cucumber-tree (Magnolia acuminata) and the Maidenhair-tree, make interesting lawn trees of medium height, for they are of fairly erect habit and do not take up the room of a spreading tree. Given a fairly moist situation there are few handsomer trees than Taxodium distichum, with its lovely green foliage in summer and the russet-brown in autumn. I have used this partially-decayed foliage to cover clumps of Lobelia cardinalis that were left in the open border, and if kept down with a few shoots of Hazel or Willow they would remain sound and protective all through the winter.

As the foliage of several of the rare trees is somewhat peculiar it should be noted, when choosing them, whether they will be adapted for selected sites. Big-leaved trees, for instance, in different shapes, like Magnolia macrophylla, Paulonnia imperialis, and Adilanthus grandulosa, want special sites to show them off to the best advantage.

E. BURRELL.

The Inkberry (Ilex glabra)

This dwarf, neat-growing shrub, known under the common name of the Inkberry, has foliage rather like a Phillyrea, and might easily be mistaken for one, the leaves having none of the characteristics of the Holly family. The leaves are entire, with a few teeth near the point. They are about 1 inch long and ½ inch wide, of a glossy dark green colour. The berries on the specimen in front of me are solitary, of a purple-black colour, which, under artificial light, are attractive and borne in the axils of the leaves. A native of North America, it is quite hardy, but of slow growth, having the appearance of being many years before attaining its maximum height, which is given as 5 feet.

Wisley. R. F.

Rubus rosæfolius coronarius

Though several times mentioned as a desirable winter-flowering plant, this Bramble nevertheless seems to be grown in but limited numbers. Its cultivation would, however, be greatly extended were it better known, as in the shape of small bushes studded with miniature double Rose-like pure white blossoms, it is at once singled out as a plant of especial merit. This Bramble differs from the generality of Brambles, inasmuch as it forms a small upright bush or rather clump, owing to the profusion in which suckers are produced. The stems are thickly studded with spines, and clothed with pale green Rose-like foliage, while the flowers are borne in great profusion. It is nearly, if not quite, hardy in this country.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Some easily-grown decorative Chrysanthemums

THESE, both the single-flowered and double-flowered, have been wonderfully improved of late years, so that now every taste can be catered for. Very fine are many of the foremost colours obtainable. That these sections are gradually but surely squeezing out the large-flowered Japanese varieties is only too evident, and while some of us have some regrets at the passing of the giant single-stem flowers, we cannot but admit that the decoratives are far more useful for room and table adornment, and are, on the whole, less troublesome to grow well. While, of course, a good deal depends on personal taste, I can recommend the following as being beautiful and varied in colour:—

SINGLE-FLOWERED VARIETIES.—Miss Mary Pope, although by no means new, is still a very useful pale pink variety of dwarf, branching habit, and is the earliest of the indoor varieties to be fit for cutting. Mary Richardson, another very old sort, is still unbeaten in its colour, and is a very easy and certain doer. Few other varieties light up as does this delightful old favourite. Bronze Molly, a rather tall grower, is yet so very beautiful as to be almost indispensable where this lovely shade of colour is desired. Ceddie Mason, one of the oldest of the deep reds, is still one of the best of all single Chrysanthemums for cutting. Exmouth Pink, a fairly new sort, has flowers of a true bright pink shade. Lady Astor, another deep red variety, has fine stiff stems and is ideal for cutting. Miss Joyce Moore has rich chestnut-crimson flowers, very handsome foliage, and is a splendid grower. Mrs. Edwards produces its lovely bronzy flowers on stiff wiry stems. Mrs. J. Palmer is a really good white of fine habit. If not disbudded it makes a fine variety for cutting, otherwise rather large. Mrs. Loo Thomson, of a lovely primrose colour, grows and blooms well. Mrs. T. Hancock, another tall grower, has lovely fawn-coloured flowers. Mrs. W. E. Catlow, a vigorous grower and free bloomer, has bright yellow flowers of good size and substance. Mrs. W. J. Godfrey has large pink flowers. Phyllis Cooper is probably the most perfectly formed of all the singles. It is large and bears lovely deep yellow flowers. Robert Collins, another tallish grower, bears rich amber flowers. Susan is a very beautiful variety with rich bronze flowers, shaded pink. Mrs. F. J. Yarrow is one of the newer deep crimsons. It is a good grower with clean, healthy foliage. Evelyn, quite an old variety, but still one of the most distinct in colour, is a rich coppery-red of dwarf habit. Estelle is an old yellow variety of considerable merit. Mrs. W. Buckingham, a dwarf pink variety of fine form, is similar in habit to Mrs. Edwards.

DOUBLE VARIETIES.—Baldock's Crimson is probably the very best late crimson. Blanche Poitevine, if disbudded to one bloom on a stem and nine to 12 stems left on each plant, is of dwarf habit. Framfield Glory, a lovely bright yellow of splendid habit, is useful for sprays. H. W. Thorpe should have six to nine stems to a plant, and then disbudded to one bloom per stem. Its yellow sport, J. W. Streeter, treated similarly is very fine also. In Memoriam, the most brilliant red there is, should be grown six blooms to a plant. Jean Patterson, a lovely shade of reddish-orange, is best disbudded. Mme. Oberthur does well in sprays, and is one of the best late whites. Niveus and its yellow sport, Pride of Ryecroft, are very fine when not disbudded and two-year-old plants used. They then bloom well for Christmas and later. Ruffisque, of a unique shade of salmon-pink, is of dwarf habit. Pourpre Poitevine, if disbudded, makes a very handsome plant; colour purplish. Red Cap is best disbudded. Mrs. R. F. Felton is one of the newer varieties and has lovely deep red flowers, which, if disbudded, are of a useful size. C. BLAIR.

Preston House, Linlithgow.

Incurved Chrysanthemums

THE rounded, neat form of flower, once so important from the point of view of exhibiting, is one of no great value in these days for that purpose. Several things have probably contributed to its being out of favour. Brighter shades of colour are to be found among the Japanese and the Singles, and the taste for any flower requiring preparation, such as arranging of florets, is gone.

Among the former there are to-day varieties with incurving petals, and noble forms these are, but, although globular in contour there is no care taken to provide a neatness to the specimens as among the blooms of old. I mean these are not dressed. The style is telling in competition, and the cultivator who exhibits would do well to grow as many of incurving Japanese as possible.

Want of variety in colours has always been against the type, even for show uses, because in the case of an incurved it is the shade at back of petals that does duty. Apparently, however, this trait has not affected whites and yellows, and generally it is those of the colours named for which there is still admiration. For flower decoration, it is here where medium-sized globular blossoms are very effective; they stare at the looker on, so to speak, and appear larger than they really are. Probably the variety H. W. Thorp is grown in as large numbers as any Chrysanthemum for market. It is one of exceptional merit all through the month of October. The straw-yellow form of it named J. W. Streeter, is not so much in evidence as its merits deserve; but still, white is the great commercial colour. To follow this is P. A. Dove, the most faultless formed of all the incurved varieties, new and old. This carries the grower on to the end of the year.

A pretty, neat little thing named White Ball was introduced last year, and this should find a place where growers require blossoms for wreath making, and so on. Then Ondine, which can be produced in ball shaped blooms 6 inches across, is of recent date in whites, and likely to be employed largely for decoration.

Advance, Golden King, and Romance are three in yellows that might well be grown, though not one of them can claim to be so late as to be of use for Christmas. A late incurving yellow, equal in shape to the bloom of P. A. Dove, would be welcome. There is one item in connection with the type, and this is the lasting character when cut. At the moment I have specimens of the above trio in water, where they have been nearly a month. They are still fresh.

A desire exists for improved varieties of the style in question for outside flowering

h would be very useful on account of king well, in addition, of course, to ers of lasting when cut. The best known present is Mrs. R. Hamilton—a superb ow, but really an October flowering one. den King, already named, is also grown Early Buttercup, and it has produced a ze form. These indeed are well worthy ial in the open, if we shelter the plants n in bloom.

he culture of incurved Chrysanthemums rs but little from that desirable for other ns. Perhaps smaller pots generally would suitable, because the leafage is comparaly small. Not being in favour of interng with the leading stems, by way of opping," as a method is termed, the wth should be so far natural, subject to ning of branches. The number in the of H. W. Thorp would be greater than hat of Ondine. A strong plant of the ner will perfect a dozen, the latter about that number.

erfecting the incurving Japanese varieties uite another matter. These, to do them require great concentration. I should satisfied with one bloom to each plant, unless the centre be well filled with ets, a presentable specimen is absent; rather if the florets at the point reflex ead of point inwards, a high class flower show is not obtained. To finish such growth must be strong and well mad. Aloma and Ajax are fine new addis to the style, and Mrs. Harned Wells, R. C. Pulling, and William Turner ng to the older varieties. Add Gigantic, e Fulton, Mrs. W. Tysoe, Mrs. G. bble, W. Rigby, and Sulphur Queen, we get a collection difficult to improve n.

lsie Fulton, by the way, is no other than cess Alice de Monaco, a variety grown nany some years back. It had appary been lost at home, for I know of one ket grower who, last spring, obtained stock from Switzerland. A great fault n this white variety was used for show the great strength of growth that prod hollow-centred branches; but ultid as I saw a glasshouse full lately, with half-a-dozen blooms on each plant, it sight to remember. H. S.

Early-flowering Japanese rysanthemums for the border

a normal season it is possible adays to make the garden interesting planting at the proper season the r early-flowering Chrysanthemums. season, unfortunately, these plants had newhat chequered career. They did well e earliest days of the normal flowering d, but just as the early October-flowering s were full of promise, and in many were a blaze of colour, early frosts of exceptionally severe character destroyed lisplay. The early-flowering Chrysanthes will grow in almost any soil that has well cultivated, and it pays to deeply dig quarters where the plants are to flower, order that frosts may pulverise and ten the soil. These plants do not re soil that is over-rich. As a matter of it is a mistake to heavily manure the as this invariably promotes coarse th at the expense of the flowers. I am ning the plants will be purchased, and these will be obtained in late April or May. I prefer to plant during the first weeks of May, and if circumstances preplanting at that time the third week in will answer quite satisfactorily. Should s be purchased from the specialists, and arrive in an unsatisfactory condition are not properly hardened off, this can be done by planting out in any rough frame. In a comparatively short time they will have benefited materially, and may then be lifted and planted out about 18 inches to 2 feet apart, either in rows or in small groups. Plant firmly and label the plants as they are put out, and so avoid confusion. The following are good varieties for border culture:—Abercorn Beauty is a fine bright bronze sport from Polly; height, 2 feet; in flower August and September. Leslie: Bright yellow; 2 feet; August and early September. Alcalde is a bright, very rich crimson sport from Almirante; height, 3½ feet; September to October. This variety is also known as Red Almirante. Goldfinder is a free flowering, bright golden-yellow, also known as Hollicot Yellow; 3 feet to 3½ feet; September to October. Perle Chatillonaise: Cream, shaded pink; 3½ feet; September to October. September White: A free-flowering white sort with a good habit of growth; 3 feet; September to October. September Glory: This, when disbudded, gives very large, well-formed flowers; colour, brilliant orange-bronze. James Bannister: Sport from Perle Chatillonaise; colour, deep yellow, flushed red; 3½ feet; September to October. Harvester: This sport from Goldfinder is known as Hollicot Bronze; golden-yellow, tinted bronze; 3 feet to 3½ feet; September to October. Almirante: Reddish-bronze. A flower of beautiful form; branching habit; 3½ feet; September to October. Pink Profusion: A beautiful shade of pink. It is a profuse bloomer and of good habit; height, 2½ feet; September. Crimson Circle: Charming dwarf, bushy plant, free-flowering; colour, crimson; September. Mrs. Jack Pearson is a good bronze sort and, I believe, could be procured from any of the specialists.

D. B. CRANE.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

VEGETABLES

Tomatoes in an unheated greenhouse

(Novice).—If you can procure good sturdy plants 9 inches high about the middle of April they should succeed all right in an unheated greenhouse. It is usual to grow several plants in one box, allowing about 15 inches to 18 inches between the plants. The boxes should be 9 inches deep and 1 foot broad for one row of plants. The compost is made up of three parts best turfy loam, one part rough leaves, one-third of a part lime-rubble from an old building, and one-third of a part dry wood-ashes. Good Tomatoes may be grown in this compost, but is improved by adding a 6-inch potful of bone-meal and a 5-inch potful of Thomson's plant and vegetable manure to each barrowload of the compost. Make very firm in the boxes after providing good drainage. You should allow about five trusses of fruit. Restrict to a single stem, rubbing out all side shoots as they appear.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Pruning evergreens

Is any harm done by pruning evergreen shrubs like the Arbor Vitæ or Cedars in the autumn or early winter? A. M.

[No real harm is done by pruning evergreens at this season. The supposed danger of cutting living wood in cold weather has been found to be without foundation. There is no special reason for trimming evergreens in the winter, however, except possibly that more time is available and the plants suffer in appearance because the marks of the knife or saw remain all winter. If the pruning is done in early spring new growth quickly covers the plants.]

Climbers to be grown in boxes

The back south wall of my little house is bare and ugly. There is no earth to plant anything in, it is concrete right along. I propose getting two big flower-boxes 24 inches square, putting them against the wall, and trying to grow something to hide the red bricks. Dare I try a Rose, or what would you suggest as likely to do well in a confined space? "CASETTA."

[In such a confined space your choice is naturally limited, but the following should succeed:—Vitis striata (the evergreen Vine), Ampelopsis Veitchii, Abutilon vitifolium, Jasminum nudiflorum, Clematis Armandii, Myrtus Luma, Rosa bracteata, Choisya ternata, Edwardsia japonica, Phygelius capensis, small-leaved Ivies, and Trachelospermum divaricatum.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Leaf soil for herbaceous plants, potting, and Alpines

(Carlisle).—Of the samples you send, No. 3 is the most suitable for your purpose, as it is in a thoroughly decayed condition and ready to be taken up by the plants immediately. No. 1 would be excellent for use next year if collected now and stored in a large heap in the open. The Bracken, when decayed, is beneficial to gardens. No. 2 may be kept in a shed and used as required for any length of time without deterioration taking place. Watering such soil only becomes necessary when it has become too dry to handle properly.

Antirrhinums shown as annuals

At a summer show a class is worded "Three vases of hardy annuals, distinct, Sweet Peas excluded." Please advise me should Antirrhinums be disqualified if shown in this class? Can you suggest a better wording for the schedule? G. L. C.

[Owing to the many improvements made in our garden flowers during recent years the difficulty of distinguishing strictly between "annuals" and "biennials" has become so great that it is advisable not to attempt to separate one from the other in local schedules. We advise that the schedule be worded

"Three bunches of hardy garden flowers" (from seed during the present season) or "perennials excluded." Modern Antirrhinums so overlap the border line that it is advisable to specially mention them in the schedule, say "Antirrhinums excluded" or "Antirrhinums allowed." In any case, schedules should always be clearly worded, even to the extent of a somewhat lengthy explanation, so that there can be no doubt as to what is intended, otherwise misunderstandings and disqualifications are inevitable. An "annual" is a plant which normally completes its cycle of life in one season, from seed to seed. Some of the modern Antirrhinums will do this, but still, strictly speaking, they remain biennials as a family. It is often a vexed question.]

Ferns and deposit in soil

(S. C. W.).—The deposit appears to be lime, which may have been admitted to the soil through the water-can. This, however, should not cause the trouble you speak of, and which, we think, is due to some other cause, such as low temperature, faulty airing, or insufficient light. Shake out a few of your plants and repot in a clean compost consisting of three parts loam and one part peat, leaf-soil, and sharp sand, and keep in a moist house having a temperature of 60 degs. to 65 degs., and watch results.

NAMES OF FRUITS

M. F. F., Bishops Waltham.—1, Royal Jubilee—a well-coloured sample; 2, Winter Reinette; 3, Yorkshire Greening; 4, Pott's Seedling.

T. R., Nr. Bristol.—Apple Monarch, a new variety distributed by Messrs. Seabrook.

OBITUARY

MR. THOMAS COOMBER

It was with regret that I heard of the death of Mr. Thomas Coomber, an old friend and great gardener. He passed away on December 23rd. Mr. T. Coomber was gardener to the first and second Lord Llangattock and the Hon. Lady Shelley Rolls, at The Hendre, near Monmouth, for over 46 years. Although born at East Grinstead, he commenced his gardening career at Crimonmogate, Scotland. After serving at Knowle Park, Sevenoaks, Woburn Park, and Rendlesham Hall, in Suffolk, he entered the service of the late James Veitch and Sons, who secured for him the position at The Hendre. Mr. Coomber was noted for his fruit under glass, and had won many premier awards in London and other noted shows with his Pineapples and Grapes. Mr. Coomber was always a true friend to the many young gardeners who served under him, many of whom are holding leading positions to-day. He was awarded the V.M.H. in 1910 and retired from The Hendre in 1921. He was laid to rest in Llangattock churchyard, near to the gardens he loved and in which he served so well.

W. E. W.

EDWIN HILLIER

We regret to record the death of Mr. Edwin Hillier, Senr., of Kingston House, Winchester, one of the veterans of the trade, who passed peacefully away on Christmas Eve, in his 89th year. It is interesting to note that he started his career in the celebrated Syon House Gardens, Brentford, where many of the old school of gardeners and nurserymen of his day were trained, and at Messrs. Osborne's Old Nursery, Fulham. About 62 years ago, after his marriage, he settled in Winchester, and purchased the business of the late Mr. Farthing, which he quickly extended. Since his retirement, 15 years ago, the business has been carried on by his two sons, Messrs. Edwin L. and Arthur R. Hillier, and has been developed into a large retail concern, covering almost all branches of horticulture.

Plants of Special Interest

Statice incana nana

With the exception of Statice latifolia, the Sea Lavenders are not too largely represented in gardens, and seldom do we see them on rockwork. On the latter they look very well, and help to give a distinct character to the rock garden. S. latifolia is adapted for large rock gardens, but in the smaller ones it is better to confine the choice to those not more than a foot in height. There is an exceedingly dwarf one, which passes by the name of S. minuta, but this has not come under my observation for a number of years. S. incana nana, which Mr. Farrer tells us is the same as S. tatarica nana, is in the trade, and is quite a good little plant, either for the rock garden or the border. It is about a foot in height, and produces red and white flowers in considerable numbers. Like other Sea Lavenders the flowers can be dried for winter decoration. There is no difficulty in growing S. incana nana in ordinary light soil, but it should have a sunny place. It may be raised from seeds sown under glass in March or April, and may also be increased by the division of good-sized plants. S. ARNOTT.

Gentiana lagodechiana

This, I think, is one of the most satisfying of Gentians, for although not possessing quite the exquisite loveliness of G. Farreri and G. sino-ornata, it is yet a very beautiful plant, and, moreover, it is of the easiest culture, being quite happy if given a position in the rock garden in full sun or half-shade and planted in a well-drained soil of loam and leaf-mould. The plant is very near to G. septemfida, but the interior of the sapphire trumpets is heavily dotted with white and furnished with numerous hairlike appendages. Commencing to flower in the early summer, a continuation is maintained over a very long period, sometimes to cease only with the advent of winter, so that this Chinese species is, indeed, most desirable. The habit of the plant is procumbent and very like that of G. septemfida, another "easy" and most satisfactory plant.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

The Swamp Blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum)

One of the most richly-coloured shrubs for gardens from the beginning of November until Christmas is the above. I grow a goodly number of this, but visiting a garden near Ashdown Forest lately I was amazed at the size of the groups I saw. The sun was shining through them at the time, and I thought the effect superb, as did their possessor, who had planted them so extensively. In this instance a good space had been left between each plant, and thus the elegant form of each bush was seen to the best advantage, and the general effect a great improvement on the congested mass one often sees. This plant suckers so freely that a space of 3 feet is soon filled, and some lifting and replanting become necessary. Its cultivation presents no difficulty, and such a valuable subject should find a home in every garden worthy of the name. There is some little confusion as to the correct name of this shrub in nurseries, and it is generally sold as V. pennsylvanicum (the Low Blueberry), a much inferior shrub as regards colour.

E. M.

Pyrus arbutifolia Brilliant

This is a selected form of the Choke Berry, a native of Eastern North America. It is noteworthy in late autumn by reason of the superb vermilion colouring of its leaves. I have a few plants of this bushy shrub about 4 feet in height, but so brilliant are the leaves that even these few are conspicuous for their beauty. The typical plant has long be cultivated in this country and is quite pre in May when freely decked with pale pi Hawthorn-like flowers. Anyone planti now should choose the handsome form h noted. The fruits, which attain matu with the reddening leaves, are each about size of those of the common Hawtho globular, and of a bright red colour.

G. M. S

The Mexican White Pine (Pinus Ayacahuite)

A very handsome tree is this, which many respects resembles the Himalayan B Pine (P. excelsa). Its rich green leav often 8 inches long on young vigorous tre coupled with its gracefully-drooping cor which have been known to reach 18 inches length, render it a tree of considera interest at the present time. It appears enjoy plenty of moisture, judging by a rob example I came across recently on the ba of a lake.

G. M. S

Berberis Sargentiana

The beauty of this Barberry is revealed autumn in large, spreading, spiny grow each 5 feet or more in length, arching with the weight of their purple-black fru which, in themselves, would be less spicuous were it not for the rich and beaut colouring of the leaves and large white spi These latter are borne in threes and ar inches in length, thus rendering the shr formidable to work among. It enjoys g ground, and this it should have if one wo enjoy it at its best. The flowers are yellow and among the largest of this inter ing genus.

M. G. M

Leiophyllum buxifolium

Sometimes known as Ledum b folium, this is a delightful little sh for peaty soil in the rock garden. It likes lime. Peat, loam, and sand in e proportions will grow it well, and the p tion should be cool and rather moist. bears little resemblance to the tall Led to which it is allied, and forms a neat plant with numerous glossy, small, Box-leaves and heads of pink buds, which out into charming starry white flowers. is one of the small shrubs which assis greatly in our enjoyment of the rock gar and its extreme height—only about 8 in —is eminently appropriate to it, even in small rock garden. Planted on a level on the shady side, and not allowed to s from want of water, Leiophyllum buxifo is capable of giving us intense, though pleasure. It may be planted in spring, is increased by cuttings under glass. absolutely hardy.

E.

Soldanella alpina

Soldanellas, or Alpine Moonworts, exquisite alpine plants. One of the be these is Soldanella alpina. It is a del ful little flower, only about 4 inches and bears lovely bell-shaped blooms charming blue and exquisitely fringed loves a gritty soil of peat, loam, and in a sheltered nook in the rock garden alpina is a shy bloomer with many pe but the secret of success is to cover the with a sheet of glass, raised about 5 i or 6 inches above it. This should be p in September and allowed to remain the flowers show.

S. ARNO

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

Ant. Van der Schoot, Ltd., Hillegom land.—Bulbs and roots for spring plant perennials and Roses.

W. Smith and Son, Exchange S Aberdeen.—Garden seeds, plants, etc.

Robert Veitch and Son, Exeter.—G seeds.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Does Fruit Growing Pay?

Over 9½ millions for imported Apples in 1926!

N the correspondence pages of this week's ssue will be found a remarkable letter rom "A Disillusioned Apple Grower." s highly probable that this letter will raise interesting discussion on pruning and ıying Apple trees. The writer of the said er, who resides in Shropshire, has been ortunate in his experience as a fruit-wer, and there are others who have had ilar experiences. He does not wish his ıe to appear in this journal; at the same e we are at liberty to say that if anyone cially interested wishes to communicate ı him or to view his trees may give them, by letter, name and address.

his letter, which concerns cost of spraying, pruning, manuring Apple trees, ıs up the much greater stion, "Does fruit-grow-pay?" With last year's rience in mind it would irst sight appear that the to this question must be he negative, but we are osed to affirm that fruit-ving does pay, *i.e.*, pro-d it is carried out in no hearted manner. For y years past much less ıtion has been paid to fruit ıre in the provinces than the case, say, about half ntury back, and if this what unfortunate season the effect of still further ding progress it will be, say the least about it, er for regret. All around towns, and especially in ıome counties within easy nce of London, immense ıtities of all kinds of fruit have been planted since the war, and if railway companies could be prevailed to carry something like half of what is n at a much cheaper rate than they now nto some of the worst-supplied country icts we should hear much less about s having been sustained.

the present time English-grown Apples ery scarce. In fact, Bramley's Seedling ars to be the only Apple quoted in Covent en, and 16s. to 18s. per bushel and up-s, according to quality, can be had for . At Cardiff, Bramley's were last week d at 33s. to 35s. per cwt., while Newton der, the only other home-grown variety idence, was quoted at 13s. to 16s. per el, though why one variety was sold by ht and another by measure in the same market we are unable to explain. It is, we venture to say, only when English Apples are exceptionally plentiful that they do not realise good prices.

When the London markets are too well supplied with fruit, prices are very low indeed, though the consumers on the whole do not get the full benefit of this abundance. The more important provincial towns are also fairly well supplied with all kinds of fruit in season, but the case is very different in numerous smaller towns, few of which are overdone with any kind of garden or orchard produce. Here we are in the midst of a fertile country, and one in which Apples and nearly all other hardy fruits thrive remarkably well, and yet we have to depend upon growers from a distance, notably America, to keep up the supply. Notwithstanding this, there are no signs of our orchards being increased or improved on anything like a proper scale; on the contrary, there is every prospect of a still further decadence both in the quality and quantity of the crops grown.

Despatching Bramley's Seedling from an orchard at Southwell, Notts. in which neighbourhood this Apple was raised.

At one time nearly every farmhouse had an orchard near it, but when these have become worn out, as all orchards will do unless exceptionally well treated, they are either allowed to fall or are grubbed up, and one looks in vain for young trees to take their place. Many farmers do not even grow sufficient Apples for their own table, and it is this want of energy, knowledge, enterprise, or whatever it may be termed, that has led to so many of them failing.

Let us for one moment glance at the official returns for Apple imports and consumption just issued by the Board of Trade: 971,161 cwts. for the month ended December 31st, value £981,079; 8,284,504 cwts. for the year 1926, value £9,561,921. Just think of it, over 9½ millions for imported Apples in 1926! It is high time that fruit-growing was taken up far more seriously in the country. We know that we can produce the finest Apples in the world. Instead of being content to sit down and wait for everything to be sent us from a distance, including foreign ports, we ought to be up and doing, and to learn to be more self-dependent.

H. C.

Notes of the Week

Jasminum nudiflorum

THIS is the charming climbing plant which, although leafless at the present time, is to be seen framing many a cottage door or window with its flower-laden branches. It is also a shrub which thrives wonderfully on cold north and east walls where many climbers refuse to grow—readers should make note of this—blooming freely throughout December, January, and February in any position, be it sun or shade. Planted in the open and permitted to mingle with Pyrus japonica or berry-bearing shrubs, such as Cotoneaster Simonsii, it is remarkably picturesque. It is a Chinese shrub and roots freely wherever the branches are permitted to come in contact with the earth and remain undisturbed for a while; therefore a stock of plants for all purposes is easily secured. The flowers are bright yellow, and light up many a dull corner during the coldest and darkest months of the year, and, whereas it may be treated as a low twining shrub, it will also clothe a wall 20 feet in height with yellow flowers. A few sprays gathered in the bud and brought indoors will open freely and are most interesting, especially during the festive season. Many prefer its quiet beauty to the more showy flowers grown at great expense

in our greenhouses. If planted at the foot of low walls and boulders this interlacing climber furnishes beautiful banks of bloom. Any pruning necessary should be carried out immediately the flowers are over, and well-thinned plants are at all times subjects of grace and charm. E. MARKHAM.

Phlox as national flower for the United States

"Let us have Phlox for our national flower," urged Edgar T. Wherry, of the United States Department of Agriculture, speaking before the National Botanical Society of America. Phlox is not weedy like the Daisy, nor localised like Mountain Laurel, nor as much at home in Europe as America, like the Columbine, he said. Some of its 40 varieties may be found in every state, with only one kind native to Alaska, jumping Behring Strait to appear in another country, Siberia. Phlox also is in the national colours, which he gave as an added reason for recommending it as the national flower.

Rhododendron Society's Second Show

We have received from Mr. Lionel N. de Rothschild, Chairman of the Rhododendron Society, the schedule of the Rhododendron Society's second show to be held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, London, S.W. 1, on May 3rd and 4th. There are no less than 62 classes for Rhododendrons alone, including groups and single trusses. The first show, held towards the end of April last year, was one of the great successes of the year, and an even better show is anticipated this spring. Entry forms must be filled up and returned to the Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, S.W. 1, by 10 a.m. on April 27th.

International Rose Conference, July, 1928

It has been decided to hold a great International Rose Conference in London in the beginning of July, 1928, to focus the world-wide interest in the Rose. On the first day a Rose Show will be held to give raisers of all countries the opportunity to exhibit their best productions and, if possible, demonstrate the steps which have led up to them. Awards of cups, medals, and certificates will be made.

The second and third days will be devoted to the Conference proper, and distinguished raisers and growers will be invited to submit papers on "The Genetics of the Rose," "Fungus and Other Pests," "The Future of the Rose as a Decorative Flower," "The Future of the Rose as a Market Flower," "Roses under Glass," and "Rose Species." British (including Australian, New Zealand, and Canadian), Continental, and American experts will be invited to contribute to this programme.

The social side will not be lost sight of. A dinner will be given on the first night, a conversazione on the second, and a Reception Committee will be set up to assist visitors to secure hotel accommodation.

Visits will be planned to Kew, where a fine collection of Roses is well grown, and also to several of the leading nurseries.

The time-table proposed is as under:—

June 29th and 30th ...	National Rose Society's Summer Show.
July 1st	Sunday.
,, 2nd	Visit to Kew.
,, 3rd	Visit to Colchester Nurseries.
,, 4th	Conference, Rose Show, and dinner.
,, 5th and 6th	Conference.
,, 6th	Evening, Soirée.
,, 7th	Visit to Lea Valley Nurseries.

If raisers in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, or the United States would like plants of special varieties grown in Britain so that they could exhibit some flowers of such at the Conference they are requested to get into touch with nurserymen whom they may know, asking them to grow the plants. A number have already promised to do so, and to treat the plants as if they were absolutely the property of the senders. Raisers who may not know nurserymen personally in this country are invited to write to the Secretary, Mr. Courtney Page, 28, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, who has undertaken to make arrangements to have the plants grown. Plants sent under this scheme would be taken every care of, and precautionary measures as far as possible be assured. In the case of Continental growers this may not be necessary, as flowers can now be sent by air in a few hours.

East Anglian Horticultural Club

The annual dinner was held on January 12th at Notts Assembly Rooms, Norwich, when a large assembly of professional and amateur gardeners attended under the presidency of Mr. R. Roll. The toast of the East Anglian Horticultural Club was proposed by Mr. W. J. Payne (Watton) and responded to by Mr. R. Roll (President) and Mr. G. R. Todd (Secretary), the latter stating that the membership was steadily growing and it now ranked as one of the largest gardeners' improvement societies in the Kingdom. Mr. H. Perry, in giving the toast of "Success to the Horticultural Trade of Norfolk," said there were in Norfolk 246 fruit growers, 49 florists, and 42 seedsmen, besides other branches of the horticultural trade. Many of these carried the name and fame of the county into all parts of the British Isles and some cases overseas. "Daniels Bros.' Seeds," "Daniels' September Black Currant," "Allen's Norvic Roses," "Robert Holmes' Supreme and Kondine Red Tomatoes" were only examples; there was also the large and increasing cut-flower trade, which sent "Whiffs of Norfolk" into the heart of Manchester, Bradford, Sheffield, Leeds, and other large industrial centres. Mr. John Clayton, a Director of Messrs. Daniels Bros., Ltd., responded. In th course of his remarks Mr. Clayton said h foresaw the time when that part of Ea Norfolk between Mundesley and Great Ya mouth would be one vast fruit plantatio He felt sure Norfolk was determined to b one of the foremost horticultural producin counties in England. Other toasts followe intermixed with harmony, and a most enjo abe evening was spent.

New Carnations

The following new varieties have bee registered by the British Carnatio Society:—Colonel Langford; colour, de cerise; raiser, Lieut.-Col. W. J. Langfor Harefield, Romney, Hants. Mrs. Langfor same raiser and address as above; colou salmon-pink. Ruby Glow; colour, ruby-re raisers, Messrs. Stuart Low and Co., Bu Hill Park, Enfield.

Horticultural Club

This time-honoured Club appears to ha taken a new lease of life. The openi dinner and lecture of the session, held January 11th, was a great success, when M William Cuthbertson, V.M.H., gave an a dress on his recent tour round the worl Mr. Gerald Loder presided, and among t guests were Lt.-Col. F. R. Durham, Secr tary of the Royal Horticultural Society, a W. R. Oldham, a member of the Council the Royal Horticultural Society. The ne dinner will take place on February 8th at t Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly Circu London, after which Mr. Herbert Cowl Editor of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, will l ture on "A Vagabond in Majorca," ill trated by lantern slides.

London Daffodil Show

The Schedule of Classes for the Lond Daffodil Show, to be held at the Ro Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, We minster, on April 12th and 13th, has be issued, and copies may be obtained on a plication to the Secretary of the Ro Horticultural Society.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

January flowers at St. Andrews

THE following were flowering in my garden on January 12th (the old new year): Schizostylis (red and pink), Veronica (pink and purple), Lithospermum prostratum, Violets, Winter Aconite, Arabis (fl.-pl.), Daphne blagayana, Polyanthus, Primula Winteri (for month or more), Leucojum vernalis, Hellebore, Winter Jasmine, Laurestinus, and Cyclamen (spring-flowering). C. H. M. CHEAPE.

Dyer's Brae, St. Andrews.

Apples: Pruning and spraying

In 1920 I acquired a garden and small orchard in which are about 100 Apple trees. The bulk of these trees were planted about 40 years ago; a few are younger, but none under 25 years; many, especially the Ribstons, are badly cankered, otherwise they appear healthy. The soil is a productive strong loam on clay subsoil, well drained and with a slope to the south.

Up to 1913 the trees were, I am informed, well attended to and pruned. From 1913 to 1921 they were neglected and left entirely unpruned or sprayed. In 1919 they bore a full crop.

Although I have a good knowledge of cultivation I got an expert Apple-grower to inspect and report as to the cultivati manuring, pruning, and spraying of trees, and also, on his advice, engage skilled pruner, recommended by him, in 1921 and 1922 to assist my gardener in ca ing out the work, and since then the t have been inspected on several occasions the County Council Agricultural Advi and the cultivation, etc., carried out in sultation with him.

In 1920 there was a small crop and in a very good crop, and the Apples were *ex tionally* sound and free from blemishe any kind, so much so that both I and gardener agreed we had never seen any with so small a proportion of diseased deformed fruit.

Since then, although the cultiva manuring, pruning, and spraying has carried out as advised, the trees have teriorated, and now seem affected by al every disease, including American bl Apple scab, Apple mildew, brown rot, c pillars, etc., and the only spraying seemed of any value was lead arsenat the March caterpillars. Half the crop in consisted of bunches of small deformed 1 inch to 2 inches diameter. The cost o work done up to now has very conside exceeded the value of the crop.

My experience may be quite exceptio but the inference to be drawn from *this*

ular case would seem to be, that trees left ›ne, unpruned and unsprayed, keep freer ›m disease than those on which consider-le sums are spent, and yet bear well, and erefore give a better net return.

Incidentally, in my experience, it is very ficult for anyone not a market gardener to ;pose of surplus Apples at any but a minal price.

A Disillusioned Apple Grower.

Zenobia pulverulenta

YOUR esteemed contributor, J. Cornhill, does well to include this as one of the best of all flowering shrubs (see ue January 8th, page 28). It is even more ›ely than Z. speciosa, of which it is con-lered a variety. It is easily distinguished its very glaucous young shoots and foliage, d it blossoms with even greater freedom. ıe accompanying illustration of a single ray gives some idea of the beauty of its re white Lily of the Valley-like flowers ld well above its glaucous blue-white ıves. It is an Ericaceous plant that needs peaty soil or a light loamy one. In voured places it may be grown outdoors, ıere it flowers in July. It is often grown pots or tubs for early flowers. C. T. K.

What to do with our razor blades

Those who wish to utilise old razor blades garden or botanical work might try the ggestion made by C. J. Chamberlain Methods in Plant Histology," Ed. 3, ıicago, 1915). His method is as follows :—With a pair of stout shears cut the blade :o pieces, take a small steel nail and flatten e head and upper part by hitting it with a mmer, then solder the blade to the nail d drive the nail into any wooden holder. dozen of these scalpels can be made in 10 nutes."

A small holder which shuts up like a clasp-ife, taking the Gillette type of blade, is d by the name of a "jigger" by most nmongers and cutlers. I have used one these for years and have found it very eful for a variety of purposes.

Harold Downes, M.B., F.L.S.

Polygonums or Knotweeds

On page 21 of Gardening Illustrated, ılways an interesting paper," "G. J." ob-ıusly has had this plant incorrectly named. ıe Polygonum family are veritable weeds, d very appropriately known as "Knot-eds." This is so on account of the signi-ance of the name "Polygonum," many nts or knees, alluding to the numerous nts on the stems. It is, therefore, very sirable to know which kinds are suitable the border, the rock garden, shrubbery rders, or for climbing pergolas.

From the illustration, I would be inclined say "G. J.'s" variety is P. amplexicaule r. oxyphyllum, and known popularly as the East Indian Mountain Fleece," flowering ›m September to late October, on 2 feet to feet stems. The flowers are snow-white, d delightfully scented. A native of the malayas.

The Knotweeds are highly decorative per-nials for planting in isolated positions, ıere rank growth is desired, and where v other plants will grow; having an abund-ce of handsome foliage, and a profusion white flowers. For shrubberies and out-the-way places, away from flower borders, following are suitable :—P. sachalinense, ge broad leaves and greenish-white wers, from 8 feet to 12 feet tall. P. cus-latum, very desirable for the shrubbery bor-, on account of the dense bushy habit, ›wing from 5 feet to 7 feet or 8 feet, wers white and scented. P. filiforme varie-ta; the large, drooping, variegated leaves are very effective; a Japanese species. The above are all rampant growers, and will quickly find their way through the path if planted too near. The more obedient forms, which may be planted to adorn the herbaceous border, producing during summer and autumn very pleasing and desirable effects, are :—P. campanulatum; this is a really very ornamental plant; its foliage is a pretty glaucous green on the surface, whilst the under-surface is a pretty silvery grey; the bell-shaped, pinky white flowers are freely produced on terminal sprays 2 feet to 3 feet; summer flowering. P. Bistorta superba produces myriads of sprays from 1½ feet to 2½ feet long, prettily branched sprays of rosy white flowers, all summer. P. affine (Brunonis) quickly forms spreading tufts, and is well adapted to the rockery, or to edge flower borders; dainty rose white flowers on 9-inch stems. The leaves turn a beautiful rich brick red towards autumn, and are very ornamental over a long period. P. vaccinifolium, a miniature species only a few inches; clear pink flowers, suitable for rock or wall garden.

Few plants can vie with P. Baldschuanicum, a remarkably showy, vigorous and rapid climber, its luxuriant habit of growth giving quite a tropical appearance, and aided by its reddish stems and fresh green foliage, the fleecy white Spiræa-like flowers are produced in such abundance as to almost hide the foliage. Later the flowers turn a delicate pink, and are sweetly scented. Flowering late summer and autumn.

All the Polygonums prefer a moist, deep, sandy, loamy soil, and may be transplanted any time during the present season.

W. L.

[We have passed this letter on to Miss Jekyll, the author of the original note on the Polygonums, who kindly replies.]

—— *Re* Polygonum so-called Molle. I am thankful for any information respecting the Polygonum shown on page 21 of your issue for January 8th, but my plant does not quite fit the description given by your correspondent "W. L." It agrees as to the time of flowering, the end of September and through October, also as to the scent, but the height is a good deal more, being a good 5 feet 6 inches. It is in dry, sandy soil, and I should expect that in a richer and moister place it might well rise to another 2 feet. As far as I remember, the leaves are slightly stalked, or nearly sessile, but not amplexicaul; but this I am unable to determine now that they are all cut down. Though the bloom is white it cannot be described as snow white, for the white has a low, warm tone. I am well acquainted with P. amplexicaule, with its magenta crimson bloom, and wish I had the white one, which must be a better thing; but the plant in question is so much more bold and vigorous in habit that it seems unlikely that it should be a variety of the smaller and slenderer P. amplexicaule. I shall hope next summer to have it botanically identified and properly named, when, if it should prove to be P. oxyphyllum, it will be a satisfaction to express my regret through you to "W. L." for having doubted his description. He does not mention, among the kinds to beware of, the short-growing form of P. cuspidatum, known as compactum; a worse weed, if possible, than the type.

I may mention that I had my plant, presumably with the name P. molle, from the late Mr. H. Mangles, to whom his brother, Mr. James Mangles, of Indian Rhododendron fame, bequeathed the main of his collection; but, as it was twenty-six years ago, the name may have been only provisional.

G. J.

Zenobia pulverulenta, one of the best of all flowering shrubs

Rose Caroline Testout

Like others, I have been waiting, I hope with patience, for the information which I asked many months ago, as to when, where, and by whom the cross which resulted in Caroline Testout was made. Mr. Taylor, who handled my ignorance rather severely, might (I think) have the courtesy to reply to my not unreasonable request. Nine out of every 10 gardeners, if asked about "Caroline," will, like myself, say that it is one of the best-known descendants of Rose La France; and, like myself, would be pleased to be put right on this genealogical question. Let us have "Caroline's" origin definitely established in order that future mistakes may be avoided.

A Scottish Gardener.

[The Editor has very kindly drawn my attention to the request of "A Scottish Gardener" for the details of the raising of this esteemed garden Rose. Every lover of Roses, and certainly every student of the history of the Rose, surely knows who raised Mme. Caroline Testout. It is no good saying that nine out of every 10 gardeners would declare that this Rose is a descendant of La France. What authority is there for any such assertion? If a gardener makes a study of Roses—and he ought to do so when he writes upon their descent—the history of Caroline Testout is readily available. It was raised by J. Pernet-Ducher in 1800.—George M. Taylor Edinburgh.]

Troubles of the Black Currant Grower

"REVERSION" AND BIG BUD

References have appeared in recent issues to the diseases of Black Currants and to the failure of the crop. There appears to be a good deal of confusion between the disease known as Nettle Leaf or "Reversion" and to the better known pest Big Bud

BLACK Currant Big Bud has been known for at least 70 years, Reversion for about 20 years; but only during a comparatively recent period has it attained alarming proportions and involved serious commercial injury, being mainly responsible for the large reduction in crop which is noticeable, and shows itself in the relative high cost of Black Currants.

IDENTIFICATION OF REVERSION.—Research work on Reversion has been in progress at Long Ashton Experimental Station for the past nine years. An important initial difficulty arose from the fact that there were no means of identifying bushes which were in the early stages of reversion, so it was impossible to carry out definite experimental work or to advise growers which bushes to rogue. However, as the result of work carried out on this disease simultaneously at the East Malling Research Station, it was found that reverting could be usually identified during the flowering season by means of the colour of the blossom and other characters. After observation extending over three seasons, a method of identification, depending on the character of the leaf, was discovered, and definite experimental work was thus made possible.

Reversion was one of the subjects demonstrated at Long Ashton which provided the material for this article on the twin problems of Big Bud and Reversion. A noticeable feature of the two troubles is the frequency with which one accompanies the other, and it has been strongly held in some quarters that bud mite was the cause of Reversion, or one of the causes, but the evidence is not definite.

The most marked characteristics of Reversion are: (1) Dropping of the fruit. This is known as "running off," and occurs at an early stage, when the berries are still green; in extreme cases flowers may fall without a "set" taking place. (2) Alteration in the leaf character. The "reverted" leaf differs from the normal, healthy leaf in two respects: (*a*) The margin is coarsely toothed instead of being finely toothed; and (*b*) the venation of the leaf is reduced. The foliage characters provide a ready means of identification in the field, but in using this method certain precautions must be observed. The bushes must be inspected at some time between the middle of May and the end of June. Only the well-developed leaves near the tops of shoots developed from uninjured terminal buds should be examined. Basal leaves and leaves borne on lateral shoots should not be considered, except by those especially familiar with the disease. If these conditions are observed, then the number of veins arising from the midrib of the leaf and running to a point in the margin gives a true test. If more than five such veins (sub-main veins) are present the leaf is normal; if only five are present, then the leaf may be "reverted"; if less than five are present, then the leaf is definitely reverted. Observations have shown the disease to make its appearance gradually, and therefore intermediate cases are bound to occur. In such cases the nature of the leaf margin, whether coarsely or finely toothed, will help the observer to decide.

THE "REVERTED" FLOWER.—(3) Alteration in the flower character. The normal flower is of a lavender tinge. This colour is due to the presence of a felt-work of white hairs over the reddish ground colour of the flower bud. In the "reverted" flower the hairs are absent, and the reddish colour of the flower bud is alone visible. This character can be observed when the flowers are dry and in the stage just prior to opening.

The chief characters of the disease above described are common to all the varieties of Black Currants belonging to the four main groups as arranged by Hatton—namely, Victoria, French, Boskoop and Baldwin. The varieties differ slightly in the appearance of the flower, making the identification of the disease by the flower method easier in some groups than in others. Thus the groups Boskoop and French lend themselves to the method, as there is a marked difference between healthy and revert flowers, while in the Baldwin group, and still more in the Victoria group, the difference is much less. There is such a thing as temporary "reversion," often occurring on bushes that have been hard pruned so that weak buds are stimulated into active growth. Similarly, damage to a terminal bud is followed by the development of weaker lateral buds, and the foliage produced exhibits a reverted appearance. It is therefore important to avoid all such developments when examining the foliage of such bushes by the leaf-vein method. In such shoots the foliage produced later in the season is perfectly normal.

AN ORGANIC DISEASE.—Long Ashton rejects the theory that reversion is a direct result of cultural practices, such as hoeing close to the bushes, deep cultivation or hard pruning; no evidence, it says, has been obtained to support that view or that it is due to any physiological disturbance these practices might occasion. No fungus or bacterial organism has been found in association with the disease, but that the disease is definitely organic has been brought out clearly by grafting experiments. If a reverted shoot is grafted on a healthy bush, then the disease travels from the scion into the stock. The shoots which arise nearest the graft show the presence of the disease first and the spread of the disease can be followed through successive shoots until the whole bush finally becomes reverted. Similarly, a healthy shoot grafted upon a "revert" bush becomes infected with the disease. It has been shown in the first instance that even if the "revert" scion does not "take," the disease is transmitted. Clearly, contact of healthy with reverted material is sufficient for the propagation of the disease. In view of this fact, it appears possible that the disease may be carried from a reverted bush to a healthy one on a pruning tool, and cases have been observed where the disease has made its first appearance on shoots close to a pruning cut. On the other hand, observations in the field have so far failed to show that the disease spreads from reverted bushes to healthy ones in the near vicinity.

The occurrence of reversion in a plantation appears to be quite haphazard. From the evidence obtained from extensive field observations and from grafting experiments, it is believed that "reversion" belongs to the class of virus diseases. It is characteristic of this class of disease that it is propagated by contact of infected with healthy material, and this contact may occur in a variety of ways. Infection may take place during the operation of pruning, the disease being car ried on the knife from a reverted to a health bush. It is also possible that insects carr the disease. Sucking insects in particula which are known to migrate from bush t bush may carry sufficient of the virus to in fect a healthy bush. Aphis carriers of th disease may work in this manner. Blac Currant mite may also carry the disease i a similar manner, though Long Ashton say that direct evidence is not at present forth coming. We have, however, Mr. W. P. Sea brook's statement, that on the French typ in their plantations, it had been found tha big buds are comparatively rare before re version, but plentiful after reversion, an there was no doubt in his mind but tha "big bud" carries the infection in the sam way as do aphides and caterpillars.

Until the causal agency is definitely di covered, the cure cannot be applied, but ther are known control and preventive measure which will help to reduce reversion. Ever reverted bush is marked in some convenier way, and removed as soon as possible aft the crop is picked, but badly affected on should be taken out immediately they ar identified, since the crop they bear is neg ligible. In the autumn the gaps are fille with bushes obtained from as sound a sourc as possible. Eliminate possible sources entry of the disease, the principal being i sect carriers. This means the control of aphi and of "big bud." On the question of th control of Black Currant mite, Long Ashto says this is not quite so simple as dealin with aphis, though considerable success ca be obtained by adopting certain measure It will be found that if a thorough "rogu ing" for reversion has been made large num bers of badly "big-budded" bushes hav been eliminated. The reason for this is th reverted bushes are very susceptible to mi attack, and consequently most of the ba cases of "big bud" are reverted, and ther fore destroyed by the process of "rogueing. There will always remain some non-reverte big-budded bushes. In pruning, as muc big-budded wood should be cut away as consistent with good culture, and the r maining big buds should be picked off b hand. These methods should secure a ve fair amount of control, but as an addition precaution spraying with lime-sulphur ma be tried. At a strength 1 in 12 applied the spring before flowering, at the time wh the largest leaves are about the size of shilling, a considerable check is given to t migration of the mites. The spray deposi a film of sulphur on the big buds and on t wood, and this has been shown to kill emer ing mites for a period of about three week Since, however, migration may go on f 2½ months the spray cannot be consider as a specific, and a repetition entails too gre practical difficulties.

Flavour in Cooking Apples

I HAVE no doubt that many people thi little of the flavour of cooked Apples; them an Apple is an Apple, and there ends. But to the discriminating palate there a very wide difference between one Apple a another. To get the best out of this fr one must, first, use them in their prop season. Many varieties which will co splendidly in October or November will almost uneatable after Christmas. Second, the fruit must be properly cooked. App sliced up and put into a stew jar in t oven can never be worth eating! Th should be boiled sharply over a brisk fi and not too many should be done at one tin as freshly cooked fruit is always better th that which has been done two or more da before eating. I cannot remember ay

pple with a more distinct and agreeable avour than the old Dumelow's Seedling, Wellington. Either roasted, stewed, or in pie there was nothing to beat it; but, unfornately, it is much given to canker, especially old cold soils, so it has just about dropped it of cultivation. This was a great favourte with Queen Victoria, and I have heard e would have one roasted nearly every night hile they were in season.

I think I should place Beauty of Kent cond for high quality, especially for Apple uce.

Golden Noble is another grand cooker—e Mr. Bunyard's words of praise in his ivertisements of this useful Apple.

Rev. Wilks is an Apple of fine quality in s season, but soon loses its quality if overept.

An Apple of very distinctive flavour is e old Celini; it has a delightful "pear-op" flavour when properly cooked, but, ifortunately, like Dumelow's Seedling, it not a good doer.

Newton Wonder is very good, and is much opreciated by the cook, as its very regular ittine makes it very easy to pare; but, alough it will keep as late as almost any pple, it does not retain its flavour so long s Bramley's Seedling, which, take it all und, I consider about the best late-keeping pple which has yet been produced. Peasood's Nonsuch and The Queen are both ood in their season, but are not late keepers.

Lane's Prince Albert is good up to Christas, but has no very distinctive flavour, yet is such a wonderful cropper that it will ng be a favourite.

Cox's Pomona is a good autumn variety, nd while it retains its freshness is also quite ood as an eating Apple.

Annie Elizabeth is good and keeps well, but an hardly hold its own with such varieties s Newton Wonder and Bramley, as it is ther shy as to bearing.

I have tested many more kinds of cooking pples, some of which had their good qualies, but, owing to some weak points in owth or cropping qualities, have now been legated to the limbo of almost forgotten arieties.

Of dessert Apples, used for cooking, peraps Allington Pippin takes the lead; it is 1.

Cox's Orange Pippin is also very fine, but course it is rather a sinful act to cook ich a superb eating Apple, excepting for rely experimental purposes!

Herring's Pippin is another dessert Apple hich is very fine when cooked, but, again, is really too good to go into the kitchen all.

Now let me give a hint to those in charge a fruit shed containing a good variety of ating and cooking Apples. Do not go on sing an Apple after it has gone past its est, unless the supply is very scanty. If ou do you will find that you are always sing fruit that is more or less tasteless and oor. Rather harden your heart and get rid those which are going out of season, and ly upon the real keepers to see you through e season; then you will always be eating pples at their best.

J. Duncan Pearson.

Lowdham, Notts.

Pruning Raspberries

These should be pruned and secured to suports, arranging the canes at a foot apart, in der to admit of air and sunshine to all parts hen the plants are in leaf. As the gathering the fruit will have entailed considerable alking over their roots, lightly point over e surface before adding a good top-dressing rich farmyard manure.

Antirrhinum glutinosum

A good subject for the rock garden, having pale yellow flowers and procumbent stems clothed with woolly grey leaves

ALPINES

Two alpine Antirrhinums

ANTIRRHINUM ASARINA is a very pretty Snapdragon for a sunny, well-drained position in the rock garden The flowers are produced from the axils of the leaves, and are solitary, of comparatively large size. They are white, sometimes slightly flushed red, and have a yellow palate; the leaves are rounded and crenate, opposite on procumbent and creeping stems, and are greyish-green in appearance. This plant grows rapidly, and during the summer will cover considerable space. Its requirements are a well-drained gritty soil, full sunshine, and protection from excessive winter damp. A. glutinosum is a more slender species than the foregoing, and its procumbent stems are clothed with woolly grey leaves. The flowers are white, with a little yellow colour on the palate. Its requirements are identical with those of A. Asarina, and, as with that species, damp is its greatest enemy. It is wise to always maintain a small stock of these Antirrhinums in a cold frame from which to replace losses on the rock garden. Propagation is easily effected by cuttings inserted in sandy soil in a cold frame during the summer. They are summer-flowering species and are indigenous to Southern France.

Ralph E. Arnold.

Alpine flowers

Examine these, lifting and replacing any which have grown too rampantly before such spread across and suffocate their less robust and choicer neighbours. Top-dress with fine soil any which exhibit signs of distress, and make certain that the drainage is in order. Mark vacant stations to be prepared and filled later with seedlings or plants otherwise raised, and keep an eye upon such as have a special attraction for slugs, to prevent the deprivations of which frequent dustings of slugicide should be applied.

VEGETABLES

Leeks. It pays to feed them

FOR very many years I have grown Leeks and take a pride in doing so. It has always been my contention that they are one of the most important of our winter crops, and once the plants have been raised and planted out in richly-prepared ground they need very little attention, comparatively, until they are ready for lifting. I always find that it pays to sow seed in January, or at least early in February, in order that the plants may be transferred to their quarters in March or April after hardening. My practice is to plant them in single trenches, much after the manner of Celery, and, as the plants grow, to draw the soil about them and pinch the points of the leaves two or three times in the season. In the autumn one can do much for Leeks by feeding. I find that cow or sheep droppings are both excellent for diluting in water and between September and the time they are lifted in November onwards. This is applied twice a week after the usual watering.

Leeks should never be allowed to get dry, and will take a deal in the way of water and stimulants. Blanching may be done by earthing the soil up about them or "collaring" them with brown paper. I think they are never better for the table than when they have been in contact with the soil. For a small garden Leeks are certainly a paying crop, and as they are subject to very few pests they are vegetables that everyone with a small garden should find room for in one of the best positions.

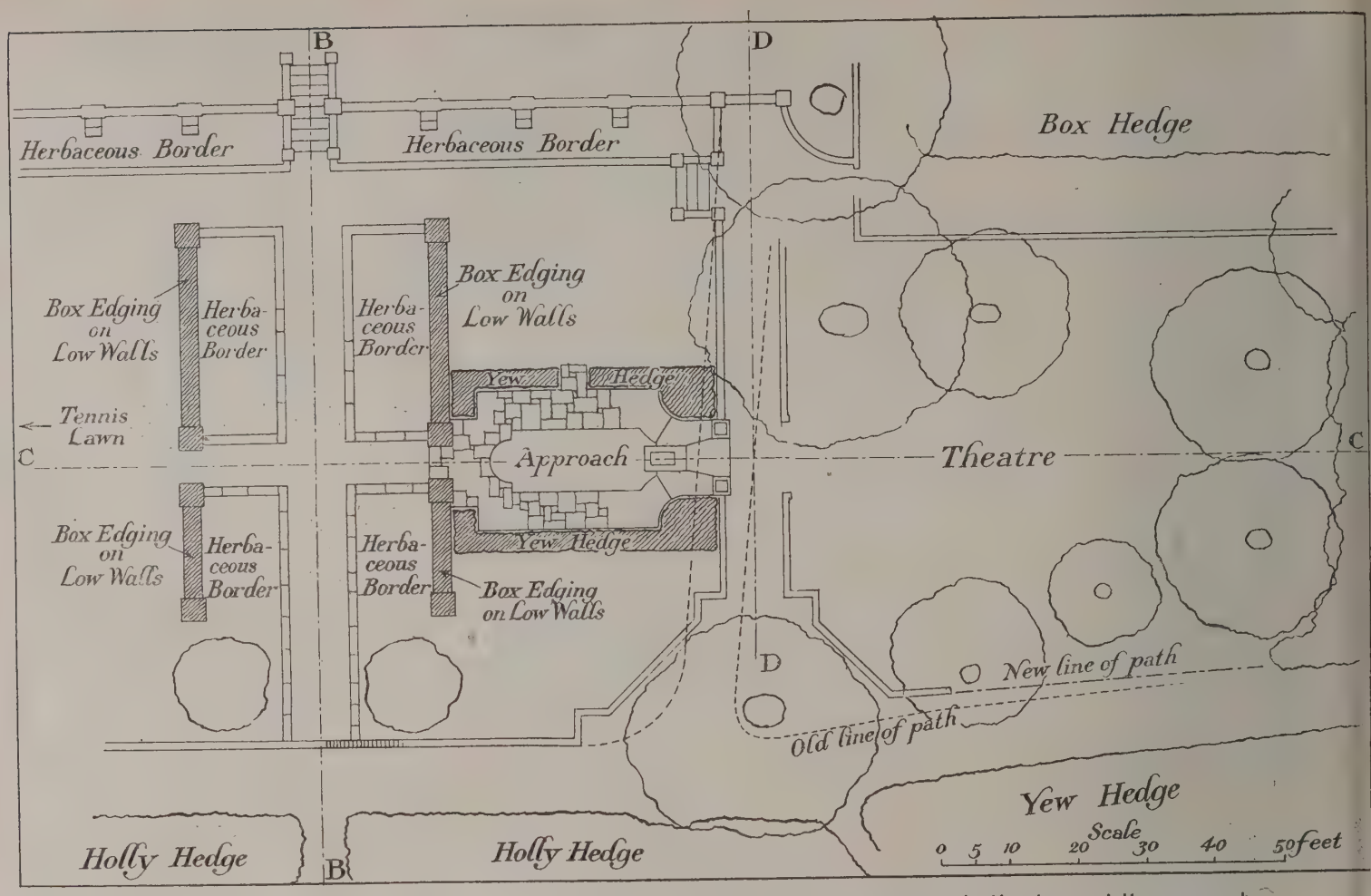
Leahurst.

White Jerusalem Artichoke

Those who have hitherto relied on the purple-skinned kind should give the newer white variety a trial, for they will be well satisfied with the results. I had for many years grown the old variety, and could always get good crops, but last year about this time a friend sent me a basket of the white-skinned variety, and observing that they were smoother in outline, and, consequently, far less wasteful in preparation for cooking, I selected the smaller tubers and planted them in single rows at wide distances apart, and I now find a splendid crop, although the season was too dry for most other crops to come to anything like a full crop. Anyone growing Artichokes will find it far better to plant a few tubers on good, deeply-cultivated soil, at least 2 feet apart, than to occupy double the area of land with a crowded group of self-sown tubers, for it is only the fine fully-grown tubers that are of any service in the kitchen, and these can be secured only by good culture. As a rule, the Jerusalem Artichoke is not looked on as a first-class vegetable, for in mild winters, when there is abundance of other vegetables on hand, it is little in request; but when a scarcity arises from any cause, it is eagerly sought after, and if it were given better culture I feel sure that it would get a better name and be in more constant request as one of the most reliable of winter vegetables. W. A.

Early Tomatoes

Sow a few seeds of an approved variety in pans filled with light, warm soil. Sow thinly, and after the seedlings have reached the rough leaf stage prick off into 3-inch pots, placing the latter on shelves near the glass in a house kept at stove temperature for a few days, transferring them, when free root-action is apparent, to cooler and slightly airier quarters.



Plan of a portion of the garden at The Priory, Orpington, including an open-air theatre and its approach

More Garden Planning—III.

(Continued from page 35)

WITH the wall built, the next step was the development of the level stretch of grass, about 160 feet long by 60 feet wide, in front of it. This had been originally laid out as a tennis lawn and a croquet lawn. All we required in this direction was a tennis lawn of ample proportions. The old portion used for tennis occupied the end nearest the house and a space about the length of the new retaining wall. We decided to move the court along in the direction of the meadow, far enough to allow room for a wide grass path flanked with herbaceous borders based on the axial line BB. In the original conception of the scheme on this line this was about as far as we had arrived with definite plans. There were, however, other ideas which occupied indefinite places in the scheme. The chief of these was the arrangement of an open-air theatre in the position marked in the above plan.

Ever since our occupation of the Priory this portion of the garden had been intermittently used as a theatre, and its natural features made it a very attractive one. It consists of an open space about 60 feet square with a few trees round the borders and a pair of English Chestnuts so placed at one end of it that they suggest a stage, and frame a sort of proscenium. I conceived that a very simple architectural treatment would convert it into an unusually interesting garden feature. It was not, however, until the tennis lawn area came to be considered in detail that the idea occurred to me of making a long vista lead up to it. This introduced a third axial line CC parallel to AA and at right angles to BB, and I learned from architectural friends that my garden was being arranged on the "grid" pattern.

I introduce this architectural reference here because two architects, Mr. J. C. Shepherd and Mr. G. A. Jellicoe, quite definitely helped me out of the difficulties to which the new axial line gave rise. The difficulties are fairly simply stated. I had along BB between the central steps in the wall and the opening in the Holly hedge the broad grass path described below with its herbaceous borders and low flanking walls of brick with dwarf Box. About half-way along this there was to be a path at right angles, on the axis CC, leading to the tennis lawn on one side and to the theatre on the other. The tennis lawn was close at hand; that is to say, there was no space to fill between that and the back of the herbaceous border. But the theatre area not only started 50 feet or 60 feet away from the path on BB, but it was on the far side of an essential sloping gravel path. The problem here was how to fill the intervening ground marked Approach on the plan.

I had all sorts of fantastic projects, all of them depending on the quite sound notion that it would be pleasant to have something which could be seen to the best advantage from the elevated standpoint of the parterre on the upper side of the big wall. With this idea in view I weighed successively the merits of a paved garden with a central pool, a bulb garden with paved paths and turf, and a topiary garden of some sort. All of these schemes were, however, based on a central line running at right angles to the big wall and parallel to the axis BB. Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Jellicoe made it clear to me that the vista to the theatre along CC ought to hav its features centred on that line. It took u a week-end and many sheets of paper to argu this out, but I was convinced in the end, ar when they designed for me the "Approach to the theatre (shown in the above plan) was very glad I had been convinced. Nothin else could have met the case so well.

When this design was produced, the schem for the central grass path along BB w already in existence. The grass path itself 8 feet wide, and the herbaceous borders each side of it about 12 feet. At the back the borders are low brick walls topped wi Box edging, a plan which, I fancy, originat in some vaguely-remembered pictures of Spanish garden. Each of these flanking wa consists of a sort of brick frame with wa half a brick thick and 1·6 apart on the side. The space between is filled with ear and in it a double row of Box edging planted. This will be cut square and level a height of 2 feet from the ground. At t ends are terminal brick "boxes" 3 f square and 2 feet high. These also ha their edging of dwarf Box, and in the mid of each is a pyramid-shaped Box tree. In cases the bottoms of these brick frames open to the natural soil, so that there sho be no lack of root-room, though the pla will doubtless require fairly constant wat ing.

On each side of the grass path, forming edging to the herbaceous borders, is laid York stone coping, about 14 inches wi This I can recommend as a labour-saver those who have flower borders cut in law The stones should be laid slightly below level of the turf, but so little below that t appear to be practically level with it. mowing-machine can be taken right over edge of the turf, and trimming with a h

1. Grass path, with the new retaining wall on the right and Box finials to low hedge backing herbaceous border on left

2. View of central grass path with herbaceous borders, taken as seen from the top of the wall in Fig. 1 above

moon can be easily done, using the stone as a straight edge. The grass will, of course, tend to spread over the surface of the stone, but it remains tidy-looking far longer than a plain grass edge, which, if it is not constantly trimmed with shears, must be re-cut with the half-moon, and the size of the border increases slightly with each cutting. A flat stone edging was also laid along the herbaceous border in front of the big retaining wall.

C. E. H.

(To be continued.)

Bearded Irises

By G. P. Baker.

My introduction to the Bearded Iris is of very long standing: I would not like to say how long, suffice it to admit that I remember accompanying my friend, Mr. George Yeld, to Parker's Nursery at Tooting, where I purchased the nucleus of my present collection, which includes some of today's favourites, such as pallida dalmatica, Celeste, and odoratissima, atropurpurea, Cengialti, Cordelia, Gracchus, Darius, Ganymede, Jacquesiana Victorine, Innocenza, Queen of May, and possibly others of doubtful origin.

In my early gardening days I made no particular study how best to grow the Iris, but subsequently when in Italy, Bulgaria, and Asia Minor, having observed them growing in vases surmounting the pillars of a gateway, or on the roof of an oriental fountain, or in the chinks of mortar-made stone walls, much as Wallflowers and Snapdragons grow in this country, I came to the conclusion I would try them on a clay soil bank overlooking and surrounding a sunken lawn. The position has proved very successful; there is no danger of the plants becoming water-logged, and when in full bloom their varied colours, like so much stained glass, can be viewed from the sunken lawn with great advantage.

A well-worked stiff loam or even clay with some mortar grit on such a site is an ideal mixture. The Bearded Irises make very long roots, working downwards through the clay a foot or more long; they are also surface feeders, and in this connection great care must be exercised not to disturb the surface of the soil during the growing season. The Iris is amongst the hardiest and most accommodating plants we have, and it has been for this reason that amateurs have taken advantage of their good nature to relegate them to shady places under trees and to any odd corners. They will grow in such places, but they will not flower; they delight in sunshine, where the rhizomes growing on the sunface of the ground may ripen and ensure healthy plants for the following year.

Now although I am an advocate of a bank, terrace, or a slope, I will not condemn any level plot, provided always that it is well trenched and well drained. Some of my more precious varieties are so located, only I take care to give them a lighter soil. It must, however, be pointed out, that on a flat surface they are more prone to rot at the base of the stem. When this occurs the diseased portion must be immediately cut out, and a dressing of silver sand, to which may be added a weak solution of Condy's fluid and water, inserted in and around the wound. The alternative is to cut away a larger portion of the plant and burn it.

My enthusiasm for the culture of the Iris is due to Mr. George Yeld, the first President of the Iris Society. Some years ago he sent me some of his seedlings, his intention being that I should raise them as a sort of understudy to similar plants he was growing in York for exhibition purposes. It so happened that my plants were not only ready for exhibition when wanted, but they possessed the merit of being particularly good. In this way Lord of June and Asia both made their début, each receiving Awards of Merit at the R.H.S. The stems of Asia, if my memory serves me aright, measured 4 feet 7 inches high.

I make it a practice to divide and transplant my plants into fresh soil every fourth year, as soon after blooming as possible. I plant the larger varieties from one and a half to two feet apart, and as this planting suffices for one year's growth, I destroy or remove every other plant in the second or third year. In this way the clumps in the early part the fourth year are 3 feet to 3 feet 6 inch across, and I have counted as many twenty to thirty stems to a clump.

In taking up the culture and study of su a genus as the Iris as a hobby, one is natu ally led to investigate its past history. would appear that the Iris of 300 years a was grown more for its medicinal and p fumery properties than as garden plants. Gerarde's "Herball," 1633, some thi varieties are described or illustrated, a these cover the whole field of the then kno genus as grown "in the gardens of Lond amongst Herbarists and other lovers plants." Florence, Dalmatia, Germany, a Austria each had their Fleur de luce, I Susiana or chalcedonica being credited as Fleur de luce of Turkey.

In Holland at this same period and earli Irises were raised from seed in the same w as the Dutch raised Tulips. In the ea part of the nineteenth century, when French horticulturists commenced to gr their plants also from seed, it is estima that a hundred or more varieties were kno and listed. Not, however, in the preced centuries, nor yet in the last century hybridisation practised with any meth and it is only during the last twenty ye that cultivators have adopted hybridisat on any scientific basis. The great stri made in recent years by the introduction natural species from Asia Minor mark entirely new development. Such varieties cypriana, Ricardi, mesopotamica, troja and Amas offer the hybridiser good str parents on which to work, the domin feature being long broad falls and la standards. My own personal experience hybridising is of too recent a date to o any helpful information on the subject. make no claim to have produced anyth uncommon. I have tried artificial cr fertilising with certain of the Domini cypriana, and pallida varieties. The fec dity of the pollen of Dominion as compa to any other of the hybrids has astoun me, and, whilst I have been quite succes in fertilising and raising seedlings f Dominion on to Neptune, Asia, Alca Boyer and a white, I have not succeede reversing the process.

The new race of hybrids, of w Dominion is a result, and introduced by A. J. Bliss, will possess particular meri Iris raisers in a climate such as ours. is a plant of exceptional vigour, and withstand our variable climatic cond better than varieties of Syrian and P tinian parentage. My clumps of Dom at this season when the buds are not vi are in perfect condition (far better thar majority of other sorts); the colour of foliage is blue-green, taking after Cor one of its grandparents. The texture o velvet fall of Dominion is really remark no looms of Keshan or Genoa ever proc any silk velvet to equal Nature's rich v ing. There is, however, one serious in its growth; the main stem is sturdy not high, but the buds on the la branches grow and point inwards toward stem, which gives them the appearan being in the way; it lacks the tall bran habit of hybrids of pallida and trojana to make it the most perfect Iris of the manica variety, in my judgment, so far duced.

It is doubtful if the true mesopotamic be grown with success in this country. Denis, in the south of France, gave me plants and predicted I would not su with them. He was correct; I can no grow them than I can the white Iris of I mir. In 1907, and again in 1922, I re some roots of this variety; they flower

Japanese Iris by the lakeside at Wisley

following year, and towards the autumn
grew apace, so much so that when the
ter set in and other Irises discarded
ny of their leaves, my clumps exhibited
signs of withering. Fearing they would
caught by wind and frost, I had them
osed within a screen and protected over-
d. The following year, 1923, they did
bloom, and although at the moment the
its have an abundance of leaves, some of
ch are broad and large, their colour is
healthy; too yellow and inclined to be
chy and irregular in tone.
umila Irises I have grown for a number
ears, having either collected the original
its myself when in my younger days of
ness or climbing mountains took me
the Near East, or else they have been
to me from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Rou-
ia, Turkey, or Armenia. It was my
l fortune to have Dr. Post, of Beyrout,
author of "Flora of Syria, Palestine, and
i," in my party on the Mysian Mt.
npus. We camped at different altitudes
collected some 140 varieties of plants
e an altitude of 5-6,000 feet. Dr.
was an indefatigable worker, for,
ough by no means a young man, he
r would rest or eat his meal on return-
to camp for the day until he had sorted
pressed all the plants we had collected.
umila Irises of the natural species are
so easy to grow as the Germanica. They
and sometimes for no apparent reason
se to bloom. Like the Oncocyclus, they
special study; one has to learn the con-
ns under which they grow in their own
tat and cultivate accordingly.
Greece and the Levant the rains are
lly torrential in September-October,
continue with more or less rain, snow,
sunshine throughout the winter. In
l-May fine weather sets in and lasts
ughout the summer. From July to Sep-
er the rhizomes get a thorough baking,
it is under these conditions that we must
treat this species in order to ensure suc-
ul culture.
have had many failures which would
to despair many gardeners, but these
rf Irises appeal to me as friends. I
lived with them in the hills, and, not-
standing disappointments, I have had
delights; I cannot and will not aban-
them. I have one much treasured clump
variety of balkana from the battle front
Macedonia, the hills overlooking Lake
an, sent home eight years ago. The
y, now composed of some ten plants, is
ing in a somewhat raised position,
n the rim of a barrel cut in half, its
m knocked out and inserted in the
nd. It, of course, has good drainage,
s made up of loam and mortar rubbish.
en the rhizomes very much as one does
Oncocyclus variety by covering the plants
a frame, though, of course, in a less
e degree. In October-November I give
soil and growth starts again.
conclusion, a word of caution: Do not
rage your Irises to outgrow their
gth. I have in my mind a noble and
usly coloured variety, introduced by M.
s, with much Ricardi strain in its con-
ion, named Mme. Durand. Three years
his plant bloomed and seeded so gener-
that towards the end of the summer it
ll its leaves and looked hopelessly dead.
I took up the rhizomes I found them
ut roots; accordingly I replanted them
specially prepared new bed, and now
two years they have recovered their
al vitality, and promise again to bear
ing. Irises after all are only like all
plants, and must not be expected to
much.—From the *Bulletin of the Iris
y.*

A nearer view of the Japanese Iris by the waterside

The Japanese Iris

IRIS LÆVIGATA, better known in gardens as I. Kæmpferi, is a remarkable species from Siberia and Japan. It has the largest flowers in the genus and seeds freely. Amongst a batch of seedlings will be found an endless variety of colours from white to the richest plum, the deep blues being very fine. The mottled flowers are the least pleasing. Unfortunately, such flowers are common, are poor in effect, nothing like so handsome as the self-coloured seedlings, nor do we care about the double varieties. In these the natural grace and fine outline of the flower are lost. When transplanted this moisture-loving Flag does not bloom well until the second season after planting. It can also be propagated by division. Seeds should be sown as soon as gathered, either in pots or in the open ground. They will vegetate in the following spring.

CULTIVATION.—Anyone proposing planting this Iris should trench the ground deeply, mixing with the soil turf and also some well-rotted manure, leaf soil, and the refuse from the potting bench, so as to get a good depth of loose, friable soil, into which the roots can work freely. What this Iris wants is moisture and a fully open position away from the shade of trees or shrubs. It is always seen to the best advantage by the side of a stream or pond, and should be planted close to the edge of the water. The plants must be well established before they bloom. April is the best month in which to plant. Beds away from the side of a pond should be sunk 3 inches or 4 inches below the surface of the surrounding soil, so as to allow of liberal supplies of moisture being given.

Every year many beautiful varieties are added, chiefly from Japan, though many seedlings have been raised in this country. The flowers vary in size and colour, some measuring as much as 9 inches or 10 inches across.

Herbaceous Calceolarias

The herbaceous Calceolaria, after suffering a partial eclipse during the years when so many things went down, has regained its old-time excellence together with its old-time popularity. The hybridiser has regained for us what the hybridiser lost through lack of opportunity, and the strains of to-day are as dwarf in habit and gigantic of head and of more interesting colours than ever before. We believe there is a greater future than ever before this popular market plant, and nurserymen cannot do wrong in raising good stocks of plants. It is time now to sow for plants for autumn sale. There is always a demand for them at that time, as so many growers prefer to have the seedlings raised and grown on for them simply because this must be done in what (for the growers) is a very busy time. Lack of facilities may also have something to do with it. It is recognised that the herbaceous Calceolaria is impatient of heat at all times, and that even throughout the winter all they require is to be safeguarded against frost. Yet from personal experience and observation I know that too often the seedlings are raised in heated houses, whether fire heat or sun heat makes no difference. The seeds should be sown in pans and only slightly covered with sand, and should germinate in a cold and well-shaded frame with moisture and air assured. In a month or five weeks

the seedlings are up sufficiently to prick off, and they should continue to enjoy the same conditions—viz., moisture, air, shade and a cold frame. In September they are potted into 60's and are still kept in the frame, but at the end of October they are taken indoors where they may the more easily be guarded from frost. Afterward they are shifted into their flowering pots according to the time they are wanted to bloom, some being potted on in December, some in January and some in March. If they are healthily grown under congenial conditions they will the more readily resist the attacks of green fly and thrips, but the grower must keep a watchful eye upon them and help them by using insecticides. To grow specimen plants the régim is the same except that the strongest plan are shifted from 60's to 48's in November, an at the end of January are potted into 7-inc pots. These, however, are not a market lin in great demand, and the plants, satisfactor though they may be, are outside the range the ordinary buyer's purse. F.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Propagating

The cases used for this purpose should be kept full from this date, and one of the first subjects to claim attention is the Perpetual-flowering Carnations, the cuttings being inserted either in pots, pans, or small borders, made up of clean, sharp sand, into which they root freely. When the cuttings are rooted satisfactorily they should be potted up singly into small pots filled with a fine mixture of loam, leaf-soil, and sand in equal proportions, and which must be brought to the same degree of warmth as the sand the plants are lifted from before being used, and the potted plants replaced in a warm, closed frame for at least 10 days, following which a little air may be admitted.

Pandanus Veitchi

This, together with Crotons, Dracænas, Gardenias, and similar stone and greenhouse plants, strike root freely if plunged in sandy soil in the propagating-case at this season, but it is advisable to dew them lightly with the syringe both early morning and evening.

Bulbs

Bring forward the Narcissus, Tulips, and Lily of the Valley taken from the plunging ground at the beginning of the month, and place them in a house having a brisk temperature, and transfer another batch from the open to frames in order that a constant supply of flowers is ensured. A few Deutzias, Indian Azaleas, Prunus triloba, Staphyleas, and other flowering shrubs may be placed in the intermediate-house, where they will quickly respond to the genial warmth.

Poinsettias

After the bracts have faded, or been cut, these interesting plants should be laid on their sides beneath the stage of a cool house and kept on the dry side until the time arrives for the supply of cuttings, when they must be placed upon the stages and syringed daily.

Shrubberies

These must be carefully surveyed and unsatisfactory examples removed and replaced with more desirable kinds from the reserve garden. Plantations of flowering shrubs may be rendered more effective by the addition of a broad edging of dwarf-flowering subjects, such as Vaccinium and Gaultheria, or Hardy Heaths, such as Erica carnea, E. Darleyensis, E. ciliaris, or E. vulgaris var. Searlei.

Lilies to plant in the open

All the Auratum group may be planted at the present time, and, whether grouped among Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Heaths, or other shrubs, it is essential that the position for each bulb should be thoroughly prepared and enriched, not with green manure, but with well-seasoned leaf-soil or peat, and I have met with considerable success with some kinds by using an old spent Mushroom bed sparingly with a loamy soil and plenty of sharp sand. The soil should be deeply dug, especially for the larger kinds, and a partially-shaded position favours the growth of L. auratum in all its forms, L. giganteum, and L. tigrinum var. splendens. Other beautiful Lilies include L. regale, L. tenuifolium, L. Wilmottiæ, L. monodelphum var. Azovitzianum, L. chalcedonicum, L. Krameri, L. Brownii, L. croceum, L. davuricum, L. Henryi, L. pardalinnum, L. speciosum in all its varieties, L. Wallichianum var. superbum, L. parvum, and L. rubellum.

Herbaceous

Bring forward arrears of planting in this department and endeavour to get the borders forked lightly over, working in a little well-decayed manure as the work proceeds, as this will sustain the plants during dry summer spells and obviate watering.

Hardy fruits

The pruning and training of these must be continuous, and spraying proceeded with at every possible opportunity. Following this, point over lightly the surface of the borders.

Asparagus

Heated frames may be used for the forcing of this choice vegetable, and if a supply of fresh leaves and stable manure is available for the formation of beds a foot or so in depth the heat will be moist and steady. The roots should be placed close together and covered with 3 inches of soil, which must be kept moderately moist and the temperature maintained at 60 degs. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Maincrop Tomatoes

This is the most favourable time in which to sow the chief batch of Tomatoes. Very early sowings seldom give really fine crops, while to sow much later makes it impossible to ripen the last of the crop before the house is required for other purposes in autumn. It is a mistake to cultivate too many varieties, one or two well-tried sorts giving most satisfaction, as a rule. Sutton's Best of All and Dickson's Hawlmark have, of recent years, proved in every way excellent.

Prepare ground for Asparagus

Where it is intended to lay down fresh beds of this esteemed vegetable it is always well to prepare the site some time in advance of planting or sowing time. Trench, or at least double-dig, the ground, working in plenty of rich farmyard manure as the work proceeds. Leave the surface as rough as possible to permit of the elements sweetening and pulverising it.

Earliest Peas

Where space can be spared in Peach-house or other cool glasshouse a sowing of early Peas should be made in pots or boxes. Strong heat must be avoided, for the sturdier the plants can be kept the better will the after-results be. As soon as the plants are 3 inches high remove to a cold frame and avoid coddling.

Spring Cabbages

To encourage growth and discoura vermin the soil between rows of autum planted Cabbages should be lightly stirr with a Dutch hoe as soon as the ground dry enough for working. Remove any de leaves and dust a little lime round the plan A pinch of seed of some quick-growing ea variety, such as Dickson's First and Be should be sown in a pan and set in gen heat, the resulting plants making an exc lent succession to the autumn-raised batch

Sweet Peas

Even when there is no intention of gro ing this fine annual for exhibition purpo it pays to raise the plants in boxes or po When only a moderate number are requir pots may well be used, but where economy space has to be studied and large numb of plants are necessary, boxes some 4½ incl deep are excellent, the Sweet Pea transpla ing quite readily if ordinary care be giv While artificial warmth is not actually nec sary, very good results being got by sett the boxes in cold frames, still I think it vantageous to germinate the seeds in a te perature of 55 degs. or so, but removing cooler quarters when the shoots are an i long.

Bedding Lobelias from seed

Unless entire uniformity of colour habit of growth are imperative the eas method for raising large quantities of indispensable edging plant is by means seed sown about this time. Many of finer strains come fairly true, and it always well to procure the best. W drained pans or small boxes filled with li well-sifted compost must be used, and seeds scattered thinly on a level, smooth face. Cover lightly, water gently, and c each receptacle with a piece of glass ar sheet of paper. A fairly brisk heat is sirable as it promotes quick germination.

Prepare for Rose planting

The abnormal wet of November last s hindered Rose-planting, so now it wil well to have the beds prepared so that actual planting may be overtaken at the dry opportunity. At the same time, do attempt to work the ground when in a r wet state, but defer, rather, for a wee two to see whether more favourable c tions may then be had. Deep working, liberal applications of rich farmyard d are the chief essentials for successful culture.

Gloxinias for early blooms

To have an early display of these gorg warm house subjects some good tubers sh now be potted up, using a compost w principal ingredients are leaf-mould and They may be placed either in small po in boxes. Do not over-water, but spr overhead twice daily with tepid w When well rooted transfer to suitable well-drained pots, and use good rich post. A genial temperature of 65 deg 70 degs. will give fine plants and num richly-coloured large flowers. C. BL

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

On the cultivation of Bletia Tankervillæ

The following extract from the first volume of "The Floricultural Cabinet," September 1st, 1833, page 145, has been brought to our notice by Mr. E. Cooper, of Messrs. Sanders, Orchid growers, St. Albans. There is a marked contrast in cultural methods of that time to those of the present day—the comparison is interesting, not only from the point of view of the method of treatment, but also of the success attained

HAVING grown the beautiful Bletia Tankervillæ for several years, in a manner very superior to what I have r seen it elsewhere, I herewith send you a rt account of my method of treatment, shall be glad to see it in your truly useful delightful flower magazine.

The plant is most readily increased by off- taken from the Parent, and is the best le of having plants for blooming the ing season. The time when I take off ets is usually the beginning of February. se I plant in pots about 6 inches diameter, g a strong and highly enriched soil. er potting I place the plants in a hotbed ne, when I have one in operation, other- e I place them on a heated flue or plunge he bark bed of a Pine-stove. When the ts have been in a hotbed frame I take n out as soon as I perceive they have ck root and place them in the Pine stove, ging them in the bark bed.

During summer I water them frequently h a mixture of soapsuds and deer dung. the end of October the plants will have well established. I then give them a less ntity of water and a lower temperature. ut the middle of January as many plants are intended for blooming early in the ing, say April and May, are repotted, ping the balls entire. I put the plants pots of about 9 inches diameter, using same kind of soil as before. After re- ting, the plants are plunged into a bark or frame having a brisk bottom heat.

The plants soon throw up very vigor- flower-stems producing spikes of flowers n 3 feet to 4 feet high, each spike having n 18 to 24 blossoms. After blooming the ts are kept for a supply of offsets the wing spring.

By having a considerable number of ts and keeping some in a cool situation introducing them into the frame or Pine- se as circumstances require, a succes- of this very beautiful flower may be had several months, and its splendour will ly repay for every attention to its culti- on."—An Amateur Gardener, July 6th, 3.

he foregoing is taken from the first me of the *Floricultural Cabinet,* and nteresting as showing the contrast be- en present-day cultural methods and se of practically a hundred years ago.

letia Tankervillæ is a synonym of ius grandifolius, and has nothing to do h the genus Bletia, the members of which all natives of the West Indies and tral America. (The so-called Bletia cinthina, from China, differs considerably n the true species.)

y his note "An Amateur Gardener" ns to have been very pleased with the re- of the treatment, but I have a suspicion pseudonym is too modest, as from his unt and the accommodation he had at his mand I imagine he was, in reality, a pro- ional.

lowever, his status has nothing to do with se notes. I wish he had more clearly ned "offsets." I imagine he means the ng growths which P. grandifolius and llichii often develop in the spring from base of vigorous pseudo-bulbs. If so, as apparently potted them before they had commenced rooting he must have been more than discreet with the watering-pot, though no doubt the bottom-heat given would quickly excite root-action. The result a 3-foot to 4-foot spike with 18 to 24 blossoms obtained in the second year—by his note in 15 to 16 months—is more than creditable, and many growers to-day would like to maintain a succession of this fine old species for several months.

Phaius grandifolius is one of the first exotic Orchids cultivated, and was introduced in 1778. It is widely distributed through the East, and though, like many other old favourites, not so frequently seen to-day is still in cultivation, and occasionally imported. Possessed of an accommodating constitution, it was, perhaps, more largely grown a generation ago than at present, though even now it rivals many of our hybrid Orchids in beauty and stately grace.

"An Amateur Gardener's" potting material, together with applications of soapsuds and deer dung, may seem slightly forceful, but, like many of the other strong-growing Phaius, this species can be improved by judicious feeding, but stimulants should never be applied to the extent they are to Calanthes.

Years ago, when good fibrous peat was easily obtainable, the compost for the then known Phaius consisted of peat, fibrous loam, a little Sphagnum, and charcoal. To-day a suitable mixture for the stronger-growing species will be found in fibrous loam kept open by the addition of broken red brick and a little Sphagnum. With the less robust hybrids, Osmunda fibre and more Sphagnum must be added. With the Madagascaran species the loam must be nearly or entirely omitted.

"An Amateur Gardener" apparently used ordinary soil, probably mixed with rotted manure, leaf-mould, and sand. As the majority of the Phaius are terrestrial such a compost would not be altogether unsuitable, but great care would have to be taken in the watering. Provided drainage is good, P. grandifolius, in particular, is not very exacting as to compost.

I have heard that the Chinese grow this species successfully in the rich mud obtained from the bottoms of ponds. Before using, it is exposed to the weather and then broken into nodules. In parts of Jamaica, I believe, this species has been acclimatised, and in some gardens is regarded as a nuisance. I wish it would accustom itself to our English climate, as it would be a welcome addition to our herbaceous borders and worth a little trouble in removing superfluous plants should such occur. Unfortunately, here a bed of this splendid Orchid can only be imagined—not realised.

Individually the flowers are about 4 inches across, the broadly lanceolate, spreading sepals and petals of a clear tawny-brown, silvery-white on their reverses. The lip, in shape, can be compared to that of Cattleyas of the labiata group, but is less in size and more tubular, the base being formed into a short spur. The side lobes enclose the column, and with the spreading front lobe are white suffused with reddish-purple; the throat is also marked with red-purple, but on a yellowish ground.

The inflorescence lasts a considerable time, but the lower flowers gradually lose their clear colouring as the spikes lengthen.

Under present-day culture the species can be easily grown in a Cattleya or ordinary stove house. Shade must be given while the growth is young and while enfolded; the broad plicate leaves, like those of Calanthes, must be kept from moisture. Carelessness with the syringe accounts largely for any lack of success with these plants, though they revel in a moist, warm atmosphere when growing. Once the leaves are fully developed, again as with Calanthes, they are indifferent, but it is always advisable to see that moisture neither remains on the leaves nor is condensed on them during the night.

Cold damp is injurious to them during the winter, or at any time, but when dormant the plants will withstand a considerable fall in temperature if damp is not present. If possible, however, they should be kept as near 60 degs. as possible, rather above than below.

Weak manure-water can be given when the plants are in full growth, both to this and the following strong-growing species allied to it:—

P. Blumei, a native of Java, resembles P. grandifolius, but has slightly larger flowers, with more deeply-coloured segments, particularly that of the lip, and lacking the silvery whiteness seen on the external surfaces in the corresponding organs of grandifolius.

P. assamicus, known both as a variety of Blumei and as a species, is found in Assam, and is easily distinguished by the light yellow colouring of the flowers, the lip being bordered with white.

P. Bernaysii, also known as a variety of Blumei, comes from Australia and bears a resemblance to assamicus in colour. The spikes are taller, but the flowers are not quite so large, softer in tint, and do not always open properly. Apparently they have a strong tendency to cliestogamy.

Other yellow-flowered Phaius are flavus and maculatus. Though coming from different districts and classed as distinct species, in all probability they are geographical forms of one. They strongly resemble each other in habit, and have smooth, ribbed pseudo-bulbs tapering to a cylindrical stem formed by the leaf bases. In both, the flowers are clear yellow with a few dull reddish marks on the lip. P. maculatus derives its name from yellow spots present on the dark green leaves. These are absent in flavus, which, however, makes a slightly taller pseudo-bulb. Neither reaches the dimensions of grandifolius.

P. Sanderianus, usually known as a species, is probably correctly classed as a variety of Blumei. A native of Assam, it is the largest and most stately known in the genus; the stout spikes have exceeded 8 feet in height, with foliage in proportion, under cultivation. The flowers are considerably larger than those of Blumei and are more deeply coloured, the sepals and petals being deep bronze, while the dusky rose lip is strongly margined with white.

P. Wallichi, a North Indian species, closely resembles P. grandifolius, but slightly exceeds it in size. The flowers, too, are white externally, but tawny-buff or dull orange shaded with red on the inner sides. The lip is similarly coloured, but on a white ground.

P. bicolor (from Ceylon), callosus (from Java and Malay), Philippinensis, and Cooperi are all handsome species resembling grandifolius in habit, and with that species forming a section distinguishable in habit and lip formation from the Phaius found in Madagascar. The two sections readily intercross, and also with Calanthes. E. Cooper.

Some Good Roses

CHATEAU DE CLOS VOUGEOT is a black-crimson Rose of superlative merit, best grown as a standard or half-standard. Not that it does not do as a bush, but, unfortunately, the shoots grow out nearly parallel to the soil surface, and in heavy rain get dirtied. To be seen at its best the flower must be fully out, when the petals lie one upon the other like salmon scales, deepest crimson in colour with a heavy lustrous black bloom. It is one of the most fragrant-scented Roses there is. It is a splendid doer and free-flowering. George H. Mackereth is a beautiful Rose, crimson lake in colour. Some people do not like it, and say it is blue, but crimson lake and blue are not the same tone. It should never be given manure in any form. Augustus Hartmann, though an exhibition Rose, is the finest scarlet Rose in all forms, continuously in bloom, and as late as any. There will always be differences of opinion as to which is the best pink Rose. Mrs. Henry Morse has no rival unless it be the new Rose Dame Edith Helen, raised and sent out by Alex. Dickson and Sons this year. Nobody but the raiser has grown the latter, and it is impossible to be certain, but there can be no doubt that it is a Rose greatly to be desired. Mrs. H. Morse is not only a huge Rose, but the combination of colour, pearly-pink inside and deep rose outside, is entrancing. As exhibited at all the shows the outside petals are orange-vermillion. Now orange-vermillion outside and pearly-pink inside are hideous combinations to anyone with taste and refinement in colour arrangements. This colour defect is entirely due to the use of manure. By substituting leaf-mould the colours come refined and true. All complain of the susceptibility of Mrs. H. Morse to mildew, and many will not grow it on that account. The last is a grave mistake, for there is no healthier Rose than this variety, provided measures are taken to prevent mildew, and prevention is simple. The new tender shoots and leaves are red, but become deep green on full maturity. It is in the early stages of leaf development that mildew makes its appearance and cripples the plant. As soon as the buds begin to break, Mrs. H. Morse should be sprayed once a week regularly, and more often in bad weather. The results are astonishing, and, if continuous generous treatment is provided throughout the growing season no Rose will give better results.

Imagine a half-standard with 12 blooms all out at the same time, the three largest each over 6 inches across, and one has an idea of what Mrs. Henry Morse is capable of when correctly treated. Marcia Stanhope and Mrs. Herbert Stevens, the latter a Tea, are the two best white Roses. Four yellow Roses at least must be mentioned in the order of their merit. Florence L. Izzard, Golden Emblem, Mabel Morse, and Souvenir de Claudius Pernet. The first two can be bracketed together as the best yellow Roses. Colour, scent, refinement in form, and continuous flowering, with immunity to disease are qualities not always met with in Roses. It would be hard to say which is the better of the two. The first with its high centre, exquisitely-arranged petals with deep pure clear yellow colouring, or the latter with same colouring, but splashed with red-gold in centre, which is not high, however. Mabel Morse is a beautiful Rose, but not so free-flowering as the other three. Souvenir de C. Pernet is a magnificent large bloom, but the tips of the petals are liable to bleach in the sun. The flowers should be shaded in high summer. All four of these Roses have Maréchal Niel blood in them, hence the characteristic delicious scent. The multi-coloured Roses are too numerous to mention, and, moreover, they are all, or mostly all, three-quarter full. Many of them are beautiful decorative examples, but few are really good in form. Among them I cannot help noting Independence Day, a standard of which bore 75 blooms last year. C. A. J.

Rose The General

AMONG fully double Roses of outstanding merit The General, raised by the late Rev. J. H. Pemberton, stands out as the best of all the crimsons. Few amateurs know it, and very few grow it, yet trade growers recognise it as a Rose with a future. If any Rose deserves a gold medal this Rose does. Unfortunately The General has not received the cultural peculiarities to which it responds best, and so at the various shows has not been seen to advantage. Every new Rose runs the risk of deterioration by over propagation at the hands of nurserymen on account of a too popular demand. Most new Roses have their likes and dislikes as regards details in pruning and cultivation, and all amateurs growing a new Rose for the first time may be able to grow a "top hole" flower and even astonish the raiser. Roses of the past generation have required severe pruning. There are instances on record when Roses have been cut down right to the ground, and have in consequence given splendid results. Many of the modern Roses resent such treatment. The late Mr. Pemberton was probably the first grower to point this out by adopting a new system of Rose classification, in which the correct system of pruning was indicated for each Rose. In general practice it works out very well, though any such system is subject to wider latitude to suit the peculiarities of any particular Rose. The General is one of these, and sends up new shoots from the base freely, not only throughout the growing season, but even occasionally in winter. If the basal shoot starts into growth soon after the March or April pruning, late in July is produced a corymb with a large central flower which opens first well in advance of any of the other numerous buds. After the centre flower is over and has been removed all the other buds bloom simultaneously. Each bush is capable of producing two or more such basal shoots, and when all are flowering together they make a striking display, especially in a Rose border. After these blooms are over three or more buds develop from below the base of the corymb, and these produce the finest blooms in late September or early October. The following March this basal branch, which has already given two displays of bloom, is cut back to three good buds or from 4 inches to 6 inches from the ground. These three buds do not as a rule produce any more flowers except from basal (secondary) buds lower down the same shoot. These shoots that have flowered are best left alone until the March following, when they should be cut down to one eye or bud only. As soon as the flowers from these are over in July the whole basal shoot should be pruned down to a new shoot from the base. Each basal shoot does good service for three seasons. Basal shoots which develop corymbs should never be disbudded, but all other shoots should be in the usual way. While this habit of growth is characteristic of The General, these shoots from the base develop in high summer, autumn, or even in winter annually.

Many other modern Roses follow closely this peculiarity of growth; in fact, all Roses do so to some extent, some throwing basal shoots once annually, others only once in three years, so that pruning has to adapt itself to these idiosyncrasies if the best results are to be obtained. It is obvious that if a Rose is producing blooms in the normal way, as is the case with The General, on the older branches and at the same time developing shoots from the base, the treatment and culture must be of the most generous proportions. Such treatment has not been accorded this Rose with but one exception, when not only a number of excellent exhibition blooms were obtained, but the finest individual flower it has ever been my lot to see. The size, symmetry of proportion, wonderful colouring, and exquisite scent, best described by the use of the French term "ravissante," still remain. Since this Rose has been shown fairly constantly, it is only fair to describe the colouring when at its best. The colour is intense ruby, covered with delicately refined crimson. In summer flowers, the colouring is not so deep. The parentage is General Macarthur on one side and a Damask Rose on the other. The flowers are produced on strong, rigid, upright stalks, and continue from June until the frosts cut them down. The growth is strong, compact; leaves and wood, when young, claret. The foliage is large, dark green, and leathery when mature; slightly liable to mildew when young. It is a first-rate Rose for exhibition, bedding, as a specimen, and best in autumn. If as an amateur I were limited to one crimson Rose I would unhesitatingly decide on The General. C. A. JARDINE.

Protecting Tea Roses

Short frosts seldom work such severe havoc as those that last longer—or see-saw—upon or among such plants as Tea Roses with pertinacious persistency; still they are far too much of a cold thing for the well-being of Tea Roses if any such were caught all unfurnished—that is, unprotected. Neither do these stinging frosts reveal the evils they inflict on the instant; on the contrary, plants often look as if they had passed through severe frosts with impunity, and not till the sap tries to rush through their branchlets in the spring is the fact revealed that their substance has been ruptured into mere masses of dead tissue, impermeable to fluids and incapable of revival into new life. Protection is the obvious lesson taught by these early frosts, but with Tea and other Roses blooming through November such lessons are apt to be forgotten. But it is far better to clothe autumnal or winter beauty with a handful of Fern fronds any time in November than risk the serious risk of sudden frost-bites through leaving tender Roses unprotected too late in the season. But better late than never, and those who still grow Teas and have not yet protected them should not lose a moment in doing so.

It would be a grievous error to reason that because the plants had passed through one severe frost with impunity that others would not cripple them; for this impunity is more apparent than real, as we have already seen, and, besides, frost never hardens tender plants; on the contrary, each freezing leaves them the more susceptible of injury for the next, and so on in succession until such plants as Tea Roses finally succumb to frosts that would hardly have injured them in the left had they been duly and carefully shielded from previous chills—not that overcoddling is desirable, though it is safer far than excessive exposure.

Not a few cultivators, to save time and husband sap in the spring, prune their Teas before protecting them. No practice could be more dangerous, for early pruning forces early spring growths.

Answers to Queries

estions—Queries and answers are inserted in DENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre-dents follow these rules: All communications ld be clearly written on one side of the paper , and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING TRATED. *Bouverie House Fleet Street, London, E C. 4. ers on business should be sent to the* PUB-ER. *The name and address of the sender are ired in addition to any designation he may e to be used in the paper. When more than query is sent each should be on a separate of paper, the name and address being added ich. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent ress some days in advance of date, queries ot always be replied to in the issue immedi- following their receipt. We do not reply to ies by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

GREENHOUSE

lamens failing

shall be so much obliged if you can sug- a reason for Cyclamens failing. They in a lean-to greenhouse which, although ng south, is screened from sunlight at time of year by a vinery, and which is ed by an oil stove to from 45 degs. to egs. F. The plants throve well and are of buds, but in many cases before these e to maturity the leaves, one by one, p and wither, and the buds do likewise. ld insufficient moisture in the air ac- t for this, or any fumes from the oil e, on which I always keep a dish of r? I am careful never to water them he crown. A. M. C.

'he fumes from the oil stove may have ething to do with the unsatisfactory state our Cyclamen plants, but it seems more y that they are attacked by the grub of vine weevil. This pest preys on the s, and even eats into the corms of this t. If this surmise is correct you can y verify for yourself, as the plant will easily out of the soil if given a slight Look for, and destroy, all the grubs can find. They are creamy-white, with own head.]

FLOWER GARDEN

ning Wichuraiana Roses

ould you kindly tell me how newly- ed Wichuraiana Roses should be ed? Should all the shoots be cut back, me left long and the others pruned to ground? Also a climbing Mme. Abel enay with three shoots all about a yard How should that be pruned, and will likely to do well planted against a north but trained as soon as it has grown gh on to a wall facing east?

JOSEPH STONE.

s a rule, it is advisable to shorten back he shoots of newly-planted climbing s to about 9 inches from the ground, but is no harm in leaving, say, two of the gest shoots almost full length, providing vhole plant is strong and healthy, and oots abundant and of a fibrous nature. presume that your plant of Mme. Abel enay is also newly planted, and, if so, well back, say, to 7 inches or 8 inches the ground. A north wall is not a good tion for any Rose, but after you get the s round to the east it may bloom not so .]

rpillars attacking Pæonies

e enclosed caterpillars were found in numbers on old Pæony roots. I would o know name, as they have eaten roots . Have dressed soil with clubicide.

morgan. A. B.

ne caterpillars are those of the Ghost Moth. Please see reply to "W. B." difficult to control this pest on the roots eonies, and we are inclined to think the clubicide has failed because you have been unable to work it thoroughly into the soil. Most soil insecticides are somewhat local in effect, and, unless they can be well mixed with the soil, are often useless. The presence of the roots of the Pæonies prevents the insecticide from being well mixed. We should lift the Pæonies, search the clumps carefully for caterpillars, and then replant them in a clean piece of ground. If you desire to let the plants remain where they are you should persevere with the insecticide.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Soil caterpillars

I would be obliged if you would name the enclosed grubs. Their kind are extremely numerous in ground formerly part of a Wheat field, now being cultivated for flowers and vegetables. Every spadeful of earth turned over exposes a number of them. There is a lot of Couch Grass and other strong weeds. Advice as to the destruction of the grubs would be appreciated. W. B.

Wolverhampton.

[The caterpillars you have sent in for name are those of the Ghost Swift Moth (Hepialus humuli, L.). The caterpillars of this moth are often troublesome to many kinds of garden crops, especially those of a more or less permanent nature. The moths appear during the summer, and eggs are dropped from the female as she flies about. The caterpillars are said to feed on occasion for more than one season. When fully fed they pupate in the soil and wriggle up to the surface just before they emerge. We should advise you to obtain a supply of crude naphthalene and apply it to the soil at the rate of 1 oz. per square yard. The naphthalene should be scattered evenly on the surface of the soil and dug in 6 inches deep. Repeat the dressing again after seven days. The presence of the weeds mentioned in your letter encourages the attention of this class of caterpillar, and we should think you would be wise to grow a cleaning crop, *e.g.*, the Potato, for a season. You then have a chance of controlling the weeds. Please see reply to "A. B."]

Moss on lawn

(E. Grose Hodge).—The best material for destroying Moss on lawns is dry wood-ashes, a fairly generous dressing being given early in spring. For the weeds, an application of lawn sand will afford at least temporary relief, especially if you could have the larger of the weeds removed first by means of a small fork, any holes made during the process being filled with sifted soil and then well rolled.

Applying lime

I was reading about lime for the garden. I do not quite understand how and at what stage of the lime it should be applied to the ground and dug in. I am using it principally for clubroot in vegetables. I have about ½ ton of lime from the builders' merchants lying in the dry in an open shed in a state of lumps and powder. Could you let me know exactly how it should be put on and dug in? We have sometimes put it out in heaps covered with earth for some weeks before spreading and digging in. Is that right? A. S. P.

[Your method of laying the lime in heaps covered with earth is quite good, but you should only allow it to lie thus until the lime has "fallen," that is, until it has reached the dry powder stage. Then spread it evenly over the surface, but only point it in, for by digging in this mineral much of its value is lost, its natural tendency being to work downwards. It is, of course, necessary that the ground should be dug or trenched before the lime is applied. You could use the quantity you have by separating the lumps from the powdered portion, spreading the latter over the surface where required, and laying the lumps in heaps until they "fall."]

SHORT REPLIES

New Reader.—(1) Your soil is, certainly, not well adapted for fruit-growing, but you might try a few of the stronger-growing Apples, Pears, Plums, and Cherries. Procure your trees grafted on dwarfing stocks. These, being surface rooters, are best adapted for your shallow soil. Any local gardener will advise you as to which varieties succeed best in your immediate neighbourhood. (2) The Common and Portugal Laurels are rapid growers and quite inexpensive, while Ligustrum vulgare (Privet) and L. v. aureum (the Golden Privet) are also moderate in price and grow rapidly. The Douglas Spruce (Pine) is one of the quickest growers among the conifers. (3) Cupressus Lawsoniana (Lawson's Cypress) makes an excellent hedge plant and grows very rapidly. It can be kept to the height you desire. The common Privet is of very rapid growth.

J. N. B.—It is almost certain that your Orange trees are suffering from a bad attack of scale, this plant being very subject to this pest. Nor is it easy to get rid of without a great amount of trouble. Wash the leaves and stems with soap and water and then spray with sulphur wash or Gishurst Compound. Repeat if necessary.

J. K. L.—The Black Currant requires no pruning in the ordinary sense, but a few years hence some thinning of the shoots or branches, if overcrowded, may be necessary, while worn-out branches must also be removed. Your Red Currants must be making but poor progress, and all you need do is to cut the tips off the shoots. To encourage better growth apply a dressing of well-rotted manure to both the red and black kinds.

J. R. Waterhouse.—(1) Your Bay tree is suffering, doubtless, from impoverishment of the soil, so you should loosen and remove an inch or two of the surface soil and replace with good fresh material composed of three parts good fibrous loam, two parts leaf-mould, and one part well-rotted manure. Make very firm and water well, during dry weather especially. (2) Without seeing the Clematis it is almost impossible to say, definitely, what caused it to die off. It may be the stem at or under the surface got damaged in some way, or the roots may have rambled into some impurity.

Chatenay.—It appears as if your Rose trees are suffering from poverty of the soil. When pruning, at end of March, cut the dwarf bush hard back and remove all the weakly growths from the climbing form. Then apply a generous dressing of rich, well-rotted manure, and lightly fork it into the surface. This should have the desired effect.

C. W. H.—If you allow the creosote to dry thoroughly before the shrubs are fastened to the trellis it will not harm them.

Hellebores, Snowdrops, and Violets

The great Christmas Rose

IF there is one flower more than another to which the title of "Winter's Glory" might rightly be applied it is the Christmas Rose (Helleborus niger), and most especially is it applicable to that form well named maximus, and sometimes called the Scotch Variety. The flowers are produced in twos or threes on stout, erect stems, fully 8 inches long; they are 4 inches across at least, and, rising well above the soil, in addition to the natural protection afforded by the autumnal leaves lying on the surface of the ground, the broad expanded cups of lovely whiteness remain unsullied by even a speck of the closely adjacent soil. I ought to mention that the flowers do not all expand at one time, but follow each other in rotation. The foot-stalk is of a lovely marbled pink colour, which colour, by the way, expands in gradually softening tints over the entire upper portion of the sepals, giving to the flower, as viewed externally, a charmingly delicate roseate hue that is never met with in the old species. Added to the colour and magnitude of the flowers, we have equally distinct characteristics as regards foliage. The leaves are double or treble the size of the old species, supported on long, stout foot-stalks, and remarkable for the broad, deflexed character of the lobes—so distinct, in fact, is the plant in every way, that I have no hesitation in saying, were it a new introduction, it would receive at the hands of our descriptive botanists a distinct specific title, and none could be more appropriate than Helleborus maximus, omitting the niger altogether. When pure and unsullied there is no more lovely flower for sprays or buttonholes than this Christmas Rose, and not one in a ballroom would ever suspect its humble origin. Though I have written thus enthusiastically about this variety, I do not for one moment wish to disparage the old species itself, or its narrow-leaved form; though blooming a little later it still comes, and comes naturally, at a time when it has scarcely a rival. It is one of the few legitimate winter-flowering plants that are able to stand all sorts of weather.

C. R.

Snowdrops

When the wind suddenly veered round to the south-west and the snow vanished from the flower borders the one thing which caught my attention was the sudden growth of the Snowdrops. They are now more than an inch above ground, and the sight of their soft grey leaves is most cheering. The popular French name of Pierce Neige is quite justified by the habit Snowdrops have of growing at a low temperature, and especially when the ground above them is covered with snow. After all, there is often, and always in the best of popular names, a deep-laid truth or meaning. Not only does the Snowdrop grow rapidly under the snow, but the converse of this is true also, as anyone who has tried to force Snowdrops in artificial heat will tell us is a fact, all of which simply points an old moral, and shows us somewhat of the varied idiosyncrasies of plant life in the garden. In the garden all art should be true and simple, for a garden worth the name contains far more than the mere beauty-worshipper or the economist can express for us. It contains, indeed, a world of sympathies peculiarly its own. Nowadays it is not uncommon to find our best artists interested in gardening and expressing therein some of their finest thoughts. Art effected by the spade may be as precious, even if not as endurable, as that of the chisel, or the brush, or the pen. A garden supplies food to our minds throughout all our varying moods and phases of feeling; it gives us Laurel wreaths or Cypress boughs for the old who precede us, as well as bridal garlands for the young who remain. Above all, do I object to the popular notion that a garden, because flowerless, is necessarily uninteresting. A good garden is full of buried hopes and glorious resurrections; of swelling bulbs and rooting seeds of a thousand kinds; it is, indeed, the birthplace of miracles, which would be even more wonderful if less common, or if we had the power of seeing and of understanding the full and true value of simple things.

B.

Winter Violets

Violets, when well grown, are of great value during the dull months. To be successful with them they should be placed in their winter quarters about the middle of October. Many fail to bloom them well in early winter, simply because they are too late in planting in frames. They ought to be well rooted in the new soil before winter sets in. When planted in the frames a good watering should be given them, the lights kept off night and day till such time as frost appears. Violets delight in being kept cool; place them near the glass, over which put mats when frosty. If wanted to bloom in pots, pot them so as to have them well rooted, for without plenty of roots Violets always fail.

Horticultural Societies' News

Reading and District Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association

The annual general meeting was held in the Abbey Hall on Monday evening, January 10th, and was presided over by the President (Mr. Frank E. Moring, F.R.H.S.). There was an excellent attendance. The balance-sheet and annual report, as read by the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary, respectively, showed that the Association had enjoyed a most prosperous year and was in a most flourishing condition. The membership had increased, the financial position was exceedingly sound, and the attendances at the meetings were large. Although the season was not so favourable as could be desired, the number of exhibits of flowers, fruit, and vegetables staged at the various meetings was no less than 117. Among the officers elected for 1927 were:—President, Mr. Frank E. Moring; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Alderman F. B. Parfitt, J.P., Mr. Leonard Sutton, C.B.E., and Mr. E. P. Foquett Sutton, M.B.E. (Mily.); Chairman, Mr. J. R. Lloyd; Vice-Chairman, Mr. H. Reeves; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. H. Leaver; Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. G. Cox; Hon. Assistant Secretary, Mr. E. J. Dore; Committee, Messrs. C. S. Clacy, A. H. Fulker, A. H. Gear, F. Goodger, H. C. Loader, C. Moulton and F. Townsend (Reading), H. Broomfield and G. Carter (Mapledurham), A. J. Cobb and H. H. Cook (Shinfield), C. J. Howlett (Earley), W. Chislett and J. Young (Wokingham), M. Goddard (Bear Wood), A. H. Dow and A. W. Gower (Calcot), F. J. Green (Aldermaston), J. Wynn (Checkendon), and H. Wynn (Goring Heath).

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Apple Problems

FTER the recent correspondence in our pages over the vexed question of root-pruning, those outside the controversy st come to the conclusion that experienced deners are not any too well agreed over operation known as root-pruning. Both ools—the root pruners and the non-root ners—are equally emphatic that the other e is wrong. What can the young gar-ler and the beginner think about it all? ither has not had a fairly wide experience are trying to gain information about the stion of root-pruning, to read such a espondence must raise a d deal of doubt in their ids, and to find out that deners of many years' ex-ence hold such opposed vs should make all try and out what is the truth of matter.

o take the root pruners ; they are undoubtedly it up to a point. There ears to be no reason to bt that under certain con-i o n s root-pruning will w into fruit a tree which re has shown little or no ination to fruit. We are re of many such instances. ders should notice that we *under certain conditions.* success of root-pruning ends upon the cause of the being unfruitful. If it be to the effect of the root-k used for that particular ety being of the wrong , root-pruning often does rick. On the other hand, e are many fruit trees h do not crop, due, not to stock influences, but to e r causes. Two such es occurring readily to the l as being sometimes responsible for such res are:—(1) The variety being self-le. (2) The nutrition of the tree being of ilty nature. We fail to see any reason to ose that root-pruning does, or could, el out either of these faults. The root ers are right that the operation will w a variety which is on too vigorous a into fruit. It is a case of two wrongs committed, the second one, that of pruning, being done to cancel out the of using the wrong stock.

e non-root pruners are those who believe they can obtain the same results by less ic methods. They maintain that by er attention to planting, pruning, and uring, root-pruning becomes unneces-We feel inclined to agree with this school, too, but again, only up to a point. As one of the correspondents pointed out, gardeners often obtain a charge which contains really good, healthy trees which ought to be in full bearing and are not. Correct pruning often puts this right, but if it fails we should have no hesitation in trying root-pruning, or even regrafting, as suggested by a correspondent in this week's issue.

Those who are seeking the truth of the question may safely come to the conclusion that the root pruners and the non-root pruners are both right within certain limits.

Orchard and fruit room at Wantage, Berkshire

Favourite varieties in this district are Bramley's Seedling, Newton Wonder, Annie Elizabeth, Christmas Pearmain, and Miller's Seedling. The last named is an early dessert Apple little known outside the county of Berkshire

If the whole of the correspondence is carefully read much useful information can be gained as to the treatment of trees which have been planted a number of years and are making plenty of wood growth, but are unfruitful. If the cause of the unfruitfulness is due to unsuitable root-stock careful root-pruning may be practised, but it should only be carried out as a last resource. Thinning the tree, light tipping of the leaders and laterals, and judicious feeding should be tried first. Pruning and feeding can easily work at cross-purposes, *e.g.*, light pruning and heavy nitrogenous feeding leaves the tree as before, but light pruning and no nitrogenous feeding for a season can have but one end, *i.e.*, less wood growth.

Like many of our readers, we are surprised to see that the idea still holds of placing stone or concrete slabs under a root-system to prevent anchor roots going down. In practice we have never found this to work. We have found that roots made for the purpose of going down on meeting with an obstruction turn aside, grow along the surface of the obstruction until they find the edge, and then down again.

Apples which are bought now for planting should not require to be root-pruned. Owing to the work of the East Malling Research Station we now know considerably more about root-stocks than ever we did, and all those who are planting Apples should make themselves familiar with the work that has been done. There is a right stock for most purposes, and growers have only themselves to blame if they plant Apples on the wrong stock.

Notes of the Week

Blackpool Flower Show

THE first annual Blackpool Flower Show will be held on July 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 1927, and as the energetic Corporation and townspeople are setting about the task of organisation with their usual zeal and enthusiasm, there appears to be no doubt that they will succeed in establishing another first-class flower show in this country. It is to be held in the new 288-acre Stanley Park, which was opened only last October by the Earl of Derby, and the close proximity of the Italian garden and Rose garden, with the tennis courts, bowling greens, golf course, putting green, cricket ground, and 26-acre boating lake, will undoubtedly form an ideal setting for the show. Committees have been formed, and several people well known in the horticultural world have accepted seats thereon and undertaken to give the benefit of their experience. The Mayor of Blackpool is President, whilst Mr. A. Blackburn, Corporation Parks Superintendent, has been elected Show Manager, and Mr. W. Foster, Borough Advertising Manager, is filling the office of Secretary. The schedule is now in course of preparation, and at a recent meeting four trophies, value 100 guineas, 25 guineas, and 20 guineas (2), were promised. The Mayor is now issuing an appeal for

trophies and prizes, and there is every indication that a big number will be received. Exhibitors are to be offered every encouragement and facility.

National Rose Society

This Society is to be congratulated on having secured the use of the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for the Summer Rose Show, to be held on Friday and Saturday, July 1st and 2nd. This was announced at the recent annual meeting of the Society.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Terrace shrubs

If Mr. Bruce Hewitt will look up Gardening Illustrated for February 7th, 1925, he will see that Cotoneaster horizontalis cannot be trusted to limit itself to a growth of 2 feet. Helianthemums of the formosum type are well suited to a low, sunny wall.

A. M. A. H. Rogers.

New Potatoes at Christmas

In your issue of the 8th inst. I note that you wish to know whether others have tried the method previously described in your paper of producing "New Potatoes at Christmas," and I write to say that I have done so. The Potatoes were served on Christmas Day and two or three dishes since, but the flavour has not been up to that of new Potatoes grown under natural conditions, and the tubers have been decidedly on the small size.

Whilst by no means wishing to throw "cold water" on the enthusiasm of the Worthing Allotment Holders' Association, my experience leaves me with the feeling that it is hardly worth the trouble of repeating.

R. Eager,
Medical Superintendent.

The Devon Mental Hospital, Exminster.

January flowers at St. Andrews

In the list I sent you last week (see issue January 22nd, page 46) of plants flowering here the following were accidentally omitted:—Coronilla glauca, Garrya elliptica, and Iris stylosa. We have since had frost, and everything is checked.

C. H. M. Cheape.

Dyer's Brae, St. Andrews.

The Christmas Rose

I should like to endorse "C. R.'s" remarks on the Christmas Rose in your issue of the 22nd inst. My own plants are unusually good this year, largely owing to a very kind letter of instructions received from an exhibitor of Hellebores at Vincent Square in 1926. Some years ago I gathered a handful of wonderful blooms in the woods above Belagio (Como). They were very much finer than any I have seen in England, and, if I remember rightly, the petals were more pointed. I cannot remember if they showed the "marbled pink colour" which is characteristic of H. maximus. Is this a recognised form and can it be obtained in England?

C. Prentis.

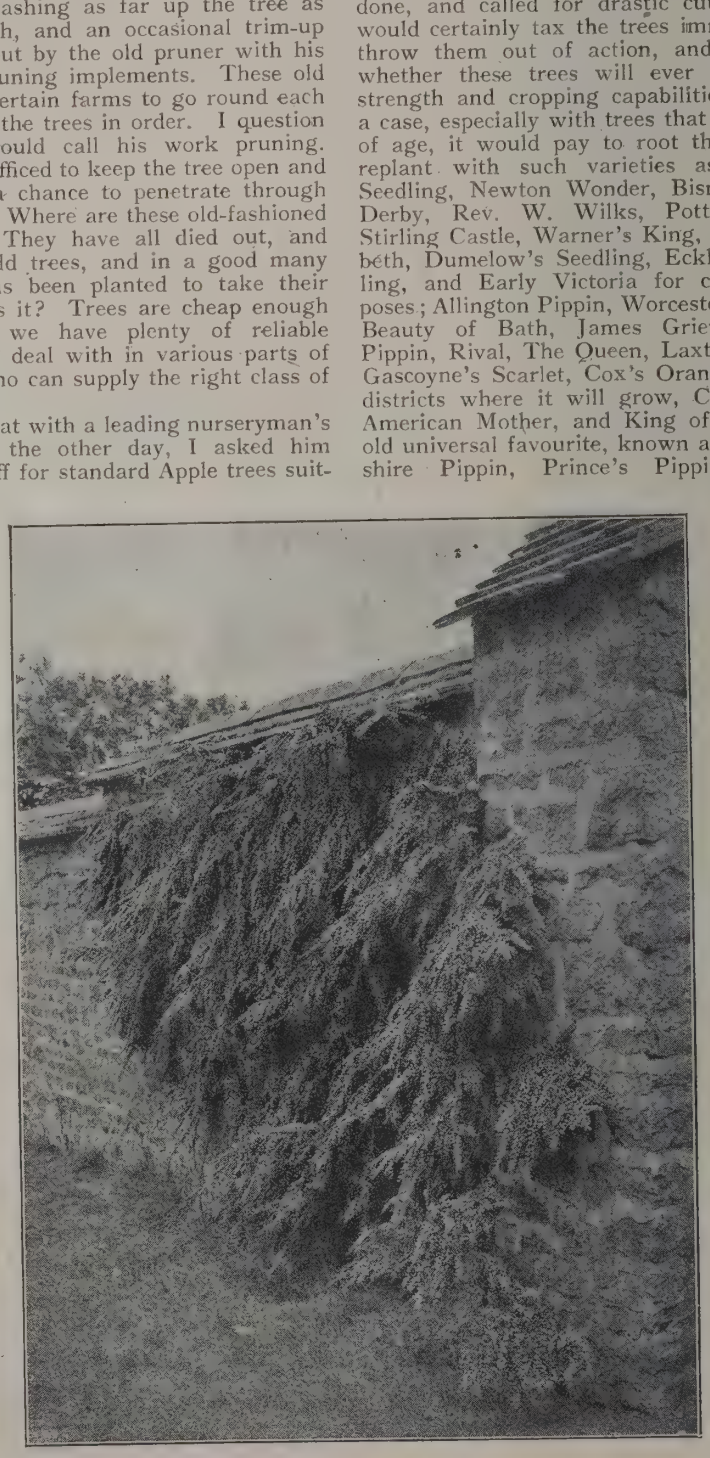
Posiers, Borden, near Sittingbourne.

Does Fruit Growing Pay?

This is the heading of a most interesting article that appears on the leading page of the issue of Gardening Illustrated dated the 22nd inst. in reply to "A Disillusionised Apple Grower." I am one that can vouch that fruit-growing will pay in suitable counties, of which Shropshire is one, providing the right kinds of trees are planted and properly cared for from the commencement. It is certainly amazing to go through the counties of Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, and some parts of Monmouthshire and see the amount of depleted orchards that in days gone by were the pride of the farms. Not only had the owners a certain amount of pot fruit for sale, but were always able to fill their casks with home-made cider in most seasons. In those days there were no such bother and trouble as spraying and grease-banding. In many cases they received an annual whitewashing as far up the tree as one could reach, and an occasional trim-up and thinning out by the old pruner with his curious tree-pruning implements. These old worthies had certain farms to go round each year and keep the trees in order. I question whether we could call his work pruning. However, it sufficed to keep the tree open and give the sun a chance to penetrate through the branches. Where are these old-fashioned men to-day? They have all died out, and likewise the old trees, and in a good many cases none has been planted to take their place. Why is it? Trees are cheap enough to buy, and we have plenty of reliable nurserymen to deal with in various parts of the country who can supply the right class of tree.

Having a chat with a leading nurseryman's representative the other day, I asked him how he was off for standard Apple trees suitable for farm orchard planting. He says, "Any amount of splendid trees with little or no sale for them. I only wish we had as many standard Roses." Planting has been sadly neglected during the last 20 years, and it is time the landowners looked into the affair. It is not every farmer who can afford to plant new orchards unless they are the actual owners, but the same cannot be said of the large owner who lets out his farms. Protecting against animals and correct staking is another matter that is neglected in many cases, and many trees are ruined annually.

"A Disillusionised Apple Grower" states that up to the year 1913 his trees had been attended to and pruned. Between that year and 1921 they were neglected. One can quite realise what state they would be in after seven years. Far worse than if they had never been pruned. No doubt when the work was done in 1921 it was thoroughly done, and called for drastic cutting, which would certainly tax the trees immensely and throw them out of action, and I question whether these trees will ever regain their strength and cropping capabilities. In such a case, especially with trees that are 40 years of age, it would pay to root them out and replant with such varieties as Bramley's Seedling, Newton Wonder, Bismarck, Lord Derby, Rev. W. Wilks, Pott's Seedling, Stirling Castle, Warner's King, Annie Elizabeth, Dumelow's Seedling, Ecklinville Seedling, and Early Victoria for culinary purposes; Allington Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, Beauty of Bath, James Grieve, Sturmer Pippin, Rival, The Queen, Laxton's Superb, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Cox's Orange Pippin in districts where it will grow, Charles Ross, American Mother, and King of Pippins, an old universal favourite, known also as Shropshire Pippin, Prince's Pippin, Seek-no-



Cotoneaster horizontalis on a north wall in Mr. Thackeray Turner's garden at Westbrook, Godalming

rther, and other non de plumes. All these rieties are reliable croppers in most years, d the fruit will always find a ready sale.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

—— Perhaps the best answer that can be en to this question is to come to Kent and to buy some land suitable for fruit-grow-g. If this can be found under £100 an acre will be rather exceptional. Fruit-growing, e other industries, has its ups and downs, d its success also depends upon the man in arge as much as in any other business. uit-growers are far from being content to down and wait, but great efforts are being de, with Government assistance, to im-ve culture and packing, to organise sell-, and to utilise bye-products, and it will t be long before standardised boxes of glish fruit, such as those imported from oad, will be on the market. All those o have experience of business will know w much easier it is to standardise products export trade than to do the same for ernal sale, as the Government of the ex-ting country refuse to allow any goods to ss which are not up to standard. This ndardisation can be only done within the ntry itself by co-operation of the grower, d, as I have said above, great progress has eady been made in this direction. The ge imports of fruit give great encourage-nt to fruit-growers at home, showing how uable their market is, and for a great por-n of the year this demand can be supplied h British fruit. If America, with its high ges added to the cost of freight from Cali-nia, can sell us fruit at 6d. per lb. it is ite certain we can compete against this, vided always that a standardised product available.

There could be no better illustration of the perior quality of English cooking Apples n the fact that for the past few years in spring during the height of the imported ple season Bramley's Seedling have been ching from 15s. to 21s. per bushel, show-that the British housewife knows that in season and for its special purpose this ple is unexcelled.

The decline of the small farm orchard is, haps, not to be regretted. Specialisation st come in this as in other things, and it is non-specialist grower who fills our mar-s with third-rate fruit and so seriously oresses the price. As soon as standardised glish Apples can be purchased freely on market they will be found in the village cer's shop as easily as imported fruit is at present time, and in the long-run we may st consumers to find out its superior ality.

EDWARD A. BUNYARD.

—— The sentence "We know that we can duce the finest Apples in the world" in leading article of your issue of January d, if correct, makes the importation of les to the annual value of £9,500,000 in-usable. But can we put Apples on the rket to compete in beauty and flavour with Americans? I doubt it. The home-wn eating Apples are hard and sour com-ed with those that come from Canada and States in such quantities. If I am wrong e is a fine new field for a Society of Apple owers, which would not lack political sup-t! I write from Renfrewshire. Perhaps r correspondent, "Formakin," will be d enough to give his opinion. POMONA.

If "Pomona" would visit the leading ex-itions of home-grown fruit he would come the conclusion that we can produce the st Apples in the world. Imported Apples graded to a high standard. Why should not raise the standard of home-grown duce? There is no excuse for home-wn Apples being hard and sour. Speak-generally, home-grown Apples, both sert and cooking, are of better flavour than those sent from overseas. Unfortunately, much of the produce sent to markets from English orchards is inferior. It is up to the home grower to improve his methods of production and distribution.—ED.]

Tillandsia Lindeni Davallii
This Tillandsia, with a clear blue flower, was shown at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society on January 11th

A handsome Bromeliad

AT the first meeting this year of the Royal Horticultural Society Mr. L. R. Russell, of Richmond, showed a very beautiful and interesting Tillandsia under the name T. Davallii. The plant in question sent up a strong, closely-imbricated inflorescence. The flower, of which only one is open at a time, is of clear blue. There are about 120 species of Tillandsia, most of them handsome stove plants, but now seldom seen outside botanical gardens. Tillandsias are usually known as "air-plants." T. usneoides is the Old Man's Beard, which makes no roots and requires no soil, and was at one time often seen in stoves festooned on to blocks of cork or soft wood, and a little Sphagnum Moss about them.

C. T. K.

Forcing Lily of the Valley

In reference to an article on forcing Lily of the Valley, page 35 of issue January 15th, the writer recommends retarded crowns. But why retarded? At this time of year it is much better to obtain good Berlin or home-grown crowns. I have forced many thousands of these subjects and always used retarded crowns from June till December, and they will bloom in about a fortnight from the time of potting if stood in a warm greenhouse with a temperature of about 55 degs. The crowns under notice would have bloomed in May and June of last year had they not been put into cold storage. The non-retarded crowns will, of course, respond to the treatment recommended by W. E. Wright.

G. T. FRESHWATER.

Loniceras not flowering

How can Lonicera fragrantissima and L. Thibetica be best induced to flower? They both grow vigorously.

A. M. A. H. R.

Oxford.

[It is not unusual for these Loniceras to grow vigorously at the expense of flowering. We have a Lonicera fragrantissima under observation. It is growing all too freely against a south-west wall. We contemplate root-pruning! The experience of others would be welcome.—ED.]

An early Snowdrop

The first Snowdrops of the season are always welcomed with joy. It is seldom that the common Galanthus nivalis can be picked before the end of January, so that any species or variety which will come in earlier may well be regarded as a desirable acquisition. Galanthus cilicicus is a most satisfactory species for this reason; it begins to appear about mid-November, and is usually in flower from early December till well on in January, when the Elwesii forms are out. It requires no special care, and soon forms a nice clump if left alone after the manner of its kind. Naturally, it deserves a choice spot in the rock garden where its large flowers may receive some shelter from bitter gales, but it is wonderful to find what buffetings they will withstand. G. cilicicus is frequently offered in autumn bulb lists, and should be planted as early as possible, since all Snowdrops suffer from being out of the ground for long. A small collection of the rarer Snowdrops adds immensely to the interest of any rock garden in the dullest months of the year.

N. G. HADDEN.

Parochetus communis

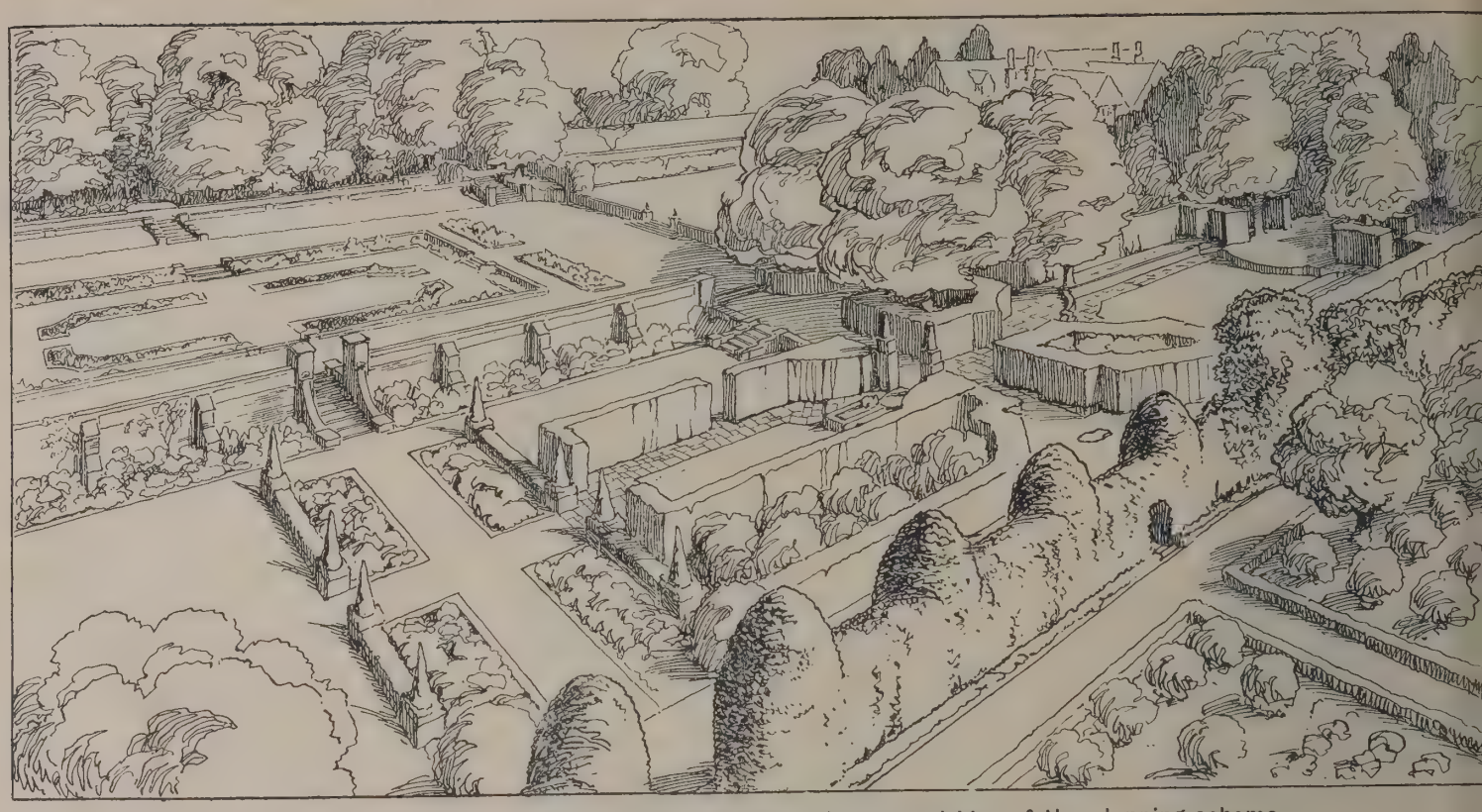
I was pleased to see "E. M.'s" praise of this beautiful little blue-flowered plant, but at the same time I think would-be growers should realise that, when really thriving, it is a very rapid-growing plant and liable to smother weaker neighbours. It certainly revels in plenty of sunshine and moisture combined. During the past dry summer I kept my small bog-bed well watered, with the result that Parochetus got quite out of hand and swamped a number of choice Primulas and other small plants. Every scrap of root left in the soil will grow if conditions are favourable, although in some gardens Parochetus can only be kept going with great difficulty. The bank of a stream, where it could spread far and wide, would be an ideal spot to establish a colony. I attempted to grow it in a shady, damp rock garden without any success, and am sure it requires the combination of sun and moisture.

N. G. HADDEN.

Grafting Apples and Pears

Where trees of these are found to be unfruitful year after year, either from the varieties being unsuited to the locality, over-luxuriance, or other causes, the best way of converting them quickly into fruitful trees is to cut the entire head off, not too closely, and to graft it all over with some trustworthy sort. By this means a healthy head of bearing wood is speedily developed, small branches healing much more rapidly than large limbs that are liable to decay, and so cause the destruction of the entire tree. Double-grafted trees, as a rule, bloom more abundantly than single-grafted ones, as, owing to over-luxuriance being checked, the energies of the tree appear to be more directed towards forming blossom than wood buds.

J. G.



The Priory, Orpington. Bird's-eye view indicating the general idea of the planning scheme

The hedges are shown "prophetically"—as they should appear when fully grown

More Garden Planning—IV.

(Concluded from page 52)

MY two architect friends, as I have said, saw the garden first when the bordered path (BB, see plan, p. 50) had been laid out. Their scheme for connecting it with the theatre (which is at present in course of construction) occupied a space about 40 ft. long by 25 ft. wide. The transverse path CC crossing BB passes between a pair of finials with Box pyramids similar to those described, and then branches into two paths paved with stone on each side of a grass plat (Fig. A). Two low steps on each side worked on an ingeniously-shaped curve bring them together again at the far end, and we leave the "Approach" at a point marked by a pair of simple brick piers standing on the line of the sloping path (Fig. B). The centre line of the "Approach" is marked by a long narrow pool fed from a raised trough between the curving steps. This feature has not yet been carried out. The walls of the "Approach" are Yew hedges, which, when fully grown, will be about 6½ feet high. The bird's-eye view above gives a fair idea of what its appearance may reasonably be expected to be in six or seven years' time. At present the Yew trees average about 3 feet high, and they all look as though they were determined to fulfil their appointed task. As witty visitors insist on referring to the "Approach" to the theatre as the Box Office, possibly the Yews ought to have been Box trees. Box would have answered the purpose equally well except that I think it is difficult to get a really satisfactory Box hedge much more than 5 feet to 6 feet high without a tendency to thinness at the foot. The long, narrow character of the "Approach" left two spaces, one on each side of it, for treatment. The right-hand one, going towards the theatre, we have planted with flowering shrubs, which will eventually, I am afraid, be more or less hidden. They will be concealed on the one hand by the Yew hedge of the "Approach" and on the other by a Laurel hedge which is to follow the line of the path running on the lawn side of the big Holly hedge. They will then form a thicket after the manner of a *bosco* in an Italian garden scheme. On the opposite side of the "Approach" the remaining space has been left with the turf of the old tennis lawn, and there is a central opening to it through the Yew hedge. Possibly, in time, this may become *bosco* also.

B.—The "Approach," looking back from the theatre

Thickly-planted clumps of this kind are, indeed, all part of the plan to counteract the too open character of the original garden. I have already indicated that this was one of the objects in view when we built the big buttressed retaining wall, which achieves this end admirably when the garden is entered from the house. There is, however, another way of entry to the garden, along a pa leading from the drive. It is by this pa that visitors come when the grounds are us for such purposes as church or hospital fêt This path is indicated in the centre of extreme right of the bird's-eye view abo (In this view it should be mentioned tha big Horse Chestnut tree is omitted so as show the lay-out of the theatre.) Any entering from this point in the old days sa at a glance, a great part of the whole gar with the exception of the kitchen portion the orchard, which are screened off by Holly hedge. When all the new hedges full-grown it will not be possible, with getting right inside the garden, to see a thing but carefully-arranged vistas. first of these will be at the lower end of sloping gravel path which leads past the p at the end of the "Approach" (itself invis from that point), up to the parterre, and the flight of brick steps to the terrace bey (axial line DD, plan, p. 50). The next v will be along the line BB.

By way of an aside it may be interes briefly to describe how this plan works for fête purposes. The swings and rou abouts, hoop-la, Aunt Sally, and the Co nuts are confined to the broad spaces of meadow. Tea and refreshments are prov on the terrace, and the revellers are se only on production of a ticket. Member the public enter by the main gates at the of the drive and proceed along the pat the Holly hedge. When they reach the spot they are confronted not only by the ticing vista (see Fig. C) leading right up wall steps to the shade of the terrace bey but also by an ingratiating person, who o them tea tickets. Only with these are able to peep along the line CC, inspec leisure the herbaceous borders, and mour the delights of the parterre! Others remain hungry and gaze only from afar We have found, even with the hedges st their early stages, that this has earn quite respectable sum for the funds.

C. E.

THE PRIORY, ORPINGTON

A.—*Above:* Vista looking towards the tennis lawn from the "Approach" to the theatre
C.—*Below:* Central vista showing the new retaining wall and the steps leading to the terrace in the distance

EXPEDITIONS IN SEEDLAND

THIS is the time of the year when seed catalogues are being posted all over the country by firms whose business it is to supply the needs of the gardener, be he professional or amateur. There is always something fascinating in the perusal of a new issue, and during the nights, when as yet it is impossible to do any gardening outside, one can at least be preparing the way for a good start later by making a selection of seeds one will need. That is not all. We shall be doing our seedsman a good turn if, without undue delay, we can let him have our order, so that his staff may not be rushed, as is often the case about Easter, when so many wake up to the fact that it is gardening time.

SELECTIONS.—It is a good plan to review last year's experience and to be guided by results. Some things did not turn out so well as was expected, but it may not have been the fault of the seed. It may have been a too impoverished state of the soil, or because we sowed too early. In making out a list it is best to start with the essentials—things which we must have both in vegetables and flowers, afterwards making a tour of the catalogue again for anything outside the usual order of things. It is always a good thing to try one or two flowers or vegetables which we have not ventured on before, quite apart from novelties, in order to gain fresh knowledge, and so be able to form our own opinion as to their merits, although they may have been highly recommended by friends. Personal experience of plants grown in one's own garden counts for much.

NOVELTIES.—These, as a rule, are priced higher than the general run of goods in the catalogue, and sometimes prevent their being procured extensively the first year, but it is well to try one or two, as, not infrequently, the outcome of the crop, or of the flowers produced, more than justifies the price paid for the seed. In the perusal of catalogues there is pleasure, which is enhanced when on some morning the postman delivers the parcel all in good time for the spring and the work which all gardeners look for.

Two new Godetias
Sutton's Double Shell Pink (*left*) and Double Rich Pink (*right*)

New Sweet Peas and other novelties

The list of novelties offered by Messrs. Carters is remarkable for its Sweet Peas. It is seldom we see so many novelties offered by one firm, and yet it goes without saying that only the best and most distinct varieties of merit are offered. The pick of the novelties include Ruddigore (brilliant blood-scarlet), Delight (salmon-pink), Gladness (coral-pink), Dominion (rich rose-cerise), Purple Beauty (deep purple self), and Chieftain, the outstanding satiny-mauve that gained a gold medal and an Award of Merit last year. The list is indispensable to all lovers of the Sweet Pea.

The very mention of Sweet Peas brings to mind the name of Henry Eckford, so long associated with the Queen of Annuals. The 39th annual catalogue, with coloured plates of Sweet Peas, is now being issued, and the novelties for the year include Mrs. John Eckford (waved rose), June Prossor (light pink), and Sydne Carton (a unique colour described as a shad of light French Mulberry). Mr. W. J. Unw has a new Sweet Pea of outstanding merit Mrs. Horace Wright. Mr. Unwin tells that this novelty is not surpassed for vigou size, shape, stem, and general usefulnes It is classified under the heading "Flushes. and was the finest variety in exhibition rov at Histon last year. The crimson-tint Sybil Henshaw is another to bear in min Mr. Unwin is also sending out a heavy cro ping culinary Pea, Cantab, and a most pr lific Tomato named Histon Ideal, producin perfectly-shaped fruits of medium size, firm fleshy, and of excellent flavour (see illustr tion on page opposite).

Messrs. Sutton and Sons are sending out new Sweet Pea, Sutton's Avalanche, a r markable variety. The flowers are of gro substance and possess a glistening sheen striking contrast to the dead white effe usually associated with other varieties in th section. Although of immense size, the d lightfully frilled blooms are very refined, a are borne throughout the season in fours a fives on stout stems of great length. It w prove indispensable to exhibitors and tho who require a free-growing variety for ga den decoration.

The same firm have this year introduc two charming new varieties of Godeti Sutton's Double Shell Pink and Sutto Double Rich Pink, both of which were rais in their Langley Seed Grounds. The lightful shell-pink flowers of the former a the no less charming bright glossy pi flowers of the latter are worthy additions that very popular summer annual. Godet are easy to grow, and they bloom freely fo long period. The loosely-arranged flow carried on long graceful sprays make th two new varieties exceptionally suitable decorative purposes.

Messrs. Sutton's Potato, Glasg Favourite, is remarkable for its cropp powers, the yield being quite above the av age maincrop varieties. The plant posses a very strong constitution, and is capable resisting the Potato disease to an exceptio degree. This seedling has also been certi as being immune to wart disease. tubers are oval, with shallow eyes, and white flesh will find much favour on the t for its excellent quality.

Of the novelties offered by Messrs. Edw Webb and Sons (Stourbridge) special men should be made of Senator Pea. This spr did early maincrop Pea was raised at Wel Kinver Trial and Experimental Grounds, has been awarded a First-class Certificat the Royal Horticultural Society. Owing its remarkable cropping properties and cooking quality it is considered by many l ing gardeners to be the finest all-round of its class in cultivation. It is certainly of the most popular and profitable Peas raised, and year after year it is more ex sively grown, both in private gardens an market gardeners. It is a very remark cropper, the pods being produced mostl pairs. They are of good size and con on an average, about nine large Peas, w are sweet in flavour. It is of branching h and grows from 2½ feet to 3 feet in height

Mention should also be made of Web Perfection Aster, a distinct and beau strain in the following colours:—Pi purple, and carmine-rose.

Webbs' Wonderful Lettuce is a house

ne amongst Lettuce growers. It produces d and compact hearts of large size and utiful quality, and stands a long time ore running to seed. In the Royal Horticultural Society's Lettuce Trials at Wisley, bbs' Wonderful was highly commended its splendid all-round merits.

Modern Antirrhinums

o garden of to-day is complete without its s or borders of Antirrhinums, and all rs of the Snapdragon must feel that they e a debt of gratitude to Messrs. W. H. pson and Sons, Birmingham, for the ny new and pleasing shades of colour they e introduced in recent years. The dern Antirrhinum is highly prized in pub- parks and gardens. As so much interest w taken in raising Antirrhinums from d we quote the following from Messrs. H. Simpson and Sons' latest catalogue :—

Practically any soil and position suit, viding they are not in constant shade, or er the drip of trees. Being lime-loving its, a liberal, or even heavy dressing uld be applied some little time before uring and digging the ground, as for a eral crop; or, if this latter process is done y in the winter, the lime may be top- ssed six weeks after, remaining on the ace a little time before being forked in. e must be taken to periodically cut out spikes of bloom as they fade, so prevent- the plants going to seed; this should be ematically carried out as in Viola-grow- and the plants should be gone over at t once a week from the time that the first es are past their best. By this means a judicious and light application of some rficial manure at intervals of a month, e old-time favourites will continue in om until frosts cut them down. Autumn- n Antirrhinums flower in the south early une, and even in May; in the Midlands North at the end of June. As under ect treatment they continue in bloom until ts cut them down, this is the better hod.

Antirrhinum seed sent out is tested for mination by us three times in the year, naturally we do not distribute seed of germinating quality. We make this ement, for at times it is very difficult seed aise, and many growers have trouble in direction, even obtaining good results one variety and a total failure with her when the seed has all been sown at same time, apparently under identical itions. Seed should never be sown in open ground.

"Soil for sowing should consist of two s of good rotten loam, one of leaf-mould, all quantity of silver sand, and some old ar-rubble; if the last is unprocurable, a sprinkling of a suitable lime.

"Fill boxes or pans with soil, using the h in the bottom, making good drainage, e water, and a few hours after sow the e. If constant and proper care can be , do not cover seeds with soil, but shade paper over glass until germination takes e. If this cannot be given, barely cover eed with fine sifted soil and place in cool e or cold frame. Water should not be ed until germination takes place. The erature should not be allowed to rise e 55 degs. to 60 degs. Fahrenheit. mn sowing is best made in August to le plants to become strong enough to stand the winter. Further, seed germi- irregularly after this date. Spring sow- hould be made in January or February.

"When the seedlings are big enough to le, prick off 2 inches apart into boxes for rence, or frames. Grow on as cool as ble, only giving sufficient protection to de frost, and taking care at all times to over-water. Pinch the point out of autumn-sown plants in February, and as soon as spring-sown plants are 3 inches high, to make them bushy. It is an advantage to pot up into 3-in. or 3½-in. pots autumn-sown plants in February and spring-sown plants soon as large enough, as they will not then feel the shift into their flowering positions later. As spring advances give more and more air, gradually hardening off ready for planting."

New Tomato Histon Ideal, an immense cropper
A great future is expected for this valuable novelty

Messrs. Lowe and Gibson draw attention to the ease and enjoyment there is in growing Gladioli from seed. Where it is done the growers are most enthusiastic. Messrs. Lowe and Gibson were the first to encourage this method, and they have been particularly delighted with the response. They are constantly receiving letters from those who are delighted with results.

Messrs. Robert Veitch and Son are sending out the new Celery, Veitch's Early Rose, of bright rose colour, which received an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society and is, without doubt, one of the best pink Celerys in cultivation. The new Tomato, Prince of Wales, is also offered this year. It is a splendid variety for cultivation either inside or in the open. Of the flower novelties special mention should be made of the new Wallflower, Veitch's Rose Queen, of a beautiful rose colour, very effective and attractive when planted in beds. Readers should make a special note of this novelty. It is entirely new and quite an acquisition to the Wallflower family.

In Barr and Son's very comprehensive catalogue we notice two or three interesting novelties which call for special attention. Aster lichiangensis, a hardy perennial Alpine Aster from China which was described by the late Mr. Reginald Farrer as a "Bonus of the Gods." It produces a stem 3 inches high, bearing a single bloom of lovely purple. This Aster needs a well-watered, stony soil, mixed with peat and sand. The fine "Spetchley" strain extra selected, Polyanthus Primrose, which secured the Award of Merit and Silver Floral Medal, is a new strain which was raised by the late Mrs. Berkeley, of Spetchley Park, Worcester. Messrs. Barr grow a good stretch of this at their Taplow Nurseries, and for two or three years they have been weeding out all washy colours which were in the original strain. The strain is now probably as fine as it can be. An improvement on the Giant White Bush Poppy of California has been secured in Romneya trichocalyx. This hardy perennial blooms more freely and bears very large white flowers with golden stamens. Another novelty which we believe will secure popularity is Violet Zariza, a charming new sweet-scented Violet

bearing flowers of a soft delicate rose, which has the advantage of being pretty well fixed.

Toogood's California Meadow Mixture is listed by the well-known Southampton seedsmen. This mixture is specially suitable for transforming odd corners and waste pieces of ground into bright and beautiful patches, and comprises many freely-blooming and delightful flowers. Starlight annual Chrysanthemum, easily grown from sowings made out of doors in April. They are ideal for cutting and have pure primrose-yellow petals, their beauty being enhanced by the chocolate centre of the blossom. An introduction from South Africa is a sub-shrub hardy known as Scabiosa anthemifolia rosea, which is hardy in many parts of the United Kingdom. It attains a height of about 2½ feet and is smothered with rosy-pink blossoms having a suggestion of mauve. It can be raised from seed sown outside in April, and requires a well-drained position in full sunlight.

During the last few years Laxton Bros. have raised some Peas of special merit, including Bedford Champion, which is said to be the best early Pea raised since Gradus in 1889. It is much more robust than the latter; the pods and haulm are of exceptionally dark green. Banqueter is considered by many as one of the best early Peas now in commerce. The quality is first-class when cooked, and is a very heavy-cropping variety. Another highly-recommended early Pea of the dwarf variety is Progress. It contains, on the average, nine to 10 Peas in a pod, of the finest quality.

In Mr. Dawkins' list appear three novelties which he describes as the best of the season. These are Antirrhinum His Excellency, a pure scarlet variety with no orange in the colouring and coming almost entirely true from seed. This is considered an improvement on Flame; Eschscholtzia, semi-double Toreador, golden-brown with intense orange-crimson reverse, a beautiful new variety; Œnothera trichocalyx, a new Evening Primrose of silvery glaucous foliage, snowy-white flowers with golden anthers.

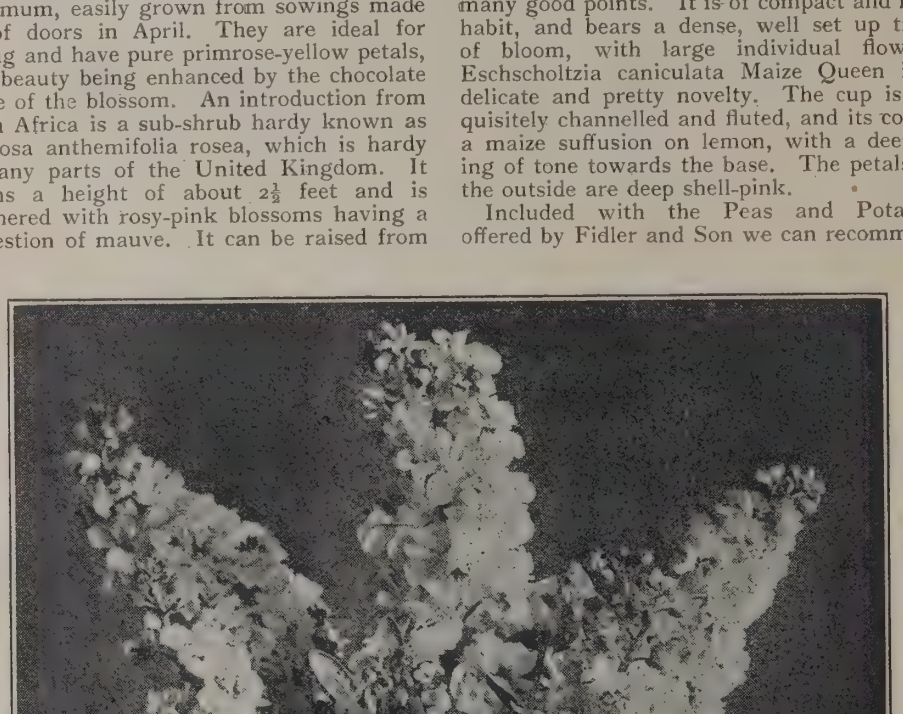
Among the varieties of the new class of Antirrhinum known as Majestic, included in Robert Sydenham's list is Sunset, which has many good points. It is of compact and neat habit, and bears a dense, well set up truss of bloom, with large individual flowers. Eschscholtzia caniculata Maize Queen is a delicate and pretty novelty. The cup is exquisitely channelled and fluted, and its colour a maize suffusion on lemon, with a deepening of tone towards the base. The petals on the outside are deep shell-pink.

Included with the Peas and Potatoes offered by Fidler and Son we can recommend Zenith Pea and Golden Marvel Potato. The former secured the Award of Merit after trials at Wisley last summer. It is a sturdy, healthy grower, producing pods which surpass most varieties of other dwarf Peas. The pods contain as many as 10 fine Peas, the flavour of which is excellent. Golden Marvel is a new immune variety which was offered for the first time last season. It is a cross between Abundance and Golden Wonder, and has already proved a Potato worth growing. It is a maincrop variety with first-rate cooking and keeping qualities.

Several first-class vegetable seed novelties figured this year in Hewitt and Co.'s list are highly recommended. Among the flower seeds are several Antirrhinums, including Red Emperor. Up to now Empress has held the palm for brilliance and depth of colour, but to many its tint is too dark. Emperor is distinctly lighter in shade and may be described as a rich, deep scarlet. It is certainly one of the finest colours yet produced "Snaps." Dazzler is one of the interm ate class which Hewitt's have raised. plants present a mass of dazzling light let bloom. Being of a very compact symmetrical habit, Dazzler makes a ma ficent bedder.

Ryder and Son are this season offe several really good items, which include Sunshine Tree Lupin. This was give Award of Merit by the R.H.S., and worthy addition to the family. The p are more symmetrical than Snow Queen, in June and July are covered with flo borne in graceful racemes. The flower yellow, shaded with most charming pin sunshine effect. Lilium regale is a new wonderful Lily raised easily from seed. flowers are white, suffused yellow, brown shading. They are as larg auratum, and the plants are about 3 high. Godetia Whitneyi azaleiflora is a attractive novelty, an absolutely annual. The flowers are rose with ca blotch on each petal and cover the The plants are of splendid bushy habit resemble a greenhouse Azalea.

Kelway and Son are offering several ties this year, including varieties of Decoration. Under this name we re mend a strain of Branching Asters, in a usual colours coming perfectly true to co The flowers are large and of the most be ful form, with very long petals. Two st are offered, one a week earlier than the Tomato Langportonian is a first-class va in every respect. It produces round, sm fruit of regular size and shape, averagin or seven to the pound, borne in fine tru It is a free setter and splendid for the and for exhibition. A very fine selecti Perfect Model Globe Beet, having very top with scarcely any leaf. The root easy to pull, as they grow on the su with only a very slender tap-root in ground. The flesh is very rich in fl compared with ordinary kinds.



Double White East Lothian Stock

East Lothian Stocks

THIS useful and popular strain of mediate Stocks is excellent eithe summer bedding or flowering in autumn, and the plants are also well ad to pot culture. When required for be the seeds should be sown in pots under during the autumn, but for late summe autumn flowering the seeds should be in gentle heat during March. The a panying illustration serves to show decorative quality of these flowers arranged in large bowls. As the indicates, this family of Stocks origina the East Lothian district of Scotland there are varieties with purple, r crimson, pink, and white flowers. flowers are fully double and the spikes good size and substance. The East Lo are favourites with market growers.

H. Grea

Vegetables in 1927—prepara and planning

It is always best to prepare the p tended for vegetables as long before and planting as possible. Though d is limited, as yet, rough-digging a por the ground each week will be found siderable help. Planning should alwa cede planting or sowing. It is profit sit down for an hour or so and make a plan of the space at our disposal, and to each crop the room that can be giving special consideration to veg which are most needed in the home plan method is particularly desirable amateur's garden where ground is

ny lose sight of the importance of pro-ing a piece of ground solely for winter ens, apart from any other vegetables, in-ad of contenting themselves with "drop-g them in" between rows of Potatoes. nter greens should not be treated as ants of the soil that rightly belongs to an ortant crop, but ought to have ground l prepared and made rich. Brussels outs grown "on their own," *versus* those nted amongst other things, make a good parison, the first-named always doing the t.

Vith a plan outlined there is no need for thing of real importance to be left out.

An average crop of Webbs' Senator Pea, showing the remarkable cropping properties of this most prolific and popular variety

out a plan it is haphazard work, and, in nd, is not always satisfactory. Memo. 927, "Cultivate the plan habit."

Wisley Vegetable trials

e following awards have been made to ndermentioned vegetables by the Coun-f the Royal Horticultural Society after at Wisley:—

LERIAC.—Award of Merit: Snowball and t Ball, sent by Messrs. Heinemann. ly commended: Close Planting, sent by rs. A. Dickson and Sons.

RDEN SWEDES.—Highly commended: White Selected, sent by Messrs. Barr Sons; White Smooth, Yellow Neckless, Yellow, and Perfection Purple Top, by Messrs. Dickson and Robinson. nended: Laing's Garden, sent by Messrs. Kelway and Son; Garden Selected, sent by Messrs. Dobbie and Co.

ARTICHOKES.—Highly commended: Fuseau (Helianthus tuberous), sent by the Hon. Vicary Gibbs.

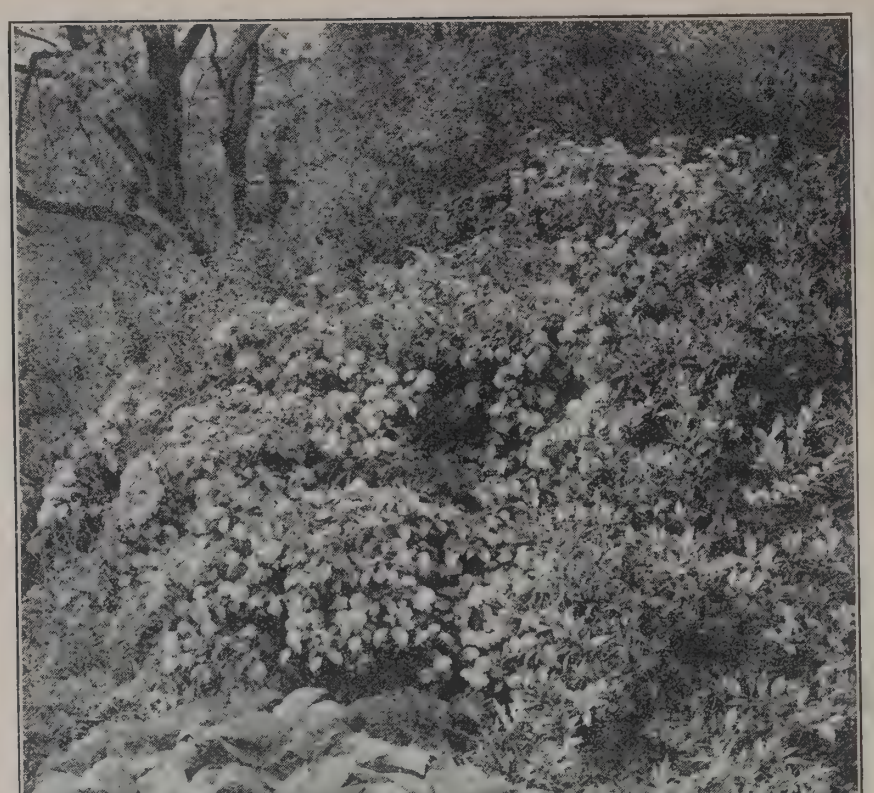
TREES AND SHRUBS

Pernettyas in winter

IN winter the Pernettyas are among the most beautiful of low-growing shrubs. Pernettya mucronata is a low-growing evergreen bush with sharp-pointed leaves, and the berries, which are about the size of Peas, are crimson in colour. It is a native of the extreme southern part of America, bordering on the Straits of Magellan, and is perfectly hardy in this country. Indeed, it is sometimes used for game coverts, and as birds are very fond of the berries, that should be a point in its favour when employed for such a purpose. In the berries of the newer varieties some beautiful shades are to be found, and, apart from the value of the plants as outdoor shrubs, they show to great advantage in a greenhouse during winter. The plants should be lifted carefully from the open ground and potted just before the berries begin to colour, and very beautiful they are throughout the winter, for the plants do not suffer any injury by being moved. In common with many other Ericaceous plants the Pernettyas can be lifted at almost any season without danger, owing to the dense mass of their hair-like roots. One thing to bear in mind is that, as the small fibres are very delicate, they should be exposed as little as possible to the drying effects of the atmosphere. Seeds not only of the older kind, but also of the newer varieties, come up readily enough; indeed, we have quite a crop of seedlings, the produce of the named varieties, but as yet none of them are large enough to fruit. The berries were simply rubbed up, and mixed with some silver sand to dry up the pulp and separate them from each other, when they were sown in a compost consisting of peat and sand, and were protected by a frame. Apart from any consideration as to their berry-bearing qualities, the Pernettyas are very pretty flowering shrubs; indeed, about May, when densely laden with small, but pure white Lily of the Valley-like flowers, they at once arrest attention, and have the additional merit of remaining a long time in perfection. If a few sprays are cut just as the blooms are on the point of expanding and placed in water, they will keep fresh indoors for a long time.

Azara microphylla

Though it can be safely pronounced as perfectly hardy in many localities, this South American shrub is such a beautiful evergreen that it is well worth the protection of a greenhouse, for it is one of those subjects that can be kept outside during the summer, and in the winter are available for the decoration of the conservatory, or for indoor furnishing in places where the more delicate plants might be injured by draughts or cutting winds. The glossy character of the foliage of this Azara is a considerable advantage when employed in this manner, as the accumulation of dust which sooner or later collects on room plants can be readily removed by the syringe. The Azaras are all ornamental evergreen shrubs, natives of South America; but the most graceful is A. microphylla. It is a regular-growing shrub, reaching a height of 6 feet or 12 feet, with the branches arranged in a fan-shaped manner, and thickly clothed with small, deep green, glossy leaves. The flowers are inconspicuous, but this is atoned for by the beautiful foliage. When occupying an isolated position it forms a somewhat globular-shaped bush, built up, as it were, by numerous tiers of flat, fan-like branches.



Plants for shrub edges

Nordmannia cordifolia and Acanthus spinosus under Viburnum plicatum

Foliage plants for shrub edges

WHERE there are groups of flowering shrubs nearly abutting on lawn there are apt to be spaces between and in front of them that require furnishing. Small plants, and any that have the rather weak habit of so many of the annuals, or the usual plants for summer filling, would look inadequate; the places demand some growths of more important aspect. The two plants shown in the illustrations may be recommended. Nordmannia cordifolia, otherwise known as Borago orientalis, is early in bloom, but the flower is not of much importance. It is followed by the handsome foliage that remains good all the summer. The leaves are a full, deep green, with a harsh texture that seems to be uninviting to insects, for the mass of foliage remains uninjured. It forms a pleasant groundwork for the bloom of the bush of Viburnum plicatum that is just above it. It is a strong-growing thing and does well in London gardens.

Another desirable plant for shrub edges is Acanthus spinosus, which is the best of the family for garden use; it is more interesting than A. mollis and its varieties, and not so overmuch cut up as A. spinosissimus. This, by the side of the Nordmannia with its sharply-cut and glossy leaves, is a good companion to the polished foliage of the Japan Privet which is just above it. The sa happy association of sharp-cut form a glossy foliage is shown in the second pictu where the Acanthus fills the space betwee green Holly and a garden path. Later in year this fine plant throws up the great spi of its hooded, purplish-tinted bloom, majestic and monumental aspect.

Both this and the better kinds of A. mo are fine things for clothing any rough rugged places in outlying parts of the gard where the great fleshy roots can be thr deep down and remain undisturbed. In th native places in Southern Europe they usually seen in cool, rocky places, and tho they stand well in the open in our north gardens, they are grateful for a little sha for in times of drought, unless they can thoroughly watered, the great leaves are to wilt. G.

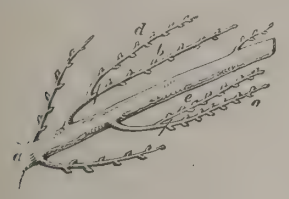
Acanthus spinosus under Holly

Erysimum pulchellum

It is now very many years since I raised a stock of Erysimum pulchellum f seeds, and I was never without it until ab five years ago, when I removed to my sent home in May, and lost a good numbe plants owing to the removal and the diffic of saving plants during an excessively summer which followed. The loss is irreparable, and the writer, who has ano removal facing him this spring, is hopefu replacing E. pulchellum. Not that one w contend that it is one of the indispens plants. This is far from being the case, it has good qualities which commend it many purposes. It makes a close tuf small, Wallflower-like, glossy leaves, an spring sends up stems from 6 inches 9 inches high bearing medium-sized ye flowers. The head of flowers looks smal the length of the stem, and, although flowering stems are numerous on a plant, they are certainly not too entran in their beauties. But the real merits o pulchellum are not seen until autumn, w it produces a number of flowers al sessile on the tuft of leaves. A plant increases in size, and forms a dwarf covering a pocket in the rock garden wit fresh green foliage. It is easy, indeed grow in ordinary soil, but I think it is n in poor compost and in sun. E. pulche is very easily raised from seeds, and may be propagated by cuttings. S. ARNO

Pruning and Training of the Peach Tree

N that excellent work "The Gardener's Assistant," edited by the late William Watson,* there is a splendid chapter on open-air culture of the Peach, in which



ig. 1.—Peach, before winter pruning

nd advice is given on the pruning and ning of Peach trees on walls.

'e are indebted to the publishers of "The dener's Assistant" for the following de- ; and accompanying illustrations showing pruning and training of Peach trees, both which subjects exercise much considera- at this season.

n the Peach tree all wood that is more n one year old serves only to support ots that do or may bear fruit, but enough n branches and others subsidiary to them uld be provided for in order that a suffi- cy of bearing shoots in every part of the may be ensured.

he management of the bearing shoots, of those intended to form a succession to n, is now under consideration.

n Fig. 1 "a" represents a portion of a ich before the winter pruning; "b" and " are bearing shoots which were tened at the previous winter pruning, fruit in the following summer, and also duced the shoots "d" and "e" for suc- ion. The shoots "b" and "c," having borne, will do so no more, and therefore are cut off close to the origin of the ession shoots "d" and "e." These ession shoots are shortened at the winter ning in order that, whilst they bear fruit e ensuing season, they may also produce, heir turn, shoots for succession. In ral, every bearing shoot throughout the should do this, and the nearer the young t springs from the base of the bearing t the better. It may be encouraged from side of the bearing shoot next the branch, t "e," or from the opposite side, as at " This should be arranged when dis- ding, so as to prevent the shoot from ng too far away from the main branch. t any time a bud starts closer to the ch than where "d" and "e" originated ould be encouraged, and the stub, which ts from repeatedly shortening back to the base of the bearing shoots, can then educed. In fact, wherever there is an rtunity of obtaining a succession shoot

g. 2.—Pruning for succession shoot

the old branch it should not be cted, provided there is room for it.

g. 2 represents a branch with two shoots, of which, "b," is intended for suc- on, and is pruned at "e," whilst the "a" is stopped at "c," and at the pruning is cut off at "d." A number her succession shoots may be allowed to grow to the length of 10 inches or 1 foot and then be stopped. Several summer laterals will result, but they will push mostly just below where the shoot was stopped, whilst, lower down, enough of flower-buds will in most instances be formed. By these means the amount of foliage will be much less than would otherwise be the case.

Fig. 3 represents a branch with two shoots, one of which is pruned at "a," whilst the other is cut close to the base at "c," thus leaving the leaf-bud "b" to form a succession shoot.

From this it appears that the pruning and training of the Peach tree, when it is once formed, is reduced to three very simple proceedings:—

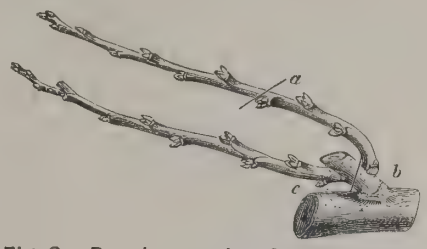


Fig. 3.—Peach, pruning for succession shoot

1. Shortening the intended bearing shoot at the winter pruning if the tree is growing outside. For all indoor culture this shortening is rarely required, as the shoots get well ripened and may be laid in full length.
2. Training a succession one in summer.
3. The removal of the shoots that have borne fruit, except such of them as are leading shoots of branches.

The length to which the bearing shoots ought to be shortened depends on their vigour, and occasionally the position of the leaf-buds, for, in order to cut immediately

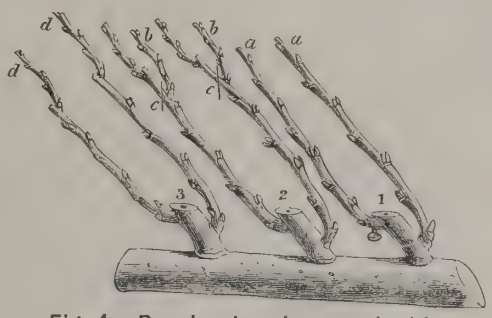


Fig. 4.—Peach, stopping or pinching

above one of them, the shoot may have to be cut much shorter or left at greater length than would otherwise be advisable.

The distance along the branches, from one bearing shoot to the other, may be 12 inches to 14 inches. On a branch that is weaker than it ought to be, more succession shoots should be encouraged than on the adjoining stronger ones, and more space should be allowed them, by training those from the stronger branch in a limited space; but all young branches of the previous year's growth, when trained in at the spring pruning, should have a clear space between them of not less than 4 inches.

Stopping or pinching.—This is in many respects the same as disbudding, and is practised during growth. Its object is to accelerate the formation of flower-buds and to prevent confusion with respect to the branches. If not done with judgment stopping may produce the very opposite effect, hindering the formation of buds, or causing them to be developed before the proper time; but when the operation is well done it is one of the most useful in the art of developing trees.

Fig. 4 represents a branch the shoots on which have been shortened. No. 1 shows

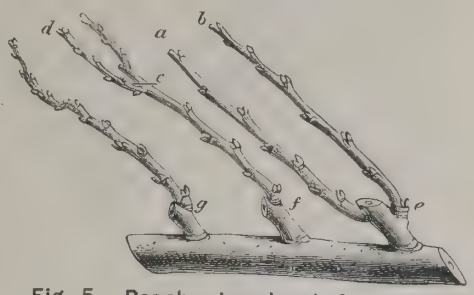


Fig. 5.—Peach, stopping before the fruit is set

two shoots which have been stopped above the eighth leaf, at "a" "a." The flow of sap occasioned by this operation has had the effect of swelling the fruit, at the same time avoiding bursting the eyes made below. At the end of eight days or 10 days the two or three terminal eyes are developed, as shown in No. 2. When these shoots have acquired sufficient length the second pinching is performed, which takes place on the lowest shoots, "b," "b," a little above the fifth leaf. The two remaining shoots are pruned at "c," "c." No. 3 shows the shoots after the last operation has been performed.

Fig. 5, "e," gives an example of stopping where the fruit has not set. The upper branch "a" is cut back as well as the lower branch "b" in order to give vent to the sap and promote the growth of the eyes near the base, which ought to yield fruit; "f" shows the effects of the first stopping. Then the first shoot is cut back to "c," and the second is stopped at "d"; "g" gives the result of the second stopping, a feeble result, as the sap is not in full flow.

Fig. 6 represents a branch which has been pruned above the fifth bud from the base. In this example the pinching ought to be short because the sap is not divided. The terminal shoot has been pinched, and afterwards cut back to "a," which has had the effect of causing the sap to flow back on fruit at the base. The two shoots "b" and "c" have been pinched twice, which has caused the fruit to swell and promoted the growth of the succession shoot "d."

Disbudding.—This consists in the removal of buds or, rather, shoots in a very young state. It is evident that if all the young shoots were allowed to grow they would soon become excessively crowded; it is therefore necessary that all should be removed except those for which there is sufficient space. The operation ought to be commenced by the re-

Fig 6.—Peach, stopping for succession shoot

moval of those situated in front of the strongest branches, especially if these are in connection with branches too strong for the others. Then in a day or two those in front of branches or shoots lower down should be removed, but care must be taken to preserve the lowest side shoots on each for succession. Those having fruit at their bases should also be left untouched.

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REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

The Heath garden

The last of the Heaths to bloom, namely, the Cornish Heath (E. vagans) and its varieties, the Crossleaved Heath (E. tetralix), the Dorset Heath (E. ciliaris) and its various forms, should now be run over with a pair of shears to remove the old flower sprays, which, if allowed to remain after this date, will have a detrimental effect upon the plants. Do not shave the plants into stiff, rounded heads, but cut with the point of the shears facing the heart of the plants, even removing a little of the older wood during this operation, for, in so doing, a natural appearance is still maintained. The seed-pods, especially those of the Dorset Heath, are very pretty in their rich brown shades during the depth of winter, and we regret their removal, but for the future welfare of the plants it must now be done, as maturing seed exhausts the plant's energy.

Lawns

All spare soil, wood-ashes, and decayed leaf-mould should be kept together, and on the first favourable occasion passed through a screen or sieve for use on the lawns during the next few weeks. A very fine dressing consists of the following:—One cartload of soil as above, two bushels of soot, and ½ cwt. of sulphate of ammonia. Mix this together thoroughly and spread over the lawns, averaging about ½ inch in thickness. Much of this will disappear in the grass, and must be allowed for. There are about 10 barrowloads to each cartload. Its effect upon the grass is remarkable and very gratifying, the latter developing a rich deep colour, overcoming weeds and Mosses, and no harm will accrue from its application during frosty weather.

Bulbs

Watch the oncoming crowns of choice bulbs now pushing through the soil, especially the choice Crocus species and early-flowering Iris, which are too often eaten by slugs and pheasants.

Wild garden

All herbage must be cleared from around plants of herbaceous character as many of them are on the move. This applies particularly to the outlying portions of the garden and by the waterside. It is also advisable to clear away all dead herbage which still remains over the surface of colonies of Narcissus, Tulips, Jonquils, Grape Hyacinths, and Snakes' Heads.

Planting Fruit trees

The stations for these should be well prepared beforehand and the soil allowed to settle down before the actual planting of the trees. In orchards the holes should be taken out to a depth of 3 feet and 5 feet in diameter, and, when refilling, use the top spit of the surrounding soil to make good should the subsoil be of a clayey or very poor character, using the latter to make the surface good. Always mix a barrowload of better soil for shaking among the roots of each tree, and only plant in fine weather when the soil works freely and will leave tools cleanly.

Potato Onions

These are much appreciated in some establishments on account of their mild and pleasant flavour, but, unlike the majority of Onions, are grown from sets, which should now be planted on a raised and well-drained border at a depth of 3 inches.

Digging

The plots intended for Broad Beans, early Peas, Onions, etc., after receiving a dressing of lime and soot may be forked over, and thus allow the frost and wind to purify and pulverise the surface.

Broad Beans

A few boxes may be sown and placed in a house having a temperature of 45 degs. to 50 degs. until germination takes place, when they must be transferred to cool quarters and hardened in readiness for the open air.

Indoor plants

As these pass out of bloom, such as are required for propagating purposes should be cut back at least half-way and stood in a light, warm house in which a temperature of 55 degs. to 60 degs. is maintained. This applies particularly to the various Winter-flowering Begonias, which, treated thus, will soon furnish a good supply of cuttings. Place Heliotropes, Verbena citriodora, Ageratums, and other plants of a similar character in gentle warmth for a future supply of cuttings.

Chrysanthemum cuttings

Secure these as they become available and before they exceed 3 inches in length, and endeavour to get the number desired at the earliest possible date, before the cases are required for other subjects. Some of the cuttings inserted during the late weeks of the past year are ready for shifting into small pots, following which more air must be given.

Peach houses and vineries

Push forward the pruning and cleaning of these, and on no consideration permit the borders to become unduly dry. This applies particularly to Peach-houses in which bud-dropping has occurred during former years.

Carnation houses

Maintain a buoyant atmosphere with the air circulating freely among the plants, for it is the close, moisture-laden air which brings disease in its train. Very little water is needed at this season to maintain the plants in a healthy condition. Gather the flowers from those now blooming a little in advance of their opening fully. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Sow Antirrhinums now

This popular bedding plant is easily raised from seed, and all the better strains come fairly true. Seed should be sown rather thinly, in pans, or shallow boxes, of light, sandy compost, covering very lightly with a little finely-sifted soil. Only gentle warmth is required. The seeds will germinate more evenly and rapidly if the pans and boxes are covered with a sheet of glass and a piece of newspaper.

Primrose and Polyanthus from seed

While it is necessary to increase any specially fine form, or colour, by division, there can be no doubt but that seedlings flourish best and produce the greatest profusion of bloom, and these of large size. It is possible, of course, to raise the plants by sowing out-of-doors, in April or May, or in boxes, set in a cold frame, at the end of March, but much better results are had by sowing in gentle warmth now, the resulting plants attaining a much larger size before autumn, and thereby assuring fine-flowering spe mens by the following spring. Procure a f strain, the plants raised from such bei quite as easy to grow, while the resulti flowers are so much more pleasing than c be got when the ordinary kinds are cu vated. At no time must the soil in wh the seeds are sown be allowed to get rea dry, but no less important is it to see th it is not kept saturated by too frequent of the watering can.

Pansies and Violas from seed

Although one cannot obtain uniform of growth, or colour, among seedlings of Viola family, still a very beautiful bed m be got by filling it with good strong pla of seedling Pansies or Violas, providing good strain is secured. Not that even finest strains will throw only fine bloom the fact being that every batch of th flowers produces quite a number of we sorts; but, for all that, good large beds borders of these plants give a gorgeous d play, and that for quite a long seas Sow in boxes of light compost within next few days, and set in gentle warm When large enough prick off into ot boxes of good soil, grow on steadily, a plant out in May.

Sowing early Peas

While those with the necessary accomm dation can sow in pots or boxes at any ti and plant out when it is safe to do so, great majority of people have to cont themselves with sowing out-of-doors as s as the soil can be got in working conditi This may occur now, any day, so every should be prepared to snatch the first favo able chance to get in a row or two o warm, sheltered border, choosing a g hardy sort like The Pilot.

Broad Beans

A sowing of this vegetable should also got in at the first opportunity. While E Mazagan is usually recommended for e est work it is of very poor quality, and crop but scanty, as a rule, so that it is be to plant Seville Longpod, even if it is a days later in maturing.

Lettuce for early use

To have good Lettuces as early as pos sow a pinch of seed now, choosing a h variety, like Holborn Standard, which I invariably reliable for the earliest crop. F in gentle heat; grow on steadily, and p out in early May.

Main crop Tomatoes

About now is the most favourable tim the sowing of the main batch of Toma A fairly brisk heat will germinate the s within a week. As soon as growth app get the pots, or pans, up quite close to roof glass, to prevent the seedlings becom drawn.

Peaches and Nectarines

These very quickly begin to swell up buds, so any pruning and training still done must be overtaken at once, or harm may result, the buds being so rubbed off after they have started to p The training of these trees was form accounted a test of skill on the part of y gardeners, and even yet most of us de in seeing them neatly and regularly tie the wires, even if it does require a little time and patience than is necessary the work is done any other way.

C. BL

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Early Vegetables

HE season is now here when preparations must be made for sowing and planting of early vegetables, the first re-ing attention being Potatoes. These readily be brought on in any ordinary ne, as all that is necessary is a little m heat to give them a start. For afford-this the material most suitable is dung leaves. A mixture of these may be built o form a bed, but when a pit is available is preferable, as not only does it ferment ually, but holds its heat longer. To e either more fit, sweet, and lasting, they t be sweated by placing the whole body heap, and, when hot, turning it well over t out the rank steam, when the bed may nade and the soil placed on ready for ting. The latter must be light and rich, about 8 inches deep, the distance for the s of Potatoes being about 12 inches, and hes or 8 inches from tuber to tuber.

he Potatoes will not be through the nd for some time, therefore seize the ntage to obtain a crop of Radishes or to t out young Lettuce or Cauliflower just d, as no better place with warmth under be found for pushing them on. The s of Radish most suitable are Crimson ing Olive, Delicatesse, and Early White e, all of which are excellent.

here a frame cannot be spared, Potatoes be obtained long before they can be pro-d in the open by digging a wide, deep h in a sheltered, sunny spot, and filling th hot dung or the same mixture as for ed and planting in a similar way, and, the Potatoes are through, protecting with mats laid on hoops and rails placed their tops. Year after year splendid may be obtained in this way, and the s between the rows are available for crops in the same way as in the frames. nch Beans also do well after this where can have bottom heat, as, having more room, they bear double, and even treble, quantity they do when confined to the d area of a pot unless the pots are of ual size.

e preparation for Beans is similar as for oes, and the distance apart of the rows out 15 inches.

kale and Rhubarb may be forwarded by ng large spare pots over the crowns and ing with warm manure and leaves, but without this mixture the sun will make a fortnight or three weeks' difference. oles in the bottom of the pots must be y blocked up, not only to keep out light, bottle up the heat of the sun.

l chimney-pots with a piece of slate put p will bring Rhubard on nicely, and, not that, but blanch it and so make it more te eating and of superior flavour.

Cauliflower to follow closely on late oli, sow a little seed at once in a box or nd place in gentle heat. It will soon inate, after which elevate box or pan to the glass to prevent the plants being n, and, when large enough, prick out en Potatoes in the way already touched

v Lettuce and Celery, and treat in pre-the same manner. Two good kinds of irst-named are Paris White Cos and Cos, and of the latter Sandringham, is dwarf, solid, sweet, and of delicious r.

he case of young plants of Cauliflower tuce wintered in beds they should be got once, the Cauliflower in drills 20 inches and the Lettuce on a warm, sheltered or a row close under a wall.

nips are sure to be wanted, as old ones early over. The best to sow now is White Milan, of fine flavour and bulbs quickly. The best position for Turnips is a border sloping south, and the same for the first lot of Carrots, the soil for which must be free of manure, and light and sandy.

For frame culture or for growing in the open to pull young the Earliest French Horn is the best, as it is short and thick, and of good flavour.

Where Peas and Beans are not in, to gain time sow in boxes or pots and transplant, and where slugs and birds are troublesome during winter this is the better plan, as those sown in autumn are often quite spoilt. The Mazagan and Seville Longpod are two excellent varieties. A splendid Pea for first picking is Eight Weeks.

Winter Spinach will soon be running to seed, therefore sow a bed or border of the Round or Summer in rich soil in a warm position. Thin out when up to 6 inches apart.

F. H.

Late Seakale

Where Seakale is in request for as long a period as possible the latest supply is usually furnished by plantations of permanently-grown crowns, for which accommodation is found in a not too conspicuous part of the garden for reasons which, to gardeners, are quite obvious. The area of ground devoted to the cultivation of late Seakale is, of course, governed by the demand for the vegetable. Its cultivation is very simple, and, once established, a plantation will, with proper care, yield good results for several years in succession. The great thing when making a new plantation is to thoroughly manure and well dig the ground, and if manure can be spared, a very heavy dressing may be given. Planting is usually done some time in March, good strong root cuttings being used for the purpose. These are planted in groups of either three or four in a group, triangular-wise in the first instance and in the form of a lozenge or diamond in the latter, with a distance of 1 foot between cutting and cutting in every case. The groups are arranged in consecutive straight rows stretching across the plot from one side to the other, the rows being 4 feet asunder and the groups from 3 feet to 4 feet apart in the rows, which admits of the proper attention being conveniently given in spring when the crowns are covered and while the Kale is in use. It also allows for the disposal of ashes, sand, or fine soil when either of these materials is used for the blanching of the Kale, as it can be placed out of the way when not required in the open spaces. Nothing in the nature of forcing is necessary, all that is needed being, when the crowns show signs of starting, to cover them with Seakale-pots or something of a similar nature, which will admit of light being effectually excluded, otherwise the growths, as they push up, will be spoilt. This is where ashes, sand, or soil proves its superiority in securing effectual blanching, as, if a sufficiency of either material is but heaped over the crowns in the form of a mound, not a ray of light can penetrate it deep enough to affect the colour of the Kale. When either of these materials is used for blanching purposes it is found a good plan to cover down one-third or one-half of the crowns at one time; that is to say, early in January, the same in February, and again in March, which prevents all coming in together and ensures a succession.

When the Kale is being cut, a portion of the old growth or root is removed with it, or should be, and when the produce of a group of crowns has been cut, the pots or ashes should be removed and some ashes laid over the cut surfaces of the roots. When, in due course, growths are emitted, these are thinned in the usual way, leaving two or three of the strongest on each root. Care must be taken to see that none of the growths or shoots run to flower during the summer months, and to maintain the plantation in full vigour afford the roots liquid-manure at intervals during the growing season or give an occasional light dressing in showery weather of an artificial manure of a nitrogenous nature.

A. W.

Cleaning crops

When new gardens are being made, the use of a cleaning crop is often neglected, with the result that the cultivator is disappointed with the results of his labours. In the main, the use of a cleaning crop has for its object the clearing of the ground of perennials, weeds such as Couch Grass, Docks, Dandelions, etc. In effect the object gained is more than this, because land which carries such weeds is a favourite habitat for certain soil insects, and if the weeds are removed the insects are very much reduced in numbers.

Under most conditions the Potato is the most valuable crop to grow. The rough land should be well dug over and as many of the perennial weeds forked out as is possible. The Potato sets should be forked in at the time of planting. As soon as the Potato plants are well up in line the fork can be again used with advantage to dig down between the rows, and any pieces of the root-stocks of perennials found can be removed. The soil is again moved at earthing-up and shortly after the Potato plants meet in the rows, and the growth of weeds is suppressed. The cultivation should be well done previous to earthing-up and a vigorous variety of Potato chosen. Kerr's Pink, Field-Marshal, and Great Scot are three good varieties to use. If wireworm is very prevalent Potatoes should not be planted, and under this condition I am of the opinion that the best method of clearing the land is to fallow it.

G. Conrad.

Potatoes in pots

New Potatoes are appreciated in most households, and the sooner they can be procured the better. It is somewhat singular, however, that those who have greenhouses do not very often trouble to grow them under glass, but, instead, rely on sheltered places in the garden, such as a south wall border, for what they need in this direction. By February large pots in which Chrysanthemums were bloomed are at liberty, and the soil, to which has been added a little old manure or bone-meal, after the whole has been broken up and incorporated, will meet all that is wanted. Dargill Early or Duke of York are excellent for forcing, and one tuber to an 8-inch or 10-inch pot should be planted after it has shown signs of chitting. The pots should be well drained, the rougher portions of the compost being placed over the crocks. Pots can be stood alongside pathways, in a house, or on a stage, covering them with straw for a time, or use may be made of a frame. As growth proceeds, Potatoes should be given all the light possible, and weak liquid-manure administered occasionally. In from 10 weeks to 12 weeks Potatoes will be ready for the table. I have found it an advantage to give the haulm support of sticks instead of allowing it to hang over the sides of the pot, as it prevents bruising. Large pots not in use could not be utilised better during the next few months than in the production of early Potatoes.

W. F.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

ROSES

Manure for Roses

Will you kindly tell me what chemical manure I should give to Roses in the spring to promote growth in a very heavy soil which has been neglected for years? I cannot obtain any form of stable manure, so I want some chemical form.

MARGARET FORRESTER.

[Your soil being of a heavy character the most suitable manure for your purpose would be one which not only feeds the Roses, but aerates the soil. Wakeley's Hop Manure, being bulky in character and therefore the nearest we can get to farmyard manure, would probably be the most satisfactory for your Roses. It is supplied in bags, each containing about 4 bushels, at 7s. per bag, or slightly less where a quantity is taken, carriage paid. It is claimed that one bag goes as far as a cartload of farmyard manure.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Flowers for a north border

I have two borders facing north, sheltered by a south hedge, herbaceous plants at the back, and I grow a few annuals in front. I have also a small conservatory facing north. It is very heavy soil. I go three days weekly. My employer thinks I ought to grow more flowers. Could you tell me how to improve it and what to grow?

EIGHT YEARS' READER.

[In order to increase the number of flowers arrange a position among the herbaceous plants for groups of Iris siberica, I. lævigata, I. ochroleuca, and I. Monnieri, Galtonia candicans, Tiger Lilies, Lilium auratum var. platyphyllum, L. pardalinum, and L. Henryi, Lysimachia, Lythrums, Senecio clivorum, strong-growing Gladioli, Anchusa italica in variety, Campanula lactiflora, Artemisia lactiflora, Solomon's Seal, Globe flowers (Trollius in variety), Trillium grandiflorum roseum, Spiræas, such as Davidii, Queen Alexandra, Peach Blossom, and gigantea. Towards the front of the border plant Narcissus Emperor, Loneliness, Lord Derby, Glory of Noordwick, Weardale Perfection, and Mme. de Graaf, and in little colonies along the face of the border plant Snowdrops, such as Galanthus Elwesi maxima, Hepatica triloba, Epimedium sulphureum, and Campanula muralis Your conservatory is very suitable for many choice Ferns.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Cutting back Clematises

Please tell me when and how much I should cut back the following Clematis:—Nelly Moser, Lasurstern, Venus Victrix, and Jackmanni.

S. S. V.

[The varieties Nellie Moser, Lasurstern, and Venus Victrix should be pruned about the middle of February, and as these bloom on short laterals which grow out from the wood of the past year thinning only should be resorted to, such as the removal of weak and superfluous growth. The variety Jackmanni belongs to a different class, and may be cut back to within 6 inches or 8 inches of the ground at the same date. This Clematis blooms on the wood of the current year.]

Blue Hydrangeas

I have struck some cuttings of a good blue Hydrangea and should be grateful if you would tell me if these will flower blue or if I should put anything in the potting soil to keep the colour, and, if so, what?

S. S. V.

[The particular blue shade desired is not natural to the Hydrangea, and therefore must be artificially developed, and it often happens that cuttings taken from blue-flowered specimens revert to the natural pink shade eventually. Several chemicals are offered by horticultural sundriesmen for mixing with the soil and for applying when the plants are watered. One of these is Bentley's Hydrangea Colorant, instructions for the use of which is sent with it. It is sold by Messrs. Joseph Bentley, Barrow-on-Humber, Hull, in packets sufficient to make 32 gallons for 3s., or 14 lbs. for 12s.]

Solanum not fruiting

I have about 20 Solanum plants which I had given to me in August last. These have made nice plants and have shown few flowers. but, of course, no ornamental fruit, which I wished to see. Can I run them on for another season, or should I discard them and sow some myself, and when? I have a good span-roofed house heated with hot-water pipes.

SOLANUM.

[Your plant is Solanum capsicastrum, known as the Winter Cherry, and may be raised either from seeds or cuttings. The latter strike easily if placed in sandy soil and plunged in bottom heat at the present time. We would advise you to prune your plants in rather severely, using a number of the tips, which should be shortened to about 3 inches, as cuttings. Keep the old plants in a cool house or frost-proof frame, and as soon as they have made young shoots of 2 inches in length they should be shaken out and repotted into fresh soil. The first week in May plant them out on a sunny border and apply plenty of water during warm weather. Lift and pot the plants the second week in September and again place in a cool house, and you should be rewarded with a good crop of ornamental berries.]

VEGETABLES

White fly on Tomatoes

(Arthur Wynn).—We advise you to try Abol White Fly Compound. No apparatus is needed, the compound being simply poured down the centre path of the house at the rate of 2½ fluid ozs. to 1,000 cubic feet of space. Repeat the application at the end of 10 days and you should get little further trouble with the fly. It might be an advantage to miss a year. The Beech hedge is not responsible for the fly. See that the Abol Compound is perfectly fresh.

MISCELLANEOUS

Wisley Gardens

(Motorist).—Yes; the gardens are open Sundays from 2 p.m. till 6 p.m., or dusk, this does not commence until the first Sun in April, continuing till the first Sunday October.

Kew Hand Lists

(T. A. L.).—We suggest that you refe the hand lists of plants grown in the R Botanic Gardens, Kew. The plant name these lists are followed in many gardens nurseries throughout the country. The lowing official lists are on sale at Kew:—

Coniferæ (3rd Ed.), Cycadaceæ Gnetaceæ, 1925, 1s. 6d. By post, 1s. 7½d

Ferns and Fern Allies (2nd Ed.), 1906, By post, 8d.

Orchids (2nd Ed.), 1904, 1s. By 1s. 3d.

Tender Monocotyledons (2nd Ed.), 1 1s. 6d. By post, 1s. 9d.

Tender Dicotyledons, 1899, 2s. 6d. post, 3s.

Trees and Shrubs (excluding Coniferæ) Ed.), 1925, 4s. 6d. By post, 4s. 9d.

Herbaceous Plants (excluding Rock den Plants and Hardy Monocotyledons) Ed.), 1925, 2s. 6d. By post, 2s. 8d.

Hardy Monocotyledons, 1925, 1s. 6d. post, 1s. 7½d.

Rock Garden Plants, 1925, 2s. By 2s. 1½d.

Which Heather produces most hone

(A. T. J.).—We do not know if any mate of the annual production of Hea honey in any given area has ever made. Calluna vulgaris (the com Ling) is generally considered to yiel much greater amount of nectar than E cinerea, but in each case the actual yield pends largely on climate conditions and s

Regulation size of a bowling green

Can you tell me, through your valu columns, the regulation size for a bow green, and any other information which be useful? Would a drop of 2 feet i yards affect bowling?

W. J.

[A first-class full-sized bowling should be 40 yards square, and, if pro made, is the most expensive of all gr The following is the usual method adopt making a bowling green:—Remove the from the site of the green to a depth of 18 inches to 24 inches. An elaborate sy of drains must then be laid, great care taken to see that they are given a goo and outlet. Cover the drain-pipes wi layer of medium-sized clinkers. Fill u cavity to within 2 inches or 3 inches c desired level with several grades of cli or other porous material, the coarser g being placed at the bottom, the finer g eventually ranging into fine sand on th Ram, water, and roll the mass until quite firm and dead level. Cover this dation with about 3 inches of a spe prepared compost, consisting of rich soil, sea sand, and well-rotted dung. and cross-roll so as to get a firm su Correct any defects in the level that have developed. The green is then rea seeding or turfing, but before either s turf is put on, the surface should be raked, and if turf is used it must be cu in thickness and be beaten firmly with beater, but on no account excessive green made in this way will play as tru billiard-table, but owing to its mode c struction it will require to be liberal every autumn and spring, and to be re watered during periods of drought. of 2 feet as suggested would ruin the g

(*Continued on page 74.*)

SEEDSMEN BY APPOINTMENT

NOVELTIES *of the* YEAR

AUBRIETIA

Carters Rose Queen.—The colouring is very clear and contains no suggestion of magenta. Ht. 4 in. Per pkt., 1/6

DAHLIA

Carters Goliath.—Tall double flowers of the new, popular decorative type. Although of tall habit, the flower stems are so strong that no tying of side shoots is necessary. Ht. 5 ft. Per pkt., 1/6

FORGET-ME-NOT

Carters Azure Beauty.—This new Myosotis exceeds all other dwarf forms, if only for its robust habit. It possesses the additional advantage in bearing in great profusion flowers twice the size of any Forget-me-not hitherto known to us. Ht. 6 in. Per pkt., 1/6

GENISTA ANDREANA

Carters Hybrids.—These beautiful hybrid forms are saved from a very complete collection of named varieties. The colours include crimsons, scarlets, and brown in combination with yellow and gold shades. Per pkt., 1/- and 1/6

MIGNONETTE

Carters Golden Monarch.—A new giant-flowered golden form of this fragrant annual, equalling our well-known *Perfection* in habit and size of flower. Very robust habit, and particularly free flowering. Ht. 1 ft. Per pkt , 1/6

PENTSTEMON

Carters Imperial Hybrids.—We have adopted the name *Imperial* owing to the regal colouring of the red, purple, and scarlet shades. The majority of the blooms have white throats, which greatly enhance the distinctiveness of this new introduction. Ht. 2½ ft. Per pkt., 1/6

SWEET PEAS

Chieftain.—Perfectly formed blossoms of a rich pure satiny mauve colour, entirely free of any purple shading. Gold Medal, Scottish N.S.P.S., 1926. Award of Merit, N.S.P.S., July, 1926. 12 seeds, 1/-

Delight.—A delightfully soft shade of salmon pink; this variety has full vigour and is perfect in form and size. 12 seeds, 1/6

Delightful.—A rich terra-cotta cerise suffused orange, vigorous habit. 15 seeds, 1/-

Dominion.—A rich rose cerise several tones deeper than any other variety in this colour section. 10 seeds, 1/-

Gladness.—Soft coral pink intensified by deeper pink towards the base of the standard and wings. The exquisite delicacy of colour is further enhanced by the lemon keel. 15 seeds, 1/-

Patience.—Pleasing shade of soft salmon cerise. The flowers are large, beautifully frilled, and well placed on strong long stems. Robust grower and very free flowering. 12 seeds, 1/-

Pioneer.—The colour can best be described as that elusive shade between mauve and purple known as "Fuchsia." The standard is suffused with rose. 10 seeds, 1/-

Rose Marie.—The colour is unique and is difficult to describe. It may best be described as grey rose or pale wine. 12 seeds, 1/6

Royal Blue.—The brightest of all the dark blues, a true rich navy or royal blue, glowing and bright, great substance, vigorous habit, and exquisite form. 15 seeds, 1/-

Ruddigore.—The largest brilliant blood scarlet Sweet Pea. Absolutely sunproof. Certificate of Merit, Scottish N.S.P.S., 1926. 12 seeds, 1/-

Rona.—Pale apricot on cream, suffused with a delightful shade of pink. 10 seeds, 1/-

Purple Beauty.—A pure rich deep purple self, large blooms of good substance on long stout stems. 10 seeds, 1/-

All the best Raisers' Novelties and the pick of the Standard Varieties see the Special Sweet Pea List in

CARTERS CATALOGUE FOR 1927

Post Free on application

Carters TESTED SEEDS

SEEDSMEN TO H.M. THE KING

RAYNES PARK, LONDON, S.W.20

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

(Continued from page 72)

Crane fly grubs

(E. S.).—The specimen grubs you have sent in are those of one of the Crane flies, of which there are many species. The grubs of the Crane fly (Daddy Long Legs) are generally known as Leatherjackets, and the common species does a great deal of damage in certain gardens, but it is more a grassland pest than a garden pest. Badly-drained land, whether grassland or garden, is a favourite habitat for Crane flies. The grubs you have sent do not appear to be those of the common species, Tipula oleracea, and we do not think it likely that you will find many collections like the one found when digging your garden. Most of the species feed upon plant roots, and efforts should be made to keep them under control. We do not think quicklime would have much effect unless applied in very heavy quantities. On the other hand, gas lime, if obtainable in your district, would be good. Failing gas lime you should use a good soil insecticide, such as naphthalene, calcium cyanide, or a well-made proprietary soil insecticide, details of which you will find in our advertisement columns.

SHORT REPLY

Novice and S. S. V.—Please look for a reply to your queries in an early issue of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED.

NAMES OF PLANTS

Penj, Cornwall.—Ruscus androgynus syn. Semele androgyna. Note the umbels on the *sides* of the cladodes. It is a native of the Canary Islands, introduced about 1713. The cladodes are much larger than those of Ruscus racemosus, or Alexandrian Laurel. The latter is much used for indoor decoration and is now to be seen in our markets.

Ixora.—1, Cryptomeria japonica; 2, rather too dried-up to say definitely, probably the juvenile form of Juniper, and, maybe, J. Sabina. Can you send a fresh specimen with particulars as to height, habit, and history?

TRADE NOTE

A little brochure entitled "The Garden of Delight" is issued by Messrs. Robinson Bros., Ltd., West Bromwich. It contains a description of the fertilising specialities of this well-known firm, together with particulars of prices and advice as to methods of increasing the fertility and productivity of the garden.

Horticultural Societies' News

Cardiff and District Gardeners' Association

The fortnightly meeting of the above Society was held on January 18th at the Queen's Hotel, Cardiff, and was well attended. Mr. J. Hall was in the chair. The lecturer for the evening was Mr. C. Wall, of Melrose Nurseries, Bath, and his subject was "Cyclamens and their Culture." This was delivered with eloquence and in full detail, and for an illustration he brought exceptional fine blooms and a magnificent pot plant that was literally smothered with blooms of a salmon-scarlet shade. All these were from his own special strain, of which he handles upwards of 10,000 a year for the London and other markets. A very interesting discussion followed on the methods of raising seedlings and potting, in which Major Budd, Messrs. Wright, Fry, Davis, and others took part. Prizes were offered for the best three pots of Cyclamen, and the first was secured by Mr. Jones, and second by Mr. Bullock. For the best dish of 20 Brussels Sprouts Mr. Ben was first and Mr. Jones second. For best three sticks of Celery Mr. Price was and Mr. Jones second. Lady's spray gentleman's buttonhole, Mr. Bennett first Mr. Smith second. A dinner and social e ing in connection with the Association wi held at the Queen's Hotel on January 20 7 p.m., Donald Cory, Esq., taking the c

W. E. V

LATE NOTES

Controller of Horticulture

Mr. W. G. Lobjoit, O.B.E., who has for the last 6½ years in an honorary cap as Controller of Horticulture at the Min of Agriculture, has decided to retire that post on January 31st in order th may be free to accept the invitation o National Farmers' Union to become Chairman of the Fruit and Vegetable C mittee of the Union. Mr. Lobjoit has, ever, agreed that his services shall be disposal of the Ministry in a consul capacity for a further period of six mo In consequence of Mr. Lobjoit's resign the Minister of Agriculture has appoint H. V. Taylor, M.B.E., to be the Hor tural Commissioner of the Ministry Chairman of the Horticultural Ad Council.

British Columbia horticulturists gro bulbs

British Columbia horticulturists are ing the bulb industry on a very large and a market is being found fo Canadian-grown bulbs in Canada an United States. So far the bulb produc British Columbia has been only moderate scale, but a big future is se this industry, since Canada importe year over 3,000,000 bulbs.

The Leading House for SWEET PEAS

BUY ENGLISH GROWN SEED FROM THE ACTUAL RAISERS

Awarded 179 Gold Medals

NOVELTIES for 1927

COLORADO

Award of Merit, York and Leicester; Award of Merit, Royal Show, Reading.

Colour richer than orange, brighter than prawn-red; a smooth blend of both with an absence of the dulling effect of rose shading. The flower is equal in size to the best of Peas. Fours, and sometimes fives, are beautifully set on excellent stems. Indispensable to the Exhibitor.

10 Seeds, 1/6

WHAT JOY

Award of Merit, N.S.P.S.; Award of Merit, Royal Show, Reading.

This variety excels in Cream Sweet Peas. Fine flower, heavily and pleasantly frilled, and so well placed on its long substantial stems that it far supersedes any other of this colour.

12 Seeds, 1/-

MODEL

Award of Merit, Leicester; Award of Merit, Scottish National Sweet Pea Trials.

We have white Peas, but no white Pea yet in commerce can compare with **Model.** It is full of substance and weight of texture, which are lacking in other whites. The petals are thick, broad, and beautifully formed.

12 Seeds, 1/-

ROYAL MAUVE

Award of Merit, Leicester; Award of Merit, Royal Show, Reading; Silver Medal, Scottish National Sweet Pea Trials.

The colour of this magnificent flower is rich bright mauve; it is a clean, solid colour, decisive in tone without harshness and is rendered radiant by the thick veneer of satiny sheen which overlays the flower. Guaranteed to give satisfaction.

12 Seeds, 1/-

BOLTON'S UNEQUALLED MIXTURE

SPENCER-FLOWERED SWEET PEAS.—Containing all the elegant flowered vars. mentioned in our List; also many choice novelties.

Packet, 1/-; oz., 1/6

BOLTON'S Popular Collection

Special Collections including the cream of Sweet Pea Novelti for Exhibition or Garden Decoration

COLLECTION No. 1

Royal Mauve, mauve
Model, white
What Joy, cream
Gold Crest, salmon
Ivory Picture, ivory
Black Bess, dk. maroon
Magnet, salmon-pink
Mammoth, orange-sclt.
Powerscourt, lavender
Hebe, deep pink
Youth, white, pink edge
Picture, pink
Bonfire, cream and pink
Comrade, apricot
Sunset, rose
Fair Lady, soft salm. pk.
Grenadier, scarlet
Supreme, china-pink
Purple Perfection, pi
Peggy, cerise
R. F. Felton, lavende
Bluebird, blue
Charity, crimson
Royal Sovereign, or
Miss California, sal pink
Angele, mauve, suff. pi

15 Seeds of each, 10/6 post free

COLLECTION No. 2

Royal Mauve, mauve
Ivory Picture, ivory
Model, white
Picture, pink
Powerscourt, lavender
Hebe, deep pink
Charming, cerise
Youth, white, pink edge
Grenadier, scarlet
Mammoth, orange-scarlet
Black Bess, dark mar
Royal Sovereign, o
Mary Pickford, rose
Geo. Shawyer, orange

15 Seeds of each, 5/- post free

COLLECTION No. 3

Royal Mauve, mauve
Constance Hinton, white
Ivory Picture, ivory
Charity, crimson
Powerscourt, lavender
Picture, pink
Grenadier, scarlet

15 Seeds of each, 2/6 post free

ROBERT BOLTON & SON,

The Sweet Pea Specialists

BIRDBROOK, HALSTEAD, ESSE

Catalogue containing Cultural Hints and Full Descriptions post free

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Colour in the Garden

OW far one may carry the re-arrangement of the garden, using a definite colour scheme, is a matter of taste. To e, any such limiting of colour conveys no esponding satisfaction; they prefer any bination, not minding even the close aposition of Coquelicot, Phlox with its l shade of orange-scarlet, and the strong of Lady Gay Rambler Rose. This loss olour sense is frequent. In Nature, disant shades may grow close together, but rely you will notice their background is ely green, which gates the effect.

he present-day ion is for strong ours. Hence the our the old-ioned pot Marigold found, which, in its h-improved form, appeared lately in flower market. A y of flower arrangeet reveals a change taste and great ng, for who would bine an orange-ured bowl with a er of strong mauve ur, and complete the ngement by adding nk blossom carrying ggestion of orange, not wonder half the if it was a satisry artistic effort or unfortunate jazz mare?

the garden itself are practically two colours that lominant enough to careful placing, are the strong lv, bordering on ge, and the true of scarlet. In the er a plant that is tely orange is the Cheiranthus Allionii ian Wallflower, which bounded into r a few years ago. There are few plants that this combines well with d the tawny-red of the old-fashioned lower. It is very satisfactory, however, the Scilla hispanica, which is of a pale lain-blue and whose blooming season des. In many of the public parks it been used already to an almost weari extent, and often combined with a g of pink Tulips with hardly successful ony.

One of the golden rules for a beautiful garden where special cultivation of difficult plants cannot be obtained is to grow only those varieties that are so happy in the particular kind of soil possessed as to naturalise themselves. The man who possesses deep, rich loam is to be envied, but he may not be able to grow the loveliest of all flowering shrubs, that pearl in flower colourisation, the Pink Pearl Rhododendron, and until he has seen it in full flower—such a lovely soft, clear, and yet rich pink—growing in conjunction with the pale porcelain-blue Scilla hispanica he will not have realised what perfect colouring means.

This Rhododendron steadily demands its price, and rightly, for the best is always best. And this is another rule in good gardening; buy only plants and seeds of good strain, and eliminate all poor, weak, and muddy-coloured kinds at once.

Many people have a grudge against Michaelmas Daisies, for this reason, that the washy colours of many of the old varieties are distinctly unpleasing, but this cannot be said of the up-to-date King George, whose flower is so bold and of so full a coloured mauve as almost to be taken for a single Aster of the annual kind.

Some of the most lovely colour arrangements come about quite without forethought. A beautiful grouping was obtained quite accidentally by purple-leaved Nut trees, in front of which, and backing a wide herbaceous border, were bold clumps of Rev. E. Lascelles Delphinium and tall-growing white Foxgloves. The combination of royal blue, purple leaves, and pure white was perfect, and in this way many of our best conscious designs are obtained.

For a strong colour scheme for late flowering—and the later the season the more one seems to desire vivid shades—the Dorothy Perkins Rambler Rose grown with Clematis Jackmanni will make a most wonderful pergola, always remembering that both these plants require, and are better for, severe pruning. The last year's flowering wood of the Dorothy Perkins being cut out to within 6 inches of the ground a few weeks after blooming will result in those large terminal bunches of flowers the following year that are ideal for colour effect and cutting.

An even later flowering contrast is the Gladioli White Giant, a very fine bloom that is given character by its mauve anthers, and the large flaring Red Emperor, that in itself is the most striking of all the scarlets; Clear Eye does not reach it in colour. With these it is well to grow the Hyacinthus candicans or Galtonia with its candelabra-like growth, white being a shade that stands out well when summer time is over and we treasure the last gleam of daylight.

The combination of Gladioli in scarlet and white with the old favourite Galtonia or Hyacinthus candicans is well worth noting, as these are subjects for spring planting.

A good picture is always better for being framed

View of herbaceous border as seen through a stone arch in Mr. Thackeray Turner's garden at Westbrook, Godalming

Japanese Anemones form a bold group in the foreground of the picture

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Eritrichium nanum

It is interesting to note that Messrs. Clarence Elliott, Ltd., are offering seed of this rare and beautiful alpine. In the Alps this is, perhaps, one of the loveliest of all alpines, dazzling stemless azure. In the garden it is one of the most difficult. It can and has been cultivated, though not often. Granite or slate scree or the alpine-house give the best chance of success, and most good rock gardeners like to try it once. The seed is imported from Switzerland.

Davids Maple (Acer Davidii)

This small tree, now about 15 feet in height, is of more than usual interest at the present time when the winter sun plays among its handsome striated branches. The older wood, in addition to the white stripes of its bark presents a purplish tone of colour, while the bark and buds of the current year are of a glistening red tone, almost equal to the rich winter effects of the well-known and esteemed Dogwood (Cornus alba). Its beauty and distinct bearing is unusual among trees, and this renders it a most welcome subject for planting in the vicinity of dwellings. This pretty tree appears to have been twice introduced from China, first by Maries in 1879 and again by Ernest Wilson in 1902.

E. MARKHAM.

Royal Horticultural Society's Rose Trials

At the annual general meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, to be held at Vincent Square, Westminster, on February 8th, Mr. Robert Fife will move the following resolution:—That the special trial of Roses now being conducted at Wisley be abandoned.

Berberis subcauliata

There are few, if any, of the newer Barberries to equal the above from Christmas onwards, or which carry their leaves in the same beautiful way. As I write (third week in January), the bushes, always of a charming and shapely character, are rendered very ornamental by the rich warm purple colour of their abundant leaves, which attract all and sundry. Some of these are 5 feet in height, and, as a hedge plant, at once beautiful and impenetrable, I can thoroughly recommend this lovely coral-fruited Barberry.

E. M.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Lonicera fragrantissima not flowering

THIS almost evergreen shrub is slow in flowering in a young state. Given a warm wall with plenty of room for extension it will flower freely as it attains size and age. The suggestion to root-prune would probably be ineffective, because of the paucity of large roots on which to operate. In moving plants of it we never find anything but a mass of fine fibrous root. Perhaps the better way would be to cut a trench about it, filling in with lime-rubble rammed tightly just as one would treat a Fig tree.

For many years we grew Lonicera Standishii under the above name. In fact, until Mr. Bean's invaluable work, "Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles," appeared. He states that L. fragrantissima is "often confused with L. Standishii; it is, nevertheless, very distinct in the absence of bristles on the young shoots, flower-stalks, and corolla; the leaf, too, is shorter and not drawn out as in L. Standishii." The latter is a very distinct plant from a gardening point of view. It forms a shapely bush, flowers freely when small, slightly earlier in the year, and continues in bloom quite as late, if not later, than L. fragrantissima. Again, as it is almost deciduous the flowers are quite apparent and not less fragrant than the other species.

With regard to Lonicera thibetica, there should be no difficulty in flowering it, provided it is placed in a fairly sunny spot, but many of these Asiatic shrubs were raised in quantity from seed 30 years ago, and there exist good and bad forms of many species. Unfortunately, the best flowering form is not always chosen to propagate from.

J. COMBER.

Nymans Gardens, Handcross, Sussex.

—— A question appears under the above heading on page 61 in the issue of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED dated January 29th. Having had no experience with the species thibetica I can say nothing about it, but as regards fragrantissima I find that it takes, in some instances, as much as seven years before it bears its creamy-white blossoms that appear in January and February in profusion. Unlike some of the Honeysuckles, this variety will do well in any aspect other than the north, but it is best when grown on a wall. It does not climb like most others, but will soon fill a space from 6 feet to 10 feet. When planting, it is wise to mix plenty of broken brick-rubble with the soil if this is of a rich or heavy nature, as if the roots, like those of a fruit tree, are allowed to penetrate into a wet and cold subsoil rampant, sappy shoots instead of well-ripened flowering wood will be the result. All weak and overcrowded shoots should be removed annually so as to allow as much sun as possible to penetrate through the remainder during summer and autumn.

Root-pruning is contemplated in the Editor's footnote, and this certainly would not be a bad plan, providing this is done when the season's growth is over and the plant is at rest. It would be safe to do this during September, and if a trench is dug, say, 18 inches from the base and 18 inches deep, there would be no harm in cutting away any roots that exceed this distance, at the same time tunnel underneath and sever any that have a tendency for growing downwards. Mix up some ordinary soil with the broken rubble, which will be all the better if a little old mortar is added. Make well firm by treading.

If the plants in question have only recently been planted there is no reason why they will not flower in due course if the weak shoots are cut away and ample sun and air is allowed to circulate amongst the remainder. The more horizontal the shoots are trained the better when laying in. No nitrogenous manure should be given plants that are making strong growth, but if otherwise a little bone-meal is beneficial.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens, Creigiau, near Cardiff.

—— Lonicera fragrantissima certainly requires a thorough ripening of the wood in summer, and if this is lacking there will be comparatively few of its deliciously fragrant flowers in the ensuing winter. It is also a shrub which does not do much in the way of flowering until it is thoroughly established. Except in very cold and exposed places there is no need to grow it in front of a wall. Where space permits it makes a very charming informal hedge plant. The less pruning it receives the better, but as it is a very stro growing plant a certain amount of judici pruning will be found imperative. The sa treatment suits L. Standishii (which is often sent out by nurserymen for L. fragr tissima). Both are winter-blooming shru but the former loses nearly all its leaves fore the flowers open, whereas L. fragr tissima is quite evergreen. I think Standishii is possibly the more free-flower of the two, but the blooms are smaller slightly less fragrant. In my garden b species are flowering this year with utmost profusion, due no doubt to thorough baking they enjoyed last summ The Bush Honeysuckles as a group have reputation of not being over-generous w their flowers. L. syringantha and its a L. thibetica, are notorious offenders in respect, but I am inclined to think tha great deal depends on the strain one happ to acquire quite as much as the garden tr ment. L. syringantha, moreover, varies fragrance very considerably, some pla having but a faint scent which is vastly ferior to those having a strong Hyaci scent. The species has been introduced f several districts in China, which probably counts for this variability. N. G. HADDE

West Porlock, Somerset.

Rose Caroline Testout

In reply to "A Scottish Gardener" (i January 22nd, page 47), according to files Caroline Testout was introduced b Pernet Ducher in the year 1890. We do know both its parents, but one was L Mary Fitzwilliam. We see no reason to pose La France was the other. Caro Testout itself has been very helpful hybridising. One of its progeny Merville de Lyon is the well-known Karl Druschki, now renamed Snow Que

COLCHESTE

—— In reference to "A Scottish dener's" letter as to the parentage of lovely Rose, Caroline Testout, which is H.T., I wish to point out that this Rose raised in the year 1890, and not 180 George M. Taylor, Edinburgh, states was Pernet Ducher who raised it, and parents were Mme. de Tartas x Lady M Fitzwilliam.

G.

My poster

The suggestions contained in the considered article on planning the vege garden (issue January 29th, page 66) ins the following verses:—

Upon a square of Bristol board
I planned my walks and hedges,
Washed in a little strip of sward,
Then stippled in the "veges."

A Cabbage patch, a Lettuce row,
A plot of Curly Kale,
Shallots and Parsley lay aglow
In greens and yellows pale.

The tool house and the potting shed
I sketched in madder brown,
A purple Pickle Cabbage bed
And Broccoli went down.

An artist, dropping in to tea,
Went crazy with delight,
"Why, man, that's Mangelsham-on-
How much the copyright?"

A.

Forcing Lilies of the Valley

Mr. G. T. Freshwater is quite right he states, on page 61, that at this ti year it is much better to obtain Ber home-grown crowns for forcing, but now these would not come into bloom s as the retarded ones, but, without a

blooms would be more natural where a ger period is allowed and remain fresher en out longer than the others.

Vhen writing the article in question I had mind the forcing of the crowns in other sons than the spring, and I question the ue of the flowers that are forced into om in a fortnight as stated by Mr. Fresh- ter. I have had them in 21 days from the ting up, but they were sickly-looking cimens with little or no foliage, which is ential when wanted for private house oration. To grow them well they should allowed at least one month or six weeks, when the flower-stems are 3 inches in gth they are best grown in cooler quarters a shelf near the glass. W. E. WRIGHT.

Early Snowdrops

do not know to what part of the country N. G. Hadden's observation applies that is seldom that the common Galanthus ilis can be picked before the end of uary" (page 61), but it must surely be a district. The common Snowdrop grows great profusion in the woods here, and I e the date of the earliest bloom recorded ach of the last 16 years, the earliest being ember 20th, 1924, and the latest January 1, 1918. During that period the dates are d six times in December and 10 times in first half of January. In the present year as January 7th. HERBERT MAXWELL.

onreith.

— I have grown Galanthus cilicicus this for the first time, and was delighted to the first blooms in mid-November. I was given some Snowdrops, which I take to G. Elwesii, with wide Tulip-like leaves, ch have flowered fully three weeks earlier 1 G. nivalis. An article on the rarer wdrops and their requirements would be reat interest, and many will agree with correspondent that a small collection of 1 would "add much to the interest of rock garden." But WHY rock garden? ld there possibly be a more incongruous ng? Will people never learn that the excuse for importing rocks into an lish garden is to enable them to grow ts which will not live without them? t the Snowdrops in a sunny bank on the of the orchard or under some old Oaks sheltered spot and you have an exquisite ire in natural instead of artificial sur- dings. LILIAN DIGBY.

wcombe Manor, Evershot, Dorset.

— With reference to Mr. N. G. den's note on page 61 of GARDENING STRATED of January 29th, could your con- tor kindly say where bulbs of G. cilicicus be purchased? Early Snowdrops of any appeal to me very strongly. In GARDEN- ILLUSTRATED of February 28th, 1925, I ired about two other winter Snowdrops ioned in previous issues, namely, G. yrensis and G. octobrensis, which were unobtainable. Possibly Mr. Hadden or other reader may be in a position to me trace a place or firm where bulbs of two varieties may now be obtained.

CAPTAIN E. A. SAUNDERS.

Azara microphylla

the good qualities of Azara microphylla, h were praised in your issue of January may be added, I think, the powerful (to most people) very pleasant fragrance anilla, which spreads for several yards d the bush in the early days of spring 1 the inconspicuous flowers are opening ith the leaves. It is an intensely sweet that is almost exactly matched in the alpine Orchid, Nigritella.

m inclined to think that A. microphylla her more hardy than your correspondent ests, for it flourishes here on an east wall, and although it grows less vigorously in the open border, it has comfortably lived through the last two winters there without protection.

The slightly tender Chilian plants (together with many others of similar needs from New Zealand, the Himalayas, and elsewhere) are well known to flourish as though at home in those parts of Great Britain where the climate is mild, equable, and rather damp; namely, in the Cornish peninsula, Ireland, and on the coasts of Wales and south-west Scotland. It is in these areas that the "Mediterranean" element (often miscalled Celtic) of our mixed race is most strongly represented, and it is rather interesting to notice that the theory has been put forward that the Mediterranean type is found most densely in these places, at least as much because the climate there suited them as because they were driven thither by the Nordic invaders.

There is an island of the Mediterranean element in the population of the Chilterns, but I am not quite bold enough to connect it with the flourishing of Azara in the neighbourhood.

Having begun the train of speculation it might as well be continued by noting that the distribution of some of the Heaths, such as Erica mediterranea, E. ciliaris, and E. Mackayi coincides roughly with that of the Basques, who are among the purest representatives of the Mediterranean race, and extends to the territory of their cousins in Cornwall and south-west Ireland.

Chesham Bois, Bucks. F. A. HAMPTON.

[*Letters from correspondents on the subject of "Does Fruit-growing Pay?" will be found on page 87.*]

Leucojum vernum carpathicum (Spring Snowflake)

THERE are few more attractive early spring flowers than the Snowflake here shown. Soon after Christmas the buds, pushing through some evergreen undergrowth, are charming. The Snowflakes are admirably adapted for growing through permanent dwarf edgings, or wherever a dwarf groundwork can be provided, as this shows them at their best. They appear quite at home in any position, and any soil suits them unless it is a very dry one. The white and slightly fragrant flowers, usually produced in pairs, are prettily tipped with green, and occasionally canary-yellow, which serves to enhance their beauty.

Some Candelabra Primulas

THIS section of Primulas has candelabra inflorescences. All the species, or nearly all, are plants of moist meadows, and produce Primrose-like leaves in clusters, from which tall stems arise, and upon these stems the flowers are produced at intervals in whorls, terminating in an umbel at the apex. Some of the finest garden Primulas belong to this section, and many of them are of the easiest cultivation, lending themselves to naturalising by stream or in woodland, and creating a garden picture such as few other plants can produce.

P. JAPONICA is one of the best known and one of the most popular of Primulas, and it is the only Japanese species in the section candelabra. It has been grown in English gardens since 1871, and is too well-known to need description. Its varied forms are easily established in any position where a moist root-run can be provided.

P. COCKBURNIANA is, unfortunately, a short-lived plant, and seedlings should always be forthcoming. The plant is noteworthy for its vivid orange-scarlet, almost vermilion, flowers, and is capable of creating an almost fairy-like effect when planted with ferns and other suitable subjects in a moist situation. It contrasts beautifully with the orange-coloured P. Bulleyana, a delightful plant, which, in conjunction with the purple P. Beesiana, has given us a race of hybrid forms. These truly delightful hybrid Primulas produce flowers in shades of orange, scarlet, pink, apricot, and intermediate shades; they grow freely and when massed present a particularly pleasing picture. Of more recent introduction, the golden-yellow

P. HELODOXA—the Marsh Primrose—should be in every garden. It is of strong growth, producing very vigorous scapes furnished with whorls of yellow flowers. It is an ideal Primula for the stream side or bog garden.

P. PULVERULENTA is a very fine plant. The carmine-rose flowers are rendered lovely by the white farina or meal which covers the scapes and flower stems and even the calyces of the flowers. The "Bartley" strain of P. pulverulenta contains some particularly nice forms, which, like the type, are "easy" and satisfying plants.

P. POISSONI, in dull purple, is not, in itself, so attractive as some other species, but it combines delightfully with the orange Bulleyana, and is an "easy" plant to manage.

All these Primulas, with the exception of P. japonica, are Chinese plants. They all enjoy abundant moisture at the root, and, indeed, must have it if they are required to give of their best. All are easily raised from seeds, indeed, most of them will perpetuate themselves under congenial conditions, from self-sown seeds, and they are never more beautiful than when freely colonised in thin, moist woodland, or by the stream side, the species mingling one with the other and with other stream-side plants. Where better conditions do not exist, the candelabra Primulas may be quite successfully grown in the flower border, provided abundant moisture is at all times forthcoming. So grown, a half-shaded position should be afforded them, but with their roots at the water side they enjoy a full meal of sunshine. RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Narcissus bulbocodium monophyllus

The White Hoop Petticoat Daffodil is the most dainty of the charming section to which it belongs, but, unfortunately, it is also much more delicate in constitution. It is a native of Algeria, but, unlike the invaluable Iris unguicularis, it has never become really established in English gardens. Bulbs may linger for a few years in well-drained, cosy nooks in the rock garden, but it is essentially a treasure for the cold house or the frame. It begins to flower in the first week or two of the New Year when grown in an unheated house, and, with slight heat, could doubtless be brought on even earlier. Newly-imported bulbs are apt to prove disappointing the first season, as they are collected before the foliage has died down, and are, naturally, not ready for drying and packing. But let the bulbs remain in their pot for another yea giving them a thorough baking in the sun soon as the leaves die off, and early in t winter the grower will be rewarded by stro foliage and plenty of buds peering throu the soil. The pure white flowers of crys texture have a pleasing fragrance, faint, b suggestive of Jonquils. It would be a w come addition to a cold house at any seas but coming so early in the year it is dou precious and is a delightful companion to t early Irises of the persica and histrioi type. N. G. HADDEN

With a Notebook on the New Riviera

EARLY last spring—in March to be exact—I made what is called the New Riviera my objective, and though plant-hunting was a secondary item in my itinerary, the flora of that lovely coast which stretches from Hyères to San Raphael was sufficiently absorbing to demand a large share of my time.

There is always a fascination in seeing familiar garden subjects growing in their native soil, and few of these were more interesting to a lover of Heaths than Erica lusitanica and E. arborea, which often covered vast tracts of the hillsides with their gentle green and tossing plumes of ashen whiteness. The bloom sprays of the former were especially full, large, and beautiful, the flowers of many bushes being infused with enough pink to flush the copious sheaves of blossom with a rosy hue. I was not prepared to meet E. lusitanica here at all, believing it to be confined to more westerly territory. But there it was in plenty, and I also found E. mediterranea in quantity, a species which most authorities describe as being confined to the Biscayan side of South-Western Europe. Both were growing on the arid siliceous soil of the hills and valleys, and often in company with them was E. arborea, the *bruyère*, of whose roots Tobacco-pipes are made. The tallest specimens of this fine Heath I saw were about 10 feet high. Calluna vulgaris was sometimes growing with the above or beneath the thin shade of Pinus Pinaster, and further west, on the limestone, the pink flowers and tufty growth of E. multifl were often conspicuous along the railw banks.

Primula japonica in moist woodland

A very characteristic feature of the litt is the Stone Pine (Pinus Pinea). Its umbr shape at once distinguishes it from any ot and the singularly bright, rich, glossy-gr of its foliage is always extremely beaut whether it is seen against the matchless b of the sky, the equally wonderful blue of sea, or in contrast to the warm red of porphyritic rocks that wall the Cote d'A The rugged old Cork Oaks (Quercus Sub commercially one of the most valuable t of the district, range far up the valleys hill-slopes, the latter being fragrant w Lavandula Stœchas and L. latifolia, with biggest and bluest Rosemary which I h ever seen and trim bushes of the resin aromatic Pistacia Lentiscus, with an o closely akin to that of our Bog Myrtle.

Common in many places was the exqu Oxalis cernua, its heads of large ler yellow flowers nodding at the tips of 10- stalks. Though a native of the Cap Good Hope, this beautiful Oxalis is fi naturalised all along the Riviera, on African coast, and some of the Mediterra islands. It seemed to prefer the deep, r soil along the margins of streams, and Vinca difformis, with its starch-white w flowers, was often growing in profu This Periwinkle was also a familiar obje the plantations of Arundo Donax, w noble canes, 15 feet to 20 feet high, are vated and periodically cut for the maki hampers used for the conveyance of fl or fish. Another plant found in f among the Arundos was the white, Hya like Allium triquetrum, whilst from a every low-lying meadow near the sea the sweet fragrance of the little Nar Tazetta. This, indeed, was a land o grance, for Freesias and Stocks were grown, or naturalised, everywhere. Min having escaped from the gardens, now many of the lower hills like Gorse in Eucalyptus trees pour forth invig odour of leaf and flower, and the Tree H alluded to fill the air for miles across sun-blest ranges with the honey and V scent of their copious phials.

The typical "maquis," or scrub, covers great areas of the lower hills, t being rocky and siliceous, is in this often largely composed of Cistus m iensis. This, in the mass, is a dar sombre green until lit up by its co white flowers, whilst here and the noted the paler green of C. salvifoli the silver-leaved C. albidus with blooms. Spartium junceum, Genista c (on the limestone), Cytisus triflor Calycotome spinosa, whose daggers ever unpleasantly assertive, were amo many leguminous plants noted in the hills, and among them the brillia berries of Smilax aspera often make a s dash of colour. Another shrub which never before seen in such perfection o

From a notebook on the New Riviera

1. Wild Rosemary and wood of Cork Oak
2. Erica lusitanicus
3. Vinca difformis and Arundo Donax

Ruscus aculeatus, the common Butcher's m.

was too early to see in flower that noble odel, A. microcarpus, but looking for it others of its kind which abound I came the very dainty little Romulea columnæ, pale bluish-lilac flowers and fine, grassy s. Orchis latifolia was just coming into m, while in the dry woods O. tridentata its variety acuminata (lactea) were fre- t. Mesembryanthemum acinaciforme is her Cape plant that is naturalised here- ts, and very good service it often does in ing the trickling soil of garden slopes railway embankments, whilst along the it is undoubtedly efficacious in prevent- and drift as it is in some of the Channel ds. The flowers, 3 inches across, in us shades of pink, purple, violet, and w, were often remarkably showy. The , white-veined foliage of Scolymus his- us is a familiar roadside weed that fails to arrest attention in these parts, ially when blazing with its rich yellow delion flowers. I tried to bring some of curiously attractive species home with but they expired on the way. Muscari oides and M. neglectum were also com- in grassy places, and in many localities rocks were margined with the green leaves and " mouse-tails " of Arisarum re. Viola odorata was common and de- ully fragrant in many of the Cork Oak s, and at least one colony was found of ordani, which appears to be a geo- ical form of V. canina.

A very striking feature on some of the cliffs and rocky places was the Tree Spurge (Euphorbia dendroides), which formed large rounded bushes 4 feet to 6 feet in height. The reddish branches, glaucous leaves, and yellow, orange-centred flowers were exceedingly handsome and made with the curiously symmetrical form of the plants one of the most noteworthy objects of many a rugged cliff. The Spurges, of which there are here a great many species, appear to be among the few things which are not devoured by the omnivorous goat,' a pest which does not always prowl the earth with somebody's sock drawn over its nose—an ingenious system of muzzling applied to the creature when it is being taken from place to place in the vicinity of gardens and vineries! A. T. JOHNSON.

Rosemary

This highly aromatic herb is more often than not relegated to some out-of-the-way corner in the kitchen garden, or it may find a place in the herb border, but beyond this its value as an ornamental flowering shrub is either neglected or not recognised. In respect to this remark it may be stated that it is not often met with grown as an ornamental shrub, yet with ordinary care and attention it will, wherever hardy, attain a height of between 4 feet to 5 feet and form a dense, symmetrically-shaped bush some 3 feet to 4 feet through in its widest part and produce a profusion of its small pale mauve flowers in early spring which are much admired and appreciated by many people. It takes about five seasons for a rooted cutting to attain the proportions mentioned if planted in a good position. After the first year or two an annual trimming after the flowering period is past is requisite to ensure symmetry and a compact growth. Neglect in this direction leads to bushes becoming straggling and untidy in appearance, and the branches break down when laden with snow. The Rosemary is also a good subject with which to form a close, compact hedge from anything from 2 feet to 4 feet in height, and which, moreover, can be close-clipped every year after the flowers fade. Naturally, flowers are not produced with such freedom as is the case with specimen bushes, as the young growths are more stubby and less vigorous in character. All the same, a sufficient quantity of flowers are produced to render the hedge very interesting. As a hedge, Rosemary is more adaptable for the purpose than Lavender, and far more enduring.

Rosemary is propagated in the same way as Lavender outdoors—*i.e.*, by means of cuttings or side shoots about 8 inches or 9 inches in length, taken off with a " heel " and inserted 4 inches to 5 inches deep in soil of a sandy nature 6 inches apart in rows 9 inches to 12 inches asunder. In the case of a stiff or heavy soil place a little sand in holes made for the insertion of the cuttings.

Autumn struck cuttings

The cuttings of Scabiosa anthemiflora rosea, Verbena chamædrifolia, Œnotheras, Pentstemons, Violas, and many other plants are now ready for potting up singly or planting into boxes.

Sowing of Sweet Peas

THESE may be numbered among the indispensable subjects for the flower garden. They are ideal for cutting and for the herbaceous border. In smaller gardens a row of Sweet Peas could be used effectively as a screen between flower and vegetable garden. For early bloom seed is sown under glass in autumn, one seed to a small pot, and the seedlings kept in a cool greenhouse or frame until April, when they are planted out. A good compost consists of two parts loam to one of leaf-mould and sand. This autumn sowing gives the best as well as the earliest blooms, but, failing it, seeds may be sown in late January or early February, five seeds to each 5-inch pot, or, in the case of valuable seed, one seed to each small pot, as the roots are then less likely to be damaged when the plants are turning out. If large quantities are being sown, the seeds will do quite well in boxes, 3 inches between each seed.

The seeds may be soaked in paraffin or dressed with red lead to protect them from mice, etc. Some growers like to soak the seed in warm water to hasten germination, and this is especially wise in the case of varieties with very hard seed coats. Seeds of pale-coloured varieties, such as white, cream, and lavender, must not be sown deeply, as they are liable to rot. It will be noticed that seeds of lavender-coloured varieties are usually small and withered. The pots or boxes containing the seed may be stood in a cool or slightly heated greenhouse or frame until the roots are well through the soil, when they may be removed to a frame and subsequently hardened off for planting out of doors in April.

Seeds may be sown out of doors, where the plants are to bloom, from late February to April, according to soil conditions. The ground must be well prepared if good results are to be obtained. Deep digging is most essential; from 2 feet to 3 feet is best. Decayed yard manure should be placed at the bottom of the trench or hole; it provides nourishment and moisture for the roots, especially in dry weather, but it must not come in contact with the roots of the seedlings. Bone-meal and soot may be mixed in the upper foot of soil, and in spring, before planting, a light dressing of superphosphate of lime is beneficial. Plant from 6 inches to 9 inches apart.

If blooms of the finest quality and with long stems are desired the plants should be restricted to from one to three stems, all side shoots rubbed off, and each stem tied to a Bamboo stake. This method is only suitable when blooms are being grown for exhibition purposes. When grown for display the plants may be staked with ordinary tree branches, Hazel being particularly suitable. All seed-pods should be removed as they form to ensure plenty of flowers. Watering may be necessary in very dry weather, and plants benefit greatly if liquid-manure is given once a week during the flowering season. Sweet Peas must not be sown in the same pl each year, as it tends to make the pla sickly and prone to disease.

Varieties are numerous, and most of colourings are very beautiful. A few of best are Constance Hinton (white), Ha mark Cream, Mrs. A. Hitchcock (cre flushed with pink), Elfrida Pearson (pink), Barbara (salmon-pink), Presi (orange-red), Hawlmark Scarlet, R. Felton (lavender), Mrs. Tom Jones (br blue), Royal Purple, Jean Ireland (buff rose), and Warrior (chocolate-maroon).

K. F. FRAYN

Regal Lilies

WHEN well grown, Lilium regale is, beyond doubt, one of the most magnificent of all Lilies. It is not a difficult Lily to grow; indeed, it is amenable to cultivation, and may be regarded as one of the best for English gardens.

The accompanying illustrations of a large bed of L. regale are prepared from photographs taken in Mr. Scrase Dickins' beautiful garden at Coolhurst, Horsham, Sussex, in July last.

These Lilies have been grown in the same bed to themselves for four years or five years. The bed in question is well drained and slightly raised. It is in a sheltered part of the garden, but not overgrown with trees.

We are indebted to that intrepid explorer, Mr. E. H. Wilson, for the introduction of the Regal Lily, and, in passing, a tribute should also be paid to Mr. Wilson for his recent monograph on Eastern Lilies*, an interesting and authoritative book that has done much to enlighten our knowledge of this extremely beautiful genus.

Wilson found Lilium regale in 1903 in a semi-arid valley in the little-known Chino-Tibetan borderland. We can do no better than quote the discoverer. "Its slender stems, each from 2 feet to 4 feet tall, flexible and tense as steel, overtopping the coarse grass and scrub, are crowned with one to several large funnel-shaped flowers more or less wine-coloured without, pure white and lustrous on the face, clear canary-yellow within the tube, and each stamen filament tipped with a golden anther. The air in the cool of the morning and in the evening is laden with delicious perfume exhaled from each bloom. For a brief season this lon semi-desert region is transformed by this into a veritable fairyland."

This magnificent Lily has received the award of First-class Certificate from Royal Horticultural Society. It is a with a grand constitution, growing 4 feet to 7 feet in height, with anything three to 18 blooms on a stem. This Lily parently does well on limestone soil, bu discoverer finds it necessary to utter a w ing note about over-feeding. "In addi to western gardens the discoverer w proudly rest his reputation with the R Lily; he pleads with all who possess or possess this treasure not to ruin its cons tion with rich food."

* "The Lilies of Eastern Asia," by E. H. Wilson, M.A Published by Messrs. Dulau and Co., price 25s. net.

Liliam regale at Coolhurst, Sussex
A noble Lily with a grand constitution

Lilium regale from seed

As pointed out in recent issues (see January 29th, page 66), the Regal Lily is of the few popular hardy Lilies which be rapidly propagated from seed. In localities it produces seed generously wit extra attention, but in others hand pol tion is required to induce it to seed at Seed is produced in pods of from 50 to seeds, the seed being light and flaky, running from 50,000 to 75,000 to the po Seed is sown out of doors in March in about ½ inch deep, the rows being 8 inches to 18 inches apart and with fro to 40 seeds to a foot of row. Ordinaril seed germinates readily and the seedling gin to appear in from four weeks to weeks. At the end of the first sea growth the seedling bulbs are from ⅝ in 1 inch in diameter. Many of the la bloom the second year.

Some commercial growers allow the lings to remain in the seed-beds two but the beginner will find it a better pr to replant them at the end of the first se This can be done any time after th growth matures in the fall and befor bulbs start to make new growth in spring. The bulbs are set about 3 i deep and from 3 inches to 6 inches ap the row.

Seed may also be grown successful doors in the winter. If sown now the lings should be carried along at a m temperature until early spring, when can be transplanted to the open gr Bulbs thus grown should be from cent. to 100 per cent. larger in the fall those from seed planted outside in the s

Regal Lilies grow best in a light, fertile, well-drained soil, but will thr any good garden soil. The bulbs are and may be wintered in the ground. the first foliage appears in the spring, ever, they are very tender, and even frost will injure them.

Regal Lily bulbs have been in acti mand in the commercial markets eve their introduction.

Lilium regale, without doubt the finest of all garden Lilies, in Mr. Scrase Dickins' garden at Coolhurst, Sussex

Zinnias

'hough classed as half-hardy annuals, Zin-
s are not so robust as the foliage some-
es leads one to suppose, and I submit
t more disappointment is often experi-
ed with them than with most plants that
utify our gardens during the summer. If
annual loves warmth, a sunny position,
does well in a hot, dry summer when other
ngs are inclined to languish, it is surely
se beautiful and long-lasting blossoms.

ailures with Zinnias may often be traced
a too early sowing of seed, or to remov-
them to a cold frame for the purpose of
dening off when weather conditions are
ruitable. This comes about when seed is
n along with other half-hardy annuals
greenhouse in February or March, and
n room is badly wanted for other things
ning on; boxes of seedlings pricked off
taken out of a warm temperature and put
a cold frame, causing a check at once,
ndeed it does not cripple them entirely.
ly sowing is all right if plants can be
wn in a genial environment until outside
ditions improve, and it is safe to make the
nge from a house to a frame. If plants
not be given this attention then it is far
er to defer sowing seed until towards
il, as at that time weather is warmer
germination and growth under the roof
greenhouse are uninterrupted. Locality,
ourse, counts a great deal, and while in
e quarters one may safely plant out in
, in others it would be unwise to do so.
ave seen plants put out in the middle of
injured by night frosts, whilst others
t under glass and not bedded out until
first week in June went forward, not hav-
anything to hinder progress.

ICH FEEDING.—No annual thrives better in the full sun, so long as the soil is rich and light. To this end it is advisable to prepare the place they are to occupy a few weeks beforehand. Light loam, leaf mould, and rotted dung, with coarse sand added, suits them perfectly. As much trouble should be bestowed upon the soil as if plants were being potted off separately, as they respond to good culture, and for many weeks one may enjoy their blossoms. There are some splendid strains of double varieties to-day, embracing scarlet and rose, yellow and white. In planting out the best effects are gained when they are grouped together in a border, or planted by themselves in a bed. Slugs are partial to Zinnias, and at the time of setting them outside a dusting of soot on the surface of the bed is recommended. It is well also to go to the trouble of staking each plant, as, the stems being hollow, the flowers are likely to be blown over by rough wind and soon broken.

Their use as pot plants is worth bearing in mind, and for a window or cool greenhouse in summer one could not select an annual that remains in beauty for a longer time.

Anyone proposing to sow seed for the first time will be well advised to do so later, if not prepared to allow the plants to remain under genial conditions until all danger of frost has passed, as anything like extremes of temperature is fatal to Zinnias.

MIDLANDER.

The Darwin Tulip, Bleu Celeste

The Darwins are some of the best of forcing Tulips and have tints that are perfect for blending. Mauves, lilacs, tender pink, and glowing carmine are glorious with colour, but one comes upon shades that are exceedingly difficult to describe—something between the sad, grey-mauve of the Rev. H. Ewbank and the more cheerful Lavender that is of quite a lively shade of rosy-mauve.

The latter is, however, more the flower for garden decoration than for cut-flower work.

The variety that combines best with mauve Lilac blossom is Bleu Celeste, a shade of a little more lively a colour than the Rev. H. Ewbank, yet differing sufficiently in colour from the lilac to give a highly artistic result.

The value of these half-shades are demonstrated in flower decoration, where in the flower border they are not so appreciated. There they need the strong contrast of some of the almost black Darwins to throw them into relief.

Veronica corymbosa

It is a good while since the writer came across a most attractive little perennial Speedwell, called V. corymbosa, which was greatly in demand 30 years ago as a good, distinct, and pretty rock garden plant. I believe that it is still in cultivation, and I have observed it offered in one or two catalogues of late. I hope it may be more cultivated than has been the case of late years. It is probably a form of V. spicata, but is dwarfer than the majority of varieties of this well-known Veronica. It has deep blue flowers crowded together in a compact yet pleasing mass. Its height is somewhere about 9 inches, and it is an excellent subject for the rock garden or front of the border. V. corymbosa (or, probably, V. spicata corymboa, to speak correctly) is propagated by division or cuttings. It is quite hardy, and, although an abnormal form of a pleasing plant, generally meets with the admiration of all who grow it. It can be cultivated in common soil. S. ARNOTT.

Winter Beauty in the Garden

MUCH is written about colour schemes and great attention is bestowed on summer displays, but less thought is given to insuring permanent beauty in the garden. A garden at its best has its charm restricted to three seasons of the year, but a garden of many shrubs has no such limitations, its beauty is prolonged and forms an attractive background the four seasons. A full of snow points the ground and trees of bare boughs show but to the eyes and minds of people of city which lengthens the prospects the beauty of rural surroundings. Not by any means the least of these gifts is a garden of trees and shrubs noted for beauty. Their leaves have fallen, but the shoots stand bold and upright to fill the evening with bark and berries. Instead of it is winter, when nature gives their decorative boles and form are most clearly pronounced.

Through the months the Cotoneasters of the Edge, the Silver and Red Berries are provided with clustered fruit-trees. The Birch and Cherries hang in thousands clusters of very small yellow, and the stems of the Cotoneaster Spectabilis, Leatherhead, and Japanese Wild Rose are studded with berries. Not are berries alone attractive. In in normal winters a Witch Hazel shrub, commonly known as the growing over bole of Wisteria and shrubs, unfolds petals, and the fragrant flowers, whose petals spread from a wine-coloured bud.

Berries red, white, and black point our bushes of Bulberry, Cotoneaster, Black Alder, Spindle-tree, and Privet the whole year, as do standing garden fruits on many Hollies. The gorgeous of winter bud-scales are highlighted by such trees as Wellingtonia. Those of Cytisus nigricans and Sorbus aucuparia, which have to abundance, shining bright against black pots, and have such contrasting and permanent dies of leaves. The Wellingtonia Tree is a small one with more or less exposed stem made up of slender branches, the other is Fir-leaved with light, non-overlapping branches, so that they are complementary and in beauty they are not surpassed in winter by any tree or shrub living in the milder parts of this country.

The native Black Alders (Ilex aquifolium and I. laevigata), whose berry, rich shows are enhanced with bright red fruits through the depths of winter, ought to be the every garden. And so, too, the Cornus, with brightly-coloured stems, the best of which are Cornus alba and C. stolonifera, white-spreading shrubs with more or prostrate shoots which in the late winter are red and to dark crimson in colour. In marked contrast is the yellow Dogwood, with pale yellow stems.

Another handsome shrub for small town which carries a profusion of pink-red berries long January to March is the Sea Buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides). This is a dense-branched spiny bush or small tree, sometimes 30 feet and more tall, with narrow silver leaves which fall in the autumn. The bushes are usually crowded with bright-coloured fruits, and few shrubs are attractive for so long a period of the year.

Of berried evergreen trees none can be grown in New England, and the shrubs of this class are very limited in number. The native Holly (Ilex opaca) succeeds in sheltered spots; the Irish Yew, grown in tubs, is useful enough through the most severe winter. The Andromeda (Pieris floribunda), with flower-clusters standing above its green leaves all ready to open in the spring, laughs at New England winters. Rhododendrons hang down their leaves and curl them tightly, depressingly anxious to protect the vitality to the utmost. In marked contrast is the Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia), holding its leaves outspread as in summer time, and glorying in the fact that it is New England's best broad-leaf evergreen.

The grandeur of the Conifers is especially impressive in winter with their dark masses of foliage and trunks standing sentinel above the carpet of snow. The Pines, the Firs, and the Hemlocks take on rather in winter, the green is darker, the grey more brighter, and the contrast greater. When from snow on the Conifers in winter gives the finest of pictures. Black, green, or grey masses and columns routed against the white, the snow-covered ground—a scene most restful, inspiring, and grand.

Rosehill Arboretum. E. H. Wilson

Royal Horticultural Society

A bright and attractive exhibition

AMONG the splendid show of early flowers at the fortnightly meeting held on January 25th special mention should be made of the large group of forced bulbs, including Hyacinths, Tulips, Lily of the Valley, Iris tuberosa, and Daffodils shown by Messrs. Sutton and Sons, Reading.

Forced groups of Cyclamens were shown by Messrs. Blackmore and Langdon, Bath, and Mr. J. W. Forsyth, of Farnham.

The exquisite Pink Beauty and Superior King were outstanding, with others by the Hall Farm, and the famous Cyclamen section was shown from Farnham.

A large exhibit of Primula sinensis by Messrs. James Carter and Co. claims our attention on an illustration on this page. In this well-known strain the pink Princess May was singled out as being especially good.

Interesting little rock gardens were shown in various exhibitions, and there were pretty groups of Primula vulgaris, Hepatica, Christmas Roses, and Cyclamen for rock gardens.

Perhaps the exhibit which attracted most attention than any other was a collection of [illegible] or more varieties and species of Orange, Lemons, Grape Fruits, and other forms of Citrus fruits sent by Mr. Cecil Hanbury from his well-known garden at La Mortola, on the Riviera. The fruits, which were carefully arranged by Mr. S. McLeod Braggins, the Superintendent of these famous gardens, included the very fragrant Citrus Hystrix. This fruit has a rough corrugated skin, and its sweet scent is so much appreciated in Italy, where it is grown, it is cut in pieces and placed in Tobacco pouches to preserve them. This remarkable Citrus is the indirect ancestor of the Sciadocca Citron, see illustration on p. 83 of a dish of five fruits each about the size of a small orange, one of Citrus Limonum, and the Grape Fruit is derived from the fact that large fruits hang down in clusters or bunches like Grapes. The Society's appreciation of this unusual exhibit was marked by the award of the gold medal and vote of commendation.

The beautiful Camellia Sasanqua, very pretty, rather small flowers, was shown by Messrs. Veitch and Son. This fine Camellia has flowered well in the open in many gardens this year. It was flowering in Bulbury, near Southampton, on New Year's day, and it has also flowered well in open in Essex and in other counties.

The Tea plant (Camellia theifera) was shown in flower and bud. It had white flowers with pale yellow anthers and [illegible]-coloured buds. These Camellias are illustrated on p. 83. H.

Symphiandra pendula

Like the late Mr. Reginald Farrer, I wonder why the pretty Symphiandra pendula is so little known. Those who possessed of that monumental work Farrer's the English Flower Garden, who have never known S. pendula, are invited to turn to the pages in which Symphiandras are treated and to read there the gifted writer's panegyric on pendula. It is too long to quote in full and it may be summed up in the few words of one sentence in the review of the book. Mr. Farrer said that he had long considered this neglected plant "As easily the most beautiful thing of its kind that the garden holds in August." It is a strangely neglected plant, indeed, though not difficult to grow and is easy to raise from seeds; a

A notable exhibit of greenhouse Primulas at the Royal Horticultural Society's Show on 25th January

INTERESTING PLANTS AT VINCENT SQUARE ON JANUARY 25th

From left to right:

1. The Tea Plant in flower (Camellia theifera) ɜa).

2. The Sciadocca Grape Fruit from La Mortola. It is called Grape Fruit because the fruits are borne in a large cluster or bunch.

3. Camellia Sasanqua, with dainty pink flowers, from Cornwall.

ɜy perennial, and, where happy, in-ɜsing in size and beauty as the years go ,and not requiring any protection in win- It soon forms a number of slender ɜches with bright green, oval-pointed, ɔied foliage. Then, in late summer, ɜge numbers of long, white, yellowish-ɜe bells, or, rather, "greenish-white" l of a wonderfully beautiful texture, and htful to see, trailing over the stones of ɜock garden, lovely from every point of ɜ, but of more delightful beauty when ɜed on a flat spot above the level of the ɜand trailing over the stones. It is not ɔlesome to grow. It loves a rich, deep l but can do with something less, and the ɜr has cultivated it successfully in a rock ɜn "pocket" on the shady side. It is sɜ raised from seeds, and may also be in-ɜed by cuttings. S. ARNOTT.

VEGETABLES

Seed Potatoes

HE selection of Potato tubers for plant-ng purposes is now occupying the ttention of most gardeners, and if the ɜion of planting house-saved "seed" or ɜuying in of a new stock has yet to be. td I am inclined to think that it is rather ɜn the season to do it.

Fsearch workers have come to the con-ɜn, and most gardeners agree, that the ɜ cause of degeneration in Potato stocks tɜ presence of the so-called virus diseases. lɜ the virus diseases are present in the sɜd" the resulting crop shows a consider-lɜ falling-off in weight. When these sɜses are absent from the "seed" the ɔ. retains its cropping powers and shows ɜgn of degeneration. In other words, the tɜ of degeneration is disease, and there is ɔuch thing as a variety of Potato be-ɜng worn out by age alone. Of the vɜal kinds of virus diseases none is more eɜherous in its effect than the one known ɜleaf Curl.

Assuming that the above paragraph is true, the selection of "seed" tubers free from virus disease is of some importance, yet at this period of the year there is little to assist in making such a selection. True, we can box up our own-saved "seed," and by careful observation pick out the tubers which fail to sprout strongly. Such tubers are generally affected, and, in any case, are not worth planting. We should, however, remember that it is only the tubers which are carrying a heavy load of infection that can easily be detected in this way. Slightly-infected tubers do not show enough weakness to be readily detected at this stage. To make a decision at crop-lifting time is not always safe practice, because a good crop is not always a sure sign that the stock is free from disease. When an attack of leaf curl comes late in the season it would not show itself in the crop, because the crop was formed before the disease came; also it would not show to any marked extent in the sprouting "seed" the following spring. A very much reduced crop in the season following a late attack is often the first indication that something is wrong.

To avoid the above loss of crop it seems important that earlier detection of the presence of virus diseases is essential. To find out the presence of a disease when it has caused a loss of crop cannot be the best of practice. The best time to detect these virus diseases would seem to be during the actual growing season. At that stage they can easily be recognised. When the disease is present only in small numbers the affected plants might be taken out, the tops burned, and the tubers used up at once. If present in large numbers it would be folly to save "seed," and to buy a new stock would be a good investment. To be able to detect the presence of virus disease in the growing tops of Potatoes is of the greatest use in obtaining good crops of Potatoes, and those gardeners who are not familiar with the look of these diseases should lose no time in asking someone who does.

When buying a new stock of "seed" Potatoes, at least two questions arise which require consideration. The first of these is whether to buy Scotch seed or Once Grown. It is generally accepted that new Scotch seed during its first year of growth has a tendency to throw rather a large proportion of "seed"-sized tubers at the expense of ware size, but if disease can be kept out of the crop this tendency is reversed during the second season of growth. If one is out for the production of table tubers and could be sure of getting disease-free once-grown "seed" it would appear to be the better plan. Usually once-grown "seed" from a farm where the farmer adopts a good rotation can be relied upon to produce good crops. Care, however, must be used in buying once-grown "seed." The second question that arises is: What variety to buy? This can only be settled by the individual concerned. The qualities of any variety are so largely influenced by local conditions and by the manures used to grow the crop. Then, again, a close Potato is the ideal of some, a floury Potato is preferred by others, so that to say anything about varieties is, to a large extent, waste of time. Under my conditions, if I were limited to three varieties I should grow Duke of York, Great Scot, and Field-Marshal. If I could grow one only I should chose Great Scot.

G. CONRAD.

Shallots: Change of seed

As in Potatoes, I regard a change of seed as important in the growth of Shallots. I would advise those who have not had good results to try bulbs from some fresh source. My garden is low. For years I was not satisfied with the Shallots, and some five years ago I resolved to clear out all the bulbs and obtain my supply from a fresh soil. Every season I have done this since, with the result that the crop has been vastly increased. Added to this, the bulbs keep much better. If Potatoes are benefited by it, then why not these and underground Onions? I am aware these may be raised from seed, and this I would strongly recommend where a change of roots is not possible. S. C.

INDOOR PLANTS

The propagating house

AN important adjunct to a garden is the propagating-house. Something more than a well-built structure is necessary to ensure success. In no other department is it more necessary to keep everything clean.

Now we have entered the second month of the year it will not be long before early spring propagation begins, and before this is attempted the structure must receive a thorough cleansing. The plunging material must be removed and replaced with clean, sweet material, but before this takes place the walls must be given a coat of lime-wash made from slaked lime to which a little sulphur should be added. The wash is better made rather thin as then it penetrates the crevices, where so many insect enemies lurk. The woodwork should be well washed, using carbolic soap for the purpose. The compost used must be free of insect pests and worms. Also see that it does not contain any woody substance likely to contain spores of fungus. All drainage as well as the pots themselves must be quite clean. Should the sand used be inclined to cake after watering, it should be washed. If three or four gallons of sand are put into a tub of water and well stirred it will remove all traces of clay, and the sand be much sharper after the water is drawn off. In the case of very dirty sand it will require two or three washings. When cuttings are removed from a plant they must not be allowed to lie about for long, therefore only remove as many as can be inserted before they have a chance of getting the least withered. When inserting the cuttings use a blunt-ended dibber, as then the cutting will rest on the base of the hole made, and not be suspended with a cavity beneath, as is almost certain to happen when a pointed dibber is used.

Short cuttings in almost all cases are preferable, only inserting them deep enough to keep them firm. After the cuttings are in do not allow them to stand about longer than is necessary. The sooner they are removed to the propagating pit the better. All being in, the question of temperature must be considered, and this must be kept as regular as possible with the bottom heat a little in excess of the surface heat. Every morning, as early as convenient, open the frames and close up again before the cuttings have a chance to "flag." Before closing the frames look through them, and if any signs of damping or decay are observed remove them and water any pots that are dry. In some cases a slight dewing with the syringe will benefit the cuttings. Before the sun is fully on the house shading should be used, removing early enough for the occupants to receive the declining rays of the setting sun. As soon as the cuttings are rooted remove them from the frames, gradually hardening off until they are ready for potting off. F. H.

Kalosanthes coccinea

There are few more showy plants than this. To grow and flower it well was at one time considered a creditable feat, though its culture is not a difficult matter. It is one of our oldest and finest greenhouse plants, and sometimes it is planted out during the summer in the flower garden. Cuttings of its succulent shoots struck in autumn, potted off the following spring, and allowed to grow all the summer in any light airy structure, or in a warm exposure out of doors, flower the same year. Like most of its class, it strikes freely, and the young plants may be potted singly in 6-inch pots in a compost of loam and sand chiefly, mixed with a proportion of broken potsherds and charcoal. The shoots are better not pinched, but if tops be chosen for cuttings which are just breaking into a number of shoots, as they often do, pinching will not be necessary. The great point as regards the summer culture of plants of Kalosanthes is to get their growth well ripened, and with this object, in the south at least, and even in the north, it is a good plan to plunge them in a warm border in front of a hothouse, where they will get all the sun and heat possible; in such a situation they do almost better than under glass. Water should be regularly but sparingly supplied, and towards August they should be kept rather dry, to induce the formation of flower-buds, when they may be introduced to the conservatory and placed in a good light. The Kalosanthes is from the dry slopes of the Cape of Good Hope, and, as might be expected, the successful flowering of it depends very much on exposure to the sun and air, together with a limited supply of moisture.

Diplacus glutinosus

This is a useful plant in the greenhouse, of a twining, rambling nature, suitable for growing on a back wall, over rafters, or in a hanging-basket, as well as for training, when in a pot, over a wire support, balloon fashion. Known by the familiar name of Monkey-flower, it bears a profusion of orange-gold blossoms. The foliage of the Diplacus is narrow and exudes a sticky substance, hence its second name. It is a quick-growing plant and will do well in any cool greenhouse. Propagation may be effected in spring by cuttings from young wood inserted in the moist, sandy soil of a striking pit, or from cuttings of half-ripened wood after the flowering period. Compost for it should be loam, leaf-mould, a little decayed manure, and sharp silver sand. As a basket plant for suspending from the roof of a greenhouse it is very charming seen in bloom. For baskets it is best to start with young-struck cuttings rather than attempt an older plant in such a limited space.

During winter the Diplacus needs little water, but during the growing season, and as it approaches the blooming period, it will benefit by copious supplies. They are plants, too, which can be plunged out of doors in the summer, and, when so treated, the blossoms are of a deeper tint. Old plants can be cut back in February and any repotting required done a month later. W. F.

ORCHIDS

Calanthes

THE name Calanthe given to this section of the Orchid family means "Beautiful Flower." They are very beautiful, and flower during the early winter months when flowers are in great demand. I prefer in these notes to deal only with what is commonly known as the Vestita group, which includes C. Vestita, C. Veitchii, and C. Turneri. These are of deciduous habit, losing their leaves during the season of rest.

During February and March the pseudo-bulbs should be producing new growths, and when about an inch or so in length must be repotted.

It is still a vexed question as to what is the best compost for Calanthes, and most growers differ in some slight detail, but the compost mentioned below I find the most successful:—Fibrous yellow loam, two parts; Osmunda fibre, one part; chopped Sphagnum Moss, one part; and a sprinkling of silver sand and good drainage, half-filling the pots with clean crocks.

All the larger size bulbs should be potted singly, and the base of the young growth should be nearly an inch below the finished surface.

This is done so that when the roots are p duced there is little risk of their being ea by insects, and also that the pseudo-bu are made firm. After potting expose plants to full sunlight for three weeks or f weeks, then shade carefully from direct s light. Increase the supply of water as plants make more root. During August September, when the pots are full of roo weak liquid-manure should be given, a this should be kept up, increasing in streng until the flower-buds commence to op After this use clean water only. When foliage ripens, less water is required, and the leaves fall give only sufficient to keep bulbs plump. Calanthes should be grown the warmest house, but, when flowering, n be removed to a cooler temperature, as t prolongs the flowering season.

ARTHUR T. SUTTON

ROSES

Extent to which Roses requir pruning

THIS not only varies in the case of ferent kinds, but also as regards object the cultivator has in view. Th who grow for exhibition prune comparativ close, so as to concentrate the strength of plants into a few shoots, which, from th limited number, are necessarily strong, a may be expected to bear a few large flow For ordinary purposes it is better to pru less severely, as numbers of flowers generally more acceptable than a few exc tionally large ones. It is difficult to con in writing the exact method advisable to low, as even many individual varieties quire to be somewhat differently treated others; but it may be taken as a safe r that the stronger the natural growth of variety, and the more vigorous the state the individual plant, the less pruning need for the obvious reason that a plant in t condition is calculated to support a grea number of shoots with a proportiona larger crop of bloom than one that is weak either by accident or the less vigorous ha of the sort. In all cases it is advisable remove completely out from their base whole of the weak, thin wood, the prod of last or previous seasons, and which not sufficient substance to push shoots str enough to flower; for the presence of th uselessly taxes the energies of the pla drawing support which is better concentra in the stout, blooming wood. These w growths also tend to crowd the plants, k ing out both sun and air. With Roses are naturally weak growers it is necessar prune to fewer eyes than in the case of strong ones, otherwise, if left too full, flow of sap is directed to the formation support of a much greater number of sh than are ever strong enough to bear flow to the manifest detriment of those which All the Tea varieties must be pruned cautiously, leaving their strong growths w out further interference than being some shortened; but with these, likewise, it is visable to thin out all the weak shoots. the weakest growers of the Teas also l the strongest shoots a considerable ler but reduce the number proportionate to natural strength of the variety and the or less vigorous condition the plant hap to be in. R.

Rose supports

Where these are trained to tripods or lar supports it is advisable to examine closely and replace any of the poles w show signs of decay, as this is more veniently done when the Roses are ba leaves and detached for pruning and thinn

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

ʃouthern and Midland

ly Potatoes

ed tubers intended for use in frames and m borders should be laid out to sprout in ht frost-proof place, and if these are stood ways in boxes they may be carried ight to the planting-ground conveniently out further disturbance. Where space is lable in the early vinery or Peach-house, as a shelf near the glass, an early crop be obtained by planting a few well-red tubers in 9-inch pots. Allowance t, however, be made for a good top-sing later by only filling the pots to in 3 inches of their tops.

ons

r the production of large specimens seed ld now be sown in pots or boxes and d in a warm house, the seedlings must ept close to the glass, and, when large gh, pricked off into boxes of rich soil at ches apart and grown on in a warm and t atmosphere for the next few weeks.

e Artichokes

ese must be protected during severe ther and a plot decided on for making a plantation during April, which is the best for such work. New plantations of this d vegetable should be made every third as it is from these that the finest heads obtained.

beds

ake up more of these as material be-s available, and if not already done sow made as advised during the past month.

den paths

pairs should be carried out this month he demand on labour during the forth-ing weeks will be great, and it is im-ant that such work should be disposed whether the paths are of gravel, tarmac, rass.

ds and forced Vegetables

eep up a constant supply of these by ducing fresh batches to the forcing-house gular intervals.

zale

few pots or half-barrels placed over the ns and deeply buried with fermenting s and stable manure will encourage the lopment of handsome, succulent crowns.

nnial Lobelias

ose plants which were lifted from the in late autumn and placed in boxes may be divided up to any extent and potted 4-inch or 5-inch pots singly, following h they should be stood in a house or e having a temperature of 45 degs. to gs., and care taken that the plants at no become unduly dry.

lioli

e corms of rare kinds which have been ore should now be planted in boxes of , leafy, and sandy soil, into which the will quickly penetrate, and thus the may be planted out early in March with prospect of a good and early start.

es

w in pans of light, sandy soil, Begonias, rhinums, Convolvulus, Verbenas, inias, Pentstemons, Thalictrum diptero-m, Cynoglossum amabile, Chelone, lyptus, Grevillea, Abutilons, Cleroden-fallax, and Streptocarpus, placing the in a house having a brisk temperature and upon a stage covered either with gravel or cinders, which must be kept moist. Cover each pan with a sheet of glass until germination takes place, when the seedlings must be gradually exposed to the light and air of the house, yet shaded from bright sunshine for a few days at least.

Gooseberries and Currants

In order to maintain a vigorous young stock of these it is advisable to select a number of strong and well-ripened cuttings when pruning the bushes. These may be prepared during inclement weather and then heeled into the ground in bundles of 25 until the second or third week in March, when they should be planted in lines at 6 inches apart on a shady border, each cutting being made very firm about its base.

Vine eyes

It is usual to raise a few plants in this way each year, and if the eyes are placed in turves, several in a pan, or singly in small pots filled with good loamy and sandy soil and stood in a house having a temperature of 65 degs., growth will soon become apparent. Personally, I prefer placing the eyes singly in pots, as by this means the roots are in no way damaged during subsequent shifts.

Early vineries and Peach houses

The temperatures must now be kept at 55 degs. to 60 degs. by night, and this may be increased with sun heat by day with great advantage to the occupants. Maintain a fresh and moist atmosphere, and disbud the spurs of Vines as the growths approach 5 inches or 6 inches in length, leaving one or more on each spur—and those the best—according to the age and conditions of the rods.

Conservatories

Replenish these with all the flowering plants available from the plant-houses, and encourage Mosses, Selaginellas, Marantas, Ornamental-leaved Begonias, Tradescantias to carpet the ground beneath Palms, Tree Ferns, stages, etc., by dibbling them into the soil, where they will quickly make headway.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Sprouting Potatoes

To have the tubers intended for planting "sprouted" before they are consigned to the soil is now universally acknowledged to be of considerable value, ensuring, as it does, an earlier and heavier yield. Now is a good time to have the "seed" prepared and set in a light, not over-warm place, but still safe from frost. All tubers should be arranged in shallow boxes "rose" (broad) end uppermost. Pack closely together and set the boxes where they get a good deal of light.

Jerusalem Artichokes

The remainder of the crop should now be lifted, the ground manured and dug, and then planting can be carried out at the first opportunity. This vegetable may be grown for a series of years on the same spot without any signs of deterioration. The white-skinned variety is the most desirable, thriving and cropping quite as freely as the old purple sort, while its table quality is superior.

A new Rhubarb bed

It pays, eventually, to transplant this crop occasionally, and the present time is well suited for this operation. The site of the new bed should be double-dug and have a generous dressing of rich old manure worked into it as the work proceeds. Abundance of room is necessary if really fine produce is expected—5 feet between the rows and 4 feet from crown to crown in the rows.

Planting fruit trees

Owing to the abnormal wet of November last but little could be done in the way of planting either the smaller or large fruits, so the first favourable opportunity must now be seized to have all arrears of this work cleared off. Do not, however, be tempted to carry on such work while the soil is wet and sloppy. Much better defer operations for a week or two. Only Raspberries and Black Currants require really rich soil, the others being only spoiled when large quantities of farmyard manure are applied to the soil in which they are planted.

Forking between fruit bushes

While actual digging must not be allowed, nothing but good follows the light forking over of the surface between rows of Gooseberries and Currants, but I do not favour even this between rows of Raspberries. Much better give a mulch of stable manure, leaving it on the surface. Should Red Currants and Gooseberries show signs of want of vigour a moderate dressing of old manure should be given before the surface is forked over. This will greatly benefit the bushes even the first season.

Border Chrysanthemums

The store pots or boxes will by now be sending up fresh growth, but any that are at all backward in doing so should be moved to a cool house or pit, where they will very soon begin to show growth. In any case, as soon as the shoots are 3 inches long they are in fine condition for propagation. Insert firmly in pots or boxes filled with sandy compost. If set in a greenhouse or pit and well shaded from all sunshine they will soon root.

Pot up tuberous-rooted Begonias

The main batch of this fine greenhouse plant should now be potted up, using fairly small pots and sweet, light compost. Little more than cover the tubers, and arrange the pots closely together on a moist ash or gravel bottom. Spray overhead twice daily, but do not over-water the soil, at first especially.

Pot on Schizanthus

If not yet done, it will now be well to have plants of this beautiful annual transferred to the flowering pots. For strong single plants the 6-inch size will do admirably, while weaker specimens may be given 5-inch or 5½-inch pots. Good but not over-rich soil should be used and made moderately firm. Return to same house and give water with judgment, especially during the first few weeks.

The vineries and Peach houses

Many growers find that the present time is well suited for the starting away of the early Vines. The house should be kept close shut, the rods syringed twice daily, and paths and walls "damped down" several times each day. A temperature of about 45 degs. at night is better than warmer conditions at first. Later houses should be thoroughly cleaned and the borders top-dressed, if necessary, in preparation for starting a few weeks hence. The early Peach-house should have only moderate warmth and be syringed twice daily until the flowers begin to expand. Late houses must be cleaned at once to prevent damage to the buds.

C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Pruning Gooseberries, Black and Red Currants

THE pruning of bush fruits can be done at any time during the dormant season, but Gooseberries are often left as late as possible, because birds often pick out buds during severe winter weather, and they do less harm if they attack the bushes before they are pruned. All the bush fruits require severe treatment at the first pruning after planting, but after that the method varies in accordance with the fruiting habit of the different subjects.

Black Currants

No matter whether Black Currants are planted as one-year or two-year bushes, they must be cut down to within 2 inches or 3 inches of the ground after planting. If they were left unpruned they would yield a trifling amount of fruit of a sort, but little new wood would be produced for cropping in the following season. The bushes would, in fact, be practically ruined. It is essential to grow a strong bush before it is allowed to crop. Personally I stand out for three, or preferably four, really strong shoots before the bushes are cropped; and I find that, to produce these, one-year bushes must generally be cut down severely for two years after planting. All but possibly a few weaklings, therefore, bear in the third year after planting. If two-year bushes are planted, a year can generally be saved, the first crop being taken in the second year after planting, though it is often not of much account. On the whole, I prefer to plant yearlings.

On soils that suit Black Currants exceptionally well, as in East Norfolk, more rapid results are obtained, as the bushes develop to good size in remarkably short time. The rule of some growers so situated is as follows:—The bushes are cut down severely after planting, as already described. In the second winter those that have thrown up three strong shoots are left alone. Those that have made two strong shoots have one cut back to within 2 inches or 3 inches of the ground, and the other left to fruit. Where only one shoot has been produced, this, of course, is cut hard back. In districts where one cannot be quite so certain of strong growth I think it is better to insist on at least three strong shoots before allowing the bushes to crop, and to cut back as often as may be necessary to obtain that number.

Now for the pruning of older bushes. Black Currants bear on the young shoots of the previous season's growth, and also on natural spurs on the older wood, but the finest fruit and the great bulk of the crop are borne on the former. The object of pruning, therefore, is to encourage the production of new shoots, but without sacrificing more than is necessary of the old wood. The amount of pruning required depends a good deal on the vigour of the variety and on the quality of the soil, the latter, of course, being influenced largely by the kind and amount of manure applied. If the bushes are making plenty of strong young shoots there is nothing to be gained by hard pruning, as Black Currants do not need to be kept particularly open. At East Malling it has been found that hard pruning reduces the crop by about 5 cwts. per acre. On the other hand, if the bushes are not making plenty of young wood, and particularly if they fail to throw up shoots from below ground or from the base of the older branches, they will benefit greatly from fairly severe treatment. As a rule, little or no pruning is required during the winters following the first two or three crops. Up to that time it is usually impossible to remove any old wood without sacrificing young shoots of fair length carried on the end of it. Later on, however, it is found that many of the old branches are no longer making much extension growth, and that some of them begin to look worn out. There is then much to gain and little to lose by cutting them out. The method is to cut back to a strong lateral springing from low down on the branch, if there is one. Where no such shoot can be found, the branch should be cut back to within a few inches of the ground, when it will generally throw up one or two strong shoots from dormant buds. Bushes which begin to look worn out can often be completely rejuvenated by treating many of the branches in this way, provided that manuring is on a generous scale. So long as the bushes can be made to keep on throwing up shoots from low down, results will be satisfactory.

Red Currants

The cropping habit of Red Currants is quite different from that of Black. Instead of fruit-buds being formed along the whole length of the young shoots, they are found only on a short piece at the base of the shoots, which are therefore easily converted into artificial spurs that will bear fruit in the following season. The Red Currant thus lends itself particularly well to cordon pruning, and each branch is, in fact, treated as a cordon, the crop being carried entirely on natural and artificially-made spurs along the main branches. These branches are generally limited to four or five, which are never allowed to multiply. The young bushes are cut hard back until the required number of branches is produced. In after years the leader is shortened by about half, and all laterals are spurred to about an inch. The annual shortening of the leaders ensures the formation of plenty of laterals. Any shoots thrown up from below ground are, of course, cut away, unless any of them are required to replace branches that have died or been broken.

Bushes well trained on the above system are roped with fruit all along the branches, and the berries are fine and are easily gathered. At the same time, we do not think that a somewhat freer system has been properly tested against it. There seems to be no good reason why the branches should not be allowed to multiply as they extend and the bushes open out, provided that plenty of feeding be done. Some of the big bushes seen in gardens, which are more naturally grown, bear very heavy crops. G.

Selection of wall trees for small gardens

It sometimes happens that one is called on to advise on the selection of a few fruit trees for a small garden where there happens to be a fair stretch of wall, and the task is not altogether an easy one, for it has to be considered that the labour employed in such gardens is not quite of a first-rate character, and to choose trees that are never likely to be satisfactory is only to cause loss and annoyance to the owner. Of course, neglect or lack of experience brings trouble in all cases, but there are some things that bear this much better than others, and I never advise planting Peaches and Nectarines, for they quickly show the result of a lack of experience in pruning and training, as well as the prevention of the varied attacks in the way of aphis, red-spider, thrips, and mildew, to which they are liable. For any walls with a southerly aspect there is nothing better than a few good Plums and Cherries, and in choosing them it is well to select sorts alike good in quality and cropping, for, given t latter qualification, they can generally be lied on, when once established, to bear w annually, keeping growth steady and mod ate, and minimising the amount of attenti required. Also it is advisable to select secure as long a season as possible. Ea Favourite, Oullin's Golden and Greenga and Coe's Golden Drop in Plums and M Duke, Governor Woods, and Bigarre Frogmore and Napoleon in Cherries are amples of the above. One or two Aprio may be included if the natural soil is likely be suitable for them. A small stretch of w anywhere between W. and N. might be voted to a few Pears, and as cordons co into bearing quickly it will be well to pl them. As in the case of the Plums a Cherries, free-bearing sorts of good qual should be selected. Louise Bonne, Beur Hardy and Alexandre Lucas, and Thon son's are examples. Any bit of wall fr E. to N. is sometimes given up as hopel for any trees, but there is no reason why should not be filled, because Morello Cherr and some Gooseberries do very well on t aspect. E. BURRELL

Early Strawberries

The Strawberries first introduced into h will be throwing up their blossoms short If the weather should be dull and cold, a the ventilators closed, it will be necessary assist the fertilisation of the flowers by us the camel's-hair pencil daily when the pol is dry till enough fruits for a crop are set a swelling. Do not keep too high a night te perature till the blossoms are set. Aft wards the fruits may be pushed on, required early, till the colouring proc commences, when air must be given freely

FRUIT GARDEN.—Keep a sharp look-out the bud-eating birds, and frustrate their signs in some way. The matter has b referred to so often that details need not mentioned. The espalier or cordon syst of training Apples and Pears I have of recommended. There is no better plan the production of fine highly-coloured fru Wire is cheap enough, and timber also, a handy man might fix his own wires. space upwards to the extent of 5 feet, even 6 feet, may be utilised. In plant Pears on the Quince the stock should buried. Dwarfing stocks for fruit trees not required for light soils where the co mon stock is not likely to grow too ramp In the vinery where the buds are just bu ing keep a moist atmosphere, and a ni temperature of 55 degs. to 60 degs. A. C

Figs on trellises under glass

These are generally planted in well-dra internal borders, and force quite as wel trees in pots; indeed, many people now fer this mode of culture, as the fruit is if not more abundant, quite as early, and trees, having more root-room, are less dicted to casting the earliest fruit. If perly made, the borders will be divided sections, with open spaces left between trees for the introduction of fermen materials, the warmth from which draws through the compost and drain Some build single brick walls across borders, but I give preference to sods of rich turf, which sustain the roots when get into it, and, being open and elastic, absorb warmth, ammonia, and mois and never become water-logged. More they can be forked down every autumn placed with fresh, extended or diminish area according to the requirements of roots. Brick walls, on the other hand, cold, cumbersome fixtures, through w warmth passes slowly and the compost i to become wet.

Does Fruit Growing Pay?

Iere is a matter of vital interest to every-, and the correspondence in the columns Gardening Illustrated is enlightening, there is one point to be made with em-sis, and that is, fruit-growing pays, with-a doubt, where the right methods are pted. For example, quantities of Black rants and Apples of one variety, of either eating or cooking kind, pay to cultivate trade in. It is, I venture to suggest, ere divers sorts of fruit are dealt in that t-growing, as we know it in this country, s not pay. Too many small growers ke a point of "variety," and the result is, wholesaler does not require an assort-nt of so many kinds.

ersonally, I am convinced that the coming cess with fruits will appear increasingly, n Black Currants in particular.

he subject raises other questions of im-tance and interest to all readers of this rnal, and one I should very much like our tor to give me the opportunity of publish-is this:—What would be a reasonable ay for the stocking of a market garden n Black Currants, Bush Apples, and ms, the area of the said garden being four es, and what sorts are, in the opinions of lers, desirable from the point of view of market gardener, and why?

o go further, what results might one, n reason, expect (subject to season, of rse) the first five years?

, by the courtesy of the Editor, a few lers will give me their ideas, I think I be able to promise some interesting s. Bruce Hewitt.

We shall be only too ready to publish vs based on actual practice on this all-ortant subject.—Ed.]

— Airing experiences and opinions on subject is good, especially if it nails to horticultural counter false notions—got n heaven only knows where—that anyone grow Apples who can get a bit of land a spade.

he real farmer never was, and never will a good fruit-grower while his heart is in farming, especially in counties where r has any fame, for there "Apples for th" has yet to penetrate a farmer's n.

here is room for, and good money to be e on, thousands more acres in this coun-by Apple-growing (not merely Apple tree ting), and the land planted, if kept under ll crops, can pay better, far better, than n farming cultures, while the trees are ing into their stride.

ow for a bit of sheer optimism. If trusts rust methods could be applied to any ity or group of counties where a large ber of old neglected orchards exist, with pulsory powers to take over for a num-of years any such (under equitable, but rosy terms, of course) and up-to-date ods in renovation, head-grafting and -feeding vigorously adopted, big divi-ls would be forthcoming after four years ive years, and the absolutely disgusting lition of endless numbers of hideous ards put an end to.

aults expressed by some correspondents o quality of British fruit is largely the lt of no labels to the trees, or if any e at planting they were soon blown off aded away.

o find a label on a tree three years after ting is rare, hence, except where an ard is nearly all one kind, names are otten, fruit gathered and marketed at g times, either past their best or not yet o eat, or even cook properly. By keeping trees labelled and a good catalogue which gives times and seasons for each variety the most ignorant need not go far wrong as to gathering and storing.

The following fact is not such a rarity as one might suppose. A man ignorant of, but believing there was money in Apple-growing, bought a fair-sized orchard because the trees were large. The first year gave a good crop on a large proportion of the trees, but small to medium greenish fruits. His mark was large codlins and the like, so he picked and sold the main crop, and happened not to be much too soon as to picking. A buyer who knew the orchard bought these for a mere song, stored where they kept plump, and marketed at the right time finely-flavoured Cox's Orange Pippins at top prices.

Had those trees been labelled this could not have happened, for the name would have impressed the seller, however ignorant otherwise, as an A1 top-hole variety not to be given away because small and hard.

J. H. Webster.

The Nurseries, Stock, Essex.

—— Having been interested in Apple-growing since, as a lad, I took toll of all the good Apples round about, and now the next generation help themselves to mine. I think our friend, "Disillusioned," has had bad luck by trying to bring round neglected trees. I gather from the variety he mentions that they are lacking in stamina, and, like a man with a poor constitution, neglect of health is fatal. I advise a rooting-out and planting afresh with a few good, large, saleable varieties that will do well anywhere, and as I have proved these out at altitudes here of 500 feet to 850 feet, and so much further north, I am certain, if taken ordinary care of, either he or his successors will reap a benefit. Bramley, Lane's Prince Albert, Lord Derby, and Jas. Grieve are all good bearers of saleable fruit, and scarcely ever fail, and these ought to be the ones to stand by and plant in quantity. Other and newer Apples can be tried out gradually, but the varieties I name are far the best as finders of ready cash. W. Reynard.

Birstwith, via Harrogate.

—— It may be of interest to "Disillusioned Fruit Grower" to know that anybody in *a country where they really grow Apples,* acting on his belief that it is better to keep trees unpruned and unsprayed, would run a considerable risk of suffering confinement in a prison or an asylum, or both! What he says fails to impress me for several reasons. It seems clear that he was badly advised to renovate the trees in 1920 and 1921—probably they were not worth it, but should, instead, have been grubbed up and the land put to any other use than replanting as an orchard, or, alternately, the County Council Agricultural Adviser and the skilled pruner recommended by him are by no means heaven-sent geniuses in the matter of fruit-growing. Such people, in my opinion, in England (even in such counties as Kent) are very few. I think the figures quoted in the article, "Does Fruit-growing Pay?" abundantly prove that contention. You cannot have it both ways. Plainly, from the existing state of affairs, either England cannot produce the finest Apples in the world, as the Editor alleges, or a great many of the people here who set out to produce them are fools at the job—or it is a bit of both. And it is a bit of both in my opinion. If England can produce the finest Apples she actually does produce some of the worst, as "H. C." has himself admitted to me when we have been looking at fruit shops. And you cannot judge of the quality of Tasmanian Apples, for example, without going there and seeing them. Those sold in England have been picked very unripe, and, having had a bad time of it on the very long voyage, are not at all at their best in flavour.

Arthur Garnett.

—— The interesting articles on fruit-growing lately in Gardening Illustrated have been very instructive, and now comes the query, does it pay?

There is no doubt, given a suitable soil and district, mixed fruit-growing will pay, providing the market is within a reasonable distance. In my opinion, to continue growing old Apple trees on commercial lines is a mistake. One may get the quantity, but what about the quality? It is the quality that is wanted in all kinds of fruit.

This is where the production from younger trees scores, you get the fruit fully developed and the true flavour.

There are certain districts throughout the country which were noted for their Apples half-a-century ago, such as the Carse of Gowrie, Perthshire. Some of these old orchards are still standing, as I could see when passing through in the train last summer. They would be better cleared out and new plantations made, and I am certain the quality which was famous so long ago could be produced again.

Anyone who takes up fruit-growing requires to have experience and knowledge of what is required. By having this and the land suitable for fruit I am sure good Apples can be grown at home equal to any that are imported, but only from healthy trees.

Stirling. A. L.

Fruit buds

Seldom have leaf and bloom buds on Black Currant and on Gooseberry bushes shown up so prominently as now. Whatever may be the cause—and it is, perhaps, due to the very lengthened autumn season which we have had—it will be exceedingly interesting to note in spring what is the result of this early development. Whilst some may regard it as indicative of a good crop next year, others may feel that such early budding renders the trees liable to injury from severe weather. On Apple trees there is also an early swelling up of fruit buds visible, but that may be the natural result of sparse cropping during the past year. One advantage of this early plumping up of the buds is that winter pruning can be better done than if the buds were less prominent. Still further, it may be wise with such promise of strong growth before us to prune more freely than is usual, for if the trees are about to carry heavy crops it should be our care to assist them by judicious thinning rather before the crop is due than afterwards. The roots are then less distressed and more capable of recuperating during the following year. When trees make gross growth and produce little fruit we find it desirable to furnish some root check, but when heavy crops are produced with, of course, lessened growth, then all possible root action is needful. The very best help in such cases is pruning in good time and mulching with manure. F. B.

Pruning Peaches

The buds on the Peach trees in the open air will soon be swelling sufficiently to show which are blossom-buds and which will produce shoots only. It is necessary that one of the latter should be left at the end of every shoot. One of the great evils of Peach culture in this country is leaving too much wood in the trees. If all the young shoots were trained 6 inches apart on the walls there would be finer fruits, and the trees healthier and longer lived.

Christmas Roses and Snowdrops flowering together

Christmas Roses

I HAVE a pretty extensive and well-selected stock of herbaceous plants, but amongst them nothing is thought more of than the Christmas Rose, which produces its pure white flowers in the depth of winter, and without forcing or attention. The flower-buds, just before they fully expand, are quite equal to those of a white Rose, so far as appearance goes, or a Camellia bud, and they are often used instead of them for buttonholes. I notice that they are extensively used for such purposes in towns about this time. There is a sweet-scented form very much sought after for buttonholes, but the supply is by no means abundant. I would strongly recommend every possessor of a garden to plant Christmas Roses extensively, but they must be careful to get the pure white form, for there are numbers of species and varieties. Helleborus niger is the best kind, and the Scotch variety of this, which is semi-double, is said to be much the finest; but I doubt if it surpasses the single one, which is so particularly attractive in the bud state. Helleborus niger is extremely hardy, and can be grown in almost any soil and in any situation, but it deserves a good position in order to have it in flower early, for its blooming about Christmas depends a good deal upon the weather. In some gardens it will not thrive, and for no apparent reason. In some winters, after a long continuance of soft, mild weather, the flowers are all up by the new year, but in some seasons they do not expand till the month of March. A good sunny position on a south border, however, hastens their progress; a handlight placed over each plant helps also to push them on, and at the same time keeps the flowers clean—an important matter, for they get so bespattered with mud when exposed to heavy showers as to be almost unfit for use, and attempting to clean them only makes matters worse. For this reason it is best to grow the plants in isolated patches, about 2 feet across or less, for the sake of protecting them conveniently, and the lights or cloches should be put on them in November. The Christmas Rose is propagated by means of seed and by division, but the latter plan is the best and most expeditious. Single crowns detached and planted in good soil will make large plants in a short time. Christmas Roses and Snowdrops may be had in flower, together making a very happy association. It is an excellent plant for shrubberies, and should be planted freely in warm and sheltered corners. In such situations it should be planted as extensively as Daffodils and Crocuses, which it just precedes in flowering, and, being an evergreen with handsome foliage, it is interesting at all seasons of the year. C

Covent Garden Market

The recent report of the Committee of the British Florists' Federation contains the following expression of opinion:—The proposal to remove Covent Garden Market to the Foundling Hospital site has caused considerable anxiety to stand-holders in the Flower Market, and to growers generally. Every effort has been made, and is being made, by your Committee to frustrate the attempts of financiers to exploit the market and market men under the guise of public welfare. Those conversant with Covent Garden agree that the proposed site could not provide full facilities for the conduct of the present volume of business. To urge that removal would ease traffic congestion is absurd, as most of the business in Covent Garden is conducted before London is properly awake. Moreover, some amount of congestion is desirable, as the gathering together of large numbers of producers and buyers is a sure sign of abundant business. Little need be said concerning the sentimental interests attaching to Covent Garden; they are not negligible, however. At a meeting of protest arranged by the Covent Garden Tenants' Association there was a large attendance, augmented by members of the British Florists' Federation. Resolutions were passed protesting against the removal of the market, and authorising the Association to oppose the Bill (authorising removal) in the House of Commons. This position will cost money, and those growers who send flowers to market, as well as those whose business is actually in the Flower Market, must necessarily bear their share of the cost. Contributions to the Fighting Fund are needed, and should be sent to the Secretary of the British Florists' Federation, 10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, W.C. 2.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants be named should send fair examples of each—stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being ripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

House sparrows a nuisance

I will be grateful if you will advise me, through your paper, how best to deal with house sparrows with a view to their destruction. Our cottage is a semi-detached one in an isolated position on the main road. Suffering as we do from an excess of heavy traffic, to have the early morning hours filled with the chattering of these little creatures in the Ivy is unbearable. I cannot think of any way of getting at them, except by doctored Corn placed high out of reach on bedroom window-sills. It grieves me as a cowardly way with the poor little things, but necessity forces something.

Will you be so kind as to let me know if this would be legitimate, and what to do the Corn with? DISTRESSED

[We do not think it would be safe for you to use poison against the sparrows. In the first place, no matter where you place the poisoned bait you cannot be certain the other birds will not eat it. Secondly, if you were successful in killing the sparrows the dead birds would be lying about all over the place and would be liable to be eaten by cats and dogs, and we think you would be liable for any damage done. Your best plan would be to try and make your cottage a less inhospitable place for the birds to nest in. The house sparrow nests in all sorts of places—trees, in rain-water pipes, under the eaves

es, in holes in walls, trees, and in Ivy-houses. A small mesh wire netting d over all the places where the birds are nesting would, we think, be successful iving the sparrows to seek other nesting ers. The destruction of eggs and nests g the breeding season will do much to e the trouble.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

wood and Willow

nateur).—It is probably the Red Dog- (Cornus alba) which you refer to as erry. This is a spreading shrub with red bark which produces a very hand- effect during the winter months. It not make a tree at any time. The best for your purpose is Salix vitellina var. ensis, a free-growing Willow with re- ably warm, rich red and orange bark g the winter months and a beautiful, ful, soft grey foliage tree in summer, quite a telling feature in the landscape seasons. It grows well as a tree, and ly so if cut to within a foot of the ground e end of winter each year, the yearly ths reaching about 6 feet in height and ffect quite equal to that of the Dogwood ioned. These growths, when cut off, ıost useful for tying purposes.

cera in pot

e).—Your shrub is Lonicera nitida, a -leaved evergreen bush from China, of dense habit. Yes, it is suitable for a bery, and it should be taken out of the nd planted now. It grows about 3 feet feet high. It is certainly not a climber, er is it addicted to green fly in particu- Indeed, it is very unlike the Honey- es to which you refer, and it is seldom in flower. It is grown for its dainty reen foliage, and makes a good hedge

GREENHOUSE

ng back Stephanotis

).—You must not prune the Stephanotis. he long growths you have now that will from the axils of the leaves. If you way these growths you sacrifice blos- and merely get more flowerless wood of ame character. Allamandas should be d in February, cutting the previous shoots back to within two or three of the old wood.

osa superba

L.).—This is a native of tropical Asia Africa. Pot in February, give good ıge, and a compost of leaf-mould and in equal proportions. It needs a warm rature when starting—70 degs. is none ıigh—must have plenty of moisture summer, and be gradually dried off as h ripens. When died down the tubers be kept dry and warm. It will scarcely d in an ordinary greenhouse.

ias

—If your Freesias be in a very small or the roots seem cramped, wanting room and soil, no harm can follow if ıift the plants into a clean pot one size than is the present one, using about ots, and well worked in round them a thin piece of wood, fine sandy soil. a repotting will not necessitate harm to ots or check growth in any way, whilst ıay find better leaf growth and finer to follow in consequence.

as in pots

ec).—You have done quite right. When liage has faded cut it off, and stand the under the greenhouse stage or in a roof shed until the spring, when they may be shaken out, divided into single crowns, potted into small pots, and given a little heat to encourage root action, potting on afterwards as may be necessary.

Impatiens Sultani

(S.).—This is a very easy plant to grow. During winter it needs a temperature of 55 degs. to 60 degs. Young shoots root very freely early in the spring. Do not grow in too large a pot, as this thrives best when the roots are partly restricted. Give a rich compost. Leaf-soil and good loam in equal proportions, with a little well-decayed manure and coarse sand, make a good compost.

Fairy Tree Fern

(C. P.).—We suspect that the so-called Fairy Tree Fern is Comptonia (Myrica) asplenifolia. It is known as Sweet Fern, though, of course, it is not a Fern, and is in no way related. The leaves give off a pleasant Bay-like scent.

Scented Ferns

(C. P.).—We only know Lastrea fragrans by reputation, and we should very much like to smell a frond if ever you come across it. Lastrea montana, which grows on Exmoor, has a very pleasant lemony scent, but very few people seem to grow it.

ROSES

Manures for roses

(Italia).—We think that it would be advisable to apply either chalk or ground limestone instead of slaked lime. It is difficult to answer your question as to how much lime you should give each tree, because you do not say how far apart they are planted. If the land is in good heart a dressing of 4 ozs. per square yard of either ground chalk or ground limestone would be a good dressing; either should be spread evenly over the surface of the soil and then pricked in with a digging-fork. With regard to sulphate of ammonia, the usual dressing is ½ oz. per square yard. Again spread on the top of the soil and lightly forked in. You will find that to spread ½ oz. of sulphate of ammonia evenly over 1 square yard of ground is difficult, and that you can do it more successfully if the sulphate of ammonia is mixed with either dry garden soil or wood-ashes first. A good mixture would be one part sulphate of ammonia, seven parts dry garden soil, and apply the mixture at the rate of 4 ozs. per square yard. We do not know your local conditions, but we think that you would get better results if you use a complete artificial manure instead of sulphate of ammonia alone. Complete artificial manures can be brought ready made, or if you want to make your own, take one part sulphate of ammonia, one part sulphate of potash, three parts superphosphate, and three parts dry garden soil, mix all the ingredients well together, and apply at the rate of 4 ozs. per square yard. Lime or chalk can be used at once and the artificial manure should be applied only during the growing season. Lime is best applied alone, to mix it with other manures is bad practice.

FRUIT

Woolly Aphis on Apple

Would you tell me what is the matter with my Apple trees? The disease has come on the branches this last two seasons. They were quite healthy before then. The trees are 20 years old and getting green on the trunk and lower branches. What could I do to clean them? I enclose a few small branches. The variety is Northern Greening. W. T. R.

[The canker-like growths on your Apple trees are caused by Woolly Aphis, sometimes called American Blight. This pest is often troublesome on Apple trees, and is a difficult one to control, because it does not live on the same host all the year round. When an Apple tree is affected some aphides are feeding on the roots, others on the spurs. At certain times of the year some aphides migrate from the Apple to the Elm. At other times of the year migration is in the other direction—Elm to Apple. Your best plan will be to apply a tar oil wash at once to your trees; this wash will kill most of the pest above ground. It is getting late in the season to apply tar oil washes, and they must not be applied after the buds of the Apple begin to swell. After the spraying has been done grease-bands should be placed in position and kept tacky throughout the summer months. The bands will trap the root form when they are moving upwards. If you have only a few trees you can control the pest by painting the affected parts with a solution made up of half methylated spirit and half water. Use a stiff brush and work the solution well into the crevices. The best time of the year to attack Woolly Aphis is from mid-July to October. A good spray fluid to use at that period is paraffin emulsion.]

VEGETABLES

Mushroom spawn in the open

I shall be much obliged if you can, please, kindly tell me the proper time in which to put Mushroom spawn into the open ground in an orchard so that I can pick a few Mushrooms during late summer or early autumn. J. S.

[The planting of Mushroom spawn in grass land is not always attended with success, but you can try it, and may be one of the fortunate ones. There is no hard-and-fast time for planting the spawn, and unless the late summer be wet you stand but a poor chance of picking from the open before late August and September. You can insert the spawn in July and await results, for it will only "run" in moist weather.]

Potatoes in clay soil

I should be greatly obliged if you will give me your advice on the following:—The soil in this district is very heavy, with a clay subsoil, and my garden, which is open to the fields, lies very low, and consequently wet (this year exceptionally so). I have had it for two seasons, and have tried to grow Potatoes, but without success, as most of the tubers have turned out diseased, even to a state of pulp, and the largest of the remainder were full of slugs, as many as nine in one tuber. I have grown different varieties to test them, but with very little difference in results. Last autumn it was roughly dug up and manured at the same time. I have now given it a good dressing of lime, according to instructions in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED recently. What do you suggest is the cause of failure, and remedy? P. C.

[In giving a heavy dressing of lime to your ground, which is a stiff clay, you seem to have done the best thing you well can do with it. It will do no harm if, in the spring before you plant or sow crops on it, you dress also with fresh soot and well hoe and fork it in. We strongly advise that a further addition of wood-ashes be added. Still further, in planting Potatoes throw up the ground thus to be planted into beds 9 feet broad, so that you have alleys 18 inches wide to well drain the beds.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Wages of nursery foreman

(Belfast).—Wages vary so much in the nursery trade that it is impossible for us to do more than give you a rough idea of such.

In the smaller nurseries, where, very frequently, a free house and other perquisites are included, it may be as low as 50s. per week, while in large establishments, where the duties are much more arduous, it may be £5 or even more. The duties, like the salaries, vary considerably, and it is only in the smaller businesses that the foreman would require to go on duty on Sunday. It is unusual for the foreman to be paid overtime, as his salary runs on, even when ill and during holidays. Nursery employees do not, we believe, come under the Unemployment Act.

Large garden vases

I have some large garden vases big enough to grow shrubs in, which are unglazed inside, but glazed outside. The unglazed surface inside would not be very porous. There is a large drainage hole in the base of each pot. They are about 2½ feet high by about 2½ feet wide. I have been told that they will not be suitable for growing shrubs in, as it is necessary that the pots should be porous. The colour of the pots is so fine that I wish to use them if at all possible. I should be much obliged if you would say whether this is so, and if my information is correct. Explain the reason why. I take it that if there are reasons against growing things in non-porous pots (even if they are drained well) the objections could be got over by inserting an unglazed pot inside the glazed one. Would the difficulty be got over by putting, say, 2 inches of porous material, like powdered brick, all round the insides of the pots, or is it necessary that the pot should "breathe," as it were, which would be prevented by the outside glazed surface in any case?

JOHN ADAMS.

[It is not possible to give a quite satisfactory answer to this question. It is certainly generally considered that pots to hold plants and shrubs should be more or less porous throughout, yet they do well in vases of marble and artificial stone, which are practically wet-proof. It is doubtful whether any of the expedients proposed would get over the difficulty, though the most hopeful suggestion is to have a porous pot inside with an air space between, only lightly packed with some open material, such as coke or clinker. Thorough drainage would certainly be to the good. If the earth fills the large pot it should be remembered that the pot itself would be likely to suffer, for if it is in any degree porous from the inside, when damp reaches the inner side of the surface glaze it is likely to flake off, leaving unsightly patches.]

SHORT REPLIES

E. S., South Devon.—Your specimen was somewhat crushed and withered when it reached us, but it is a variety of Cedar (probably Cedrus Libani tenuifolia). To keep bricks clean sprinkle a little chloride of lime over them and then scrub with plenty of water. Do not allow this material to touch your boots or clothes, nor must you handle it without gloves.

Rosemary.—See article this week, page 79. We do not advise cutting the Rosemary hedge hard back, but the tall growths may be trimmed back in March.

B. C., Axminster.—See article on Christmas Roses, on page 88, also issue January 22nd, page 58. We suggest that the old roots should be divided in August.

J. E. P.—Saintpaulia. This is listed by Messrs. Sutton and Sons, Reading.

NAMES OF FRUITS

A. Bass, King's Lynn.—Apple Cox's Pomona, a good sample, rather past its best.

Report on condition of horticultural crops on January 27th

Beet.—Roots keeping well.

Broccoli (Spring Hearting).—Condition rather better than normal.

Broccoli (Sprouting).—Normal.

Cabbage (autumn-planted for greens).—Have made satisfactory winter growth.

Kale (Green).—Growth satisfactory.

Leeks.—Average crop.

Parsnips.—Good crop of clean roots.

Rhubarb (forced).—Is doing well; good clean stalks being gathered.

Sea Kale (forced).—Has forced well; yield good.

Anemones.—In Scilly a few flowers of St. Brigid and De Caen available, but sun needed; Fulgens budding up and promise well.

Daffodils and Narcissi (indoor).—Good crop nearly finished in Scilly.

Daffodils and Narcissi (outdoor).—In Scilly, Polyanthus varieties flowering well and quality good; Trumpet varieties expected to be below average; Ornatus promise a full crop.

Violets.—Plants healthy and blooming well.

Wallflowers.—Good sturdy plants in Middlesex and Herts; in the North later plantings a little damaged by frost.

Horticultural Societies' News

Horticulture in Kenya

Kenya Colony have a most successful Horticultural Society, and the eighth show, which was held in December last, eclipsed all previous records. In the absence of the Governor of the Colony it was opened by Sir Jacob Barth, and was attended by a large number of visitors. Competition in all classes was specially keen, the Simpson and Whitelaw Cup drawing many entries, in which there was a high standard. Especial interest attached to the exhibit of Mr. H. E. A. Durham's Asters, which made a wonderful show. Many people qualified to judge claim that these Asters were, unquestionably, the finest ever seen in the country. The Roses class was quite good, some beautiful specimens being shown. It is interesting to note that the winner of Capt. Gooch's Cup, Mrs. Cartwright, is from Naivasha, and it is curious to find that Nairobi exhibitors allowed themselves to be beaten with Roses which had undergone a long journey.

Some peculiar exhibits were to be found in the class for flowers of unusual interest. Amongst these may be mentioned the extraordinary Brunsvigia, the beautiful Clianthus Dampieri (Glory Pea of Australia), the deep-coloured Convolvulus mauretanicus, and the amazing Air Plant, which lives and grows without soil or water. In the open class Mr. Durham again scored with some very fine Hybrid Gerbera (Barberton Daisies). The delicate colouring of some of these was a feature. The class for flowering shrubs was particularly fine, although there were only four exhibits. Of these Lady Muriel Jex-Blake was judged to be the winner. An outstanding feature of the show was the beautiful exhibition of Dahlias by Mr. Mountford. Not only were they well shown, in some cases being arranged in pillars, but the flowers themselves were amazing in quality. It is interesting to note that this exhibitor has grown his flowers from his own seed.

For the first time a section was set apart for Gladioli. This section was well supported and some beautiful specimens were shown. Amongst them an unusual mauve one was to be seen. The GARDENING ILLUSTRATED Medal for the best collection of Gladioli went to Miss Stowell. Messrs. Sutton and Son's challenge cup for the best combined exhibit of flowers and vegetal was secured by Miss Collyer. The high total points in the show were scored by Graham Bell, who was awarded the Ke Society's challenge cup.

Benn Brothers' Other Journal

The Cabinet Maker.—Second Exhibit Number: Completed Review of Exhibit at the Wholesale Furniture Exhibition Olympia; Notes from the Home Journa New Books; Forthcoming Lectures at Geffrye Museum.

The Chemical Age.—"Oil from Coal Hydrogenation," by Dr. F. Bergius; Me lurgical Supplement; "Some Notes on Analysis of Steel," by W. Singleton.

The Electrician.—The Re-lighting of Alhambra; Hydro-Electric Development New Zealand; The K.L.1 Valve; Prog with the Wiring the Homes of Britain C paign.

The Fruit Grower.—"Modern Methods Marketing Fruit," by H. V. Taylor; "N Type of Movable Glasshouse," by H. Gou A Season's Tomato and Cucumber Resul

The Gas World.—Cartoon by Wal Coop; Monthly By-Product Coking Secti Coke Oven Gas for Town's Supply.

The Hardware Trade Journal.—Educa in the Ironmongery Trade; The Student Builders' Hardware; Novelties at the Bri Industries Fair; Motor Transport; Hardw at the Furniture Exhibition; Methods Enterprise of Retailers; Business Op tunities.

The Timber Trades Journal.—Some D culties in the Merchanting of Timber; Oa Their Distinguishing Features; Moc Driving Schemes in Woodworking Facto

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

Clarence Elliott, Ltd., Six Hills Nurs Stevenage, Herts.—Seeds of choice alp and herbaceous plants.

Wm. Power and Co., Waterford.—Sec

Ant Roozen and Son, Overveen, Haarlem, Holland. — Bulbs, herbac plants, and Roses.

Blackmore and Langdon, Ba Begonias, Delphiniums, and seeds.

GARDENING APPOINTMENT

Mr. BRUCE HEWITT as gardener to —. Gr HOOPER, Esq., Downe Hall, Bridport

Mr. G. WOODS as gardener to Majo DODD, Otley House, Otley, near Ipsw

Mr. A. MILNE as gardener to —, SHEA Esq., Steel Cross House, Crowborou

Brussels Sprouts

I agree with a correspondent in a r issue, condemning the cutting off of the leaves of Brussels Sprouts. No bene gained by cutting off the sprouts with a l Let someone try it and give your reade result. Market growers are quite rig cutting out the tops after the plants gained their full growth, but not befo have practised this for some time with results. If some of your readers wi prove it, let them try it by cutting o tops of one row of plants, and leave th row untouched, and see the result. I my Brussels Sprouts quite out in the op firm, heavy ground, free from shade sequently, they make sturdy growth an hard, woody stems, which always yield The plants are set out 3 feet apart each these distances being none too much fo an important crop, and which allows o plant receiving its due share of light a

S

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Sweet Peas from a Spring Sowing

By "East Anglian"

[OSE who have not yet procured their equirements in Sweet Pea seeds will be ell advised to obtain them without de- In giving these few hints on spring g, my first piece of advice is on the of the seeds (quite apart from the of varieties). Do not waste money, and valuable garden space on any of or quality. If you decide to grow Sweet it all buy good seeds, they cost no more w than unreliable ones, and the com- vely low cost of the very best modern es brings them within the scope of purse.

ough autumn sowing is a practice is steadily on the increase, especially st exhibitors, there is still much more Pea seed sown during the first three s of the year than in the autumn, and st be admitted that some successful s (particularly in the north of England Scotland), having both methods, still a spring sowing.

ING IN POTS OR —Sowing in the ground is always a risky pro- ; one has greater over the plants if re sown early in or boxes under n a cold frame or reenhouse. They be sown in y, but I, person- refer to sow from ddle to the end of ry, using pots than boxes if at sible. Almost any ill do, from those nches to 6 inches er downwards, the number of o each pot accord- its size. As a h guide, allow inches of surface for each seed, r in boxes or Avoid a rich pot- edium, and, pro- it is sufficiently almost any ordi- rden soil will do put through a sieve to take out and lumps. Well some silver sand il is thought too Crock the bottoms of the pots or boxes to facilitate drainage and fill them to the rim with soil. Do not press this down, for it will settle after watering. Then make little holes in the surface with a pencil, about ½ inch deep, placing one seed in each hole and gently covering over afterwards. If the potting soil should be on the dry side water immediately after sowing, but avoid saturating it, or the result may be a poor germination, particularly among the white-seeded, wrinkled, and (to a less extent) the chocolate-coloured seeds, which readily rot if the germination is protracted by the cold and wet condition of the potting soil. Aim at a quick germination, and assist this in cold weather by giving slight artificial heat until the plants appear through the surface.

One continually hears reports of failure caused by mice taking the seeds directly after they are sown. Soaking them (the seeds, of course) in paraffin or rolling them in red lead is inadvisable. The best method is to set "breakback" traps on the surface of the pots or boxes as soon as the seeds have been sown, baiting them with crust of bread or bacon rind.

Whether the seeds have been sown in a greenhouse or cold frame, it is essential that the young plants should be grown along slowly and very hardily until transplanting time, and, to effect this, give them all the light and air possible. After they appear through the surface leave the glass frame-lights off entirely (if in a cold frame), except during very wet or frosty weather. Pots or boxes in a greenhouse may be placed right out in the open in a sheltered but sunny position; bring them inside only during bad weather.

In districts on the outskirts of towns birds sometimes are a nuisance, finding the tender young shoots very much to their liking in the early months of the year when other greenstuff is scarce. Check them by throwing fish-netting all over the top of the frame or by stretching strands of black cotton just above the seedlings.

When the young plants have made their third pair of leaves, pinch out their extreme-growing tips to encourage the growth of strong basal side shoots. This is all the attention they will need until they are transplanted to their flowering position at the end of March or early April.

Outdoor sowings.—Many growers have not the convenience to sow in pots or boxes and so must rely entirely on an outdoor sowing or procure the young plants ready for transplanting. In the former instance it is wise to defer sowing until the end of February at the very earliest, being guided rather by weather conditions than the date. Of course, the site should have been prepared earlier, preferably before

Sweet Peas and Asparagus in basket

For beauty and general usefulness few flowers can equal the Sweet Pea

Christmas, digging deeply (trenching if possible) and well mixing in a liberal dressing of horse or other animal manure to within 9 inches of the surface. To cover possible casualties among the plants through the attacks of pests sow fairly thickly, for it will be a simple matter to thin them out later to 4 inches or 6 inches apart. Make the drills 1½ inches to 2 inches deep with the side of a hoe as you would for culinary Peas. Rows should be at least 5 feet apart and should run from north to south. An open, sunny situation is best.

An attractive way of growing Sweet Peas is in clumps or rings about 18 inches or 2 feet in diameter, and there are many positions in almost every garden where such clumps, well grown, will give a showy and very beautiful splash of colouring during the summer and early autumn.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Does fruit growing pay?

EMPHATICALLY yes; but it must not be attempted in a haphazard way, and must be under the practical man who thoroughly understands the business as to the site chosen, nature of soil, thorough drainage if of a too retentive character, the most reliable varieties in a normal season, early and late, the correct time to place the latter on the market after the fruit has been carefully graded, and, needless to say, handled with the utmost care and attention. But first and foremost is the planting of the trees after the soil has been duly prepared by deep digging, working in plenty of lime-rubble where it is of a very heavy nature, avoiding much in the way of manure unless it is a hungry soil, and even then it should be placed 2 feet from the surface. Far preferable to feed here with good mulchings three or four times a year during the rainy season, planting when the soil is not pasty or too lumpy to work among the roots, the uppermost of which should not exceed 5 inches from the ground-level, the distance varying from tree to tree 10 feet, 12 feet, or 20 feet, according to shape, the latter applying to standards of either Apple or Pear.

The pruning of the season's shoots would require due attention for the first half-dozen or so years after planting, but whether it would be a paying proposition, as your disillusioned correspondent, "Apple grower," thinks, that better crops of fruit were had in the old days, with little or no pruning or spraying, will take a deal of digesting by those of us who can prove the contrary. You may get good crops every now and again, but half or more of the fruit would be maggoty and hardly fit for cider-making, or even the pigs, leaving but few suitable for the market.

It may be that hard pruning is sometimes carried too far for the good of the tree, but it is usually when it is crowding others on either side, leaving no option to the grower. With standards planted in grass orchards the trees, after the heads are secured, get very little pruning in the way we gardeners look at it. A thinning of branches every few years to keep the centre open or from trespassing on its neighbour usually suffices, as they seldom make enough young wood annually as do trees where the surrounding ground is manured and planted with bush fruit or vegetables. In the old days, say, 30 years to 40 years ago, it may have been, in a sense, remunerative to place deformed or even maggoty fruit on the market, but since the increased import from Colonial and foreign countries as it is to-day the public prefers the selected, graded, and perfect specimens. Another question and a most important one is the storing of the longest-keeping fruit. This is one of the faults of many growers, consequently they dispatch in November or early December fruit they ought to hold on until the middle of January and onwards, when one may expect good prices for clean specimens; such varieties as Bramley's, King of Tompkins County, Beauty of Kent, Annie Elizabeth, Alfriston, Norfolk Beefing, Newton Wonder, and Tower of Glamis among cooking varieties, while the following constitute a good selection of table fruit:—Sturmer Pippin, Cockle Pippin, Duke of Devonshire, Allen's Everlasting, Scarlet Nonpareil, and King's Acre Pippin. There are others, but the writer has proved by experience that both lists can be absolutely relied on, having kept them plump, sound, of good cooking quality, and flavour respectively right up to the end of April.

The entire failure of the Apple trees chronicled by your Shropshire correspondent after such practical treatment meted out to them is beyond my power of imagination; I now suggest the continuance of spraying, grease-papering the main stems, and a lesser use of the knife for a year or two and see whether they recover their former productiveness, or behead a few of the healthiest trees and re-graft as one of your correspondents suggests they may respond to this. J. M.

Eltham.

"Ringing" fruit trees

There is nothing new in this process of checking the return of the sap just as the blossoms are about to expand, according to Johnson's Dictionary of Gardening, though few have ever seen it practised, so one must conclude that root-pruning is the most practical method of restricting an excess of sap on robust, fruitless trees, thus leaving we advocates of the system still adamant on the question. As regards slitting up the bark in the place of "ringing" mentioned by one of your correspondents, it is frequently adopted with standard Apple trees in the cider orchards of Devonshire, but with a very different object in view. The farmer's contention is this, when he finds a tree planted, say, three years or four years, is not making satisfactory growth, the bark gets very hard and fails to expand, specially so with trees carrying a big head at planting time, which, instead of being pruned soon after it has established itself, is allowed to fruit for a year or two and then becomes stunted, a neglect frequently noticed in the Devonshire orchards. The only thing that can be done then is to cut such a tree hard back in the hope it will make strong growth and thus become a fruitful tree; and many do the slitting of the bark at the same time, commencing about 1 foot from the base, and extending the cut to within a foot of the branches. Such growers are evidently satisfied with the method or they would not adopt it. J. M.

Eltham.

Eritrichium nanum

Your correspondent has interested me in his note (*ante* p. 76) on this plant, more particularly as he omits all mention of limestone for its cultivation. I am under the impression that its favourite surrounding is limestone, certainly where I have co across it in masses. Only in two places has been on limestone, viz., on the Belvede in the Tyrol, and at Arolla, in Valais. have, however, a remembrance of com across it when I was quite a young man another formation in Switzerland, but wh it was I cannot remember as I was walk from place to place. Possibly your co spondent considers it does not do so wel this country in lime?

By the bye, I found it last summer Pontresina, high up in the mountains, tainly 8,000 feet up. It was entirely off main route when I came across a co where there were several nice little lo clumps. I am under the impression tha has not been recorded from this locality.

G. T. BETHUNE BAKE

Acacia dealbata

Readers may be interested to know full-sized trees of this beautiful Mimosa now (February 4th) in full bloom on Hay Island, Hants; so much so, indeed, that blooms are being sold freely in Ha florists' shops. In a neighbour's ga there is a good specimen not yet in blo but a full 20 feet to 25 feet in height. I often seen the tree growing and flowerin South Africa, so am well acquainted wit but I should be glad to know how far it can be grown successfully out of doo England or Scotland. Can any reade GARDENING ILLUSTRATED please say?

CAPTAIN E. A. SAUNDE

Rose Caroline Testout

With reference to the paragraph in issue of 5th inst. regarding the date o raising of this Rose, 1890 is quite co If 1800 was published in my letter wrong. Your correspondent is quite rig drawing attention to the fact that it raised in 1890 and that the parents Mme. de Tartas and Lady Mary Fitzwil

Your correspondent who signs hi "Colchester" did well to draw attenti the fact that Frau Karl Druschki i scended from Caroline Testout. This m of interest to our friend "A Scottish dener" when he again writes on the pa age of Roses. G. M. TAYL

Edinburgh.

Lonicera fragrantissima not flowe

I have been very interested in correspondence on this shrub as, "A. M. A. H. R.," I have a plant on I can get no flowers. I have had it no years; I had it first against a wall, but it two years since to the open, but w success.

Two head gardeners have given me about it, strange to say, their advice totally different. One said prune it ha other do not prune it.

I had the privilege of seeing the o pruned originally trained to a low wall, but now standing out unsupport looked a rather old plant, but was flo freely but making very little wood, a blooms seemed to be proceeding fro base of the new wood in the style Currant trees.

My plant is making much more v growth. I presume, therefore, I sl years older before I shall see bloom on

It is well worth waiting for, as t grance is so delicious.

I notice root-pruning is recommen some of the writers, but in my case it answered, the result being leaf sl inches or 4 inches long, but no bloom

Follow the watchword, "Wait an

Glos. F. W. H

Galanthus Ikariæ

ne of the most striking plants blooming me at the present time is this Snow-, which is head and shoulders above all rs, although G. Whittalli, another gem ıe large-flowering kinds, will be a rival ays hence, as also will the King of Snow-s, G. Fosteri. The subject of this note, :h comes from the Island of Ikaria, off coast of Asia Minor, has large, broad, ɔy, recurving leaves and immense snow-e flowers, the inner segments of which ipped with green. It grows quite a foot eight. From about six little bulbs ob-ed in 1914 quite a nice little colony has n, and these, nestling at the foot of a sandstone wall, have of late been the ect of much admiration. I fear that few any—of our nurserymen are in a position supply these handsome large-flowered s at present, but we are anxiously await-urther supplies. SUSSEX.

The house sparrow

f all the worries that a suburban gar-r has to contend with there is none more stent than the common house sparrow. ıng the winter, no matter whether it is or severe, it is picking out the bloom of every fruit-bearing tree or bush, until ıe time the sap rises there is nothing but l-buds left. By the time it has com-ly destroyed all chances of fruit the early uses and Primroses are pushing through soil, and it turns its attention to them, the soil is completely covered with ns that are picked all to pieces, with rently no object but mischief. By this the early Peas are pushing through the land forthwith it sets to work to take the off every shoot that appears, unless Pea-ds or nets are used. Now that Cabbage, coli, and other seedlings are pushing gh the soil, the sparrow finds them, and not leave them until the last one is d out and ruthlessly pulled to pieces.

DEVON.

Irises in Macedonia

was interested in Mr. G. P. Baker's ie on Irises, in the issue of GARDENING STRATED of January 22nd last. I was on Macedonian front in 1916-1917, and found interesting plants, including the Irises Baker mentions as having been sent him a hill overlooking Lake Doiran. I also them in bloom growing in loose shale the summit of a hill overlooking Lake ıin. A. L. W.

European Irises preferred

HE above is the title of a short article y W. E. Saunders in the January num-er of the "Canadian Horticulturist." rites :—

n the multiplicity of new varieties of which are being introduced from year ar it is very difficult for the amateur buys varieties solely for his own enjoy-to select a satisfactory list on which to le his money—and it is a gamble. . . . ourse, American Irises are not very y bought in Canada on account of their price. . . . A very nice sidelight on the arative value of American and European luctions appears in a recent issue of ticulture,' published at Boston, in which y who buys nearly all of the new things nts for one's consideration lists, 'The of Yesterday and the Iris of To-day.' are 22 in the list of 'yesterday,' of eight are American. Not a single one t 22 occurs in her selection of the 'Iris o-day,' and the number of American in that list dwindles down to a single name. It is rather interesting to compare the standing of the different growers in those two lists, and the reason that makes them worth comparison is that this lady's judgment is very good indeed. In the first list (which contains eight American, seven French, and six English) there are five Irises by Vilmorin, including Ambassadeur, Ballerine, and Magnifica, but Vilmorin does not appear in the second list, and this verdict might be right. I am not at all sure, however, that the new Irises outclass Ambassadeur and Ballerine. Mr. Yeld is represented in the first list by three Irises headed by Asia, and none in the second. But it is not at all certain that those in the new list will displace Asia. Mr. Farr had four Irises in the first list and none in the second. Mr. Bliss has three in each list. Mr. Williamson had one in the first list, but none in the second. The firm of Millet, in Paris, have one in each list, the new one being Germaine Perthuis.

"Miss Sturtevant, who was represented in the first list, does not appear in the second. Mr. M. Denis, of France, has two in each list, being represented by Louis Bel and Renee de Laborde in the second list.

"Then there are three newcomers—Cayeux and Leclere, of Paris, have Mme. Henri Cayeux, which is said to be an improved Ambassadeur, but I have flowered it, and if I were asked to pass judgment after having only one flowering stem I would not say it was superior. The other varieties of Cayeux, Sensation, Phryne, and Solferino, I have not yet seen. The second newcomer on the list is Perry, of England, whose Marion Cran is said to be the finest pink, and Mrs. Robert Emmet the finest white. The last Iris mentioned is the one American variety, William Mohr, which is not, strictly speaking, a Bearded Iris, but is a cross between an Oncocylus and a Bearded Iris. It is said to be a great beauty, but it is still very expensive and may never prove hardy in Canada.

"When an American lady who grows nearly everything she can get decides that in the best 18 Irises of to-day only one is an American variety, against seven French and nine English, we Canadians may very well be content to be able to buy French and English Irises at comparatively reasonable prices. For instance, . . . Mrs. Marion Cran, which is offered in the United States at $40.00, would not cost a Canadian more than $15.00, or $20.00 at the outside. . . . In my own garden in 1926 the outstanding new Iris was Mme. Durand, which is coloured somewhat after the manner of Quaker Lady, but with a good deal of blue in the falls. The flower is large, tall, and beautifully formed."

Pyrethrum uliginosum with Michaelmas Daisies

SOME weeks ago there was mention of the use of the fine white Daisy, Pyrethrum uliginosum, with the September Michaelmas Daisies. While borders of these are still being planted it may be well to remind readers of its value. For though there are now several good white September Asters, there is not, as yet, one that can show such masses of pure white as this good old Pyrethrum, or that has so fine an effect with the best and purplest of the Asters. And though it is not actually an Aster, it may well claim a place among them, for it is certainly a Daisy and it flowers at Michaelmas. G. J.

Edgings

Lavender, Epimedium, Campanula muralis, C. garganica var. hirsuta, Geranium lancastriense, Linum collina, Helichryssum bellidioides, Viola cornuta var. purpurea, Dianthus caucasicus, etc., make handsome edgings to beds of other flowers, and may be divided up and used to extend or make new lines at the present time.

Rock garden

With the exception of planting out any new arrivals little can be done in this department, but all plants should be carefully surveyed occasionally as slugs and mice play havoc in a few nights and must be guarded against, and a few traps kept continually set will often be found very useful and contain one of these marauders when least expected.

Galanthus nivalis in a West Sussex wood

WHERE SNOWDROPS THRIVE

FOLLOWING on the interesting letters from correspondents (issue February 5th, pages 77 and 88) we now have pleasure in drawing attention to what may be considered the best Snowdrops and their cultivation.

Snowdrops are universal favourites, particularly, perhaps, of those whose opportunities permit of their being employed on a generous scale as in the woodland and like places. With respect to certain Lilies we have frequently urged that they are more content when sharing the root companionship of other plants. Of no other group of bulbous-rooted subjects, probably, is this more true than of the Snowdrops. Indeed, some of the best-developed clumps of G. nivalis we remember to have seen were associated with Portugal Laurels, where they constituted as perfect a fringe to the shrubs as it were possible to conceive. The extraordinary growth denoted a long tenure of the ground, their perfect health demonstrating that they were quite content. On Grass or in woodland they are equally happy, or, again, where Fern, Hepatica, Cyclamen, Lenten and Christmas Rose, with Winter Aconite and others, give of their best. Beneath deciduous trees the Snowdrop also appears to do uncommonly well. In these and like places it obtains an unmistakably permanent hold of the soil, evidence at first hand, we think, that rich soils are not to its liking, while none will be disposed to question the suitability of the environment. Those enumerated below are among the handsomest of these plants. Those possessing any of them should remember that during recent years the usual supplies of collected bulbs have not been forthcoming, hence special endeavour should be made to secure all the seeds that ripen. Seedling-raising is quite a simple matter, and, in existing circumstances, well worth while.

GALANTHUS ALLENI.—This is regarded as a natural hybrid between G. latifolius and G. caucasicus, both of which occur in the same region. It is an exceptionally large form with flowers almost twice the size of those of the first-named, the broad, blue-green, arching leaves being in proportion. Asia Minor.

G. CAUCASICUS.—In all probability is a geographical form of G. nivalis, having a taller habit of growth, broader leaves, and later in flowering.

G. ELWESI is one of the best known and the most deservedly popular of all single Snowdrops, as it is also one of the handsomest. The large snowy-white flowers have a somewhat globular outline, the inner segments marked by rich emerald-green and white; charming for bowls or for naturalising, preferably always in poor ground. Cassaba, known also as robustus, is a fine, tall-growing form, best described, perhaps, as a monster form of Elwesi, bold and vigorous in all its parts, free-flowering and distinctly erect in its habit of growth. G. Whittalli, with broad, blue-green leaves and handsome globular flowers, is one of the giants of the race. Asia Minor.

G. FOSTERI.—This rare and beautiful species has been called the "King of Snowdrops." It is one of the most distinct in habit, its blunt Scilla-like leafage separating it from all.

G. IKARIÆ.—Dwarfer-growing than some, with handsome snow-white flowers, this has also marked characteristics particularly in its broad, glossy, arching, and recurving leaves. The species is now quite rare. Islan Ikaria, Asia Minor.

G. IMPERATI (the Italian Snowdrop).— Italian form of our common Snowdrop a beautiful and graceful plant for whic praise is too high. The somewhat glo flowers are snow-white, the inner segr richly margined with green. Into category fall G. Melvillei and G. Atkins latter true, of considerable variety. stout-habited, the flowers of great pur

G. LATIFOLIUS is one of the most dis both as regards its broad, strap-shaped l and the smallness of its flowers, which withstanding, possess a grace of their o

G. NIVALIS is a true native of our c and in many places it may be found now growing wild, though the avar would-be botanists have almost extingu it from easy accessible stations. Its va an early spring flower can hardly be rated, and its beauty in a semi-wild cor is delightful. Associated, as we have grown it, with Winter Aconites, S Crocuses, and early Daffodils, all p through the "long and pleasant Gra leaves nothing to be desired, and flowers only die to come again with re vigour labour is reduced to a minimum

G. PLICATUS (the giant Crimean Sno is not only one of the most desirable, li a rule, one of the easiest to grow a crease. Among its varieties there are and late flowering forms, which rende still greater value. Its bulbs are large in the majority of Snowdrops, its char glaucous leaves often a foot long by a wide when fully grown. Usually a fre ing sort, endeavour should be made o crease it by raising all possible seedlin

Early Snowdrops

Sir Herbert Maxwell is, of course, correct pointing out that the common Snowdrop y be picked early in January (or even be- e Christmas) in his favoured district, but en I wrote of the end of January as the ıal date I was thinking of the average date districts with an average English climate. hink February has always been regarded the real month of Snowdrops, as witness ir popular name in the Midlands—"ebruary Fair-Maids." In an ordinary son I should choose the second week in ɔruary for an excursion to such a place as erbury-on-Bredon Hill, where the count- s masses of Snowdrops are a memorable ht. Although the Snowdrop is apparently igenous in one or two spots around Ex- or, it does not occur in really large quanti- ; indeed, it is comparatively little grown cottage gardens in this neighbourhood. I e frequently picked the large Galanthus vesii on Christmas Day here, but G. alis rarely flowers before the second week January, and this is somewhat remarkable en we always include a number of stralian and other plants in our Christmas which are usually looked upon as very der subjects.

nother correspondent objects to Snow- ps being grown in a rock garden. For- ately, the Snowdrops do not share her ike for the situation, and a few plants of ıe rare variety are very much safer there n in orchard grass or woodland, places ıl for massing the common Snowdrops G. Elwesii, which alone can be obtained sufficient quantities. Some of the finest ns of Snowdrops have been raised by en- siastic amateurs, and their small stocks ulbs have never passed into the hands of trade. It is therefore all the more im- ant that the fortunate owner of some ice variety should preserve it in the safest tion, and that position in most gardens ıe rock garden.

aptain Saunders asks where G. cilicicus be obtained. I bought mine four years from Messrs. Van Tubergen, of rlem, and since then I have occasionally it listed in English nurserymen's lists. regards the rare G. Corcyrensis and G. ɔbrensis, I only wish I could tell him re to obtain them, but I have been unable rack them down in any list. In fact, it ɔ easy task to form even a small collection nowdrops, but if the interest in them is ıtained perhaps the trade will find it h while to offer a greater variety. The ies with green leaves (plicatus, Ikariæ, eri, latifolius) are attractive and distinct ı the more usual glaucous foliage of the lis and Elwesii groups. The most beauti- ariety now in flower with me is a nivalis ı called Arnott's Seedling, with very e globular flowers of great substance, e on sturdy stems.

nother of great interest is the so-called w Snowdrop (G. nivalis lutescens), in h the ovary and the usually green mark- on the flower are straw-coloured. Yet her fascinating variety is G. nivalis illei Magnet, whose huge blooms dangle ɔng thread-like pedicels after the manner ierama pulcherrimum.

est Porlock. N. G. HADDEN.

nclusions concerning Gladioli

FTER many years' acquaintance with Gladioli I have arrived at some con- clusions which I think to be sound, but h must be taken for what they are worth. the first place, I am convinced that a soil is about the worst that Gladioli can , and that a good unctuous loam is what them to perfection. Of course, they and do accommodate themselves to various soils, but this is the soil they prefer; and wherever Roses and Strawberries are at home, there the Gladiolus will be at home also. It used to be thought differently, and I was one of those who believed and acted on it, but I am sure now that soil such as I describe is the soil in which they rejoice. In the second place, they will not stand being grown on the same piece of ground year after year. People will say, "Of course not; nothing will"; but I have seen in our cottage gardens large crops of Potatoes taken off land that has been for 30 years or more bearing the same crop, and, strange to say, not a bit more subject to disease than in gardens where the rotation or change-of-crop system has been adopted. A relative of mine whose garden was small grew Gladioli well for some years, but ultimately he too failed, from, I believe, this very cause. I am myself compelled to do much the same, and attribute some of my losses to this, for I think the Gladiolus is specially susceptible to this kind of treatment. I have this year adopted the plan of taking out a quantity of the soil and putting some fresh loam in its place, and am curious to see the results.

The course of propagation is, as some seem to be ignorant of, that each year the old corm dies and a new one is formed on and above it, while a number of small bulbs, differing in their quantity according to the variety, are formed around the base. Now this new corm is taken off the old one it is grown on, a condition which would not be the case in its natural habitat. I should imagine that very probably the old corm dies out altogether, and some of the new bulblets take its place. Be this as it may, I am persuaded that the only way to keep up a collection is by growing on the spawn, as it is called, after a corm has been manipulated for five or six years. The record with most of us is that in some way or other it perishes, but the spawn of the same variety, yea of the same bulb, will give flowers as good as ever. Hence I am convinced that what we want is to grow the spawn on, and thus make ourselves independent of the loss of the old corms and of any losses amongst them. The spawn vary very much in size, and consequently in the length of time we have to wait until they flower. I have known some to flower the first year, many do so in the second, and the majority will do so in the third. When they reach the second year without flowering, many of them will be about the size of a Walnut, and from these very fine spikes are often produced. The French say these form the best spikes, but then I do not think that they take anything like the pains we do in this country with bulbs; and, as with Hyacinths, I have seen great surprise expressed at the grandeur of the flowers exhibited by our principal growers. C. G.

Gladioli from seed

Reference was made in your novelty number to the ease and enjoyment there is in growing Gladioli from seed (see issue January 29th, page 65). Some growers of this flower sow early in spring in warmth, others later in cold frames. Judging from the free way in which seeds have germinated in the open ground, so much care and labour would appear to be misapplied. Two years ago I was surprised to see a number of young plants come up where the previous summer some of the gandavensis section had bloomed. The autumn not being fine I did not think that the seeds were good, so they were allowed to remain ungathered and the decayed stalks laid on the ground through the winter. They were allowed to remain undisturbed, and some, I think, bloomed the second year. They naturally made much stronger growth than if they had been raised in pots. At some little distance from the parent plants there bloomed a lot of the hardy hybrid kinds, and it was curious to note that all the seedlings of the gandavensis varieties were of mixed parentage. Some of them were very pretty, but they were not hardy enough to resist the hard winter that followed, and scarcely a bulb came up in spring. The summer before last, as will be remembered, was very inclement, and I did not gather any seeds of the hardy kinds, thinking they were not good. I was mistaken, however, for a quantity of young plants came up where the old bulbs flowered. They germinated quite as well as if I had sown them under glass. In the future I shall certainly give sowing in the open ground a fair trial. I shall sow in well-stirred ground about the middle of March, choosing a dry time for so doing. G. S.

Galanthus plicatus, a free seeding species, native of the Caucasus

Grass walk flanked by Yew hedges and arches at Westbrook, Godalming

Through the Garden

The comfort and convenience of good garden walks

THE comfort and convenience derived from good garden walks can scarcely be over-estimated, as they enable the pedestrian to enjoy a stroll under conditions of weather that would render it anything but a pleasure to make use of them were they not sound and well made. Not only is this the case, but operations are greatly facilitated, as they admit of barrows or other traffic going on at any time instead of having to wait—a very important matter, inasmuch as a few days' delay at a particular time often leads on to another of still greater duration, and throws work sadly behind. This, no doubt, has been the experience of many connected with gardening, and as nothing detracts so much from the general keep and finish of any place as bad walks, independent of the great inconvenience they cause, every effort should be made to improve them. Unless the foundations are firm and solid, slight dressings of gravel, however good and adhesive it may be, is of little avail, for, although it may bind hard and remain so during a dry time, a few days' rain converts it into a perfect quag that is not at all improved by passing a roller over it. It is better, therefore, with any that have been improperly made to wholly re-form them, which can the most readily be done by beginning at one end and taking out sufficient of the under part to admit of hard broken bricks, slag from furnaces, coarse stones, or anything of that kind being placed on to the depth of from 3 inches to 6 inches, according to the amount of hard wear they are expected to have, or the weight that is likely to pass over them.

The great mistake many make when using this rough material is in not filling up the interstices between, thinking that by leaving the bottom loose and hollow they thereby secure free drainage and lay the walks dry. This is a most erroneous notion and is a frequent cause of rottenness, as the gravel shifts with the traffic and thus becomes broken, whereas, had it a firm bed to rest on, traffic would improve and consolidate it rather than otherwise. Instead of water passing through, as is the case when the basis is formed in the way noticed above, the top should be made as impervious as possible, that what rain falls may be conducted quickly away and carried off through gratings and drains made for the purpose. Without these no walk, except on a hill side, can remain in good order for any length of time, and therefore in laying out any fresh ones or re-making such as are already in existence, attention should be given to this first, and to save labour and pipes or tiles the best way is to lay a main drain down the centre, with branches from the sides at about 20 feet apart leading to it. Each of these should be connected with a small brick cesspool, made somewhat deeper than the drain, so as to catch any sediment that may wash in through the gratings; the neatest and most suitable of which are those cast so as to fit in an iron frame, from which they can be lifted and replaced when nec sary for the purpose of cleaning out the ce pool. If these gratings are got about inches long by 4 inches wide they are not all conspicuous, and are far preferable to other on that account as well as on the sc of cost, as there is no expense in mak frames for them. Where there is a diffic in getting an outlet for drains dead wells n be formed at intervals to send the water but in all cases where these are resorted care should be taken to render them safe backing up the sides and covering the t with rough stone slabs or darning them o These, however, are of little use unless subsoil is of an open nature to let the w soak away quickly, and should only be u when there is no other easy means of gett rid of it.

As a material for binding the slag or w ever else is used for the foundation ther nothing equal to fine chalk, as it not sets hard and firm, but is likewise most jectionable and impenetrable to wor which, unless this is used, are often troublesome, as they not only disfigure surface of the walks by the soil they ex but they are the means of stocking the gr with weeds, as the seeds of these can germinate to any extent when so assis With a solid, compact mass for a bott such as the above-named mixture w form, and about 3 inches or 4 inches gravel, consisting of two-thirds or so of stone, walks may be made that, with occasional top-dressing, will last sound enjoyable for any length of time, and suc will incur but slight labour in keeping t clean. In making choice of gravel, pr ence should be given to that which, w found in the pit, is in a hard compre vein, as when in this state before being turbed, it soon, with proper rolling an tention, gets into the same condition a Any not so firmly imbedded, and therefo a more sandy nature, may be greatly proved by mixing with it some fi pulverised clay to give it adhesiveness, this must not be overdone, or it will out and be unpleasant to walk on. In ing the gravel to separate the s abundance of fine material two sorts sl be made, the coarser of which to lay a bottom and the small at the top, so finish off without any large stones cro through in the way they otherwise w A sieve of ½-inch gauge is the proper thi

Garden walk edged on one side with Dwarf Lavender in Mr. W. A. Bilney's garden at Monk's View, Newbury

in preparing the material for the surface, any that will pass a mesh of that size will l firmer and be more serviceable and eeable to walk on than if it were coarser. ngly gravel, or that which has at some e or other been subjected to the action of er, should always be avoided, as it is sure e loose and constantly shifting under even ht traffic, on account of the smooth round ure of the pebbles it contains, besides ch, they are always imbedded in sharp, dy veins of earth that is totally unfitted forming good sound walks. Stones that more angular and have sharp edges get rmer grip, and cannot well be displaced r having been once rolled in, as may lily be seen by anyone at all acquainted n such matters.

Monk's View, Newbury

Above: Paved walk with wide grass borders. Note the Irises in flower.

Below: A bold group of Long-spurred Aquilegias near the garden path.

alks badly formed are a constant source ouble and annoyance, ever requiring at-on of some kind or other, particularly in natter of weeding, as, from their loose ce, seeds effect a ready lodgment, and inate and grow rapidly after every er that falls. These weeds, in most , are difficult to deal with, and the more here there are live edgings to the walks, ese prevent the use of salt, which is the and most effectual means of ridding s of their presence. Where there are verges it may be applied without doing east harm, provided a favourable time iosen for putting it on, which is after rains with a rising barometer, as then will be no risk of having it washed to sides and damaging the grass. The gravel and the night dews are sufficient solve the salt slowly, in which way it is ore effectual than if done by a shower, om watering, as then the strength is d away from the crowns of the weeds, i are their most vital parts, and where suffer immediately the sun shines hotly them.

only is salt desirable for the purpose eansing walks from weeds, Moss, or vegetable growth to which they are , but it has also a most beneficial effect ightening and rendering them much solid; and, if dressed annually about they will require nothing further, ex-he usual rolling and sweeping for the nder of the season. For kitchen gar-and places of that kind, where real ought to be considered before orna-dead edgings should always be used, mething that is hard, neat, and durable atly needed for this purpose to replace Box, which, although it looks well, is always a harbour and breeding place for slugs and other insects that prey on young tender crops. Walks might then be kept in first-rate order with a tenth part of the labour they now entail, as hand-weeding is slow work, and to break them up, as is frequently done, causes them to be rough and unsatisfactory for some time afterwards.

Asphalte, when well done, is very durable and serviceable, and does away with the weed nuisance; but when made with tar, the cheapest and best material for the purpose, the colour is objectionable, unless white spar, or something of that kind, can be used freely to take off its dead black, sombre appearance. In cases where good binding gravel cannot be obtained at reasonable cost, tar paths form most excellent substitutes, but they should never be laid without a good solid foundation, or they will heave, from the action of frost, and break up into holes, which, if mended, always have a patchy, unsightly appearance. The bottom for these, as for gravel, may be made with fine chalk and stones, clinkers, or material of that kind most ready to hand, which, when put into its place, should be firmly rammed to prevent any further subsidence. With such a foundation, walks may be made that will last a lifetime if only subjected to fair ordinary wear, and, as they require no further expenditure of labour, or means to keep them clean when once formed, they are, in the end, the most economical, although they may cost a little more in the first place when laying them down. One important matter in connection with the formation of these asphalte walks is that they are well supported at the edges, otherwise they do not last sound long, as they break away at that particular part, and a kerb of some kind is therefore necessary against which they may be finished. Strips of York stone, about 2 inches thick, and rounded off slightly, are the neatest and most lasting kerbs that can be used, and from their grey tint of colour they form a good contrast to that of the tar. S.

Dwarf annuals for the path side

IN these days of crazy-paved paths in the garden it is quite a problem to find an edging which is at once gay and not common to the gardens of all one's friends. There are quite a number of very small annuals which are eminently suitable for this purpose. The brightness of their many-coloured flowers and their grace and daintiness are admirably set off by the stones of the path over which they may be allowed to encroach a little. Many of these small annuals have, however, portentous names, which, as often as not, have no simple English equivalent, but when once committed to memory they give the gardener quite a highbrow status when visitors call to see the garden.

The little blue Nemophila (N. insignis) is, perhaps, the best known of these little annuals which I have in mind. There is also another Nemophila (N. discoidalis) which has dark prune-coloured flowers prettily set off with white stamens. A companion to the light blue of the Nemophila is the Gentian-blue of Phacelia campanularia. This little plant has a great fascination for gardeners, and also, alas, for slugs.

A packet of mixed Viscaria seed sown rather thickly gives a very pretty effect with its many-coloured flowers on wiry stems some 12 inches long.

Portulaca comes to us from Chili, but makes itself quite at home in our gardens if placed where it can get all the sun possible. Its gay-coloured flowers are quite large for so small a plant.

Another sun worshipper is Leptosiphon, which originally came from California, but has been greatly improved by hybridisation. A packet of mixed hybrid seed gives a display which must be seen to be appreciated. An even smaller annual is the Violet Cress

(Ionopsidion acaule), which forms little tuffets literally covered with pale lavender cruciform flowers. It sows itself freely and the seedlings will often flower the same season.

Bartonia aurea furnishes a pleasant patch of brilliant buttercup-yellow. Of annual Daisies there are three which are particularly suitable for the path edge. The Swan River Daisy (Brachycome ibiridifolia), from Australia, has blue and bluish-violet flowers on slender stems. Its numerous flowers form quite a blue haze if planted thickly enough. The plant is a favourite with the slugs, but it is worth while giving oneself a little trouble to rear so beautiful a thing. The other blue Daisy (Agathea cœlestis) is quite a different blue, more opaque, and with a distinct yellow eye.

The Star of the Veldt (Dimorphotheca aurantiaca), which, as its name implies, comes from South Africa, is an orange Daisy, which from an April sowing produces numerous flowers throughout the summer months. Apart from the dark orange type this Daisy can be had in primrose, buff, and apricot shades. Very dainty, too, are the hybrid Toadflax (Linaria) with their parti-coloured Snapdragon-like flowers. The two kinds of Flax, the blue (Linum Narbonense) and the red (L. grandiflorum rubrum), w perhaps, be not altogether out of p though they, in common with the Toad grow rather taller than most of the p mentioned hitherto.

It does not appear to be a matter of ge knowledge that the Eschscholtzia can no had in a great number of very attra colours other than the orange of the There is a cream, a crimson, and a de ful shell-pink, and a vivid flame-coloured

Lastly, mention might be made o annual Oxalis (O. valdiviana), with b yellow flowers which forms an adm edging plant. EDWARD COH

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Amaryllis (Hippeastrums)

Plants which have been wintered in cool houses should now be shaken out of their soil and repotted into clean pots, as root-action will commence from this date. The compost should consist of two-thirds fibrous loam and the remainder made up of well-decayed leaf-soil, charcoal, wood-ash, sand, and bone-meal. A shelf in the early vinery or Peach-house will suit the newly-potted plants admirably until the flower-spikes are well advanced.

Gloxinias, Achimenes, Begonias

These and similar subjects which have been resting in cool, frost-proof sheds or houses should also be treated as advised for Amaryllis, although it is not advisable to subject these to high temperatures at any time, for if grown in a light house or pit with a temperature of 55 degs. to 60 degs. the resultant growth will be stronger and less subject to mite attacks. Should this pest appear, fumigate the plants with nicotine every 10 days.

Pot Vines

Surplus shoots should be removed, retaining and stopping those showing the best bunches, leaving two or three more than the plant is intended to mature, as these are easily removed later and do no harm. Pinch out the tip of the shoots with the finger and thumb at the second leaf beyond the bunch. The temperature should be slightly increased, and this applies also to vineries and Peach-houses started last month. The tying down of the shoots will require attention, and must be carried out with extreme care, as the slightest attempt at forcing the growth down will cause it to break away from the main rod with disastrous results.

Bedding plants

All kinds must now be placed in a warm house in order to develop cuttings, as many thousands of these will be required and must be put through the propagating-cases as rapidly as possible. Seeds of bedding Lobelias, Carnations (those of the new Chaband strain), which bloom during August and onwards if sown now, Fuchsias, Salvias, etc., must be sown and placed in heat until germination has taken place.

Fruit trees

Where canker is prevalent—as it frequently is among trees growing on heavy and badly-drained land—the wounds on young branches should be thoroughly scraped and cleaned, and dressed with a thick grease. Larger wounds on the older branches must be cut out entirely as no good will result by leaving such on the trees.

Fruits in store

Both Apples and Pears are keeping very well, but a reminder to look them carefully over during inclement weather will not be out of place, and such observation may save many being lost.

Vegetables and salads

Sow in boxes now Brussels Sprouts, Leeks, Celery, Celeriac, Cabbages, Cauliflowers, and Lettuces, both Cos and Cabbage, all in heat; Radishes, Early Market Carrot, and Long White Frame Turnip in frames placed upon hotbeds made up last month.

Garlic and Shallots

Plant out when the soil is in good working order in rows 9 inches apart.

Jerusalem Artichokes

Good tubers are always esteemed, therefore give the plants plenty of room by placing the sets at 2 feet apart in the rows and the latter 3 feet apart whenever the soil is workable during the coming week.

Peas

It is too early to sow these in the open, although many advise it, but if sown too early half the seeds rot in the wet, cold soil, and it is much better to postpone sowing. An early batch, however, may be sown in pots or boxes. I prefer placing six Peas in a 5-inch pot, as then no division is required when planting out. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

China Asters

These are among the most popular of all half-hardy annuals, both for garden decoration and for cut-flower purposes, and are also widely cultivated for exhibition, especially here in the North. While very early sowing is wrong, the plants becoming starved before it is safe to plant them out, too late a start, on the other hand, either results in the plants becoming soft and flabby, by reason of too much heat, or else they are very late in coming into bloom. Where only moderate warmth is available the seeds may be sown now, but a fortnight later will be better if a fairly high temperature can be maintained in the earlier stages.

Asters worth growing

Almost every seedsman offers Ostrich Plume, Comet, Victoria, and dwarf Chrysanthemum-flowered varieties, while many now offer, also, the single-flowered, or "sinensis" type, these latter being very valuable as cut flowers. One of the very finest types of Aster is that known as the "Hohenzollern." It is of large size and embraces a wide range of beautiful colours. A well-grown flower resembles a good Japanese Chrysanthemum. In height this Aster approximates to 15 inches.

Antirrhinums may still be sown

Although getting just late enough, still, if the seeds are sown at once they will su all right. Strong heat is unnecessary, to hasten germination, the seed-pans m given a temperature of 70 degs., but im ately growth appears they must be re to cooler quarters to prevent "drawing.

Phlox Drummondii

This beautiful annual, where it suc (unfortunately, it does not thrive well where), produces a most pleasing effec sown within the next 10 days or so and on steadily, but not too rapidly, nice will be fit for planting out at the end of

Lettuces for early crops

Good Lettuces are, usually, in dema almost any time, and the earlier they for use the better. By sowing a pinch good hardy variety like Carter's H Standard in gentle warmth and growi the resulting plants slowly but steadil produce will be fit for table several we advance of the first batch sown out-of-d

Parsley

This herb is in constant demand in kitchens, and the earlier fresh crops brought into use the better. By sow pinch of seed now in a pan or box of compost fine sturdy plants will result, being planted out when strong enoug after fear of damage by frost is over. strain of Myatts Garnishing is suital present sowing.

Sowing Parsnips

This vegetable demands a long sea growth, so if the seeds are not alread no more time must be lost. Rich, recently-manured soil that has been tr or double-dug should be selected for thi Allow 18 inches between the rows and the drills 1½ inches deep. If time p drop three seeds near together every 9 these, of course, to be thinned down should all grow.

Spring Cabbages

Should the soil be moderately dry the beds of autumn-planted Cabbag moving all dead leaves and any wee may be present. A pinch of nitrate or some other good artificial f sprinkled round each plant and the surface well stirred with a Dutch h greatly stimulate the crop. Repeat t ing at frequent intervals.

Late Broccoli

So far these have come well throu winter and it will now be well to go them, removing all decaying foliage, a stirring the surface freely with the great aid to this crop consists in m among the plants with well-rotted Besides improving the Broccoli this the ground for the next crop, as it car in after the present crop is cut. C. I

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo.

INDOOR PLANTS

The Pitcher plants

HE many interesting and unusual features connected with the Nepenthes, or Pitcher plants, are worthy of careful ly, and a visit to the fine collection in the penthe-house at Kew, adjoining the hid-houses, will well repay the inquiring tor. The pitchers, which are produced at end of a long cord-like extension of the es, vary greatly in size and colour, from ches to 12 inches, and sometimes contain much as a pint of liquid. They vary in ur from dull green to bright red, and re- n in good condition for nearly 12 months. plants, having a somewhat defective -system and being epiphytal in habit, ab- an insufficient amount of nitrogen, and s in order to make good this shortage means are provided by Nature for trap- various insects. Digestive juices are eted and the product passes through the es into the plant system. The upper half he interior of the pitcher is of a shiny, pery surface which defeats the efforts of insect to escape, whilst the lower half etes the digestive juices, and various ar glands assist in luring the insects to r doom. The curious lid-like process pro- s the pitcher in its earliest stages, and fact that before opening it contains a l points to the conclusion that it is a etion and is not the result of rainfall.

attempt their cultivation with any ce of success the temperature of the e-house is necessary, and all the heat and sture at command. I grow a few in an id-house where the temperature is main- d at a minimum of 60 degs. and extra ing is provided, but during the winter ths am giving them all the heat avail-

e principal trade grower of these inter- g plants informs me that on receipt of a t it is advisable to replace the liquid lost g the journey by filling the pitchers half- f water, adding a few drops of salad oil ke the place of the oily fluid that is rally secreted. The absence of this on al would otherwise cause the pitchers to el.

e authorities at Kew concerned with plants, whom I consulted, whilst not proving of this procedure, are not of on that any advantage is to be gained it, but in any case no harm can arise. recommend that the plants be cut hard at about the end of February and re- d in hanging pans or baskets in a com- of equal parts fibrous loam, Sphagnum , and good peat or Osmunda-fibre. t care should be taken to avoid any in- to the small pitchers at the ends of the g leaves, and if it is desired to have of the largest size the leading growth d be pinched out at the required height. d-spider is to be guarded against, and yringe freely applied, if possible several a day. Coming from the tropical s of the Old World, extending from n to the Philippines, heat, moderate , and ample moisture are the essentials ccess. A valued correspondent writes at "the name Nepenthes means grief ging from some supposed medicinal pro- in the pitcher secretions, but possibly the fact that insects entering the rs attain a speedy end to their troubles emselves."

E. R. ASHTON.

Pelargoniums

umn-struck cuttings should now be a shift into larger pots and introduced ial warmth, when growth will be free seful flowers will make their appearance. A house filled with a good variety of these and the fancy kinds, also Ivy-leaved for draping the stages, is a very notable feature during March, April, and May, but as the plants become laden with bloom a slightly cooler and drier atmosphere must be maintained by leaving the top ventilators slightly open.

Nepenthe or Pitcher Plant in Mr. E. R. Ashton's collection of stove plants

These insectivorous plants produce pitchers at the end of a long cord-like extension of the leaves

Conservatory plants

Some of the ornamental forms of Japanese Acers are useful in the conservatory now. A. Negundo variegatum, when well grown, either as standards or pyramids, is useful for furnishing to light up dark-foliaged plants. This, however, should not be overdone. Seedling Cyclamens should soon be potted off into single pots. Many of the strongest plants that were raised early will for the next month or so have warmth, so as to get the pots full of roots by the end of May or early in June, ready for the shift into 5-inch pots and a move to the cold frames. Those who are trying to save seeds of Chinese Primulas should use the camel's-hair pencil to fertilise the blossoms to obtain a full crop of seeds. To obtain seeds of Calceolarias the flowers should be fertilised, and the same remark applies to Cineraria stellata. Sweet Peas in pots intended to flower inside will now be working upwards, and should be neatly staked. They will flower freely in 6-inch pots, about four or five plants in each pot. Liquid-manure should be given freely when the roots have taken possession of the soil. When Azaleas come from the conservatory all the faded flowers and seed-pods should be picked off, the plants thoroughly syringed, placed in an intermediate temperature till growth is completed, and then moved to a cooler house to harden the young wood previous to going outside to complete the ripening. Some of the imported Azaleas have flowered well, but others have failed comparatively, and one consignment we had last September was completely spoilt by sea water. Pot Roses, where the plants have come on quietly, are very vigorous and full of buds. I think something more might be done with Eupatoriums. They flower very freely, and are easily propagated, and form good specimens. If pruned in a little and planted out in an open position in the beginning of June, pinched once or twice in summer, and potted up in September, they will yield a lot of useful plants.

C. P.

The Gracillimum Varieties of Polystichum aculeatum

By W. B. Cranfield, President of the British Pteridological Society.

THE normal type of the Prickly Shield Fern is, of itself, an object of great beauty. Its glossy dark evergreen fronds and graceful outline invariably arrest attention.

Though more widely distributed, it is not so generally met with as its sister species, Polystichum angulare (the Soft Shield Fern), nor has it been nearly so prolific in varietal forms. Amongst its descendants are, however, some of the most beautiful Ferns in cultivation.

The variety Pulcherrimum was found wild in Dorset in 1876 by a labourer named Bevis, by whom it was presented to the late Dr. J. S. Wills, of Thornecombe, an enthusiastic Fern hunter and collector. Its silky appearance, elegant outline, and falcate pinnules, combined with a robust constitution, easy culture, and rapid vegetative increase, rendered it one of the most useful and graceful of garden Ferns. Beautiful as it is, it has been far transcended by its offspring. It was thought to be of hybrid origin, and for many years was believed to be barren. Some 35 years ago a few sporangia were, however, found on a robust plant by Dr. F. W. Stansfield and the late Mr. W. Cropper, but nothing remarkable arose from the spores sown. The sporangia are very minute, occurring near the margin of the pinnulets, which would account for their having escaped observation.

About 25 years ago a quantity of sporangia were found by the late Messrs. C. B. Green and C. T. Druery on a robust plant in the fernery of the former. Sowings of spores were made jointly, and the young plants at once gave evidence of their exceptional character. Some followed parental lines, others were apparent reversions to the presumed grandparents, and, in Mr. Green's seedlings, an entirely new departure on the lines of Plumoso divisilobum angulare (Plumosum-Green). In Mr. Druery's case an extremely dark-coloured and vigorous plant of stout texture (Pulcherrimum-Druery). In both, a number of young plants characterised by extreme tenuity which ultimately developed to the Gracillimum types. This remarkable break is characterised by the prolongation of the parental ½-inch pinnule to from 2 inches to 3 inches, some being, in addition, cristulate, others compound; some of erect habit, others pendent. All are extremely beautiful, but, owing to their delicate fronds, are not suitable for general outdoor cultivation, needing the protection of frames or cool conservatory to attain full development.

Other sowings were made by Dr. F. W. Stansfield, of Reading, amongst whose plants is probably the most linear form known; by Mr. J. Edwards, of Manchester, who, whilst failing to raise a Gracillimum, obtained two or three extremely foliose forms on angulare lines; and by the writer, who raised a number of Gracillimums—parental types, reversions to the presumed parents, and also a number of intermediate forms.

Polystichum aculeatum gracillimum Cranfield No. 3

A very graceful evergreen Fern, with delicately divided fronds about 3 feet long, which gained the Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society

Some of the plants raised have been exhibited on various occasions and have obtained First-class Certificates or Awards of Merit by the Royal Horticultural Society and the British Pteridological Society, among them being Gracillimum-Druery (F.C.C.), Gracillimum cristulatum-Druery (F.C.C.), Plumosum-Green (A.M.), Pulcherrimum-Druery (F.C.C.), Gracillimum-Cranfield No. 3 (A.M.), an illustration of which accompanies this article, and Gracillimum-Cranfield No. 11 (A.M.), whilst a number have yet to make their appearance. Plumosum-Green and Pulcherrimum-Druery would certainly be ranked amongst the first 12 British Ferns, and, on account of their robust character and hardihood, flourish under outdoor cultivation in suitable environment.

The Gracillimum section, whilst hardy, are unsuitable for general outdoor cultivation, their delicately-divided fronds being easily damaged by drying winds, especially during the growing season. For cold frames or c house decoration they are very handsome which their evergreen character is an ad attraction.

A few of the Gracillimum types are obtainable through trade sources.

The great advance shown illustrates w may be accomplished by enthusiastic c vators. It is, however, unusual that s wonderful results could be obtained fro single wild find, so far as is known, only generation removed from the normal.

TREES AND SHRU

The Sea Buckthorn (Hippoph rhamnoides)

WELL fruited, this is an exceedi ornamental shrub or small tree. S people fail with it on account of possessing plants of but one sex, for fe flowers are borne on one bush and mal another. For this reason it is neces when planting to place one male amongst six or eight female plants. Gi this proportion, it is possible to obtain a fuse crop of rich orange-coloured be every year. Although it is usual to with it as a bush 8 feet or 10 feet high, possible, with a little attention to prunir the early stages to get it to form a tree 15 to 20 feet high with a fair-sized trunk. amples such as this have an advantage dwarfer plants, as the fruits are more spicuous. Some difficulty is experience propagating the species by other means by seeds, for cuttings do not root Branches may, however, be layered, but a rather slow process. Seeds germinate but it is no use planting the seedlings in manent positions until the sex can be c mined, for it is useless to plant an unlir number of males. As a large group moderately moist place in the plea grounds, for massing in a shrubbery, or grouping on the outskirts of a lawn, it satisfactory whilst in tree form a gro half-a-dozen females with a male plant i centre forms a conspicuous object.

Chimonanthus fragrans

The delightful fragrance emitted b blossoms of this Japanese shrub render most desirable object in every garden especially as it blossoms in the winter se when all else is destitute of bloom. A plant for growing against a warm wall scarcely be named, particularly if near a from which its fragrance would be pe ble. It will grow in any kind of soil, perfectly hardy, though it likes the prot of a wall, and besides in such a positi blooms can receive some slight co when frost happens to be severe. C. g flora has larger flowers than those fragrans, but both are desirable. C. flora has smaller flowers than those type, and in C. lutea the flowers are y both inside and outside, instead of cr in the interior, as in the other forms. may all be raised by cuttings inserted i under a bell-glass in a gentle hotbed.

Parottia persica

This rather small-growing tree, wh allied to the Witch Hazels, is not s gardens as often as one would expec sidering its obvious merits. It is m cidedly attractive at two periods of th First in March, when the leafless br are thickly studded with conspicuous red flowers, and again in the autumn, this period its large, bold-looking foli sumes most gorgeous hues of green,

and scarlet, and, seen against a back-ınd of evergreens with the autumn sun ing upon the foliage, it presents, indeed, ɔrious blaze of colour. Commonly known ıe Persian Ironwood, and seldom growing e than 15 feet in height, this subject is ıently suited for the small garden where ething at once distinct and beautiful is ired. T. H. EVERETT.

FRUIT GARDEN

Recently planted fruit trees

O the beginner—yes, and to those of varied experience—the problem of whether to prune the first season they planted or defer it until the following er still lingers in the minds of many tical men, which makes it all the more cult for a beginner seeking advice as to h is the best method to adopt when one rt says prune within a few weeks of ting and another advocates delay for a vemonth; surely bewildering to the ex-e.

ıose of us who practised the first-named dealt with 100 or more trees, probably, in career, direct from the nurseryman, se roots, more or less mutilated in ng in many cases, and the further tening of the same to sound wood at ting time, feel that it is contrary to good tice to leave the head untouched, and ex-the same progress in the tree as if ing had occurred requiring readjustment ɔot and branch respectively to counter-nce each other. For an example let us a standard Apple or Pear carrying a big —and there are quite a number of fruit-ers who choose such for preference, hold-he idea that such a specimen will quickly uce a good crop of fruit if the head is left self for a year or so after transplanting, even allowing it to carry fruit the first —and what do we find? It is this, that aid tree within a couple of years is at a lstill and has to be headed back pretty ely to secure strong, healthy, fruiting l, whereas if the tree had been treated soon after planting, the same would, in najority of cases, have formed symmetri-eads and carrying a crop consistent with a recently-planted tree, while the other ing ground and has much to make good. ing the same season as planting has this ıct advantage over the non-pruned ones, ugh growth from the basal shoots may ɔw the first season, they push forth with ı vigour the second season, whereas in atter case most of the sap rushes to the s of the branches, leaving the basal buds e the pruner would be likely to cut prac-y dormant compared with the former. rts holding contrary opinion surely must given both methods a fair trial, but long years' experience with the manage-of fruit-trees in general I see no reason er my views as above stated.

st season's wood should be cut away to n 4 inches of their origin, selecting an ard bud whenever possible, which tends ep the centre of the tree open, reducing ength of any side shoots to within a e of eyes and dispense with all fruit-and so throw every ounce of energy the s capable of yielding for the production althy shoots for next year's fruiting, yet cting the crop to a dozen or so fruit. It s overcropping of recently-planted trees rst few years after removal that often es an otherwise healthy specimen. planted in the new year may well be ınpruned until the buds show signs of ng unless they have strong straggling s, which are best reduced by half their ı at planting time. Make quite sure the tree is securely staked and not allowed to chafe its bark by coming in contact with its support, a very important point when trees have but a slight hold of the soil. Many specimens are annually wrecked by this neglect. They should be constantly inspected in regard to this for quite a year after planting and new supports given where found necessary.

It must be recognised by all that a light mulch of 4 inches or so is most beneficial to all newly-moved trees as a protection against hard frost and drying winds, otherwise it is best omitted so that the increasing power of the sun may warm the soil and do its share in promoting root-action, but in either case the surface soil from the base of the tree and 2 feet around should be lightly probed with the garden fork as a preventive to caking or cracking as occasion demands.

Some seasons we find a tree here and there practically at a standstill, the roots failing to function; yet the tree is still alive and awaiting help to enable it to burst into leafage, and here is a case where we can usually give assistance in the way of overhead syringing several times daily in dry weather, and, if considered necessary, a thorough watering at the root. Such attention has frequently proved efficient with many a tree and shrub which otherwise no doubt would have succumbed. J. MAYNE.

Orchard pests

BAD planting, unsuitable situations, and neglect are frequently the cause of failure in fruit trees. In planting or improving an orchard our first care should be (1) to make the soil cool, as the roots yellow in dry soil, and (2) drain off the excessive moisture of the soil and subsoil, whence come poverty of leaf growth and fruit and premature fall of leaf. To prevent this yellowing of the roots, due to dry soil, remove the soil round the tree stem down to the roots and for some little distance, and supply a cool compost of sandy loam, alluvial deposit, peat, rolled turf, vegetable and animal refuse, and moisten with liquid-manure. The ground should also be mulched with farmyard scrapings or marsh mud, which allow the rain to filter through. The blackening and withering of the young shoots and leaves being caused by over-moisture in the soil, the proper remedy is to drain away the superfluous moisture and to hoe the ground round the tree stem. If a young tree, it is advisable to transplant it to a more raised situation or to a knoll, and to train and prune in moderation. Add to the soil some light sandy substance, or even scoria and cinders.

CANKER.—This is often caused by too much shade, or a too cold situation, or too short pruning. The treatment is to prune away the parts round the canker in course of formation or already formed, and cover the part laid bare with an oily liniment. Vegetable tar, mastic, are efficacious. Refrain from pruning the branches, and improve the soil with powdered sulphate of iron. Smear also the twigs and branches with a preparation of clay, cow dung, and glue or milk as a protection against cold or sunstroke.

MISTLETOE.—This parasite is unsightly if allowed to become abundant, and is easily removed with the knife at first. Remove also

OLD BARK, MOSSES, AND LICHENS from twigs and branches, as these impair the breathing functions of the trees or are refuges for insects. With a scraper, wire brush, or a mailed glove the operation should be performed immediately after rain, and then smear the tree with lime and sulphate of copper or iron. Be careful to burn all contaminated *débris*. This is essential, and can be carried out at all seasons and in all ages of the trees, even young saplings newly planted. Heavy rainfalls, ending in or followed immediately by partial frost, whereby ice, hail, and melted snow collect at the foot of the trees, are apt to cause the bark to crack when the thaw comes. In exposed places, therefore, protect the tree stem, up to 24 inches or 36 inches from the ground, with a girdle of plaited straw or twisted hay, sulphated as a protection against hares, rabbits, and rodents generally. These may also be kept at a distance by wire netting.

AMERICAN BLIGHT.—Never relax in vigilance against this terrible scourge of the Apple tree. Young trees should be brushed over in the parts attacked with a solution of ammoniac alcohol, salts of sorrel, urine, and soapsuds, or mixtures of nicotine and black soap, applied with a hard brush able to penetrate the contaminated parts. Repeat the operation eight days or a fortnight afterwards, and also when any signs of the enemy appear. Also cut away and burn young branches attacked beyond hope of recovery. In the case of big trees, immediately after the fall of the leaves remove the soil from around the collar and roots and add lime. The roots will then be made unfit to become the winter quarters of colonies of insects.

GREEN OR BROWN BLIGHT.—Many races of blight infest the young shoots of Apple trees, impeding thereby the flow of sap. These can be crushed with the gloved hand, or treated to a sprinkling of nicotine or solutions of soft-soap and then washed with ordinary water. Nurseries of young trees are more than all exposed to this pest, and care should be taken to dilute liberally in treating the young shoots and leaf branches.

APPLE-MOTH.—This is a scourge of the orchard which seems to call for more serious attention year after year. Remove with the gloved hand the nests of this grub, which resemble an assemblage of spiders' webs; they should be crushed and consigned to the fire at once.

COCKCHAFER AND GRUB.—Rigorous search and destruction are the first steps in the fight against these pests. Breaking up the entire ground with a fork will destroy eggs underground. Strawberry plants and salads sown in the orchard or nursery will attract this grub. Hoe up the plants that show signs of fading, taking care to bring away the roots.

MOLE-CRICKET.—Young Apple trees in the nursery or orchard are equally liable to become victims of the mole-cricket. Find out where the insect burrows, and with the help of a funnel inject a few drops of oil and a couple of pints of water. The insect will come out and die in the open air. The direct position of the nest may be discovered by inserting a finger.

Many other pests belonging to the Coleopteræ are difficult to lay the hand upon. Here, again, keeping the trees in good trim will aid considerably in their destruction. Remove old bark, apply sulphate of copper or iron to the twigs and branches, not only of the tree attacked, but also trees near. Take away a layer of soil and turf from around the collar and burn. Lisette is an oblong-shaped insect which nibbles the buds in spring; it should be collected in the early morning, or in time of rain or dewfall, and crushed. The Agrila and Cossus should be pursued, even in their woody galleries. Grease smeared over the tree-stem and renewed from time to time will prevent the insect from depositing its eggs in the bark or wood, and also serve to stay the progress of the perfect Chemaitobia when it emerges for a walk in the open. In the night-time, by means of luminous traps well planned, many winged insects, sometimes microscopical in size and scarcely visible owing to their work being chiefly in the twilight or night-time, may be destroyed.

The winged insects of the daytime can be left to our charming auxiliaries the birds to be dealt with.

New Hybrid Saxifragas for the Alpine House

MESSRS. MAURICE PRICHARD AND SONS are to be congratulated upon their achievement in giving the hardy plant lover a series of hybrid Saxifragas of the greatest charm, mostly very dwarf and compact and of various shades of pink, carmine, or soft blush and lilac, colours much wanted among a host of similar kinds running mostly to white or shades of yellow and of the greatest value to the happy possessors of that charming addition to our gardens, the alpine-house. I suppose that almost every known species or hybrid of the genus Saxifraga has been in my possession at some time or other; indeed I have grown and studied the genus for more years than I care to recollect. Even then I almost despair of ever learning all I want to know about them. All these new hybrids belong to the Kabschia section, and are mostly the result of crossing Kabschia species or hybrids with other hybrids of the nearly related section known as Englerias. Mr. Russell Vincent Prichard is the wizard who has given us this new series, and I know he has well tested them before he gave them to the world, and most of them have made their debut at the spring shows of the Royal Horticultural Society during the last few years, where at least three of them were honoured with the Award of Merit. Some day, when some successful cultivator brings specimen pans of some of these novelties, I prophesy there will be some more awards presented to them, as so far only tiny plants in 3-inch pots have been available. I hope that other lovers of these plants will take this hint and procure the whole collection. It mav well be that some awards will fall to them, especially if the R.H.S. persists with the special shows for amateurs they instituted last year. At all events, I was very glad to obtain the full series of these novelties for the collection of alpine plants I am building up in my new nursery garden on a Sussex hill top. Here they are at present in cold frames, for the alpine-house has yet to be built, and although the plants are as hardy as can be, they bloom so early in the year that their flowers stand no chance of preserving their beauty unblemished for many days in the open, whilst in the alpine-house they are a joy for several weeks, especially as some of these forms produce relays of flowers and thus extend the season.

Of course, they would do perfectly in the moraine, but personally I dislike to see numerous little glass roofs dotted about there, and much prefer to be able to enjoy them at my leisure and in the comfort of the alpine-house. Anyone who remembers the pleasure that Saxifraga x Irvingi gave us, when it appeared a few years ago, and saw that pretty plant take second place when the late Mr. Reginald Farrer gave us, posthumously, the beautiful Saxifraga x Myra, will be able to forecast the pleasure this new group will give him, and from what I have seen and heard of them they are none of them so peevish as the beautiful early hybrids of Dr. Boyd, especially Saxifraga Cherry-trees; I mean the true plant with the daintiest butter-yellow flowers, and not the coarse impostor doing duty for it in most gardens, and Saxifraga x Boydii itself, which seems always, even in the midst of life, on the threshold of death, and will never be really plentiful, although its near relative, Saxifraga x Faldonside, seems thrifty enough.

The chief factor in this new race seems to be Saxifraga x Godroneana, itself a natural hybrid of no great beauty from the Pyrenees, combining in itself the blood of a Kabschia and an Engleria Saxifraga, and perhaps the very last plant most hybridisers would have selected as a parent, but, presumably, Mr. Russell Prichard saw promise in it, and his choice was entirely justified by the result. No less than 15 of the new hybrids owe their origin to this plant in union with S. lilacina and S. Faldonside, and, according to Mr. Maurice Hornibrook, Saxifraga x Irvingi, although Mr. Prichard does not mention this last plant in connection with Saxifraga x Godroneana. To the first cross (Godroneana x lilacina) belongs Saxifraga x Adela, a tightly compact little hummock with deep pink flowers on short, erect stems. This is the plant Mr. Hornibrook refers to Saxifraga x Irvingi, but I give here the raiser's record of parentage. Aubrey Prichard claims similar descent, but only grows to half its sister's height, namely, 1 inch, and produces soft pink flowers with the greatest freedom. Beryl is very near both of these, with good pink flowers, but perhaps not quite so free, and Brenda Prichard has flowers of a particularly bright rose colour. Delight has extra large flowers of a pretty shade of soft pink, and Desire differs in having much greener foliage than its sisters and very showy pink flowers on very short stems. Elysium has unusually long petals and Exquisite is entirely stemless, the pretty pale pink flowers sitting tightly on the little silver-grey hummocks. Lady Beatrice Stanley obtained an Award of Merit in March, 1924. It appears in many ways similar to Saxifraga x Myra. It is slightly taller than most of its near relatives and extremely showy with deep red flowers. Pearl Rose has beautiful circular flowers of soft pink, and Priory Jewel has lovely little hillocks of silver-grey studded with deep pink flowers, whilst Riverslea is rather taller, but still very silvery, and has blooms of a shade of purplish-rose. Sparkling is another stemless form, that produces buds like small Tea Roses, of clear bright pink, and Valerie Keevil, which was also honoured with an Award of Merit in March, 1923, is astonishingly beautiful in this galaxy of pretty plants. The densely-crowded foliage in tight, silvery cushions practically disappears under flowers fully ¾ inch across of the deepest rose-pink. After this it seems hard to find something to say for the last, but not the least, of these, Saxifraga x W. Reeves. Perhaps its most outstanding feature is the phenomenal freedom with which it produces its pretty p pink flowers. It is very compact in grow

Of course, there is a strong family liken in the whole group, but all are good, an have been at pains to indicate the outstand feature of each one that justified the raise giving distinctive names to them.

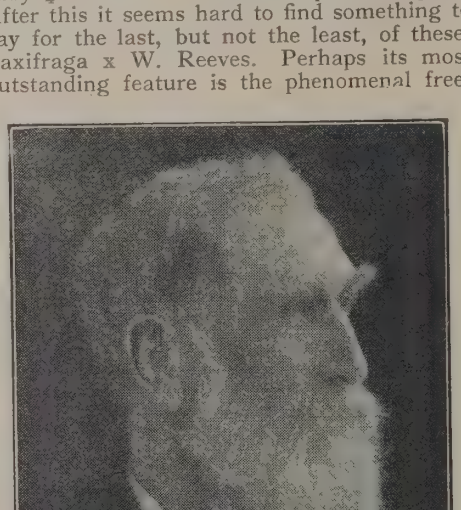
Saxifraga x Godroneana x Saxifraga Faldonside produced Saxifraga x C. Prichard. Against all expectations bears creamy-white flowers, very distinct reason of a red radiating centre, and t particularly unusual. But there are m surprises; S. tombeanensis in marriage w S. Burseriana crenata produced Saxifrag Ada, of very compact growth, with la white flowers, and also Saxifraga x Ethel which produces pale lilac buds that open i pure white flowers ½ inch across on dainty stems. S. lilacina crossed with dalmatica behaves perfectly orthodoxly gives us in Saxifraga x Amitie, a deligh small silvery Humpty Dumpty with lilac buds that open into pale lilac flov and looks as if it might appreciate a l more shade than most. The reverse c between the same two species gave a ra taller plant, 2 inches to 3 inches wher bloom, with large pale lilac flowers, wl two considerably older hybrids, both q well known by now and both honoured the Award of Merit, may as well be chroni here. S. Burseriana Gloria crossed Saxifraga x Irvingii produced them b Saxifraga x Gem closely follows Saxifrag Irvingi in general make-up, but the flo are fully an inch across, of palest pink fades to a ghostly silver blush, and Saxif x H. Marshall has even larger flowers slightly reflex, and both share with Saxif x Irvingi the very distinctive habit of b ing a succession of flowers, which make to some extent, for the rather quick fadir the colour that promises so much and, a proves so fleeting.

S. Bellisant, S. Laurent Ward, an Sonia Prichard owe their existence to a u between S. Federici Augusti, rather a g near S. Griesebachi, and the tiny lila They come intermediate in height, var from 2 inches to 3 inches, and carry se flowers on a stem after the manner of first-named parent; these are purplish-r Bellisant and Sonia Prichard, of which former is the taller, and dark red in La Ward, which shares the height of 2 i with Sonia Prichard.

There remain Saxifraga x Simplicit child of S. tombeanensis and S. lilacina almost as minute, as might be expected there is no trace of lilacina in the colo the offspring, which has flowers of blemished purity on 2-inch-high stems looks a dainty thing for a rocky cr Finally, we have Saxifraga x Ameni seedling of S. Burseriana var. trider with an unrecorded father. He seems to been, however, a person of colour, Amenity, in place of the virgin white produces flowers that have a deep o centre, a most unaccountable shade Kabschia Saxifraga. Apart from that plant comes near its mother and carri quaint flowers with commendable fre and may, one day, give highly inter progeny that may possibly reveal th known father.

In concluding, I can only advise every lover of alpine plants to procure the series whilst he may, and to pot them the nicest, grittiest soil he can comma small pans with a few pieces of roc posed near them for the plants to r against, and grow them on for a sati display in their alpine-houses or mor and they will probably be glad some da these little treasures had been pointed them.

W. E. TH. INGWER



Mr. H. B. May

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society Mr. H. B. May was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal in gold "for general services to horticulture"

Answers to Queries

estions—Queries and answers are inserted in ENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correlents follow these rules: All communications d be clearly written on one side of the paper and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING RATED, *Bouverie House Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. rs on business should be sent to the* PUB-. *The name and address of the sender are red in addition to any designation he may e to be used in the paper. When more than uery is sent each should be on a separate of paper, the name and address being added ch. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

Alexandrian Laurel

N you give me any information about ne enclosed specimen? I know that it called, hereabouts, the "Victor's el" and the green part is not a leaf. growth seems to resemble somewhat that Butcher's Broom (Ruscus aculeatus). people will be interested to hear more it. A. C.

ne specimen sent is not the Victor's el, but the Alexandrian Laurel (Danaë us syn. Ruscus racemosus). The r's Laurel is Laurus nobilis, or Bay el, the true "Laurel" of the ancients he one whose leaves were used to make s for triumphant heroes. Danaë s, the Alexandrian Laurel, is a native Europe and Asia Minor, introduced in It is a pretty evergreen with a rather oo-like habit, is closely allied to the er's Broom (Ruscus), and was once l in the same genus. It is, however, distinct in its terminal inflorescence, al flowers, and unarmed "leaves." o-called "leaves," as in Ruscus, are flattened branches (cladodes), but per- resemble leaves, and perform the same ons. The sprays are valuable for win- tting, and, placed in vases in associa- vith flowers, remain fresh a long time, are very pleasing in their cheerful ed green. The plant thrives well in haded spots in moist soil. Its fruits ot borne regularly in this country, but can be purchased from seedsmen. g them, it is easily increased by division ng.]

I would draw the attention of readers RDENING ILLUSTRATED to the merits of hoice and beautiful evergreen shrub, is too rarely seen in gardens. During e festive season its graceful glossy green nes claimed many admirers, and this ily understood by those who grow it nd are intimate with its many and uses.

mixing with flowering and leafless nes of shrubs in the depth of winter it ghtful, and for the decoration of ball- and churches, where its pliable wand- owths may be so well and easily em- , I know nothing of equal value. I known the cut sprays to last in quite condition for 4 months in cool rooms; nnot be said of any other plant.

you have to do is to change the water nally and gather the shoots together, g them through a pail of clean water ove dust every few weeks.

valuable shrub is not difficult to grow, gh I find it does best when grouped the base of old Apple or Pear trees, cast a gentle shade over the clumps summer. Shade, however, is not ab- y essential, as I have it flourishing in full sun. Some of the clumps here eet in diameter, the splendid branches, arching, being 4 feet long and fur- with glossy leaves similar to, but than, the indoor-grown Smilax.

a native of Southern Europe and Asia Minor, and was introduced to our country as far back as 1713, so it is by no means new. It may be raised from seeds, but I prefer increasing it by division of the roots in early spring. E. MARKHAM.

Sussex.

Alexandrian Laurel (Danaë Laurus) (syn. Ruscus racemosus)

This pretty evergreen is in great demand throughout the winter for indoor decoration. It thrives in semi-shaded spots in fairly moist soil

Cutting a privet hedge

(E.).—Privet hedges should be pruned twice each year, namely, about early June and again in autumn. In your case it may be advisable to cut the plants back at the present time, taking 3 inches or 4 inches off the top only in order to force the plants to thicken at the base. Give them a dressing of farmyard manure, as they would appear, from what you say, to be in need of nourishment.

FLOWER GARDEN

Making a Water Lily pond

Would you kindly tell me how to set about making a little Water Lily pond in a small garden? Would 4 feet or 5 feet across and 2 feet deep be sufficient? What should I grow in it to keep the water fresh?

CASETTA.

[You do not say whether you desire the top of the pond to be finished off level with the soil or if it is required to stand above the surrounding ground, but in excavating the position allow from 6 inches to 8 inches for the foundation, as the inside of the completed pool should measure 2 feet deep. The bottom may be of cement-faced concrete and the walls should be of 9-inch brickwork faced on the inside with cement, and if it is to stand any distance above the ground-level a mixture of rather coarse sand and cement, or rough cast, form a pleasing finish. York stone slabs 2 inches wider than the walls and laid upon the latter add greatly to the appearance of a Lily pond, but are necessary only where the latter is desirable. The sizes you suggest are quite good and the length may exceed the width with advantage. An inlet and outlet for the water should be provided, the latter being fixed on the extreme water-line to prevent overflowing. By turning the water on and permitting it to overflow for a short time every month or so the water will keep fresh and clear. A tank 5 feet by 5 feet by 2 feet would accommodate two Water Lilies, and we recommend James Brydon and Froebelli as two excellent varieties.]

GREENHOUSE

Arum leaf spot

Could you let me know what the black spots are on enclosed piece of Arum leaf? My Arums are covered with it, also Cyclamen and Primulas, but it is not on Cinerarias. The greenhouse is heated by ordinary furnaces and hot pipes. S. S. U.

[The specimen Arum leaf you have sent to us is affected with Arum Leaf Spot, which is caused by the fungus Phyllosticta richardiæ. The disease does not appear to be doing a great deal of damage yet, but, if not controlled, will cause spotting of the foliage later on. This will affect flowering and also weaken the plants for another season. If only some of the leaves are affected it would be best to cut the spotted foliage away and burn it. If all the leaves are affected it would be best to spray the plants with a solution of liver of sulphur at frequent intervals. At first you should use 1 oz. of liver of sulphur to 3 gallons of water, but if you find that the foliage will stand it a more useful strength would be 1 oz. to 2 gallons of water. You should spray the plants affected at intervals of a week. Spores are discharged from the tiny black spots, and these spores will infect the younger foliage. If the whole of the spotted foliage could be removed it would help you to fight the disease, but it would not be advisable to reduce the foliage too much, because it would weaken the plants. Liver of sulphur is best dissolved in a little boiling water and then made up to the required quantity with cold soft water. You should treat the Cyclamen and Primulas in the same way.]

Arum Lilies failing

Could you, please, tell me the cause of my Arum Lily leaves turning the same colour as the one enclosed? Are they diseased? I have cut several off. I wish to state I have no bottom heat, only lamps. They only keep the temperature about 40 degs. at night.

NOVICE.

[We have carefully examined your specimen foliage, and although there were two fungi present, there is no record of either attacking healthy foliage, so we are inclined to think that the plants have gone wrong through some cultural error, and that the fungi present are only secondary. If you will send us the details of the culture you have given the plants, perhaps we could help you to put matters right. Are the roots of the plants quite healthy, because there is a bacterial root rot of Arums which, in its early stages, would cause yellowing of the foliage?

Foliage which is in a dying state is a happy hunting ground for the two fungi we found. We should advise you to cut off the yellow leaves, spray the plants with a solution of liver of sulphur (see reply to "S. S. U."), and keep the plants on the dry side for a time.]

Resting Gloxinias

(R. G.).—Gloxinia bulbs will rest quietly for four months or longer if not subjected to too much heat and moisture. After four months' rest in a temperature of from 50 degs. to 55 degs. they will start again freely if placed in a temperature of 60 degs., with a moderate degree of atmospheric moisture. Bulbs going to rest in the spring of the year should be placed in a dry part of an intermediate house, or in a warm shed where the temperature ranges from 45 degs. to 55 degs.

Impatiens Sultani

(A. L.).—Now is a good time to sow seed of this, as if sown too early the seed will often fail to germinate, and the young plants will come to a standstill should the weather be very cold in the early stage of growth. This Balsam grows very quickly, and as few care to have larger specimens than can be grown in 6-inch pots, there is no need for early propagation. In a temperature of 60 degs. or 70 degs. this Impatiens will grow quickly, plenty of warmth and moisture being important aids. Cuttings (this being the method generally adopted) strike freely at this season. It is always advisable to have a plant or two in small pots, as large specimens are liable to damp off during the winter.

Primula verticillata

(A. L.).—When raised from seed, which must be sown as soon as ripe, this is a very useful plant for pots. Give it the same treatment as P. sinensis. It requires a rich sandy soil, and if well grown will keep up a succession of bloom for some time. Though occasionally regarded as a hardy plant, which in some districts it may be, it is, in a general way, very poor when given this treatment. Even in a cold greenhouse or frame this Abyssinian kind will be killed. A house where a fairly dry atmosphere is maintained suits it well. Its bright canary-yellow whorls of flowers rise on a slender stalk from a rich tuft of hoary glistening leaves, and are very pleasing. P. Kewensis is a cross between this and P. floribunda, and is a far better plant in every way than either parent, being far more vigorous in growth and more free flowering, while the blooms are also much larger.

Growing Amaryllis

A few hints on how to grow Amaryllis would be much valued. I have a few large bulbs, potted last autumn. They had large roots, and are in big pots, in heat, watered regularly, still do not seem to get much further forward. When should they flower, and is much heat necessary? They seem to take a good deal of water. CHEVIOT.

[The different varieties of Amaryllis in cultivation bear on the top of a sturdy stem (from 18 inches to 3 feet high) large, broadly funnel-shaped blossoms which are just now at their best. In colour there is a considerable amount of variation, some having a light ground netted more or less with red, while all shades from light red to deep crimson are represented among them. They will not do out-of-doors. To succeed with them in pots they need the temperature of a warm greenhouse, and should, after flowering, be watered as before till the leaves begin to turn yellow, which will be about August. After this less water must be given, and when totally dormant they must be kept thoroughly dry. Throughout the latter part of the summer and in autumn they must be fully exposed to the sunshine in order to thoroughly ripen the bulbs. A shelf in the greenhouse or a frame fully exposed to the south is the best for them at that season. By the beginning of February a little water may be given, and this, of course, must be increased as the leaves and flower-stems develop. For potting, which, when necessary, should be done before they start into growth, a suitable compost is two parts loam to one part each of leaf-mould, well-decayed manure, and sand. In potting, shake the bulbs clear of the old soil. At one time it was considered necessary to repot every year, but it is not now so universally followed, and we have seen some good examples that had been for three years in the same pots.]

ROSES

Pruning a bush of Sweet Briar

(E.).—The present is quite a good time to prune your Sweet Briar. It stands pruning well and may be safely cut back to almost any extent.

FRUIT

Thinning Grapes

I beg to ask you, through your columns, if it is possible to create any disease or harm to Grapes while thinning, for example, the operator's hair coming into contact with the berries, except the rubbing off of the bloom. DOUBTFUL.

[Grape-thinning is a very delicate operation, and it is very easy to damage the skins of the young and tender berries. In large Grape-growing establishments the greater part of the work is performed by expert women, who are nimble with their fingers. Certainly Grapes may be damaged by the operator's hair, and it is the practice in many vineries for the operator to cover his or her head with a silk handkerchief at the time of thinning. Successful exhibitors are most particular on this subject of Grape-thinning.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Seed sowing and shrubs

(1) Will it be advisable to moisten some seeds that have been kept in too hot a place before sowing them? (2) Can you, please, tell me if flowering shrubs planted in a lawn ought to have the earth around the stem or to have the turf right around the stem? E.

[(1) Only large seeds, such as Peas, Beans, Cannas, etc., derive benefit from being soaked. If yours are small seeds water the pots or pans in which they are to be sown thoroughly before the actual sowing. (2) This is often done, but quite unnecessary, and the shrubs will do better if the surface is left undisturbed.]

To cure mossy lawns

(C. M.).—There are two causes why Moss grows too abundantly on lawns, viz., poverty and damp, and the particular cause should be ascertained before setting about the removal of the Moss, otherwise we shall be working in the dark. Assuming that the lawn, if wet, has been drained, the Moss can be scratched up with a short-toothed harrow drawn over the surface in opposite directions till the Moss has been loosened; then line the harrow with thorn spray and give the lawn a good scrubbing in various directions till the Moss has been dragged up and removed. A small lawn might be worked with an iron rake and a hard Birch broom. When the Moss is all removed, top-dress with ½ inch of rich fine soil that can be relied upon to be free from weed seeds. The compost may contain a good proportion of charred refuse that has been sifted; wood-ashes or the refuse from charcoal heaps will also be very suitable. The thing to aim at is a close thick turf, and this will be obtained better by use of dressings rich in phosphates tha giving ammoniacal manures, though latter might be the right thing to do i wanted heavy crops of grass. The should be set about soon, so as to ge whole into a nice condition for sowi renovating mixture of grass and Clover towards the end of March or beginnin April. A bushel per acre will not be too to sow, as the birds will probably take of the seeds. In laying down lawns people use enough seeds. White Clover yellow Trefoil alone without any Grass may suffice in some cases. Where Mo due to poverty in the soil a good man will put it right, and it often happens t is better to rely on a mixture of art manures than place entire dependence any one kind. At the same time wha been said about phosphates should be in mind.

Examinations in horticulture

Can you tell me if there are any exa tions held at Wisley or other horticu centres where gardeners can attend for ing out, both practical and technical certificates in horticulture, which mean a good deal to keen men desiro climbing the ladder of success? I am a sent very well up in some branches of culture, both outside and in, and shoul to do better if there are any lectures h any centre, preferably in Surrey, whe aminations are held. L.

[Our correspondent should go in fo National Diploma in Horticulture, an haps the general examinations first. particulars of these examinations may tained on application to the Secretary R.H.S. Hall, Vincent Square, Westm S.W. 1. There are also scholarshi which our correspondent might co The Royal Horticultural Society are i a draft circular letter concerning scholarships, which may be had on a In potting, shake the bulbs clear of tion. See also note on page 106.]

Horticultural college for ladies

I shall be glad if you will kindly mend to me a horticultural college wh daughter, on leaving boarding school, tain some *practical* instruction in garc She does not wish to adopt gardenin profession, but my wish is for her to such a practical knowledge of the sub would enable her to practise gardenin hobby at home. I believe at some o colleges a course of *three years* is re but I presume such a course is for tho are adopting gardening as a means o *hood,* and such a long course should necessary for one requiring just su practical knowledge as would enable prosecute gardening as a *hobby.*

[We do not think you could do bett send your daughter to one of our horticultural colleges for women f years, and suggest that you comm with the Principal of the Horticultu lege, Swanley, Kent. This Colle ranges of glasshouses, fruit plantatio a good many acres of outdoor garc cluding flower garden and kitchen The students have practical work to c.]

SHORT REPLY

W. U. G., Cornwall.—For the Yevh we suggest a top-dressing of old st manure. Failing this, you should use dressing of Wakeley's Hop Manur dressing should be applied in March.

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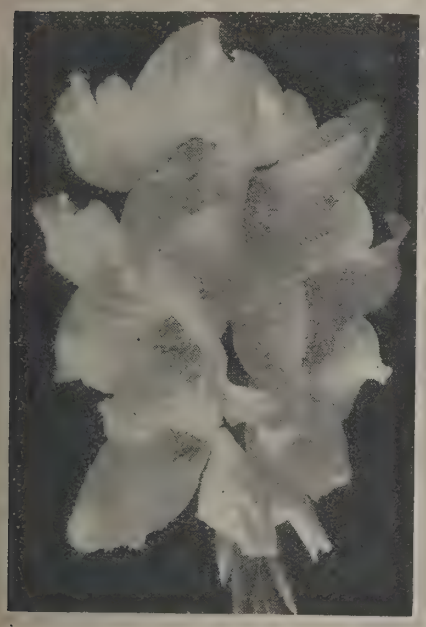

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Royal Horticultural Society

Scholarships tenable at the Wisley School of Horticulture

A scholarship of the value of £50 a year for two years is offered in alternate years by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners to be awarded on the results of an examination designed to test the candidates' ability to profit by a course of instruction in horticulture. The questions will not be confined to horticulture. Candidates must be of the male sex and between the ages of 18 years and 22 years on October 1st, 1927. The scholarship will be tenable for two years, of which at least the first year must be at the Society's School of Horticulture at Wisley. The second year may, in certain circumstances to be approved by the Council and the Worshipful Company of Gardeners in each instance, be spent in education elsewhere. Candidates must either have obtained a school-leaving certificate or have been already engaged in horticulture for at least two years before October, 1927. In the intervening years a similar scholarship will be offered by the Society.

A scholarship of £30 a year for two years, established by Sir James Knott, Bt., is also offered for award on the same conditions.

Candidates must be able to produce certificates of good character, and must be of good health and physique, free from any physical defect that would militate against a career as a gardener, and willing to subject themselves to the rules for students at Wisley.

In 1927 the examination will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4th. It will be held in as many different places in the British Isles as circumstances may demand, provided that a magistrate, clergyman, schoolmaster, or other responsible person accustomed to examinations has signified, by signing the candidate's entry form, his willingness to act as supervisor. Any candidate who wishes to do so may take the examination at the Society's offices, Vincent Square, S.W. 1, where arrangements will be made by the Society.

Candidates must enter their names on or before March 31st, 1927, with the Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London, S.W. 1, from whom entry forms may be obtained. An entry fee of 5s. must be sent with the completed form.

Four scholarships, tenable for two years, carrying remission of fees and a maintenance grant up to £85 a year (depending upon circumstances) are also available at Wisley for young gardeners with at least three years' experience in private gardens or nurseries, and appointments to these are made after due consideration of experience, attainments, and other circumstances. Two scholarships are available to commence in October, 1927. Candidates should send in their applications before August, 1927, on forms which (with further particulars) may be obtained from the Director, R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey.

Horticultural Societies' News

Cardiff and District Gardeners' Association

The annual dinner and social evening in connection with the above Society was held on January 29th at the Queen's Hotel, Cardiff. In the unavoidable absence of Donald Cory, Esq., Mr. R. W. Treseder took the chair. In the course of the evening a very interesting presentation was made to one of the oldest and most respected members, Mr. R. Mayne, who had been a member of the Association for 40 years and had held the office of Hon. Secretary for 16 years. This took the form of a case of amber and meerschaum pipes and a gold embossed Tobacco pouch suitably inscribed.

The fortnightly meeting in connection with the above Society was held on February 1st at the Queen's Hotel, Cardiff, Mr. J. Hall taking the chair. The lecturer for the evening was Mr. D. A. Burns, a member of the Association, and his subject was "Gladioli." Mr. Burns dealt fully with the life-history of the Gladioli and the pronunciation of the name in his opening remarks, which were followed with much interest. He referred fully to the various forms and species of the Gladioli, the culture from beginning to end, including the ins and outs of growing for exhibition. He also dealt with the introduction of different varieties and their raisers, and also which he considered were the best in each class. Many interesting plates, drawings, and objects were shown, and his lecture was very much appreciated.

BEES

ALTHOUGH it is several weeks before it will be safe to examine the condition of one's colonies, the question of food supply is of great importance. If the bee-keeper is at all doubtful whether there is sufficient food to carry the bees on to the time when the honey flow commences, a cake of properly-made candy should be placed on top of the frames over a hole cut into the bottom quilt.

Many colonies die from starvation during the month of March and early April, as in most districts very little honey comes in before the middle of the latter month.

I should here say that though candy may in certain circumstances be necessary to save the life of the colony, it is *not* the proper food for bees, but must be looked on merely as an emergency ration.

Far too many bee-keepers rely on candy as a supplementary food during winter and spring. This is bad bee-keeping.

Autumn is the proper time for feeding bees, and sufficient liquid food should be given in September to carry the colony on until mid-April.

Unfortunately, there are still some bee-keepers who neglect this important work of autumn feeding, and many stocks of bees are lost through starvation in early spring. Brood-rearing is generally in full swing by the middle of March, and the colonies are consuming a good deal of food each day. It is not overestimating to say that 10 per cent. of the thriving colonies in the autumn are without sufficient food in the early spring.

Candy can be bought from all bee appliance dealers, but it saves considerable expense to make it at home.

The following is a recipe which I have found satisfactory:—

To 1½ pints of hot water add 9 lbs. of the best white granulated cane sugar. The sugar should be added gradually, say 2 lbs. to 3 lbs. at a time, and the liquid constantly stirred until *every* grain is dissolved. This is important. Now add one teaspoonful of cream of tartar.

The pan containing the liquid, which should be either of aluminium or enamelled ware, is now placed over a brisk fire, or, better still, a gas-ring, and the syrup allowed to boil. Keep stirring until it begins to boil. Having boiled for about *two* minutes remove the pan from the fire and place the same in another and larger vessel containing *cold* water. The cold water should be constantly renewed, as the object is to cool the liquid as rapidly as possible. As soon as a slight cloudiness appears start stirring vigorously and continue to do so until the syrup has stiffened so that further stirring is impossible. The mass must now be ladled into suitable receptacles.

Sections glazed one side make very c venient boxes for the candy. The glass ables the bee-keeper to see when the cand consumed. Many bee-keepers add Pea-f (to take the place of natural pollen) to candy. This should be stirred into the s a little at a time during the final stirr ½ lb. to the above amount of syrup. Ca making is simplified if the bee-ke possesses a sugar boiler thermometer, which case the syrup should be boiled un reaches a temperature of 235 degs. Fahr. cooled down to 120 degs. Fahr. before c mencing to stir.

L. BIGG-WITHE

Wells.

Obituary

JAMES UDALE

We regret to record the death of our and esteemed contributor, Mr. James U aged 76, who passed away at Droitwic January 28th. Mr. Udale, who was an Kewite, was well known as a writer on h fruit-growing. On leaving Kew in 187 went to take charge of Sir H. Watson's dens at Shirecliffe Hall, Sheffield, wher remained for 11 years before becoming dener and clerk of the works on the E Estate at Tamworth. Mr. James Udal lieved himself to be a descendant of famous Dr. Uvedale (often spelt Udale Enfield, the first known cultivator of Sweet Pea in England, and after w Uvedale's St. Germain Pear is named. 1891 he was appointed Lecturer in Hor ture for Worcestershire, and he served county admirably for the rest of his taking especial interest in the working o trials and tests concerning fruit trees vegetables.

Digging in wet weather

No greater mistake can be made than of digging when, as was the case week, the ground was so saturated wet that the freshly-moved soil acted sponge, retaining water much longer th does when firm. Naturally if the soil ta an undue proportion of water it must b colder, and take so much more time t come dry or to assume a normal state. B side this, all who have experience on the know that to work soil in a soddened makes the after-tillage more heavy an less satisfactory in every way. It woul deed, be better not to dig at all than to when wet. This refers to heavy groun that tending in that direction. That w lying stone or gravel, and thus q drained, does not require the same c judgment; but even with such as this and easier tillage follows digging when n is no excess of moisture. Unless a c of weather comes soon, digging and s will need to be practised jointly, so th treading of the surface is rendered nece This may be done with such as Peas, toes, Broad Beans, and Artichokes, an the planting of Cabbages or Caulifw from autumn-sown stock. With such cess of rain continued over so many mo the soil, and especially that of a r nature, will need manure applied rathe liberally than usual, because the rain the soluble chemicals away into the and out of the reach of many roots. I dens stinted of manure the crops r thought prior to the digging and n dressings, because while some, B Sprouts and Onions, for instance, r high feeding, others, like Beetroo Salsafy, or even Carrots and Parsni not call for freshly-manured ground. S crops are the better served following so which manure was given last year. W

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Planting Hardy Fruits in Spring

UIT trees may be planted from the me of the fall of the leaf until the buds ecome active in spring. The work may ne at any time during that period, but ners of experience are mostly in favour tumn-planting. The trees then settle nicely in their new positions and are to make an early start into growth in ring. Circumstances sometimes delay ng; there may have been no opportunity to get the ground ready in advance. there is rain and frost to be reckoned n autumn and winter. However, there erally an opportunity in February, a good month for the purpose. March, er, must be considered as the very month for planting, and I have never ed to plant then when there has not ny previous opportunity.

n planting late it is, of course, ad- to give more care to the operation isual. Get the ground deeply dug in e so that it may be in good order by g time, and have nice friable soil to mong and over the roots. At all times nust be firm planting, especially when eration is late, because the soil has ime for settling before the trees burst owth. If the soil is fairly on the dry m it well over the roots by tramping two or three times as the work pro- The soil must not all be filled in at nd the treading-down done only on the t should be filled in gradually. In e top layer of soil is better if left loose the flow of moisture from below and by evaporation.

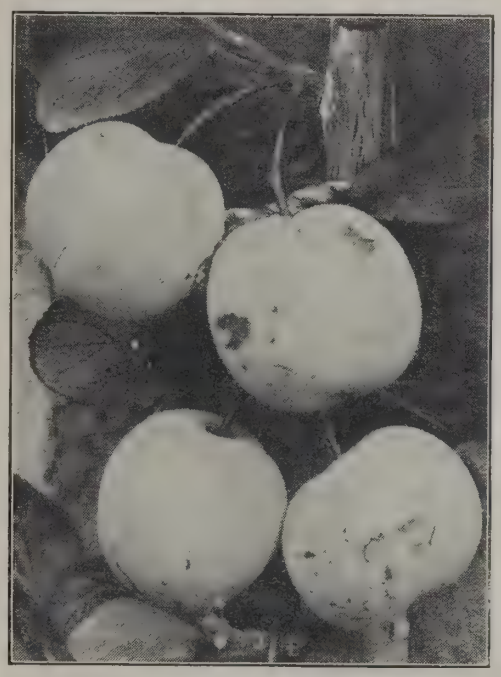
only danger of late planting is the risk rds of dryness at the roots. Fruit lanted in March are more likely to from summer drought than autumn- ones. Therefore guard against this ing a good mulch of strawy manure surface when planting is finished. In where manure is unobtainable green or litter will be better than nothing. iling all these, the best thing to do is a loose layer of soil on the surface by t hoeing. Should a long period of ther set in, watering must be done, e must be no half measures, it must lutely copious.

oles taken out for the trees must be s the roots must not be bunched up in oles. Let there be ample room to ut all the roots even and flat. The ould be such that when the tree is it is slightly deeper than it was in the as shown by the soil mark on stem.

akes for support should be placed in before planting, to which secure the sely to allow for sinkage, otherwise if tightly secured they may be hung and fail to take hold of the soil quickly.

Now as to pruning. I am fully aware there is a great difference of opinion as to cutting back after planting or leaving the trees alone till next winter.

Having tried several ways during my long experience I have come to the conclusion that trees planted during February should be pruned at the time of planting, but all March plantings undoubtedly should be left until the following winter, for it stands to reason they cannot possibly get sufficiently established to respond to the knife before they start into growth.



Plum Reine Claude d'Althan
Very free as an espalier on walls

It is well known that unpruned trees have a sort of hang-dog look about them during the summer, but they will respond grandly if cut back next winter into the two-year-old wood. This applies to standard and bush trees. In the case of cordons and espaliers they must be pruned, maidens likewise; that is, if they are tall enough to provide the stem required.

During February and March Gooseberries, Currants, and other bush fruits may be planted with every confidence of success. It is also a good time for planting Raspberries. Cut back all bush fruits hard directly after planting, no matter how late they are inserted.

Guard against overcrowding, a common fault in fruit plantations. Trees may look very small after planting, but with proper attention their growth is rapid, and should they meet after a few years the close, shady conditions favours disease, and there is want of colour and quality in the fruit.

All bush Apples should be planted not less than 18 feet apart each way. Plums do well at 12 feet. Espaliers are planted 18 feet and the fan-trained trees on the wall the same. Single cordons need not be more than 18 inches apart.

Plant Gooseberries 6 feet apart each way and Red or Black Currants 4 feet 6 inches. Single plants of Raspberries in the row are given 18 inches apart and 4 feet between rows. Those grown in clumps of three canes have 3 feet between the clumps.

F. H.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Plum Reine Claude d'Althan

THIS fine Plum (syn. Reine Claude de Comte d'Althan), raised in Hungary by M. Prochaska, gardener to Comte Joseph d'Althan, is very distinct, the bloom which covers the surface of the fruit being remarkable. It is very free as an espalier on a wall, and also does well in other forms of training. It has a vigorous and healthy habit of growth, and even then bears very freely. It makes a splendid tree for pot culture, forming a perfect pyramid, and is a most reliable cropper. If used for early work it must not be checked in any way from the time of starting, otherwise the flavour of the fruit will be poor. It comes into use from open-air trees at the end of August, and will last through the early part of September, all depending on the form of the tree and the position in which it is grown.

Dombeya Cayeuxii

At the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society held on January 12th, 1926, a plant exhibited by Lord Glanely under the name of Dombeya Glaneliæ was provisionally given an Award of Merit subject to its being correctly named. It has now been definitely established that the plant is x Dombeya Cayeuxii, a hybrid between D. Mastersii and D. Wallichii, first raised by M. H. Cayeux at Lisbon. It was described and figured in the "Revue Horticole," 1897, p. 545. The plant is of considerable interest to those who garden on the Riviera.

The Wisley Rose trials

The Wisley Rose trials were freely discussed at the annual general meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society after Mr. R. Fife moved that they should be abandoned. Mr. Fife advocated that the trial should be scrapped as the Roses were planted in soil unsuited to them and disease had been rampant. The trials were defended by Mr. W. Easlea, who had been a juror since the commencement of the Rose trials at Wisley. Mr. F. J. Chittenden, Director of Wisley Gardens, explained that the trials served their purpose, showed which were the best Roses out of some 500, and pointed out that there was a vast difference between a Rose trial and a Rose garden, and that the varieties selected from the Rose trials by the judges as being most suitable for garden decoration had been a great success when planted in the Rose garden at Wisley. In the end the discussion was closed by the President, who assured Mr. Fife that the question would receive the earnest attention of the Council.

The President of the Royal Horticultural Society

Lord Lambourne, who presided at the annual general meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society on February 8th, was in exceptionally good form on that occasion. He stated that the Society hoped to meet in the new and spacious hall in a year or two, and that Mr. Musgrave had already let a good many of the rooms! Only the President could have said of the 100 odd candidates up for election that "they are all respectable—mostly sober," and when dealing with the annual report he caused much amusement by stating that he welcomed them at the annual meeting for the 123rd time. He is a wonderful man and a genial chairman, and he carried the annual meeting with his good humour.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Galanthus Elwesi

I HAVE had such a curious experience with the fine form of Galanthus Elwesi that is called Byzantinus, I think it may be of interest to readers of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED. Beginning with half-a-dozen bulbs some 15 years ago, they had thriven so well in a fairly moist and shaded part of my wooded valley that I had many hundreds of seedlings and bulbs from division. They seemed to thrive wherever I put them, so for a venture I put some on the driest and hottest bank I could find, where no ordinary Snowdrop would survive even one summer. To my surprise these seedlings throve in a wonderful manner. Last summer was an extraordinarily wet season at Nice. Ten inches of rain fell in May, 6 inches in June, and 3 inches in July—an unprecedented record followed by very unusual heat and drought till November. These Snowdrops usually show their first blooms in the last days of October or early November, but nothing appeared all through the rainy month of November till one day, late in the month, I saw a bloom appearing on those I had planted on the very hot and dry bank. To this day not one of the hundreds I had in the moist woodland have appeared, and it is evident they have all died from the heat and moisture of last summer. Having often heard that Galanthus Elwesi was uncertain in English gardens, here is the reason. They cannot stand much moisture in summer, so those who grow G. Elwesi should plant them in the driest spot they possess. The soil here is calcareous, which evidently suits them.

Pallidus, Præcox, Daffodils, and Snowflakes have all disappeared, and many old Rose trees also have rotted at the root and died, a striking evidence of the danger of too great moisture and heat for hardy things.

Nice. E. H. WOODALL.

Crocuses in bowls

Bulbs in bowls are popular at this season for pretty obvious reasons. It is a matter of surprise that more use is not made of the Crocus. True these bulbs are indifferent forcers, although most named sorts will stand gentle heat. It is possible to be very successful by digging up from the garden good, sound, plump bulbs, potting them or planting in bulb bowls, and bringing them on gradually in gentle heat. Better results are often obtained by this method than from new bulbs; in fact, the old (professional) gardener who "put the writer wise" to this method always plants his new bulbs (corms) in the garden and uses old but plump and sound bulbs from the garden for bowls and pots. It is perfectly true that in many districts the Crocus will be in bloom outside, but little bowls make charming spots of colour to brighten dark days indoors.

T. H. H.

Erica lusitanica and E. mediterranea

The interesting article by Mr. A. T. Johnson, "With a Notebook on the New Riviera," issue February 5th, p. 78, is rendered of great importance by his discovery on hillsides and valleys between Hyères and San Raphael of plenty of these two Heaths, both growing, more or less, with the common E. arborea. Mr. Johnson is fully aware of the very important extension eastward of these two species, and especially of E. lusitanica, which his discovery denotes. Would he very obligingly tell us a little more about it, and whether the former was growing on land at all suspect? For example, does it also grow there on patches of hillside which may have been formerly cultivated, as E. arborea sometimes does? Both species appear to be entirely new to the Department of the Var, as far as my knowledge goes.

H. STUART THOMPSON.

Clifton, Bristol.

Apple growing

There have been many interesting replies to my letter on the subject of Apple-growing, but most of them have been on the question of Apple-growing as a business in connection with fruit farming. With the policy expressed in these letters I am quite in agreement.

The point of my letter, however, has been more or less overlooked. I wrote from the view of those numerous persons, including farmers—and who are as 100 to 1 of those who go in for fruit farming as a business—who have small mature orchards planted mainly to supply the house, but who have in good years a small quantity of produce which they would like to dispose of.

Does it pay such to go in for *intensive cultivation?* No doubt ordinary pruning should be done, but is there any return equal to the labour and money cost of spraying, manuring, and general cultivation? So far as my experience goes there is not, especially as surplus Apples in comparatively small quantities cannot, in this district at events, be sold at more than a nominal p

To take the drastic step of cutting al trees down at once and replanting is out of the question in most cases, thoug doubt gradual replacement of the olde inferior sorts is another matter, but this not settle the question beyond that it m better worth while to spend money on y trees than old.

I do not propose to reply in detail to who have alluded to my letter beyond s to the one or two who made rather rude contemptuous remarks as to the know of the experts that had advised me, that were men who well understood what had to consider, and gave excellent a though they did not guarantee that the would be worth the expenditure

DISILLUSIONED APPLE GROW

Eating Apples

For high quality I would place Orange Pippin first of all. Not only this Apple a very distinct and lu flavour, but the texture of the flesh is that it is easily disposed of and digested. Like many other good t Cox's Orange has its weak points; it a really good doer and is not self-f though the latter weakness may be ove by planting it along with Worcester main, which is as good as any to p pollen. Even with the help of cross-fe tion this variety is not a heavy beare although the retail price for good sam always pretty high it seldom pays the to produce, unless he is able to grow fine specimen fruits which will sell much apiece rather than by the po stone. One often hears the Canadia American Apples praised and placed in tion above that of home-grown fruit. tainly there is a greater bulk of nice-l and fairly eatable foreign Apples on th ket year by year than there is of grown, but, to my mind, there are o or two kinds which will compare fav with really high-class home-grown s The pity is that there are never enoug English Apples to satisfy the demand.

Speaking of the flavour of overseas I well remember going round one Colonial fruit shows at the R.H.S. w brother and the late Mr. Geo. Bun Maidstone, two enthusiasts on hardy I did my share of tasting the various and came to the conclusion that the with a few exceptions, very little indiv among them. They nearly all had deal of sweetness, but very little while not one could stand comparison really good Cox's Orange. Perhaps of these overseas varieties is the A Newtown Pippin.

To return to our English prod Ellison's Orange is a rather new va is very like Cox's Orange, but e better grower, and crops more freely.

Laxton's Superb is one of the Orange breed. It is not so hand Cox's, but keeps longer and is a muc grower. I tasted it for the first t year after Christmas and thought good, a nice melting flesh, and very e and distinct flavour. Herring's Pip very large and when exposed to th very deep red. Tree of free and growth, and a good cropper. A goo Apple, though rather large for desse cooking variety it is superb. St. En Russet has received a First-class C from the R.H.S. The tree is a goo and crops freely, but has the bad dropping its fruit rather prematurely. just right it has a very pleasant an flavour, but if kept a little too lo

s soft and leathery. Ribston Pippin: ripened fruit are very good, but this is one more suited to young folk than eir elders, as its flesh is somewhat hard. heim Orange is not to be despised, gh it is a very old Apple. To appreciate must select fruit which has been freely l by the sun; that which has not has of the distinctive flavour which it should ss.

ng of Tompkins County is a good Apple ne which will keep very late, but I hear not a heavy cropper. As grown in h Columbia one would not believe it to e same variety as we grow here. It is imson instead of yellow with crimson ks.

erican Mother is rather a good late with a nice aromatic flavour. It will in an eatable condition long after it is Now to turn to the early varieties. ps I should have started with these. own choice of these is Irish Peach. It a showy or attractive-looking fruit, but out the first that one can sink one's into, and the flesh is juicy and flavour od, or better, than most of the earlies. Gladstone is a very showy Apple and early. Worcester Pearmain just follows Peach. It is an Apple which has been abused in the gardening Press, but if ripened and eaten fresh from the tree, mind it takes a lot of beating. By the this question of eating early Apples from the tree is a very important one. hered and stored for even a week they boilt. My own practice is to let them nd pick them up day by day, giving what cannot be eaten by the household. s way one is always eating the fruit at st.

y Sudeley comes very closely after ster Pearmain. It is a very handsome and a good bearer, fair quality, but apt rather dry.

es Grieve is a good second early Apple, iicy flesh with pleasant flavour. A good r, but the tree is liable to canker.

les tried and condemned: Red han, very handsome, but quality only enough for school boys. Beauty of somewhat in same category as the last, ooking, and very little beyond that. of the Pippins may at times be good, ally if left on tree until touched by If gathered and stored it is usually Court Pendu Plat (Wollaton Pippin), ty which will keep until March, but is as palatable as a Turnip. Sturmer , quite good in the south, but never properly in the midlands. This Apple seen again and again in shops labelled Orange. What disillusionment for the inate purchaser after the first bite!

e are quite a number of eating Apples are quite good when grown in the but are of no use in the midlands. I nly written of such as I have tried, early all were grown in my firm's or orchards.

re closing I would add that several Apples are quite edible when quite fact, I would personally prefer a good ooker to an over-kept dessert Apple. the best of these double-event Apples ton Wonder. I have consumed quite ber of them this winter, but some were e that they had to be shared with ie. J. DUNCAN-PEARSON.

Ilham, Notts.

In a recent number of GARDENING RATED a correspondent, "Pomona," ed English-grown Apples as "hard ur." I enclose a few average speci- of Allington, Ribston, and Margil, I hope you will find undeserving of scription.

We think very little of American or Colonial Apples compared with those we grow here, which supply our own household from September to May and enable us to give many to friends.

Some of those I send have been dusted round the stem with flowers of sulphur to prevent decay setting in there.

If you find the Allingtons agreeable and in condition I hope it will go to prove that that variety will keep until February, and not until December only as growers' catalogues say. J. M. SMYTH.

Near Birkenhead.

[We thank our correspondent for sending splendid examples of home-grown Apples. The fruits sent are of fine appearance and grand flavour. Ribston is, surely, a king among Apples at this season. Margil, a smaller fruit, dull brown-red with russet, is tender-fleshed and of spicy flavour; but the surprise is Allington Pippin, which we had regarded as an Apple to eat straight from the tree. Allington Pippins sent by our Birkenhead correspondent are sweet and very juicy, with brisk flavour. These three Apples, all excellent, are very distinct in flavour, and it goes to prove that by making a suitable selection and by careful storing no one need buy imported Apples for dessert at this time of the year.—ED.]

Colchicum croaticum
From a drawing by Mrs. Dykes

Rhododendron dauricum var. mucronulatum

Of the few Rhododendrons which honour us with a display of blossom in the early part of the year, prominent amongst these is Rhododendron var. mucronulatum. Here in the south it was, in January, bursting forth into a wealth of lovely blossom varying in colour from rosy-pink to rose-purple. The flowers, which are produced singly from terminal buds, are remarkably resistant to frost, adding greatly to its value.

Forming a much-branched massive bush 6 feet to 10 feet high, R. d. var. mucronulatum is seen at its best when massed together in the open woodland, especially when having for a background a few of the more choice evergreen shrubs.

Beautiful as the flowers are in the early spring, so in the autumn, the leaves being deciduous, take on a brilliant tint, thus helping to beautify the woodland in the autumn as well as the spring. Differing from the type in having larger and more coriaceous leaves and more bell-shaped flowers, this beautiful Rhododendron cannot be too freely planted. R. F.

Exbury Gardens.

Colchicum croaticum, A.M., Feb. 8, 1927

A VERY interesting little white Colchicum from Croatia, with chocolate-brown anthers, is flowering in my garden at present. My husband had one or two bulbs a few years ago and these have considerably increased, so that there is now quite a large patch of nearly 100 bulbs in flower. The plants are 2 inches to 3 inches high and are particularly attractive as the flowers and leaves come up at the same time, and in this way differ from other Colchicums, which send up their flowers and leaves at different times of the year. The bulbs are very hardy and extraordinarily prolific, each one sending flower after flower for many weeks. KATHERINE DYKES.

Bobbingcourt, Sutton Green, Guildford, Surrey.

Plant hunting in Majorca

They were a fortunate party who forgathered at the Trocadero on Tuesday night to dine with the Horticultural Club and, in fancy, to ramble among the flora and fauna, Moorish architecture, monasteries, Olive groves, rocky slopes, and the simple, happy folk on the sunny isle of Majorca. Mr. Herbert Cowley resumed the *rôle* of vagabond as he revived for us in most entertaining narrative and by an excellent collection of pictures thrown on the screen his experiences in quest of Pæonia Cambessedesii in 1925.

Although that effort was successful and his audience showed the liveliest interest in the precise habitat of this beautiful plant the lecturer was not to be drawn. This, to a few zealots, was the sole disappointment of a wholly delightful evening, but whenever we go to Majorca, as go we must, so temptingly were its beauties, primitiveness, and simplicity portrayed for us, we may be sure of seeing in glorious profusion numerous plants not too well known in our gardens, including Cyclamen balearicum, abundant among the rocks of Majorca and Urginea maritima, the Sea Onion, which the peasants apply as medicine to their Fig trees and Olives when in need of it.

Pictorially, these were among the best exhibits of our vagabond's collection, and they whetted our appetite for many more.

The lecturer took his audience with him in an interesting ramble over the hills in the north of the island, starting from Alcudia and finishing up at Valldemosa.

Mr. Peter Barr, who about 20 years ago went to the island in search of Helleborus lividus, also recounted some amusing adventures. His tip to intending visitors was to make the tour leisurely and to go in March for most favourable conditions. Incidentally, Mr. Peter Barr drew attention to the characters of the true Helleborus lividus, a very scarce plant, to be found wild only in Majorca. The Majorcan plant, H. lividus, is often confused with H. corsicus, and the figure in the Botanical Register as H. lividus is not that of the Balearic Hellebore, neither does it agree with the figure in the "Botanical Magazine," t 72, which is the true plant.

Mr. W. B. Cranfield, presiding, expressed the gratitude and pleasure of all present at this most enjoyable gathering. It was announced that future meetings of the Club will be held on the first Tuesday in the month, coinciding with the R.H.S. Show. Mr. Cranfield will take "Hardy Ferns" as his subject for March 8th.

Royal Horticultural Society

THERE was a good attendance at the fortnightly exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society on February 8th, many Fellows of the Society being present for the annual general meeting in the afternoon, when Lord Lambourne presided over a very crowded meeting.

It was a grand exhibition for February, and three Gold Medals were awarded, viz., for Orchids, fruits, and vegetables.

There were remarkably fine collections of Orchids from both amateur and trade exhibitors.

Messrs. Charlesworth and Co. were the winners of the Gold Medal for Orchids. Their best specimens included Odontiodas and Odontoglossums in variety, and the new Vuylstekeara Leda, heavily marked red-brown, which received an Award of Merit.

A very fine plant of Cymbidium Ceres shown by Messrs. Sanders carried six spikes and more than 90 open flowers.

Magnificent plants of Lælio-Cattleya Schröderæ—the largest having 22 flowers on four spikes—were shown by Messrs. Armstrong and Brown, Tunbridge Wells.

Cypripedium Scipio, with uncommonly large red spots on the dorsal, was well shown by Messrs. J. Cypher and Sons.

Vegetables and Fruits

Messrs. Sutton and Sons continued their long run of successes by gaining a Gold Medal for a splendid collection of vegetables of more than usual interest. The collection (see illustration) contained about 150 varieties, and almost every kind of vegetable was represented. Great interest was displayed in the little-known Tree Tomato with orange-coloured egg-shaped fruits.

A representative collection of modern Potatoes arranged with great taste came from Messrs. Dobbie and Co.

The collection of fruit by Mr. J. C. Allgrove, Slough, secured the high honour of a Gold Medal. In this collection there was no question about the keeping qualities of home-grown Apples.

Very attractive indeed were the Oranges in pots laden with ripe fruit shown by Messrs. T. Rivers and Son, Sawbridgeworth. English-grown Oranges are seldom seen in these days. There can be no question of their attractiveness.

New and Rare Plants

Iris Wedgwood, which gained the distinction of a First-class Certificate, is now being forced in quantity by Messrs. Lowe and Shawyer for sale in Covent Garden and other flower markets. It has all the stateliness of the Spanish Iris, and is, of course, much earlier. It is said to have been raised by crossing I. tingitana and I. Xiphium. The flowers retain their beautiful blue colouring when forced.

Among the Indian and Chinese Azaleas and other greenhouse plants shown by Mr. L. R. Russell was the gay-flowered succulent, Epiphyllum Makayanum, a grafted plant making a small standard with hanging Fuchsia-like flowers of deep rose-pink. Several degrees of colour are apparent in these pendulous flowers with long, protruding anthers.

Prostranthera rotundifolia, an Australian shrub or Mint-bush, with small purple flowers, has been much in evidence in the last few years. On this occasion Sir William Lawrence showed well-flowered pot plants from a greenhouse. We have known this plant to winter safely in a sheltered place out of doors in Sussex, and it flowers well in the open in favoured parts of the western counties.

One of the most interesting plants in the hall was Crocus gargaricus (see illustration), shown by Mr. E. A. Bowles, Myddelton House, Waltham Cross. The small flowers are of a very rich deep orange-yellow with deeper-coloured stigma. The flowers shown were about 3 inches high and with slight honey-like fragrance. This species, which hails from Troodos, in Cyprus, is the only spring-flowering Crocus to produce flowers before leaves.

Mr. Bowles also gained an Award of Merit for Crocus chrysanthus Curlew, with yellow flowers beautifully feathered with dark maroon.

Messrs. Sutton and Sons' Gold Medal exhibit of vegetables at Vincent Square on Feb. 8th

Almost every kind of vegetable was represented in this superb exhibit, comprising 150 distinct varieties

A lovely pure white Colchicum wit slight rosy tinge on some flowers was sh by Mrs. Dykes, Bobbingcourt, Sutton Gr Woking. The plant, which was show Colchicum croaticum, bears resemblanc C. montanum album, and received an A of Merit subject to verification of name. stated on the exhibitor's card this is a sp flowering Colchicum from Croatia, flowers incessantly for six weeks to weeks in the open. The anthers are before dehiscence. See also note by Dykes and illustration, page 109.

The new Carnation, Vesta, which g an Award of Merit was one of the talked of novelties by virtue of its wond colour. It is of medium size, of intense cerise colour. Shown by Messrs. C. E mann, Ltd.

A very pleasant spring garden studded Crocuses in a perfect lawn of velvety te greeted the visitors on entering the This was the work of Messrs. James C and Co.

Messrs. R. H. Bath staged their firs hibit of Daffodils and Tulips, and gaine Award of Merit for Narcissus White M as a forcing Daffodil for market. It is bicolor trumpet variety. H.

Oriental and Occidental Lili

The Rev. David R. Williamson, Min Emeritus of Kirkmaiden, in Wigtown writes to us as follows, on February 9 "The British Consul at Florida, U. having recently read an article of mine very elaborate) in GARDENING ILLUSTR on this fascinating subject, my lov which was created 50 years ago by a prehensive book published by the lat Wallace, of Colchester, has asked me to him a list of such varieties as might be able for Floridan cultivation. The foll are the species I have ventured to r mend by reason of their attractive c fragrance, or distinctiveness:—(1) L ochraceum, (2) L. Willmottiæ, (3) L. (4) L. philippinense var. Formosanum, giganteum, (6) L. Szovitzianum, (auratum platyphyllum and rubro-vitt (8) L. speciosum, rubrum, magnificum Kraetzeri, (9) L. longiflorum var. gigan (10) L. candidum, the Madonna Lily L. Humboldtii (California). I have st advised him to dust the bulbs of can with flower of sulphur to prevent di They are keeping quite free from it own restricted 'Earthly Paradise.' A exquisite Lily that, so far as I can rem I recommended to my correspondent Lilium regale, of Western China, th bulbs of which I had at least 12 years

A good perennial Sea Lavend

It is pretty well known by most peop the flowers of the Statices, or Sea Lav are excellent to dry for winter deco and a fair variety of colours can be ha selection of different members of the If we confine ourselves to perennials that we have not such a wide choic happily for those who want a big var colour for winter decoration, there is species which bears white flowers, an are, naturally, the best for dyeing pu By means of some of the ordinary pa dyes a charming variety can be had, flowers will take the colour so well th will look as if Nature alone had work. The species of Sea Lavende tioned is Statica tatarica. The flow small, individually, but what they size they make up in numbers. The are white. The inflorescence should as soon as the flowers are quite exp and hung up in a dry place to dry dyeing them. S. AR

PLANTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST AT VINCENT SQUARE ON FEBRUARY 8th

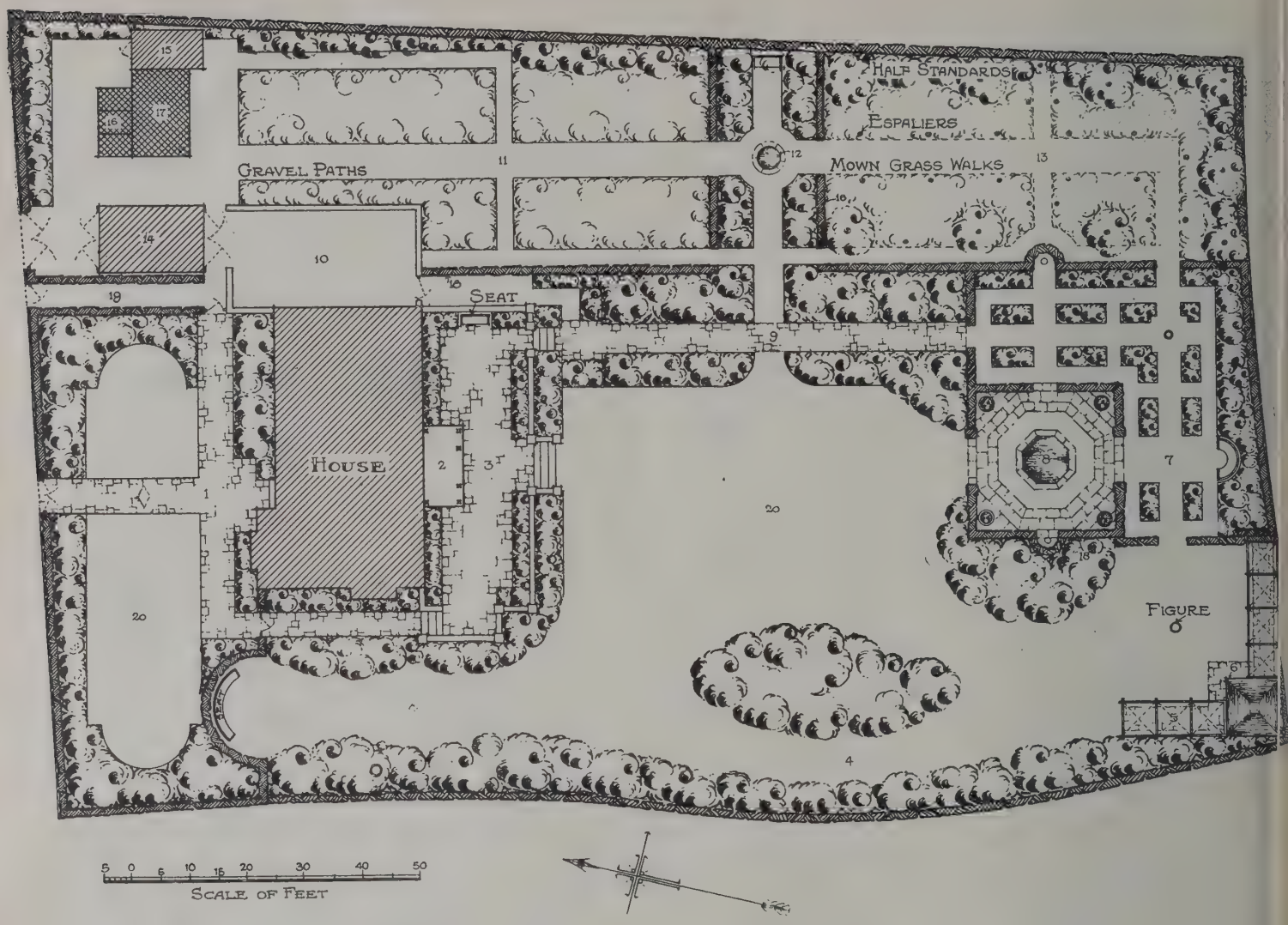
Prostranthera rotundifolia, a half-hardy shrub with small purple ers. Shown by Sir William Lawrence, Bart., Burford.

Epiphyllum Makayanum, a grafted plant with pendulous flowers, rose-pink. Shown by Mr. L. R. Russell.

Crocus gargaricus, from Troodos, Cyprus. The only spring-flowering species to produce flowers before the leaves; colour rich deep orange. Shown by Mr. E. A. Bowles. Award of Merit.

4. Iris Wedgwood, a beautiful and early-flowering Iris said to be the result of a cross between I. tingitana and I. Xiphium. Awarded a First Class Certificate. Shown by Messrs. Lowe and Shawyer.

5. Colchicum croaticum. Shown by Mrs. Dykes and granted an Award of Merit subject to verification of name.



Plan for a small suburban garden about an acre in extent

1. Forecourt
2. Loggia
3. Terrace
4. Glade
5. Pergola
6. Shelter
7. Rose garden
8. Pool garden
9. Herbaceous walk
10. Kitchen courts
11. Kitchen garden
12. Dipping well
13. Orchard
14. Garage
15. Shed
16. Frames
17. Glasshouse
18. Yew hedge
19. Tradesmen's entranc
20. Lawn

Garden Design: Suburban Gardens

THE character and extent of the garden ground attached to houses in outlying neighbourhoods of London and the larger cities vary almost indefinitely, but there are certain characteristics which apply to quite a large number. These are due in large measure to the definite, plainly seen boundaries, usually of straight wood fencing, palings, or hedge, together with a certain lack of privacy caused by their close proximity to neighbouring houses.

These are, of course, drawbacks to the atmosphere of the garden, and constitute the chief problem in its effective treatment, but it is possible in the majority of cases to eliminate or counteract to a considerable degree the suburban feeling which these limitations may cause.

In large and small gardens alike, backgrounds are all-important, as they are, so to speak, the walls upon which the pictures are hung, and are specially valuable for the character they impart to the lighter and more graceful planting of the garden itself.

There are numerous shrubs or trees available for the purpose, and whenever it is possible to do so, plants should constitute this background in preference to palings or fencing. Several of the grey-green conifers are excellent; Cupressus Allumii and C. Frazeri are both close-growing and form, in time, a dense screen without taking up valuable space. C. macrocarpa is of a lighter green, is quick-growing, and is especially valuable near the sea, where it invariably thrives. Hollies and Yews also are suitable, their rich dark foliage being most effective, and both may, if desired, be allowed to attain their natural development rather than be treated as formally clipped hedges.

It is not generally realised what a wonderful collection of shrubs is now available, and a visit to a good nursery is a revelation to most people. Sufficient evergreens should be used to give weight and density to the planting as a whole, and it will then be found that, if carefully placed, the flowers and young spring foliage of the deciduous trees and shrubs will tell to the greatest advantage against the darker, more permanent tones of evergreens.

In the case of comparatively small gardens there is often the doubt as to whether it should be in one space or two or more divisions. When there is this doubt it is better to err on the side of simplicity and breadth of treatment, rather than that the effect should be small and trifling, and if, as an instance, the apparently increased extent that is given by surrounding the principal lawn space by an outer walk or garden can be ach then its interest will be correspondingl greater.

The accompanying plan shows the m in which a typical rectangular suburba may be treated to conform with the pra requirements of the owner, and at the a time be given as spacious a character as ble. Such a lay-out would provide f cultivation of most of the plants one wish to have in a garden of this size.

It will be seen that the flower-bor flagged terrace forms the connecting li tween the house and the principal lawn and that the wide opening in its wall, ising on the principal garden door, has connection with the small paved pool g This vista, carried through to its g extent, terminates in a semi-circular The water in the paved garden, with i of light and depth of shadow, impar and interest to the view.

From one end of the terrace a path bordered by herbaceous plants le a convenient and natural manner, t small Rose garden, each bed of w planted with one variety only of Roses garden is returned at right angles t again into a glade of trees, shrubs, an and the latter partly merging into the lawn and partly as a separate way co up to and beyond the terrace.

It has thus been found possible in th

tively small space to combine a breadth awn, a Rose garden, a glade of turf, , and shrubs, a fruit or kitchen garden ch, properly treated, can be made an esting feature, regarded even from the n point of view), and a simple and effec- forecourt treatment.

e glade can be effectively planted by prostrate-growing Junipers, Azaleas, nese Maples, and similar suitable plants, h can give it a very beautiful character. ther, however, the planting consists of a dense massing of trees and shrubs or is the more distinctive character imparted more interesting collection of trees and s, there should be introduced such s as Flowering Almonds, Cherries, s and Prunus, Thorns, and Laburnums, f which can be either in the form of ards, or massed in groups of bushy th. Wigelias, Deutzias, Lilacs, some e many beautiful Berberis, and the ent kinds of Brooms all look well gst these trees.

I have already said, there should be in- d a sufficient number of evergreens to solidity and to furnish winter effects. ng is lovelier than the traceried outline anches bare of their summer leaves st, and mingling with, conifers and plants having persistent foliage.

wering trees and shrubs are, of course, ir best in spring and early summer, and g is more typical of the English garden the long, pendant blossoms of Labur- the dense masses of pink and scarlet , or the rich colouring and sweet scent lacs and Philadelphus (Mock Orange- m), of which the old-fashioned forms, ronarius and Lemoinei, are, perhaps, ost fragrant.

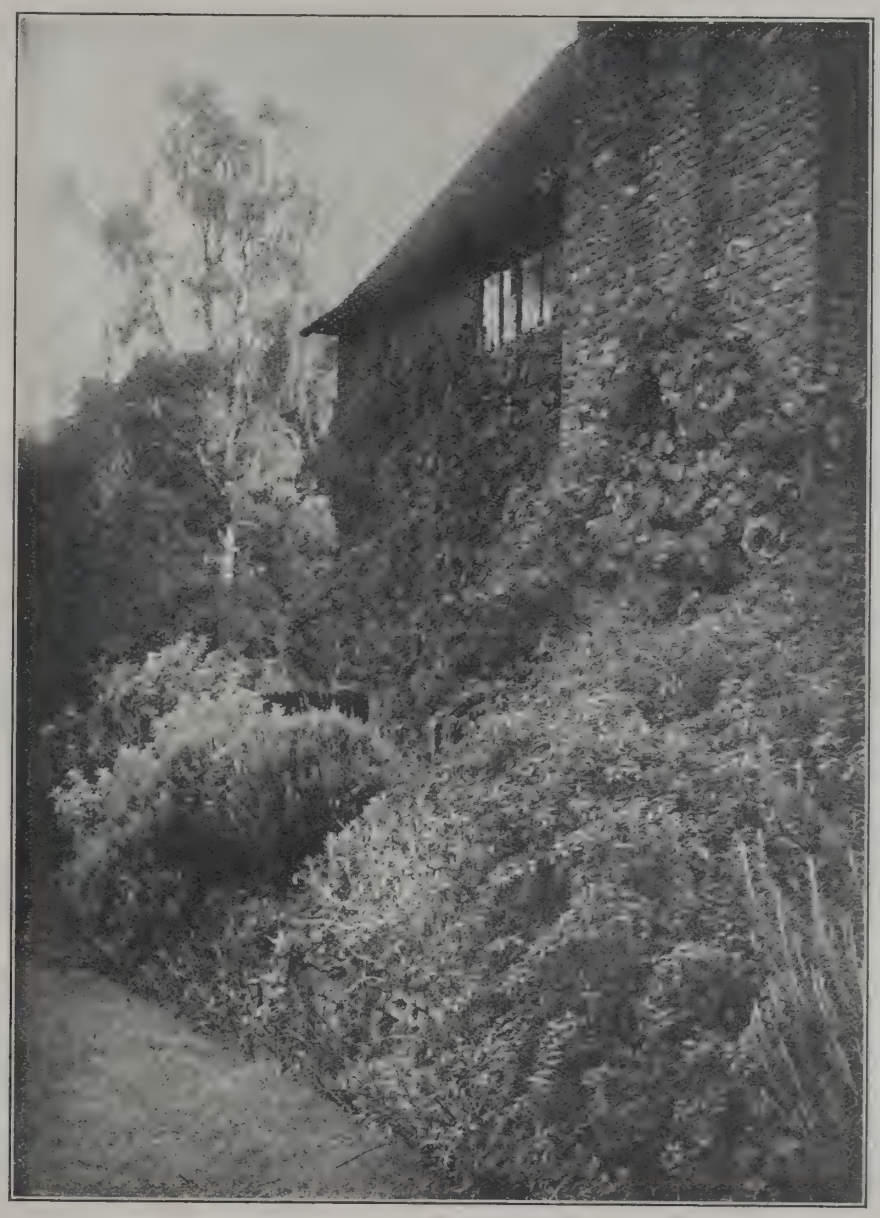
summer colour these should be among rub, groups of Lilies and perennials. e Lilies in variety, so long as the roots aded and the soil is moderately light, rdy and of easy cultivation, and they ive splashes of brilliant colour after the ing time of most of the shrubs is past.

vever commonplace the house and its ndings, with a little trouble and a cer- nount of initial outlay the property can eved of any drabness by a well-ordered uitably-furnished garden setting, and there be obvious crudities in the build- se can be veiled by some light, clinging , such as Ampelopsis Veitchii, or by reillage, over which can be grown er Roses or other suitable climbers.

PERCY S. CANE.

Lifting Anemone fulgens

all plants of a similar nature, this ower does best when left in the ground rbed. At least, this is the case where il is anything approaching a friable with free drainage, so that the plants moderately dry during the winter, as ere is no shrinking or loss of weight n escape of sap stored up to enable o start away vigorously again when per season arrives for their doing so. well-known fact by those who have g to do with hardy bulbous or s-rooted plants that taking them up y tends much to weaken them, as it is ble to keep them in that plump, condition they always remain when to stand where they grew. Nothing this in a more striking manner than i, which, if dug up and wintered in y they generally are, lose at least half eight, and are weakened in a corre- g degree. Of course, it would not be leave these out in some places, but if were properly prepared at planting d a good sprinkling of sharp sand round the corms, it would be so in the majority of cases, and I am convinced that those who once try them in this way will never again resort to the practice of taking them up. For the purpose of getting a succession of bloom it is all very well, as different plantings may be made, but if really fine spikes are desired, the best plan is to leave them alone, as then there is no loss in size, health, or vigour. It is the same with Anemones and all other plants of a kindred character, and the closer Nature is followed with these, as with anything else, the more satisfactory will be the results. In the case of those of doubtful hardiness it is a good plan to lay a shovelful of coarse coal-ashes over the top, as these ward off sharp frost, and at the same time admit plenty of air, while, being absorbent and porous, they drink up moisture and part with it quickly, thus rendering plants under them in a snug, comfortable condition. The best time for dividing all roots of this kind with a view to increase is just as they are breaking, as then they start away quickly, and the injured parts heal rapidly over, in which process they are greatly assisted by the foliage and young feeders then forming to take the roots up after the leaves have made their appearance above ground would be a most improper proceeding, and cause such a check, that the plants would be some time in recovering. The modern system of bedding has had much to do with the uprooting and storing such plants as the above, as, unfortunately, they are torn out to make room for the summer display; but if small tubs were made of heart



Grey foliage on a low wall

A DWARF, dry wall retains a border and path on the west side of the house. The house wall is partly clothed with a Grape Vine, and some of the lower part with the deep glossy green of Escallonia macrantha. The grey foliage of Phlomis, Lavender, Santolina, and Stachys shows well against the full, clear green of the Vine and the deep green of the Escallonia. Nearer the front is a big bush of Fuchsia gracilis in full autumn flower; its warm glow is lost in the photograph, but its full value tells well against the further grey, which is taken up again in quieter tones by the dusky grey-green of Rosemary.

G. J.

of Oak they would last many years, and might be used to mark the sites of each patch, so that there need be no risk of disturbance; or better still, perhaps, would be some pegs made of stout galvanised iron wire turned at the top so as to form a loop or ring large enough to put the finger through. These would then have an exceedingly neat appearance, and be less conspicuous than anything else, in addition to which they would last a lifetime. If bulbous and tuberous-rooted plants were cared for in this way they need not be so frequently disturbed, and there would not be the annoyance there now is by such continual losses arising either through repeated lifting and bad storing, or from injuries resulting through workmen digging and cleaning the borders. A. F.

Anomatheca cruenta

This delightful little Iridaceous plant may be grown on the rock garden or in a warm border at the base of a south or west wall. It thrives in a well-drained sandy loam, and in mild districts it withstands a normal winter. When established colonies are in evidence self-sown seedlings are abundant, but it is a wise precaution to maintain a small stock in a cold frame. This Cape bulb is of dwarf stature, is very floriferous over a very long period during summer and autumn, and is alike attractive in flower and foliage. The Ixia-like flowers are rich carmine-crimson, each segment possessing a dark basal blotch, and are in pretty contrast to the bright green grass-like leaves. There is a chaste and beautiful form with white flowers, a somewhat rare plant. A. cruenta was introduced from South Africa, that paradise of bulbous plants, so long ago as 1830. The corms may be planted during March.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

FRUIT GARDEN

Early Melons

AFTER the late sorts of Apples and Pears are done and the supply of keeping varieties of Grapes becomes depleted, home-grown fruit for private consumption, with the exception of forced Strawberries, is scarce, and in a great many instances is, for the time being, at an end, or until such time that the earliest forced Figs, Grapes, Peaches, and Nectarines are to be had.

To bridge the interval, so to speak, it is customary, where means for so doing are at command, to arrange for a crop of Melons to ripen about that time. For the purpose early-maturing varieties are chosen, the seed being sown singly in "thumb" pots filled with loam, either in December or the beginning of January, and the resulting plants are, as soon as well rooted, put into larger pots, placed where they receive a maximum of light, and transferred either to large pots or planted out where they are to fruit as soon as the pots are filled with roots.

As the Melon in its various stages of growth requires and revels in heat and moisture, these conditions are essential from the germinating of the seed until the crop is ripe.

A well-heated house, whether in the form of a span or lean-to, is therefore necessary, and should be provided with a sufficiency of hot-water pipes to command, without hard driving of the fire, a day and night temperature respectively of 70 degs. to 75 degs. and 65 degs. to 70 degs., and a bottom heat of 80 degs. to 85 degs. Some growers rely on a bed of fermenting material to furnish the requisite amount of warmth in the last-named instance, but it is apt to fluctuate, and is not so reliable and steady as that derived from hot-water pipes. Of the two forms of structure mentioned the lean-to, especially if partly sunk in the ground, is the easiest in which to maintain the required temperatures in the early part of the year, and can, moreover, be readily covered at night with dressed canvas covers in the event of exceptionally severe weather setting in.

If the plants are to be fruited in large pots those of 10 inches and 12 inches in diameter are suitable sizes. These must be well drained and filled to within 2 inches of the rims with good, sound loam, which requires no addition unless it should be of a heavy and adhesive nature, when a little lime-rubbish will afford a corrective. The pots are best filled and placed in position on the stone slabs covering the bottom-heat pipes some days in advance of planting so that the soil gets warm and no check to the roots occurs. Borders are best built as near to the front wall of the house as may be convenient, and should rest, if possible, on the stone covers of the bottom-heat chamber. The sides of the border should consist of pieces of turf or, if preferred, boards placed on edge may be used instead, and the depth and width may be 12 inches and 18 inches respectively. The same kind of compost as for pots answers well, and as a wiry rather than luxuriant growth is conducive to fruitfulness the compost in both cases must be rammed very firm.

For early forcing the plants may be grown as cordons and planted 15 inches to 18 inches apart in the border. The rule is to set the first female flowers which open together on each plant and not trouble to wait for a larger crop. It is a practice which answers well when time is an object. One plant in each pot suffices, and if stood close together the plants may be grown on the same principle as in the preceding case. Neat sticks are necessary for the support of the plants until they reach the trellis. Other routine matters are to stop every other plant when it reaches about half-way up the trellis and the remainder three-parts of the distance to secure a good supply of fruiting laterals, to perform "setting" in the usual way and stop the shoot at one leaf beyond the fruit instead of two. Stimulants may be afforded directly the fruits are seen to be swelling off, and care exercised when applying them not to wet the stems, or canker and subsequent collapse of the plants may ensue. With the maintenance of the temperatures named, combined with free syringings, a humid atmosphere, and making the most of sun-heat when the temperature may range between 85 degs. and 90 degs., and at closing time a degree or so above 90 degs., growth is then rapid, and the fruits will soon need the support of the nets sold for the purpose. From start to finish water, for whatever purpose it is required, should be in a tepid condition. When the fruit is on the verge of ripening or beginning to colour withhold stimulants, apply plain water only, afford rather more air, and reduce atmospheric moisture gradually as colouring and ripening progresses.

Varieties suitable for early forcing are Hero of Lockinge, Ringleader, Remier, and, if still in existence, Davenham Early.

A. W.

Growing Vines in pots

The growing of Vines in pots is not so familiar to the amateur gardener as where Vines are more largely grown. There are various reasons for this. The cost of production or purchase figures largely as a cause of their absence. Grown in a large pot, tub, or box they are strictly under control, and with careful attention may profitably occupy the structure, small or large, whichever it may be. A Vine planted in an unlimited soil space would, and often does, becon source of worry in a small house, in th monopolises so much space, thereby cr ing out many other objects so much de Under restriction, such as these recept afford, there is no such trouble, becaus growth is much more moderate, Vin 12-inch pots will produce some exc Grapes in the hands of capable growers it must be said that such restriction den much attention to watering. They ar variably plunged in leaves, and often on turf sods in order that the roots esc through the drainage holes may find u feeding ground. Plunging of the po tree-leaves stays much evaporation, th lieving the water-pot, and at the same keeps up a congenial warmth and mo about the roots. Though by profes hands pot Vines are, as a common thrown away at the expiration of their ing season, there is no reason why should not be made to continue at least second year. This will only be made able when the cultural needs of the Vi judiciously studied. The advantag Grape culture under this system is th house may be cleared at the end of fr time, and the space then devoted to an ject specially favoured for autumn an ter. With so little soil, feeding with lants must be attended to. This, ho offers no obstacle, because there ar compounded manures that supply ev quisite for the Vine, and these, to offered in convenient quantity by ma turers and sundriesmen.

Planting Fig trees

Now is, perhaps, the best time of th for planting Figs, and that whether th already established on the place or be bought in. The three hardiest an reliable varieties for open-air cultu Brown Turkey, White Marseilles, and wick, the last-named being the least tive of the lot. Along the south coast the Isle of Wight these Figs succeed very many places without the protec walls, but in the more inland ar favoured localities they must have th ter, the hottest corner in the garden them best. Anything in the shap strong or rich soil is unsuitable fo being certain to cause a rank growth, as already pointed out, is the least ca to do good service. Where Figs succe is on the more chalky soils, and i cannot be freely mixed with the soil u mortar-rubbish ought to be substit either case to the extent of one-thir bulk. The rest may be either fresh a a mixture of subsoil and top spit of soil. Should the subsoil of the site heavy, clayey nature, the Fig roots be prevented from striking down int layer 6 inches thick of either chalk or rubbish being placed in the bottom hole for that purpose. Always plan high, that is to say, in a raised bor if the roots are eventually allowed to it ought, if possible, to be through path. Some of the most profitable those with their roots somewhat confe kept active near the surface by mean dressings of loam and chalk or rubbish and a little solid manure. Th are usually supplied by nurserymen and prior to being planted should h roots carefully uncoiled, very lightl where broken, and then spread well the soil, making the latter quite firm with strawy litter. Trees with a cl are to be preferred, and no more than is necessary for laying a good tion should be resorted to. Trai shape of a fan.

INDOOR PLANTS

Greenhouse Acacias

N explanation of the use of the term greenhouse Acacias, it must be admitted hat it is misleading when applied to the th-west of England, where all the species ntioned in this note will flourish in the n air without glass protection, but as over greater portion of the British Isles success mpossible of attainment unless the plants afforded the shelter of glass, there is a reason for the title of the article.

CACIA DEALBATA.—This is the best known all the half-hardy Acacias, being widely wn on the Riviera, from which district rmous numbers of flowering sprays are orted in mid-winter and hawked about London streets. It is an excellent conatory plant, but requires a lofty structure hard cutting back after a few years, or it outgrow the space allotted to it. It mences to flower from January onward. sheltered gardens in South Devon and nwall specimens may often be seen in m during the month of January, but this cia is generally at its best in the open nt the end of March. Large examples provide a glorious sight. Some years I saw at Tregothnan a group of Acacia bata fully 30 feet in height, which was a s of golden blossom, the flowers being wn into high relief by a background of green Oaks. The picture these Acacias ented will long remain in my mind. re is considerable dissimilarity in the ous forms of this Acacia. For a long A. affinis was treated as a distinct es, but at Kew this is now held to be a variety of A. dealbata. The forms ent much difference in the colour of their rs, some of these being golden-yellow, others are a pale sulphur-white, while oliage in some is glaucous, and in others nt green. I have known several plants dealbata sent out the colour of whose rs was so poor as to render them unny of culture.

ARMATA.—This is a sturdy-growing with leaves armed with prickles, that round golden-yellow balls of flower. a good conservatory plant, and is often n in the open in the south-west. I one specimen in a South Devon garden s over 7 feet in height and as much in eter. The foliage of this species is also variable, as a visit to the temperate at Kew will prove, for here may be varieties differing so greatly in their e that the casual observer would conthem distinct species.

VERTICILLATA.—This Acacia is very iful, but far later in flowering than A. lata. Its blossoms are pale yellow, and orne in such profusion as to entirely he foliage, a tree 15 feet in height being mid of soft yellow. It is a very rapid r, and, perhaps, the freest flowerer of whole race. This species also shows variation in the foliage, some varieties g very narrow leaves, while others have of three or four times that breadth.

RICEANA.—This is an extremely beautiecies and excellently adapted for conory decoration, its drooping veil of pale flowers having an extremely graceful rtistic effect. Though grown in the it is never seen to such advantage as draping the sides and roof of a glass re with its hanging flower trails.

ONGIFOLIA.—An Acacia with long, shaped leaves bearing golden balls of s of comparatively large size. It blooms in the spring, but I have seen ower in the open in November.

Acacia verticillata
One of the best of the greenhouse Acacias; flowers pale yellow

A. OVATA.—This is usually seen as a small shrub. It has small, rigid leaves and bears little balls of bright yellow blossoms. A well-flowered specimen is a pretty sight in the spring.

A. MELANOXYLON.—A tall-growing Acacia bearing a profusion of pale yellow flowers. It is almost too vigorous in growth for the conservatory unless cut hard back periodically. At the Isles of Scilly it exceeds 40 feet in height.

A. CULTRIFORMIS.—A striking plant with wide flattened shoots, at the edges of which are borne the bright yellow flowers. It is a most ornamental conservatory subject. I know a specimen in Cornwall which covers about 15 feet square of a wall, and another growing in the open against a trellis, an even larger plant. Both are in a flourishing condition.

DEVONIAN.

Campanula versicolor as a pot plant

Although classed as a hardy perennial, I think that it pays to grow this stately and beautiful plant in pots in a cool greenhouse. Although I have had it for several years I have never been able to increase it sufficiently to permit of my testing it in the open. It may be propagated by means of cuttings, when these are available, or by division if care be taken. I have also raised a few plants from root cuttings, but, taken all over, it is not the easiest of plants to increase, or keep either, for that matter. It is so distinctly good, however, that no amount of trouble is too great to expend on it. In habit of growth and in foliage it resembles C. pyramidalis, but is a true perennial, and, so far as I have been able to discover, does not produce seed, when grown under glass at least. One great advantage it has over C. pyramidalis is the fact of its remaining in bloom over a much longer period, while it also produces suckers late in the season, these also flowering, but never attaining the height of the earlier stems.

A good strong plant may require an 8-inch or 9-inch pot, but the majority do quite well in the 7-inch size. A compost of about equal parts of good fibrous loam and sweet, flaky leaf-mould, with sufficient coarse sand to assure porosity, suits this plant quite well. The addition of a little bone-meal and Thomson's Plant Manure do not come amiss, while a little gentle feeding with liquid manure helps to sustain the plant when pushing into flower.

C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Chrysanthemums

Many of these will now be ready for potting into 3-inch, and some of the strongest which were struck singly in 72's may, with advantage, be placed in 4-inch pots, a more open compost consisting of best fibrous loam, a little spent Mushroom-bed or leaf-mould, old lime-rubble, and sand in small quantities will suit them admirably at this stage. Do not at any time attempt to force growth by keeping these young plants in heated houses or frames, as the best results are obtained from cool-grown plants, and the best place for them is a cool frost-proof frame in full sun. This may be covered at night with mats and litter, air being freely admitted during the day. Cold draughts, however, must be avoided.

Propagating house

Examine the contents of the cases at frequent intervals, as plants strike rapidly when plunged in fibre over bottom heat; and instead of potting cuttings off directly they are removed from the cases place them on a shelf near the glass in the same house for a few days at least, when they will be more able to stand the shift.

Palms

The present is a good time to overhaul, repot, or top-dress any of the species in need of same and which are in considerable demand for furnishing, as they recover from any move or restriction of roots quicker now than at any other season. It often happens that for many reasons, such as the size of vases, etc., which such plants have to occupy in the residence that the limit in the size of the pot has been reached, but the plant cannot be satisfactorily watered, owing to the soil and roots protruding over the top of the pot. In such cases the remedy is to turn it out of the pot and chop the lower roots clean away to a height of 3 inches and repot into a clean, fresh compost, placing such plants in a house having a brisk temperature, where, if syringed daily, a quick recovery is made.

Cannas

Those which have been in store for the winter must now be shaken out. Whether required for indoor or outdoor blooming, when dividing up the roots a portion of useless material is usually found, and this should be removed. Stand the newly-potted plants in a warm house until growth is in evidence.

Early Vines

The temperature at night should now be from 55 degs. to 60 degs., with a rise from sun-heat during the day of 10 degs. to 15 degs., especially after the house has been damped down in the afternoon, at which time I like to syringe the Vines also very lightly. Growth is abundant, and the most suitable bunches to leave may be decided upon and surplus material removed, and where not already done the shoots should be stopped at the second joint beyond the bunch. Tying down of the shoots demands extreme care and is best accomplished by going over the ties at intervals of from three to five days until the growths rest upon the wires.

Early Peaches

Attend to the disbudding of these when the latter are 1½ inches long, and do not attempt to remove all the shoots at one operation, a good policy being to leave three or four basal shoots for future thinning and a few at the tip, and thus admit sun and light to the fruits, which will require another 10 days before thinning.

Peaches

In later houses and now in bloom these must be gone over each day with a rabbit's-tail or camel-hair brush in order to assist the fertilisation of the blooms.

Sweet Briar hedges

Any pruning, thinning, or shaping of these may be done at the present time, following which any necessary enrichment of the border may be carried out.

Sweet Peas

Make a further sowing of choice named kinds, either in pots or boxes, but preferably one seed in a 3-inch pot, and stand the pots in a warm house until germination has taken place, when they must be given cooler treatment and kept growing near the glass. Germination will be assisted if the receptacles are covered over with a sheet of paper.

Turf

Make good all damaged or worn places on lawns and playing greens with clean, fresh turf, and push forward the preparation of new ground which it is intended to sow with grass-seed later.

The garden nursery

Most large gardens have such where surplus shrubs, plants, etc., are kept in reserve and to which additions are frequently made from home-propagated subjects until it is liable to become overcrowded. An attempt should be made this month to relieve this congestion by making attractive plantations of such things.

Old Celery ground

This having been deeply trenched during the past year renders it very suitable for main crop Peas, and, following a dressing of manure, should be dug up in readiness in order that the weather may sweeten and pulverise the surface.

Rhubarb

Make new plantations by dividing up old specimens and planting in rows 5 feet apart.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Pricking off Tomatoes

As soon as the seedlings are fit to handle, this process must be gone through. While quite good results are had by transplanting into boxes I prefer thumb pots, as by their use no check is experienced when the plants require a shift. Set on a shelf quite close to the roof glass, water, and shade with special care until they recover from the slight check given when transferring from the seed-pan. A genial temperature of about 60 degs. gives good results. While fresh air is essential, it must be admitted in such a way as to avoid a draught striking the little plants.

The management of Figs

As the new shoots attain a length of 2 inches to 3 inches, disbudding, where necessary, should be carried out. Do this gradually, for if a large number of shoots were removed at one time a serious check is likely. It is well, therefore, to merely remove a few each day until the whole necessary reduction is carried out.

In the Vineries

The tying down of laterals by easy stages must not be neglected. If the lowering these shoots be done gradually it is rare have any of them snap off, but if the grow are pulled down all at once a great amo of damage is almost certain. In later hou disbudding must have careful attention. not attempt to do all necessary disbudding one operation, but go over the rods at l three times, with an interval of three or f days between each. In this way no seri check is administered, as would be the were all unwanted shoots rubbed out at one time.

Apricots and Peaches

Unless some method be adopted for tecting the flowers from frost there is sel much chance of securing a decent "set" trees trained on walls outside. The best is to have movable canvas blinds worked rollers fixed, but this entails consider initial outlay, while a fair substitute is by hanging a double thickness of fish-net over the front of the tree. Fix in su way as to prevent the net being blown ag and damaging the flowers.

Propagate greenhouse plants

Cuttings of Coleus, Crassula, Fuc Heliotrope, Lantana, Statice, etc., if ins now in pots of very sandy compost plunged in gentle bottom heat will very become rooted. While the use of a bottom heat is a considerable help, it is indispensable, for if the pots are stood moist ash bottom in a moderately w house or pit the cuttings will root all r only a good deal more time will elaps fore they do so.

Pot up Begonia bulbs

For flowering in pots the tubers sl now be potted up or boxed. Pots are best, and they need only be large enou comfortably hold the bulb. One part two parts leaf-mould, and one part san form a suitable compost for the purpose. not press the soil at all firm, and but l cover the tubers with soil. Arrange c together and cover with newspaper. very sparingly, but spray overhead twice daily. A temperature of about 60 is very suitable for starting these plant growth.

Propagate border Chrysanthemum

During the next two or three weeks best time for raising full stocks of the dispensable plants by means of cu They will eventually root all right in frame, but better results are had, I th the boxes of cuttings can be accomm in a heated house or pit and kept from all sunshine.

China Asters

Where a good amount of artificial w is at command there is no hurry for a 10 days or a fortnight, but with only little heat to depend on the seeds shou be sown, using well-drained pans or filled with sweet, light compost. Keep without saturation.

Late flowering Chrysanthemums

Should the weather be fairly m plants that were rooted early and th potted off some time ago will now be standing in a cold frame. Keep qui for a few days, and mat well shoul threaten. Later batches should be po singly, while, in the event of the stoc short, some of the singles and dec may yet be rooted, but the earlier n better.

C. FA

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow

Shrubs that Flower in February

ONSPICUOUS among hardy or nearly hardy evergreen shrubs that flower in winter stands the Laurustinus, a native Southern Europe, which, although gener- considered and treated as a hardy plant, nevertheless, not unfrequently more or injured during hard weather; and as the ers are naturally produced during the h of winter they very often become ished and disfigured by the inclemency ne weather, even during seasons when the ession of temperature may not be re- kable. Consequently, in large establish- ts, where a supply of flowers during win- is a *sine quâ non,* it becomes expedient to e a portion of these plants in pots, and the approach of wintry weather to give n a place in the greenhouse or the con- atory, where they will soon be found to well worthy of this distinction. Under conditions their flowers will generally produced in profusion, as well as greatly roved in character, almost rivalling in ty of colour the blooms of a white ellia. Suitable plants may also be re- ed in large pots or tubs, and trained into desired form, such as that of a pyramid tandard with clear stems. Such plants ld be grown in the open air during sum- , while in the winter they form very effec- objects in the conservatory. The more ntly introduced Viburnum fragrans bids to become one of the most popular of all ly February-flowering shrubs. Chimo- hus fragrans and C. grandiflorus are well worthy of a place in every garden, they are remarkably useful, sweet- ted, winter-flowering plants. The first- ed was introduced from Japan about the 1776, and the latter is probably a nal variety from the first, both being ctly hardy, and closely allied to the t-scented Calycanthus, or Carolina All- . To secure in perfection, however, delightfully fragrant flowers, which are uced long before the foliage appears, and h are of a pale yellow or straw colour— large-flowered variety being the most y in appearance, but possibly less fra- t than the other—it is necessary to select hem a somewhat sheltered situation if are intended to be grown as standards. will, however, generally succeed best trained to a wall. At some places we seen each of the varieties trained to some 12 feet high, under a wide glass g, facing the south, and sheltered also ch end by a glass structure; thus cir- tanced, they succeed admirably, pro- g annually an immense amount of n from about the middle of December the beginning of February, and such s are always in great demand, as their ance is considered equal to that of the t. If a few of them be merely dropped a vase and placed in an apartment they continue their perfume for several days. variety, treated as just described, not flowers profusely, but will also produce ughly ripened seed in abundance; and when sown in heat as soon as it is red, vegetates quickly, and soon forms s suitable either for pot culture or for ing out. These two kinds of Chimo- nus can also be increased by layers, but do not strike readily from cuttings. trained to a wall they are treated very like trained Pear trees, *i.e.,* all the g shoots which have borne bloom are as closely as possible, with the excep- of such as may be required as leaders, are, of course, nailed, or in some way ed to the wall. This pruning is gener- lone about the middle of February, or the plants have ceased to flower. And as the season advances, young shoots are developed in abundance; these produce flowers the following winter. It will thus be seen that all that is required in the way of summer management are the nailing in of leading shoots, and the rubbing off or stopping any gross or over-strung ones which are occasionally produced. Jasminum nudiflorum, like the Chimonanthus, produces its bright yellow blooms during the depth of winter in great profusion upon the young shoots while they are yet destitute of leaves; hence its appropriate specific name. It is indigenous to the north of China, and was introduced to this country by Mr. Robert Fortune about the year 1845 or 1846, and proved to be not the least worthy of his many valuable introductions. It is perfectly hardy, but severe frost, or rather inclement weather, has not unfrequently the effect of bleaching the colour out of its clear, yellow blooms, so that the most suitable situation for this plant is a south wall, under a somewhat wide coping, in order, if possible, to keep the flowers dry, as, if this condition be secured, no amount of cold will injure them.

As pointed out in recent issues, this Jasmine succeeds well when grown in pots, and only requires the protection of a glass roof during the months of December and January, when it will be in full bloom. Its habit of growth, however, is somewhat too straggling for pot culture, and it appears nowhere more at home than when allowed to ramble at will over a block or stone in some rough part of the garden. It can, however, be made to submit to any system of training, and where the flower for the purpose of cutting is an object of importance, it is advisable to subject the plants to a certain amount of training or restriction, in order that they may more easily be protected from the effects of the weather. It looks well trained horizontally to a wall facing the south, the principal shoots being kept at a distance of 6 inches from each other. These shoots during summer produce a vast number of small sprays, which should be allowed to droop or fall over the surface of the plant. During the summer care should be taken to twist off any gross or over-luxuriant shoot, and to nail in the leaders where they may be required. The drooping spray will seldom fail to clothe the surface of the wall with a profusion of flowers, and that during the most winterly months of the year; but, unlike most of the family to which it belongs, it is entirely destitute of fragrance. As soon as its flowering season is over the spray should be cut in as closely as possible. This Jasmine is very easily increased by cuttings or otherwise, the young shoots seldom failing to emit roots into the soil whenever they chance to come in contact with it.

Among other winter-flowering shrubs, possibly less extensively grown than the above, is the sweet-smelling Honeysuckle (Lonicera fragrantissima), about the non-flowering of which there has been correspondence in recent issues. This is also an introduction from China by Mr. Fortune, and is worthy of more extensive culture than it appears to have yet obtained. In a favourable situation the blooms, which are of a pale straw colour, and which precede the foliage, begin to unfold during the month of January, and although somewhat small and not remarkably ornamental, are, nevertheless, so exceedingly fragrant as to render them extremely useful for the purpose of cutting for bouquet-making. Although the plant is of a somewhat stiff habit of growth, it nevertheless readily submits to training upon a wall. It is also easily induced to form a bush, and in the latter form it is very suitable for pot culture, and the delightful fragrance of its flowers fully entitles it to this consideration. It may be increased by layers or by cuttings of the young shoots inserted in a mixture of sand and finely-sifted leaf-soil, plunging the pots containing them in a slight bottom heat, in a close frame or cutting-case. Lonicera Standishi, also an introduction from China, bears considerable resemblance to the above, and similar treatment may in all respects be applied to it.

Many other early-flowering, or winter-flowering plants, are to be found among such genera as Berberis, Daphne, Coronilla, Forsythia, Magnolia, Rhododendron, Andromeda, and Kalmia. The Berberis aquifolium is now (mid-February) in full flower, and Erica mediterranea and other hardy Heaths and Menziesias have been so for some time. Even the common Laurel is already putting forth its racemes of bloom-buds. We have also seen a plant of the Coronilla glauca, in full flower, trained to a wall—in a somewhat sheltered situation, it is true, although facing the east. But this Coronilla is, properly speaking, a greenhouse plant, and an exceedingly useful winter-flowering one it is.

Trees, shrubs, and climbers

Where these are raised from seed the present is a good time to sow, but no attempt should be made to hurry germination by placing the receptacles in heated houses, as many of these take from one year to two years to germinate, and often longer, and while some do commence to grow if stood in genial warmth, the majority are more regular and certainly sturdier when raised in a cool, closed frame. Vines, Clematises, climbers of many kinds, Roses, trees, and shrubs in endless variety are easily raised in this way, and no one should be afraid to try at least a few.

VEGETABLES

Spring-sown Onions

THE best season for sowing main crops of Onions being now at hand, and as much of their future success depends on the previous preparation of the soil, a few remarks on the routine which I have found to be successful may be serviceable. Although, as a rule, I find hard-and-fast methods, as regards rotation of crops, neither profitable nor practicable, we make an exception in the case of Onions; we invariably follow the main crop of Celery with them, as the preparation necessary for that crop leaves the ground in good condition and vacant at the proper season for sowing. The ground, after a crop of Celery, owing to the deep cultivation and exposure to atmospheric influences which it received during the winter, is in the very best condition for being levelled down by the end of February, when a dressing of pigeon's manure or other thoroughly-rotted manure is applied and forked in, the surface being left rough, until the first or second week in March, when, choosing a fine dry day, a good dressing of soot is spread on the ground and raked in; the ground is then trodden firmly all over and raked level, the rows are marked off 1 foot apart, and very shallow drills are drawn with a triangular hoe. If the seed be good it can scarcely be sown too thinly, for all superfluous growth that has to be removed at thinning time is so much loss to the main crop. After sowing, the drills are trodden in and the beds lightly raked over. As soon as the seedlings show themselves a Dutch hoe is run between the rows, and repeated at intervals, to keep down weeds; the rows are hand-weeded, and the plants thinned to their proper distance apart, which must be regulated according to

whether large specimens are required or only a full crop of medium-sized bulbs for ordinary use; the latter is preferable, and in that case the plants may be left from 3 inches to 6 inches apart in the row. When in full growth a top-dressing of soot is highly beneficial, and by adopting the above routine we seldom have any loss from the Onion fly, although it has of late years been exceptionally destructive in the neighbourhood. We have grown the following varieties with good results, viz., James's Keeping (one of the very best), Nuneham Park, Ailsa Craig, Cranston's Excelsior, and Bedfordshire Champion. As soon as growth is quite completed, the whole crop is pulled up and thrown into beds, keeping them stirred with a wooden rake on fine dry days until the outer skin is thoroughly crisp and dry, when, a favourable period being selected, they are stored in cool, airy lofts or sheds, and cleared and sorted as required. If well ripened, the late varieties will keep until the autumn-sown crops are fit for use. After the crop is cleared off the ground a good dressing of manure is applied and dug in deeply, and the main crop of Cabbages is planted on it about the first week in October. G.

Parsnips

The plot intended for these should be forked lightly over in order that the surface may become dried by sun and wind in readiness for sowing the seed at the first favourable opportunity during the next 10 days.

Restoring the Garden with Annuals

HARDY annuals unquestionably rank amongst the most showy and useful plants which we possess, and not only that, but they may be raised and got up at a minimum of cost, whereas those of a more tender character require the assistance of glass and heat to raise them and get them ready for planting out. Instead of such attention as this, all that is necessary in the case of hardy annuals is to sow them in the beds or borders, which may be done either in the autumn or any time during February, March, or April, or even later, according to the varieties to be grown and the season at which it is desired to have them come into bloom. The great advantage in sowing in autumn is that they not only flower much sooner, but they are, where the soil and climate suit them, always stronger and finer. In the management and treatment of autumn-sown annuals the best way is to have them in patches in a sheltered situation during winter, and then plant out the finest and strongest plants thinly very early in spring. In doing this, warm, showery weather should be chosen, as then they receive less check and become re-established at once. To grow and bloom annuals well they must have well-prepared ground. These remarks also apply to those sown from this time onwards, and, indeed, to most annuals, the whole of which pay well for good cultivation. Why they are so often seen in poor condition is owing to their being sown on thin, hungry soil, and leaving them thick and crowded. Grown in deep rich ground and well thinned, they branch out and flower abundantly. The proper time to sow hardy annuals is when the earth is moderately dry, as then they are not apt to rot; and to ensure getting the seed to germinate it is a good plan to sow on a sprinkling of prepared sandy soil and then cover thinly with the same. This may easily be done by running a little through a fine sieve before and after the seeds are sown; the only care then required will be to keep off slugs when the seeds germinate, which may be managed by surrounding them with a ring of fresh-slaked lime and soot, which will not only ward off these pests, but be of material help in stimulating the plants. The latter should be thinned out gradually by the removal of the weakest from time to time till it can be seen that the others are safe and require the room, when they may be left to themselves.

SELECTION.—One of the first that will commend itself is the Candytuft, of which there are now several shades of colour ranging from pure white up to deep crimson. Most of the Candytufts are garden varieties, but all are so good and distinct as to be well worth growing, and besides being useful in beds and borders, they are also well adapted for rockwork or banks, in either of which positions they spread rapidly and flower with great freedom. Calliopsis, too, are very showy annuals, having brilliantly-coloured flowers. Perhaps the most noteworthy amongst them is C. Burridgei, an exceedingly bright and effective kind. Calliopsis should not be sown till April, and the easiest way to get them up is to place a pot over them for a few days after sowing, as then the sun heat which the pot absorbs and holds within it warms the ground, and thus helps the seed to germinate. The annual varieties of Chrysanthemum are also very fine, and when better known are sure to be largely grown, as the flowers, besides being of large size and fine form, are beautifully marked and of great value in a cut state. Besides the single varieties there are several double ones, the flowers of which are as large as Marigolds, to which in form and appearance they bear a close resemblance. If sown or planted early these Chrysanthemums will bloom the whole summer, and continue on till quite late in the autumn. Being strong growers, from one to three in a patch are quite sufficient, as they require much space. All the Clarkias, of which there are many, are quite worth having, and they do well in moderately good soil. Convolvulus minor should be largely grown for bedding, a purpose for which its habit and continuous blooming qualities render it specially suited, and where their rich blue and violet colours make them particularly telling, either alone or in combination with silver or other variegated Pelargoniums, with which they form a fine contrast. Eschscholtzias, too, such as E. aurantiaca and E. Mandarin, are wonderfully showy, and will grow almost anywhere as regards soil, but they like sun, and when exposed to its influence send up their large, gorgeous, Tulip-like flowers in the greatest profusion.

GODETIAS AND EVERLASTINGS.—Godetias are all so strikingly beautiful that no garden should be without them, and they are among the easiest annuals to grow. G. Whitneyi is the largest and finest, as this variety bears flowers of a satiny crimson-blush colour, and in good soils they measure quite 4 inches across. In shape and appearance they are Mallow-like, but the plant has thick, lance-shaped leaves, and is very compact in habit, and blooms with remarkable freedom. The next in point of merit are Lady Albemarle, The Bride, and Princess of Wales, all of which and several others are garden varieties that have originated from the first-named, but are different in shade and in the rich markings of their blossoms. Helichrysums, better known as Everlastings, are invaluable both for decorative purposes in borders and for the embellishment of vases in rooms, where, if gathered before they become fully expanded and dried in the shade, t last fresh and preserve their colour the wh of the winter, or even for years. The lar kind, H. monstrosum, is the most showy the whole, but H. bracteatum and comp tum are the best for the ornamentation glasses, as though smaller in size, they very compact and brilliant, and dress with Grasses, a combination that has a pleasing and telling effect. Helichryst are not very particular as to soil, and flourish almost anywhere, but like sun an warm, dry situation, where they come perfection.

LARKSPURS AND LUPINES.—Larkspurs exceedingly showy annuals, good alike beds and borders, as they may be had tall and dwarf, and for flowering habit quite unsurpassed. If beds are made, best way is to have a mixed packet of s as then there is plenty of variety; but borders, patches of three or so of a sort preferable, so as to have all of one co together. Lupines, with their large spikes of Pea-shaped flowers, are also showy border plants, where the large k should be sown and grown singly, and smaller ones three in a clump. Poor s soil suits Lupines well, and they bloom be in it than in that which is rich.

MIGNONETTE AND NASTURTIUMS. — M nonette is too well known and appreciate require more than a passing notice, but c mon Mignonette is now so far eclipsed by newer varieties, such as Miles' Hybrid Sp as to look, comparatively speaking, li mere weed. Nasturtiums have also been favourites, and they, too, have been proved to that degree as to render among the most desirable of plants to in a garden, for if there is an unsightly ject to cover, one has only to put in a seeds of some of the climbing kinds, and will soon be up and adorn it with beauty if there are beds to fill where a displa vivid colours is required, we have onl turn to the Tom Thumb section to ge that is needed. These kinds are dwarf compact, and send up a profusion of brilliant blossoms. Unlike most ann they flower best in poor soil; when grow that of a deep rich character they rur much to leaf and are not so short-jointe close in their habit.

STOCKS of the German kind make m ficent beds ablaze with colour; they need to be sown about the end of April very t in rows where they are to stand. T much better than transplanting, as by that they lose their tap root, and receive a check as to throw them prematurely flower. To grow Stocks well the soil c be too rich or deep, and therefore before ing it should be thoroughly broken u heavily manured, and then raked dow to get the seed in.

BUTTERFLY PLANTS (Schizanthus) a charming class of annuals, the flowe which resemble a butterfly with wing spread, and the petals are beautifully m and spotted. The most showy among Schizanthuses is S. papilionaceus, a retusus Grahami is also good and of r value for cutting.

SWEET PEAS are not to be forgotten. form the subject of special articles by ex With a few patches of them in the b running up twiggy sticks or a row i garden there is always something to h fill the flower basket and dress up ep Mixed varieties give a pleasing effect have Sweet Peas strong they should be early, and to keep up a supply it is w make another sowing later.

rticultural Societies' News

A lecture on the Carnation

very interesting and instructive lecture the Carnation was given by Mr. ague C. Allwood, F.L.S., on February in the Permanent Art Gallery at ıton under the auspices of the Brighton, , and Sussex Horticultural Society. lecturer traced the origin of the garden and Carnation back to the days of am the Conqueror, and then proceeded ɔw how better forms were developed up e present time. Fine pictures of the blossoms were thrown on the screen, of which were beautifully coloured, and ɔecial points which appeal to judges of lower were referred to. Mr. Allwood gave practical hints as to the best ɔds of propagation and growth. He ɔd how the best plants were always from shoots taken at the base of the ıtion, and pointed out that from the ɔ to observe this many varieties known zabethan days were lost to cultivation. ations were given of poor cuttings and ly plants and the good ones. He next d how bushy little plants were pro- by pinching out a long shoot at the joint from the base, and then em- ed the necessity of good drainage and of light and air.

ıe beautiful illustrations were given of ɔrpetual Carnations growing in a tem- re of 50 degs. in glasshouses having ı, side, and top ventilation, and which heated from pipes running along the ɔf them whence the cold outside air otherwise strike down.

ures were also shown of the large ıison Carnations, one of which red 8 inches in diameter, and Mr. ɔd showed how, by a wise selection, varieties had been raised which were ɔre perpetual bloomers than the older es, such as those loved by the Empress ine.

ly, the new race of plants, which are arnation and half Pink, were dealt to which the name of Allwoodii was in compliment to the raisers. This ad now been sent successfully to all of the world, and illustrations were showing how they were packed for in cold storage. Some of these, Mr. d said, were tested by the R.H.S., and eing kept for two months in a tem- e just above freezing point they were l out and bloomed profusely.

Influenza and Onions

inter passes on the earth gets colder, ion becomes more sparing in its , the human body is gradually de- ed of its stores of vitamines, and as a of these changes, influenza, rheu- , and early scurvy symptoms begin to . In olden days these diseases used e the last month or two of winter a universal illness and high mortality; we can avoid many of these winter s, and of all our natural remedies I none which can compare with the for winter health and healing. Onions ap and available in every town and they provide the vitamines we need st have; they give a sense of warmth ll-being to the chilliest person on the day; and they are rich in a delicate ic which reduces the vitality of lower organisms. For the next three I advise everyone who fears chills uenza to add sliced Onions to his or y salad or else to eat an Onion that n sliced thinly into vinegar and kept standing in it for an hour. For those who are anæmic or neurotic as the result of intestinal poisoning I would advise that Onions and still more Onions—or Onion juice—be consumed, and Onion gruel or broth should invariably be taken in the early stages of a cold.

JOSIAH OLDFIELD
(Dr., Lt.-Col. R.A.M.C.T.)
Margaret Manor, Sittingbourne, Kent.
—From *The Fruit Grower.*

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

The Scarlet Jacobean Lily

WOULD you kindly name the enclosed? I have three bulbs of same, and treat them the same as I do Amaryllis. They have flowered regularly for the past three years, but do not last in flower very long. I understand they were brought here from Italy. Any particulars will be very helpful. T. A. V.

Abergavenny.

[The plant sent for identification is Sprekelia formosissima, the scarlet Jacobean Lily. This is a showy greenhouse bulb with crimson flowers in which the long upper petals ascend, but the lower ones enclose the stamens. The plant is quite easy to grow with ordinary cool greenhouse treatment, and only requires to be kept free from frost. Although generally regarded as a greenhouse bulb it flowers remarkably well in the open in many parts of the country. July is the normal time of flowering, and bulbs may be planted now.]

ROSES

Roses for tree stump and bank

Can any of your readers tell me whether (1) Lady Penzance (Hybrid Sweet Briar), (2) the Austrian Copper Briar, and Rosa Moyesii (the Chinese species) can be grown as pegged-down Roses to spread over an old stump and down a bank, and whether the rotting roots of the stump (the tree has just been blown down in this last gale) would have any bad effect on the Roses? The exposure is good. MRS. LORNA M. DAY.

Spean Bridge, Scotland.

[Both the Penzance and Hybrid Sweet

Sprekelia formosissima (the Scarlet Jacobean Lily)
Flowers brilliant crimson, remarkable for their curious form and intense colour

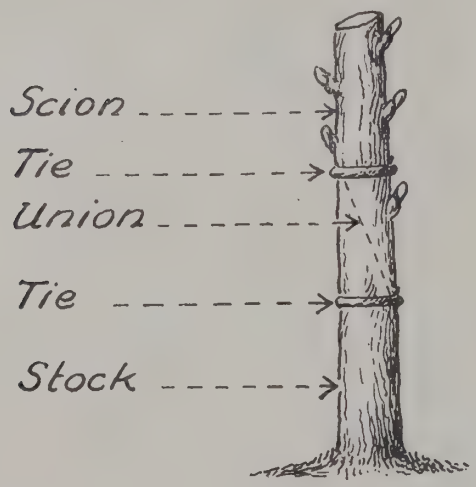
Briar Roses may be used successfully for the purpose you name, but the Austrian Copper and R. Moyesii are better grown into large bushes which may be left unpruned for years. The latter reaches 13 feet in height in course of time, and therefore you will understand that it is scarcely suitable for your purpose. The roots of the tree stump will have no ill-effect upon the Roses whatever.]

FRUIT

Grafting a seedling Orange

I SHOULD be so grateful for some advice as to grafting small Orange trees. I have two in the greenhouse that were grown from Orange pips, and they are quite nice plants now (in pots), but they make no sign of flowering, and I have been told that they must be grafted before they will do so. We have a large Orange tree in the cool house that flowers and fruits every year, so I wonder if my little plants could be grafted from that. Any advice on the matter would be most welcome. ALIX LEIGH.

[It will be necessary to graft your seedling Oranges in order to obtain fruit from them within a reasonable period, and as you already possess a fruiting tree this should not



prove difficult. What is known as splice-grafting would appear to be the most suitable for you, and to do this it will be necessary to select a young shoot, known as a scion, of the same thickness as the stem of your seedling plant at about 12 inches from the top of the pot. In preparing the seedling plant, known as the stock, you simply slice off the top, drawing the knife in an upward direction, leaving a perfectly clean cut, and follow this by preparing the scion, which must be exactly of the same size and made to fit absolutely to the slice made on the stock, the bark touching all round when in an erect position. Bind the two securely together with broad raffia, and render airtight with grafting wax obtainable at any horticultural sundriesman. The scion should not be more than 6 inches long and be of free, young, and well-ripened wood. Stand the grafted plants in a house having a temperature of 60 degs. to 65 degs. until union has taken place, when they may be transferred to cooler quarters. The little sketch should assist you.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Cutting-back Ceanothus dentatus

Can you give me advice about the cutting-back of my Ceanothus dentatus? Though only eight years old, it has very much outgrown its position on the S.E. wall of my cottage, and has become very brown underneath, and some branches have died off. I should like to cut it right back as it darkens my room. Would the best time for doing that be in March, even though I sacrifice this summer's bloom? DONHEAD.

[You ought to have pruned your shrub back each year, and it is rather severe treatment to cut it right back as you propose. The last week in March cut it back half-way, and next year reduce part of the growths still further until your desire is obtained.]

GREENHOUSE

Ornithogalum from Cape Province

Could you tell me the name of the enclosed species of Ornithogalum? The head of flowers was sent me from Cape Province about four months ago and seems almost everlasting as a cut bloom. Is it procurable in this country and would the bulbs be suitable for outdoor growing? W. H. COLE.

Whiteway, near Stroud, Glos.

[The specimen sent is Ornithogalum lacteum, the Chincherinchee of South Africa; almost everlasting as a cut bloom, remaining fresh for many weeks or even months. Bulbs are listed by Messrs. Barr and Sons, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C. 2. It is a beautiful plant for the cool greenhouse, but we have no experience of its cultivation in the open.]

Camellia buds dropping

Would you kindly inform me as to cause of Camellia flower and buds shrivelling, as per enclosed specimens? The trees are in good condition, growing in a temperature 45 degs. to 50 degs., but recently I have had an oil lamp lighted in house to assist the heat during the frosty nights, and thought perhaps the fumes exuded, although slight, might be the cause of the injury. REGULAR READER.

[This often happens to plants which have been damaged by frost, and it may be that you did not start your stove soon enough. The temperature you give is quite correct for Camellias, but, of course, if strong fumes are emitted from the stove this would also cause the same trouble, as also will dryness at their roots. If this is your only means of heating the house we would advise you to leave just a little air on the top of the house during the night, as the shrubs will come to no harm so long as the temperature does not fall below 35 degs. We strongly suspect your plants as having suffered before warmth was applied.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Insect to name in Banana

(R. R., Sunderland).—The insect found in the inside of a Jamaica Banana is a green cockroach (Panchlora exoleta Burm). It is a native of Central America, probably from British Honduras, and is not infrequently introduced with Bananas. Other specimens have been received at this office within the last few weeks. The insect was active on arrival. They may be kept alive for months if provided with Banana skins.

Rushes in meadow

Will you be kind enough to advise me how to eradicate the common Rush (Juncus) from a meadow? Area approximately 5 acres, sandy soil, low-lying, and wet. I wondered if there might be any patent preparation suitable for such a purpose. V. K.

Lyndhurst.

[Your cure for this is draining, using ordinary land drain-pipes and leaving enough space between each pipe for one's small finger to go down, or, say, ½ inch, sinking the pipes 18 inches in the ground. These should be laid in lines at 22 yards apart and with a good fall, with intersecting lines of pipes across the wettest parts. If your ground has a good fall you might draw out oblique lines with a plough 6 inches deep, as a cheaper method, to conduct surface water to the lowest p We know of no patent preparation w would affect the Rushes.]

Dead bees for examination

I am sending some dead bees. Pleas me the cause of them dying. Those tha not die disappeared. Twelve months last summer I put a swarm in a box hive last summer I prevented them from sw ing. I took no honey from them, bu them with good sealed honey for the w Last Sunday I discovered there were these few dead bees left. There is still p of sealed honey, but no bees. I might s mouse could get in the hive and ther two more hives quite close; they are touched. ERIC EVERE

Sussex.

[Quite a third of the bees sent were dr As no normal colony keeps its drones the beginning of August the stock to these bees belonged must have been q less, or without a fertile queen, since time. A queenless colony dwindles rapidly in early autumn as there are no bees to take the place of those that die the time comes when there are no l enough bees to keep up the temperatu the hive, with the result that at the firs of cold weather the colony succumbs. of course, possible that the bees were ing from *acarine* disease (I.O.W. dis but no traces were found of the acar those examined. The bees sent, how were too dried up for any accurate diag —L.B.W.]

Plants for a moist and partially garden, trouble with slugs, where to obtain Delphiniums

(Miss M. Sinfold).—The following would probably succeed in the position tioned, providing it is by no means shaded. First of all, however, you thoroughly prepare the soil by digging spit deep and working in a quantity o rotted manure:—Senecio clivorum, machia vulgaris, Herbaceous Phloxes, field Beauty, Selma, Tapis Blanc General Haig are excellent kinds. H callis aurantiaca major, H. Lemon Anemone japonica var. Queen Ch Alstromeria aurantiaca, Spirea Arun Queen Alexandra, Aster puniceus p rimus, Campanula muralis, Funkia S Primulas pulverulentea and helodox of the Valley, Helleborus orientalis in and possibly the Christmas Rose, Hel niger var. major, Dielytra spec Lythrum roseum superbum, Megace fraga, Sedum spectabilis. You mig arrange for a few groups of spring such as Narcissus Emperor, N. G Noordwick, Mme. de Graaf, Grape Hy (Muscari), Snowdrops, and Snowflake alum and sand is good for slugs, an Slugicide offered by Messrs. Bentley a Ltd., Barrow-on-Humber, Hull. slaked lime and soot also check marauders. The Delphiniums are ver some kinds and may be obtained fron the hardy plantsmen advertising columns. We would advise you to one of them stating your requirement

NAME OF PLANT

S. G. S., near Bury St. Edmunds. H Oak (Quercus Ilex). It is one of th of all hardy evergreen trees. We n your specimen is 70 feet high. In favu places it attains a height of 90 feet.

NAMES OF FRUITS

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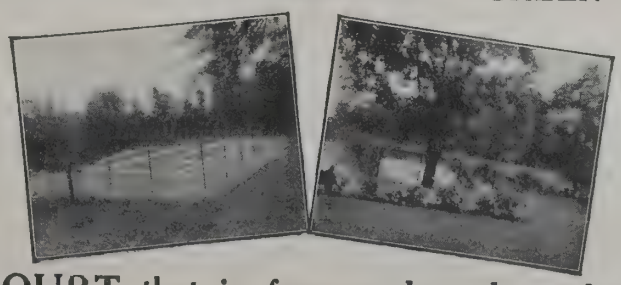

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READERS will find particular interest in the news that on Wednesday next, in accordance with a promise given some time ago, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will open the John Benn Hostel and Milner Club in Stepney, London, E. In the huge building at Bower Street, Stepney, used by Dr. Barnardo as workshops for his boys until that institution moved to the country some years ago, there will in future exist two related institutions—a hostel for boys and a social institute or community centre. The former will help to perpetuate the memory of the late Sir John William Benn and his long connection with Stepney, which was the scene of his first introduction to London, as well as of his Parliamentary work and the municipal activities by which he rose to the distinguished position of Chairman of the London County Council.

The importance of the new Hostel, not only to Stepney, but to London, will be better realised if the growth of the borough is considered. Stepney comprises 1,902 acres and has more than 90 miles of streets, while the 1921 census indicated a population of 249,738. The building comprises five floors, each with a superficial area of about 7,650 square feet, and contains a swimming bath and gymnasium.

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Bequests to gardening charities

The late Mr. Walter C. Slocock, of Goldworth Nurseries, Woking, left £244,398, and in addition to bequests to numerous employees and local charities he left £250 to the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution and a similar amount to the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund.

Enquiry

MISTLETOE PROPAGATION.—Having tried from so many nurserymen and others, I would be grateful to hear of anyone who could supply me with a few dozen Mistletoe berries to sow on trees when the former were ripe for the purpose. HOOD-A-WINK.

LATE REPLY

Grass for a steep embankment

(Froth Blower).—With reference to your inquiry regarding a suitable grass for growing on a steep embankment to prevent the soil from slipping, the following suggestions are made:—For garden purposes Agrostis stolonifera L. and Lolium perenne L. would probably be the best grasses to use. In wild or semi-wild conditions Agropyron repens Couch or Twitch would be useful, though it would probably be best to sow seed of the other two with it. Carex arenaria and Ammophila arenaria might also be used, as they are good binders, and Arundinaria palmata and A. pygmæa would be worthy of trial. Esparto grass would not be likely to succeed, and no leaflet has been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on the use of Esparto grass for this purpose. Messrs. James Hunter, agricultural seed merchants, of Chester, would supply seed and give advice on the subject.

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Planting Primulinus Hybrid Gladioli

the gardener's year the present is essen-lly a time of preparation, a time when ry enthusiastic flower-lover turns his or ttention to the problem of making the garden more beautiful, more attrac-han before. However much one may to try new flowers, or flowers other those one has already grown, there is s a certain amount of hesitation in case should prove disappointing. In con-ng a suitable choice there is one flower e should overlook, especially where cut for the home is a serious factor. I to the subject of this note, linus Hybrid Gladioli. At t these are not nearly so well as the large-flowering es, yet in many ways they en more valuable than this singly and deservedly popu-ss. Primulinus hybrids are paratively new race, which een evolved by hybridising a flowered bright yellow which was discovered g on the banks of the si river in Africa with the lowered kinds. Crosses tercrosses extending over a of several years have re-some really wonderful s, exquisite colours not o known in the Gladiolus. f these hybrids are charac-by their smallish flowers, fairly widely apart on long, ut very wiry stems. Like small-flowered parent, the majority of Primulinus s have the top petal of each ual floret bent over, form-kind of hood which almost s the stamens and pistil. appearance is exceedingly d graceful, almost as dainty eet Peas, while their form cement on the spike render invaluable for all kinds of decorations. They lend themselves to nd attractive arrangement in vases, and baskets, for which purpose they ch more suitable than the somewhat though massive and imposing large-ng kinds. Apart from a particularly ng form their colours, too, are superb, ing the most wonderful shades imagin-specially beautiful are their soft and tones in orange and salmon, shades we find in no other single species of Those who do not really care for Gladioli (certainly their number is le) will, in all probability, be at-to the Primulinus varieties.

int which augurs well for the future popularity of Primulinus hybrids is their simplicity of culture; all they really need is light and air, ordinary garden soil, and a fair amount of moisture after the flowering spikes appear. Except that they rarely need staking, their culture is the same as for the large-flowering varieties. Almost any open, sunny position in the garden will suit them well. The soil should be prepared early, preferably in the autumn. Dig deeply (12 inches to 18 inches), mixing in well-rotted farmyard or stable manure at the bottom. If animal manure is not available use Wakeley's Hop Manure enriched with a fair dressing of bone-meal. It is advisable to bury the manure at a lower level than the corms are to be planted; their roots will quickly find it when it is needed.

Gladioli in the flower garden

Beautiful effects may be obtained by the dainty Primulinus hybrids and the large-flowered varieties. The corms should be planted within the next few weeks.

Plant the corms 4 inches deep in mid-March, 6 inches between each corm and allowing 18 inches from row to row if planting in rows. Just a little sand or clean ashes placed immediately above and below each corm when planting will prevent rotting and keep them healthy, particularly on heavy soils. In due course the little Tulip-like growths will appear above the surface. Hoe round them as soon as possible and keep the hoe going frequently afterwards. They will not need watering until the flower-spike can be felt in its protecting sheath of sword-like leaves, but then it will be beneficial to give fairly frequent waterings with soft water, keeping the surface of the soil from "caking" by occasional shallow hoeings. Briefly, these are all the cultural points which need trouble the grower of Primulinus hybrids. Like the large-flowering varieties, "Prims." are not hardy; that is, the corms have to be lifted about the end of October, dried off, and stored in some dry, frost-proof place until planting time comes round again.

Although undoubtedly beautiful in any position in the garden, for my part I regard them as excellent subjects for home decoration as cut blooms rather than as bedders. Hence the most convenient method of planting is in rows in the kitchen garden. The different varieties come into bloom at different times from mid-summer until late autumn, thus furnishing a very lengthy flowering period. In cutting the spikes one naturally likes to obtain long stems, but do not injure the bottom four or five leaves in cutting or the future of the plant will be jeopardised. The leaves are the lungs of the plant, and will, if uninjured, help to build up a new corm or corms just on top of the old one shortly after flowering has ceased. For home decoration the spike should be cut early, when the bottom bloom only is open, then practically every bud will open in water in succession. By nipping off the faded flowers and removing small pieces from the bottom of the flower-spikes each day it is quite possible to have a fresh vase or bowl of "Prims." for 10 days or even a fortnight from the same spikes, an advantage which I know will not be overlooked by the flower-lover.

Apart from novelties, Primulinus Hybrid Gladioli are very inexpensive, as a glance at the advertisement columns of Gardening Illustrated will verify, and there are enough colours to satisfy all tastes. There are already a large number of varieties in commerce, although by no means such a confusing multitude as in the larger type. It must not be understood that all "Prims." are exactly alike in size and shape of flower, or even in placement. Some, like Orange Brilliant, are very small in the flower and widely spaced on the stem, others (and these are greatly in the majority) are like Maiden's Blush, widely spaced with a medium-sized bloom, while a few of the newer ones, mainly

of American origin, are fairly large and more closely spaced, although still much nearer the "Prim." type than the larger-flowering kinds. Myra and Orange Queen are typical examples of these.

I cannot hope to mention all varieties, but here are a few which I know to be highly satisfactory and very reliable, and which are also inexpensive.

ALICE TIPLADY.—A soft orange-saffron, almost a self. Pleasing and very decorative.

ALTAIR.—A charming shade of salmon-saffron.

ARGO.—Rose-pink, soft, and rather large-bloomed.

ATALANTA.—A very beautiful salmon, shaded orange.

ATHALIA.—Brilliant orange-scarlet. Most attractive.

BUTTER BOY.—Soft butter-yellow. Vigorous and having large well-shaped blooms.

CITRONELLA.—Very dainty and pleasing. A clean and pure creamy-yellow self.

DAPHNE.—Dazzling vermilion.

HERMIONE.—A great favourite. Orange-salmon.

JEWELL.—A fairly recent introduction. Clear soft salmon with well-defined yellow throat. This will become very popular when better known.

LATONIA.—A charming combination of salmon-pink and yellow.

L'ECAILLON.—Distinct and attractive. Soft salmon with a rosy blotch.

L'EXUETTE.—Cherry-red with large yellow blotches. Striking and distinct.

L'YSER.—Somewhat similar in colour-effect to L'Exuette, but brighter. Orange-scarlet with yellow throat.

MAIDEN'S BLUSH.—Probably the best-known Prim. One of the earliest to be introduced, and still a good one. It is a lovely pink.

MYRA.—Rather large-flowered, but very lovely. Light salmon flushed on a yellow ground.

NIOBE.—Bright orange self.

NYDIA.—Delicate light salmon-rose. A very pretty "Prim."

ORANGE BRILLIANT.—Small, but most beautiful. Orange shaded scarlet and yellow are charmingly blended and give almost a bicolor appearance.

ORANGE QUEEN.—A shade unique in the Gladiolus, warm coppery-orange. This "Prim." appeals to everyone.

ORIENTALE.—Very delicate and pretty. Lemon lightly suffused salmon-rose. Very valuable for decorations.

PSYCHE.—Salmon shaded cerise. Psyche is often used as a table decoration at floral exhibitions.

ROSANDRA.—A really charming shade of rich cerise-pink. Distinct and very beautiful.

ROSE LUISANTE.—Deep rose-pink shaded white.

SALMON BEAUTY.—All who see Salmon Beauty are immediately taken with its beauty. Nothing is lacking in size, colour, form, and placement. It is one of the best of all, possibly *the* best. Delicate salmon suffused on yellow with a yellow throat. A real gem.

SALMONEA. — Salmon flushed glowing orange. Perfectly reliable in every way.

SCARLET CARDINAL.—An extra good intense and glowing scarlet self.

SHELL PINK.—A little more expensive than some, but I include it for it is one of the best "Prims." in existence. The name describes its colour, which is a beautiful tone of shell-pink.

SONIA.—Rather large. A bright light scarlet.

SOUVENIR.—Rich clear yellow, certainly the best yellow "Prim." and one of the least expensive.

SPHINX.—Glowing orange.

VERMILION SCARLET.—A wonderful deep velvety scarlet.

XANTHIA.—This is a variety all should try. The colour is superb. Brilliant pure golden-orange. I recommend Xanthia with confidence.

EAST ANGLIAN.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

London and South of England Viola and Pansy Society

It will be of interest to many of our readers to learn that there has been formed The London and South of England Viola and Pansy Society. At their shows there will be separate classes for bedding Violas as well as for varieties which are grown exclusivel exhibition. One of the objects of the S is to encourage raisers to produce Viol short tufted growth, suitable for bed which, with special cultivation, will pr blooms of good size for the show table. first show will be held on July 19th, 19 connection with the R.H.S. Show at Vi Square. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. Jo Little, "Brent Tor," Brentwood Road, ford, Essex.

Horticultural Fair at Lieguitz

A novelty during the Horticultural F be held at Lieguitz, in East Germany year will be the opening of the new p arium. The show itself will speciali Roses and Dahlias.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Cortaderia argentea pumila

By E. A. BOWLES, M.A., V.M.H.

THIS is the most useful of the many forms of Pampas Grass for small gardens. It is, however, too seldom planted, in spite of its many good qualities. It is the freest

The Dwarf Pampas Grass
Photographed at Myddelton House by R. J. Sills

to flower of any kind I grow, and does not seem affected by unfavourable seasons. It may not be so graceful when the plumes are fresh as the beautifully arched and silky Sunningdale Silver, but if the two are compared after a late November gale, and again after a December snowstorm, the sturdier, dwarfer plant wins hands down. Broken or bent plumes of Pampas Grass have such a dismally dejected appearance that I cut them away as soon as possible after they have been worsted in the battle with winter.

The ordinary forms, both male and female, need every attention in rough seasons before Christmas; but this stiff stemmed form carries on bravely until one begins to find summer plants shooting up to give height in the border alongside it.

I find its plumes average 5 feet 6 inches in height this season, and the leaves are several inches shorter. The old form has only two stems unbroken, and they were once over 8 feet, and their leaves are straggling about on the lawn and will need clipping, or better still, burning off, shortly. Now, in the latter part of February, only a few of the many plumes of the dwarf variet bent as the result of the dreadful gal snowstorms we have had, and the g appearance of the plant is as trim and ing as when my young friend took t companying photograph at the end of N ber.

The habitat of Crocus gargaric

With reference to the description and tration (issue February 19th) of the in ing Crocus gargaricus, the only s flowering species to produce flowers the leaves, Mr. E. A. Bowles, Myd House, Waltham Cross, writes:—

"Please correct on p. 110. Croc garicus comes from Mt. Gargarus, Troad, Asia Minor; nothing to do Troodos, Cyprus; and so save hundr eager Crocus hunters climbing that ra vain."

Erica lusitanica and E. mediterra

I was expecting that the statements by me on the two Heaths alluded to b H. Stuart Thompson (issue February page 108) would arouse interest, but nothing to add to what I have said. If been at home I could have referred notes and given your correspondent further details. This I still hope to some future date. Meanwhile I sha deavour to make some further investig on the spot. I am always alive to the bility of subjects being "suspect."

Hyeres. A. T. JOHN

Valeriana Sitchensis

With reference to recent inquiries it teresting to note that seeds of Va Sitchensis are listed by Mrs. Susan S Cowichan Lake, British Columbia.

F. A

Senecio Greyii in northern gar

The note on Senecio Greyii (issue J 8th, p. 30) called attention to a shrub is certainly not too frequent in norther dens, but I must confess that I was su at Mr. Arnott's statement that he h met with it at all in northern latitudes.

Northern gardeners need have no f the hardiness of this shrub, howeve they will find it a distinct acquisition garden. Like Mr. Arnott, I do no gether like the yellow flowers it prod freely. Somehow they do not harmo well with grey foliage as do the blossoms of Phlomis fruticosa wi foliage of that shrub. Nevertheless, plant well worth growing, and, as Mr.

s out, is attractive at all periods of the

ere are some fine examples of Senecio ii in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edin-n, and it has proved quite hardy in the ckshank Botanic Garden, Old Aberdeen, I think it is represented in the Glasgow nic Gardens.

pagation of this shrub is readily effected ttings, and I find these may root in a frame. Heel cuttings removed and in-l in September will make nice young s by the following spring.

e remarks which have been made with d to Senecio Greyii apply with equal to S. laxifolius, a species similar in ap-nce, but quite distinct from S. Greyii. species has also proved hardy in Aber-and is in cultivation at Edinburgh also.

ROBERT H. JEFFERS.

ickshank Botanic Garden, Old Aberdeen.

rden on the shores of the Lower St. Lawrence River

ave recently become a subscriber to ENING ILLUSTRATED and find it most sting and helpful. It may interest you now that I have a large garden nial) on the shores of the Lower St. ence River. This garden is part of our er home, to which we go for the three mmer months—June, July, and August. and is under snow from about Novem-t to May 1st, with a temperature lower that of Petrograd, Russia, and the d cannot be worked till about May 15th. e rapidity with which the flowers come er that date is such that I have masses om from about June 15th till end of nber, after which date I do not strive oom as we are not there. Lupins are my earliest flowers, and I have quan-of them. Various Roses (Hybrid Teas), and all from Alex. Dickson, Belfast, ome through the winters successfully, my garden is the only one I know of t part of Canada to achieve the same re of success in this respect.

L. FRANCIS.

tmount, Montreal, Canada.

Salvia chamædryoides

interesting little shrubby plant does pear to be very well known, yet it is of the attention of those who like mon plants on their rock gardens. It a low bush rarely exceeding 18 inches ght, and during late summer and early n is freely studded with white-throated, urple flowers.

ame through the past two winters here in Sussex, so that its hardiness appear to be assured, at least, south don.

E. M.

Does fruit growing pay?

his letter a well-known Kentish fruit ver, who has taken many prizes for les at the Imperial Fruit Shows of t years, gives readers the benefit of ell-considered and valuable experience

our very interesting paper of late have eared several letters on the subject oes Fruit Growing Pay? "

aps a few random thoughts from one as 120 acres to 130 acres of fruit on nay be of value.

season fruit growing most certainly pay here in Kent. We were £3,500 n our takings compared with the pre-season, and another such year would us seriously to think. But "hope eternal in the human breast," and we are expecting this season to have better fortune.

Fruit growing is no easy road, as so many folk think, to paying super-tax. It means working and waiting, hard work and worry. But it is a fascinating life to the man who loves his work.

Also, old methods have got to go by the board. Good fruit, clean and sound, well packed in boxes and barrels, is the demand to-day of the best markets. Second-rate stuff gives no adequate return, for labour spent the year round, to the grower, and no satisfaction to the salesman to receive the same for disposal.

Fruit must be graded. We make three sorts—specials, firsts, and seconds—of our Apples. The rest are sent to jam factories. In 1925 we sent 60 tons of the last-named away during the season.

I quite think that in time we shall have to establish packing stations, to which each grower will find it more remunerative to send his fruit than to find markets for himself, on the same lines as the Canadian and U.S.A. Apples now reach our shores.

A farm, however large, cannot continue to follow up consignments of one grade for a very long period; but a district combining together could do this quite easily.

Also, far too many varieties are grown for market in England. About five or six cooking Apples, Bramley's, Lane's, Newton's, Derbys, Grenadiers, and, say, Victorias, for early work, are plenty, and the pick of the basket.

The best market dessert Apples are James Grieve, Miller's Seedling (a good Apple, but little known), Worcester Pearmain, Allington (for some reason does not sell to advantage), and Cox's Orange (where soil suits that variety).

I do not think your correspondent "T.M." would make a great success selling his dessert list of Apples in the open market. A dessert Apple to sell to-day must have a good colour and appearance.

With regard to keeping Apples. We have done this and kept them into March and then put them on to the market. But it is a very moot point whether it really pays the grower of large quantities to keep many until the New Year. There is the question of cost in storing and looking over the fruit during the winter. The handling so many times all means money, and we have found that to barrel straight away from foot of ladder, when prices are, say, 18s. to 22s. per cwt., the most remunerative in the long run.

In a small way a man can put away, but with large quantities storage is a problem that has to be faced.

"Does Fruit Growing Pay?" Yes, in a series of years, given the right man and right methods, is the opinion of B. J. M.

A selection of Apples

In reply (issue February 19th, page 108) to Mr. J. D. Pearson, of Lowdham, he has hit the nail on the head about the Cox's Orange Pippin. In the first place, it should be planted near Lord Derby, this being the Apple distributing the greatest amount of pollen. When seen in some of our big London stores at 10s. 6d. and 12s. 6d. per dozen fruits about Christmas time it makes the novice think that there is nothing like Cox's Orange Pippin. From experience I claim Joybells and Superb as being the two best-flavoured Apples. Both of them, especially the former, crop well, are of good colour, and both keep well until February. There are other good fruits, as Ellison's Orange, Herring's Pippin, St. Everard, Exquisite, James Grieve, Lord Lambourne, Allington Pippin, and last, but by no means least, King of the Pippins and Blenheim Orange, these last two to be retained on the trees until November. *Re* cooking Apples, what a lovely lot to look at: S. T. Wright, Charles Ross, Rev. W. Wilks, Cox's Pomona, Lord Derby, Lord Grosvenor, Cellini Pippin, and many others.

I quite agree with Mr. Pearson about Court Pendu Plat, or the Wise Apple. I have also seen Sturmer Pippin (which we do very well in the south) labelled Cox's Orange Pippin. I can also compliment Mr. Smyth with regard to his opinion about American and Colonial Apples. There are no Apples to come up to the English for flavour. Two of the varieties he sent are good and keep well, viz., Ribston and Allington. I wish that more were grown and our people at home here would go in for fruit culture more and plant varieties that will do well and pollinate one another freely, not only with Apples, but all varieties of fruit.

Wimbledon. F.R.H.S.

Profitable fruit growing

Advice is a cheap commodity regarding planting for profitable fruit growing. I think the best chances of getting a profitable return is by planting early and late varieties and leaving the Christmas trade to the foreigner. Being a shopkeeper, I notice very poor trade at this season for our own grown produce. But Apples from the end of August, including some of the improved Keswick family, Derbys and Grosvenor, make good prices and come on the market when rare. They are good bearers, and reliable croppers. Later, Bramley's, Lane's, and one or two others come in after the glut is over, and keep well. Above all, do not have too many varieties, but keep to a few good saleable proved kinds.

WILLIAM REYNARD.

Near Harrogate.

INDOOR PLANTS

Improved Gloxinias

FEW plants have been more improved of late years than Gloxinias. Instead of the small flimsy blooms which we used to see, we now have large flowers of great substance, and exquisite in colour and marking. The improvement, too, great as it is, has not been confined to increasing the size and stoutness; it has fortunately taken another turn and given us erect flowers—an immense gain, as instead of their beauty being hidden, it is now well displayed to view. At one time Gloxinias were only to be met with in summer, but now that more attention has been given to them and their cultivation, they may be had at almost any season, as, by sowing at different periods and raising fresh plants, it is an easy matter to keep up a constant succession. Named sorts can only be kept true by being propagated from leaves. When struck from leaves it is necessary for them to be fully grown and firm, as when in a soft state they are apt to damp off or rot before they have time to heal and form a bulb at the foot of the stalk. The way in which leaves should be managed is to take them off and insert them in sandy peat round the edge of a pot, which should then be plunged in another a little larger and filled round with Moss, or set in a pan and covered with a bell-glass till they root. To induce them to do this they must have brisk heat, a shady shelf near the light in a stove being a good position for them, as also after they are struck and got to rest, when they should be left intact in the soil till the beginning of the year or later; after that they may be shaken out and potted, as wanted, for starting, but they must be sparingly watered till they get plenty of foliage to take it up and convert it to use. As to soil, nothing answers better than fibrous loam and leaf-soil, with a little rotten

cow manure and sand, in which mixture they should be potted somewhat firmly in 6-inch pots, a size sufficiently large, with good feeding, to accommodate neat specimens, as they do not require much room. To get the plants to be of real service and fit to stand in a greenhouse or room, they must not be grown in much heat, from 60 degs. to 70 degs. being quite enough, in which temperature they will make stout, sturdy foliage and flowers that do not flag through a change from the stove.

GLOXINIAS FROM SEED succeed well. The first sowing may be made as early as January, but the seedlings got up at that time of year require careful watching to prevent them from damping. Before putting the seed in it is necessary to be particular in the preparation of the pots or pans, which should be well drained and filled with very fine light soil made level and smooth on the top, and when this is done it ought to be watered and left for a few hours to settle. The seed should then be scattered thinly and regularly over, but not covered, except by having a pane of glass over to prevent evaporation. By thus keeping the air close and moist the seed will soon germinate, after which the pan containing the young plants should be stood on a light shelf in the stove close to the glass, and have only just water enough given by sprinkling to keep the soil moist. As soon as the seedlings get large enough to handle it will be necessary to prick them off, which may be done in shallow pans, and if damped by syringing, after that their growth will be rapid. Before they get crowded they should be potted singly into 3-inch pots, and as soon as they have filled these with roots, shifted into 6-inch ones, which, as observed above, are large enough for them to stand in and bloom. During summer almost any ordinary pit or frame answers for growing Gloxinias, as they may be stood on temporary shelves or on a floor of coal-ashes, and after being syringed, shut up early, so as to secure sufficient heat from the sun. What injures the plants more than anything is a dry atmosphere, which brings on red-spider and thrips, insects which soon spoil the foliage by turning it brown. Old plants may soon be started, but the best way is to bring on a few at a time and to depend on the seedlings to keep up a succession.

Conservatory plants

This is a good season for renewing borders where permanent subjects are planted out. With the constant raking of the borders, unless the tool is handled intelligently, the fibre in the soil works to the top and is raked off and taken away, to the injury of the plants, and in adding top-dressings of loam and peat the soil should contain all the fibre usually found therein. There is always some danger when top-dressing borders in raising the soil too much above the collar of the plants, especially Camellias, Oranges, and other hard-wooded subjects. Some years ago I was shown a collection of hard-wooded plants planted in a conservatory that were losing tone and colour, and there was some doubt as to the cause. It appeared upon examination that the border during the course of several years had settled, and the soil was made up from time to time, and the stems of the plants were buried in some instances more than 6 inches in the ground. When the plants were lifted and the borders made up under them they recovered. I mention this to show the evil of deep planting, or when borders are loosely put together, and to meet the waste of settlement making up round the stems of the plants. We may bury the stems of some soft-wooded plants without injury, but hard-wooded plants will certainly die. One never has too many white flowers. Fortunately, with Spiræas, Lilacs, Deutzias, Azaleas, Lily of the Valley, Rhododendrons, and Trumpet Lilies there is not likely to be any scarcity. In potting Lilies it is best to keep the bulbs pretty well down in the pots, especially the lancifolium section, which roots strongly on the surface and is much improved by top-dressing. Groups of the best form of Narcissus, including Poeticus ornatus, are very beautiful just now, but they will be over in the conservatory in a few days now. Where they have been quite cold, Dielytras make a very interesting group when placed thickly over Pteris cretica albo-lineata. Double white Chinese Primulas should be top-dressed with sandy peat to reach up the stems, and be mossed down to induce roots to form in the top-dressing before cutting the plants up to make a new start. Tea Roses are lovely now. Under glass they are very bright and fresh. Cuttings of the young wood, with or without a heel, will root now in bottom heat. C. P.

Acacia dealbata

Anyone acquainted only with this beautiful pinnate-leaved Acacia as grown in pots, can form no conception of the magnificent display which a large tree of it makes when in full bloom. The specimen under notice reaches almost to the roof, and the beautiful golden flower-balls hang in large masses from all parts of the tree, so that whether viewed at a little distance off, or near at hand, the greater part of the flowers are brought under the eye at once. Besides dealbata, several other species of Acacia are rapidly approaching the flowering stage, and are infinitely superior to small, starved specimens in pots.

FRUIT GARDEN

Fig trees on the south coast

THE Fig flourishes where the salt-laden atmosphere renders the cultivation of other fruits precarious, for unless shelter be provided from the fierce wind-waving, to which they are so incessantly subjected, they are but short-lived; while the Fig grows on and attains the dimensions of a forest tree. In point of age, too, I question if we have any trees in this locality of such ancient date as the Fig; trees of it in this parish have stems larger than a man's body and a spread of branches that covers a large area, while large luscious fruits may be counted in the autumn by hundreds. It is singular how the extraordinary fertility of the Fig and its freedom from disease have been overlooked even in places particularly favourable to its culture; in such localities no attempt is made to turn Fig culture to profitable account on any systematic plan; nevertheless, the trees seldom fail to produce fruit, although neither pruned nor trained. In fact, the most fruitful trees I have ever seen have had their roots in the hard-trodden soil of back-yards; under such conditions, the growth made is short and stubby and well ripened, and very rarely is any damage sustained from frost. Judging from appearances, the majority of our old Fig trees have originally been planted against walls, but from long neglect have grown away from them and spread out into broad heads; in most cases the buildings have long ago been removed, leaving the trees standing as landmarks, thus showing that Figs were held in higher estimation a century or so ago than now, for until the last few years these luscious fruits had been most unaccountably neglected; thanks, however, to the increased interest taken in fruit culture, the Fig has come in for its share of attention. As a forced fruit it is well grown, but my present tention is merely to point out what a valu fruit the Fig is for open-air culture, e as a wall tree or more especially as an o bush or standard. It grows freely in kind of soil, even where it is poor and st on the south and west coasts, where quent gales are the great enemy of the dener, the Fig luxuriates and produces crops. As a market fruit, the Fig well pays the cultivator; and, I believe, if an would plant some of the newer early ripe kinds, so as to get fruit earlier than now do, it would prove a good investm As far as I have seen, the sorts grown a here consist nearly all of three or fo the oldest kinds, notably Brown Tu White Marseilles, and the Green Ischia excellent kinds; but some like Negro L Castle Kennedy, and others that have o become so popular for forcing, would bably do equally well in the open a the coasts of Sussex, Hants, and southern counties; at least I feel sure anyone giving them a trial would be repaid. We follow each other too muc fruit culture, as in other branches of ga ing, and while attributing our failure climate we do not turn the advantages we enjoy to the best account. If Figs duce such an abundance of fruit with or no attention, let us try them under and intelligent culture, and see what w the result. WORTHING GROW

Syringing Vines and Peache

With the starting of vineries and of houses there comes every year the vexed tion of syringing. Many excellent gr insist that, in order to maintain rods trees in good health, the syringe must be twice daily. Others, equally succe maintain that the use of the syringe is n a fetish—or, at least a survival from the in which the arid heat from old-fash flues in vinery or Peach house rendere syringe indispensable. While I am a herent of the syringe, I am not suffic bigoted to admit that probably the truth lie between the two extremes. If Vi Peach trees can be kept clean and h without the use of the syringe it is c a saving of time to dispense with it. other hand, there are houses in whic their structural character, it may be i sible to keep down aphides or red without a free use of the syringe. In case no man, under whichever school received his training, would have a mi doubt as to which course to pursue. journeyman days, in two successive pla worked under adherents to the di methods. In the first place the houses syringed until they resembled dripping twice daily. In addition, the evapo troughs in the vineries were kept re full, and the atmosphere, naturally, wa stantly moist. The grapes were very all respects—size of bunch, size of berr in flavour. The foliage was health robust, but the high temperature, co with the constant moisture, resulted sightly bunches of air roots at every j the rods. In the second place the was taboo, and the moisture afford merely damping down the borders a gangways about mid-day. Yet in this too, the severest critic could take no tion to the crops produced, while the were equally healthy. One difference ever, was very plain to me, and that Vines treated upon the "dry" syste free from the objectionable air roots. young man, anxious to know "the w the wherefore" of everything, I am admit that the sharp divergence of between two equally successful puzzled me not a little. W

ORCHIDS

Cattleyas

UFFICIENT has been stated in recent articles to prove that Orchids are not for the millionaire alone, but it is advisable point out that Cattleyas and their allies not be obtained quite so cheaply as ripedium insigne or Odontoglossum pum; still, nice flowering plants can be ained from half-a-guinea.

he exceptional beauty of the Cattleya ion has made this genus of great horti- ural importance, and is certainly not sur- sed by any other branch of the Orchid ily, with the possible exception of the ntoglossums.

he genus Cattleya was dedicated in the y part of the nineteenth century to Mr. liam Cattley, of Barnet. He was one of first amateurs to form a collection of e plants, and he possessed many of the st kinds then known, which were im- ted from tropical America, but it is inter- ng to note that all were found at fairly n altitudes, many being collected at be- en 2,000 feet and 8,500 feet above sea- l.

he average mean temperature of the dis- t from which these plants were obtained bout 50 degs. to 60 degs. F., but at times s to over 100 degs. F.

n recent years very few Cattleyas have n imported, the reason for this being that ny thousands of hybrids have been raised, they are improvements in size, shape, or ur, and have a much stronger constitu- than the natural species.

hese handsome flowers may be had in a e range of colours—purple, violet, mauve, ison, rose, white, and yellow, with inter- liate shades; in nearly all cases the lip is deeper, richer colour than the sepals and ls.

o grow these plants successfully the first ntial is a light, airy greenhouse that can ntain a night temperature of 55 degs. F. ndly, clean staging, pots, and crocks. en potting, the pots should be nearly half- d with crocks and best Osmunda-fibre ped into about 1-inch lengths, together n a little Sphagnum Moss, keeping the e as nearly vertical as possible. Some vers omit the fibre. Plants should be ed when young roots appear at the base he last-made bulb.

hen potting, work from the plant to the e of the pot, and pot as firmly as possi- having the base of the plant and the top he fibre level with the edge of the pot.

uring the season of growth plants should watered once or twice a week. This de- ls on the season of the year, as, naturally, ts dry out more quickly in the summer e.

he staging should be damped once a day provide a moist atmosphere, and in the mer time this should be done two or three s a day if possible. After flowering, ss new growth has commenced, the ts require a season of rest, and until new vth commences should be kept on the dry , but never allowing the plants to become -dry.

rtificial manure should never be used; it n fact, injurious to the roots. Shading ld be applied during the summer months, should never be very heavy if blinds are l; those should be let down about 9 a.m. pulled up about 5 p.m.

ith regard to pests, it is only really neces- to mention scab, and this may be easily licated with the use of a tooth-brush ed in methylated spirit. Scab should r be allowed to obtain a firm hold, as it the strength of plants and makes them unsightly.

ARTHUR T. SUTTON.

Cattleya Fabianid

Exhibited by Messrs. Sutton Bros. at the Autumn Orchid Meeting

Cattleya Fabianid

THE illustration, unfortunately, does not convey any idea of the size of the flowers of this plant, each flower measuring 5½ inches across the petals.

This fine hybrid, as its name implies, is the result of a cross between C. Fabia and C. Enid. It was raised at Blenheim Palace, and was first exhibited in 1916, when it was considered one of the triumphs of hybridising. It is of a light rosy-mauve shade and a fine rich lip of a much deeper colour.

A Chat on Sweet Peas

Wireless talk broadcast by Mr. Charles W. J. Unwin from the London and Daventry Stations of the B.B.C. on February 15th. Published in response to requests from readers and by permission of the British Broadcasting Corporation

I AM talking to you to-night about a flower with which you are all familiar, but before passing on to cultural details I may say it is not my intention to confine my remarks to the minority of listeners, who already have had a fairly considerable experience in growing Sweet Peas, but to endeavour to assist beginners and those who may never have grown them.

A writer in a recent number of a horticultural journal evidently shares my own opinion that cultural molehills transformed into mountains have, in the past, given many would-be growers a wrong impression. He says, "It does appear to me that there is less silly twaddle written about them than formerly." In this connection I repeat a statement which I broadcast from 2LO 3½ years ago, for it is as true now as it was then—"Don't be frightened by elaborate cultural instructions. If you can grow culinary Peas or Runner Beans you can grow Sweet Peas." Once you have realised the simple needs of the flower, its likes and dislikes, success is almost sure to follow. If there is a flower which can be called "foolproof" that flower is the Sweet Pea. I am aware that culture for keen competition is an elaborate business, but to the ordinary flower-lover requiring good blooms and plenty of them for garden and home decoration the Sweet Pea is a subject which will almost take care of itself. Last season, about mid-May I turned out a few spare pots of spring-sown plants on waste ground on the edge of a ditch and thought no more about them. Some of them lived, and one day in the early autumn I saw them again flowering splendidly right in the middle of a healthy bed of Nettles; indeed, they had the audacity to use the Nettles for supports. I cut a bunch there and then, for although I had plenty of finer blooms, I loved those little flowers for their triumph under what one would have considered an impossible handicap.

I heard it said publicly the other day that "town dwellers should not grow Sweet Peas," and am tempted to say, "Why not?" In some instances soil, situation, and atmospheric disadvantages may obviously be too great for Sweet Peas to overcome, but I would hesitate to make such a sweeping assertion as that quoted. Don't misunderstand me, bad conditions will not produce the best results in any flower, but I have known many cases where Sweet Peas have given a great deal of pleasure in town gardens, even when grown in large boxes.

A gardening friend writing me a few days ago used these words, "The gardening season is almost with us again; actually it is ever with us, for a gardener's work is never finished. He must needs prepare for future crops in the winter, and I think we look forward with pleasant anticipation to whatever may be in store for us." We look forward with pleasant anticipation. Yes, there is the key to the appeal which gardening makes, an appeal almost invariably waxing stronger with successive seasons. Nearly half its pleasure lies in preparation and anticipation. Flowers we buy do not seem to give the joy which we have in those of our own growing; ours may not be of such fine quality, but they are really ours, the result of our own efforts.

Sweet Peas are one of the most popular flowers in this great gardening age, when their culture is a hobby or pastime enjoyed

by many, many thousands who have the necessary time and garden space. I know figures are rather dry, but just to illustrate how popular they have become I may, perhaps, surprise you with the fact that somewhere between 600 tons and 800 tons of Sweet Pea seed are sold annually in various parts of the world, representing a rough total of between 200 and 300 million packets. Perhaps this conveys little, so I will put it another way. If all this seed could be sown in one long row that row would stretch upwards of 250,000 miles. If these figures show nothing else, they do prove that there must be something very attractive about such a flower, and there is.

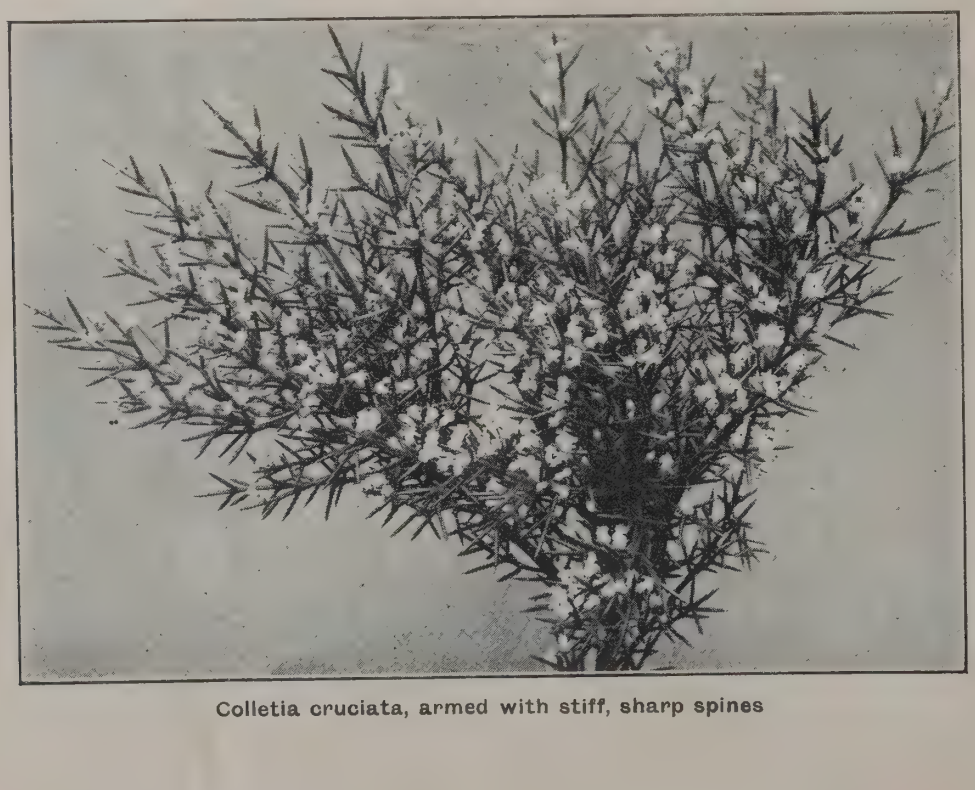
All flowers are beautiful, some more pleasing or more valuable than others. In the floral world we have a state of affairs comparable to the ever-changing fashion in ladies' apparel. True, our tastes do not change so rapidly, but they do change, as it were, with the times. In my opinion the Sweet Pea is peculiarly suited to the tastes and requirements of the average amateur gardener of to-day. In the first place, it is inexpensive, very easily grown, and will succeed in almost any soil or situation. It is remarkably free-flowering, its blooming period extending not for weeks, but for months. Its main charm, however, lies in its dainty, butterfly-like lightness, lending itself, as it does, to easy and effective indoor decoration. We call it the Sweet Pea, and in spite of all that has been said and written to the contrary, our modern Sweet Peas are *sweet* Sweet Peas still, possessing a rare and charming degree of fragrance, if not quite the same heavy perfume of the old-time flowers. Sweet Peas are remarkably free from pests and diseases, and we have no other flower in which a little extra care and attention on the part of the grower is so richly rewarded. Like many other popular flowers, the Sweet Pea has been greatly improved during the past decade. This work of improvement is still going on, and although I dare not prophesy as to what the future may hold, I am none the less confident that there is an even greater future in store for this floral favourite.

Now for culture. Success turns very largely on the correct preparation of the soil. This should be done early, deeply, and liberally. I strongly advocate an autumn preparation of the soil, especially if it is on the heavy side. The position of the Sweet Pea plot should not be shaded from the sun by trees or buildings, nor should it be liable to water-logging. Quite good results may be expected if you just dig the soil over, at the same time turning in a liberal dressing of well-decayed manure, as for any ordinary vegetable crop. Only on light, well-drained soils would I advise trenching at this time of the year, for in many instances it would only mean wasted effort. If you do trench, use well-decayed manure, and keep it 9 inches under the surface. If you have them, mix bone-meal and wood-ashes throughout the trench, about a handful of each to the yard run, and should the ground be light and spongy tread it down as the work proceeds, for Sweet Peas like a firm soil. I purposely refrain from details of soil preparation, but to the inexperienced I would say, "Leave your soil more or less as it is this year if you have not yet moved it, but make up your mind now to prepare it early, deeply, and liberally next winter." A very large proportion of my own Sweet Peas are transplanted every year on to ploughed land, with no manure at all except, perhaps, a dressing of bone-meal. Beyond sticking and an occasional hoeing they receive no further attention, but, as a rule, they reach a height of about 6 feet.

Now, as regards sowing the seeds. Just as the autumn preparation of the soil is advisable, so almost invariably an autumn sowing produces the best results; another hint for beginners to remember. I do not imply that it is useless to sow Sweet Peas now, far from it. Three times as much seed is still sown in the spring as in the autumn, and success may be confidently expected from sowings made during the next fortnight. I advise you to obtain seeds of good quality; the very best are inexpensive. It is also much more interesting to grow the named varieties rather than mixtures, choosing colours to suit your own taste. Provided weather and soil conditions are suitable, you may sow right out of doors now with comparative safety; on the other hand, it is a safer and more economical method to sow in pots or boxes in a cold frame or cold greenhouse. Taking the latter method first, any ordinary garden soil that is sufficiently porous will do for a potting medium, mixing in silver sand if it should be too clingy. Place crocks in the bottoms of the pots or boxes and sow the seeds ½ inch deep. If the soi fairly moist there may be no need to wa until germination has taken place. Ap from faulty seeds, the chief cause of Sw Peas failing to germinate is too much m ture in the potting soil. Under such co tions, particularly in cold weather, many the thin-skinned varieties, whites, crea lavenders, blues, and mauves, will rea rot. Those who do not possess a cold fra or greenhouse may easily make shift wit box and a pane or two of glass, or, fail this, may germinate the seeds indo There is only one effective way to ob sturdy and hardy seedlings, whatever met you adopt, and this is to give them perfe hardy open-air treatment and all the li and air possible immediately they app through the soil, protecting them only du very wet or frosty weather. Don't "cod them in any shape or form, or the result be long, thin, weedy-looking specimens fit to transplant. Oh, by the way, it is visable to set a break-back trap or two on of the pots or boxes, for mice are particul fond of Sweet Pea seeds.

In sowing out of doors make drills wit hoe as you would for Carrot seeds, ab 2 inches deep. Allow 2 inches between e seed and thin the plants out later to 4 in or 6 inches apart. The end of this mont the beginning of next is usually favour for outdoor sowings. My time is get short and I can only deal with transplan very briefly. In transplanting, do not o look the value of Sweet Peas for ga decoration; they are very useful when as screens to ugly outhouses, walls, fen etc. Clumps are more artistic than r and are formed by planting the seedling circles 18 inches to 2 feet in diameter, si eight plants to each clump. It is advis to allow a separate colour to each clu choosing colours which will harmonise their immediate surroundings. There many positions in nearly every garden w clumps of Sweet Peas will admirably When transplanting in rows allow 4 inch 6 inches between each plant, suppo them immediately with short twigs and ing old soot or lime (not both) round to g against slugs. Later, when rapid gr commences, give them their permanent ports, sticks, netting, canes, or whatever decide to use. Hoe frequently, and abou end of May apply a surface mulch of horse litter, spent Hops, or something lar to conserve the moisture. In the m of July and onwards, if you have time to the plants an occasional watering and ing, it will produce better blooms ov longer period, but guard against over-fe and over-watering or you may literally them with kindness.

In concluding, may I take this opport of wishing all listeners who grow Sweet an interesting and enjoyable season.



Colletia cruciata, armed with stiff, sharp spines

Colletia cruciata

THIS is one of the most curious striking of all hardy shrubs. It be to the same natural order as the I thorns (Rhamnaceæ).

The plant is covered with stiff, sharp s triangular in shape and borne in pairs, pair at right angles to those above an low. The leaves are small and some wanting, and the flowers inconspicuous yellowish-white in colour, arranged sing in pairs, occasionally just under the spir

There are two distinct forms of the p the other has long, flattish, much th spines. Sometimes the two are mixe one branch. It will grow up to 10 fe height, forming a loose, straggling bush

The native country of this interesting is Uruguay, from whence it was introd about 1824. D. I

Clematis on old farmhouse near Wrexham

NE of the most graceful and quickly growing, showy spring creepers, hardy and easily grown, is the familiar Clematis montana, which, when once established, grows spreads with lightning rapidity, pushing its way everyre and bursting out into festoons of snowy blossoms each as spring comes round. It is one of the best and most ul of showy creepers for quickly covering and hiding ugly ctures and broken trees, or draping a verandah, as the ys of blossom hang in long and graceful festoons. There scarcely anything more showy or beautiful than this Clematis in full flower, and in May or June, in many a country village, one comes across farm or cottage covered and made beautiful with its snowy blooms. It will grow almost anywhere, and one of its attractive points is its extremely rapid growth. The farm near Evesham, where our illustration was obtained, was off a by-road, but the luxuriance of the graceful creeper attracted the attention of all the passers-by. It needs very little attention except to curb its growth, or it will soon get beyond control, but judicious cutting will help all the more and add to the luxuriance of its bloom.

A London Front Garden

There are scores of beautiful little gardens in London, and happily they are increasing in numbers. One of the best we have seen is illustrated on the page opposite. In the following article the owner, Mr. H. Lowe, of Herne Hill, tells how a barren waste was transformed to a well-filled flower garden

FIVE years ago I was among the fortunates in obtaining a house on the Camberwell Borough Council Estate, and, much to my regret, at that time the house had an extensive front garden which was entirely covered with Bramble, Convolvulus, and weeds of every description.

In the spring of the following year I made up my mind to transform this barren waste, so with pick and shovel I dug to a depth of 3 feet all over, and after six months' perseverance I found that my labour had not been in vain.

The time now came to fill my garden with flowers, and I could see that, in order to make any show at all, if I purchased my stock annually it would be a very expensive business, so I considered the making of a cold frame.

After I had built this frame I had no idea how to raise seedlings, but, determined to make a show, I purchased gardening papers, read them with keen interest, obtained ideas and very valuable information, and from that time onwards I have made GARDENING ILLUSTRATED my weekly information bureau.

During my five years of amateur gardening I have learned a great deal, and taking note of suggestions made to me, my ambition has been obtained, inasmuch as I endeavour to grow all my plants from seed, and interest myself from germination to decay.

Many admirers of my front garden have questioned me regarding the blending of colours. Experience has taught me that there is no such thing in Nature; we need only refer to the countryside, where Nature plants her own.

The colour of one plant lends itself to another, and a garden set in an arrangement of colours is too formal and artificial; very pleasing at first sight, but after it has been seen the admirer has no specific desire to see it again unless he has ambitions to grow a special plant contained in that colour scheme bed.

Another point of note is that of grouping. This system is satisfactory from a professional's point of view where he has extensive hot-houses and is able to replace the groups as the plants finish their flowering season, but from an amateur's standpoint, where no hot-houses are concerned the border system cannot be beaten, provided they are arranged in order of season and not overcrowded, which is an outstanding fault among amateurs. The foundation-stone of productiveness is the adoption of reliable seeds, and I rely upon "Carter's," as I have found that germination is of a high standard and the results are always to name.

In making a general statement, my experience has taught me to make good use of half-hardy annuals, such as the Ten-week Stock, Aster, Sweet Scabious, Clarkia, Godetia, and annual Chrysanthemum, all of which can be sown in the open ground from March onwards and will bloom from July until the frost.

The favourite flower in any garden is the glorious Gladioli, which should be grown by every amateur, and if the collection is chosen scrupulously bloom can be obtained from the end of June until the frost, *e.g.*, Mrs. Willbrink, Prince of Wales, Glory of Holland, and War. There are many other varieties, including Loveliness and L'Immaculé, which are not only a decoration to the garden, but useful for bouquets and show work.

The Antirrhinum is also a very favourable flower for a London garden. It is easily grown, and the varieties are so great that that alone in a garden is an essence of beauty. The plants bloom freely from early July until they are cut down by the frost.

A beautiful garden is the result of hard work, and unless constant efforts are used in attending to the growth of plants it is useless attempting to make an effective garden.

My garden, as illustrated, is now in its sixth year, and I contend that where a vacant space exists a flower should be grown.

H. LOWE.

99, Red Post Hill,
Herne Hill, S.E. 24.

Useful annuals for outdoor sowing

Asters

WHY do most gardeners, in contemplating the culture of Asters, think of them in terms of tender plants to be raised in pans in the warmth of a greenhouse? It is not the only way, however, as, if seed is sown on a warm border in a little prepared soil of loam and leaf mould about the middle of May, the seeds will germinate quite well, and plants as a result of that sowing will bloom by September, when the flowers are appreciated. I write from experience in this direction. Sow seeds early indoors, if blossoms are wanted early, but for an autumn display I have had good results from an outdoor sowing in May.

Jacobeas

I would recommend Jacobeas (also known as Senecios) to those who have not hitherto grown them as being very showy hardy annuals that may be sown in the poorest of soil, if need be, and will give satisfaction if only the sun can reach them. Amongst the colours are those bearing crimson, rose and white, and purple flowers. Though allied to that family which is the bane of all gardeners—Groundsel—it is not one which gives trouble, but rather contributes to the beauty of the garden. Jacobeas are very effective when sown in masses of one colour. Seed can be sown during April and May, and will provide a feast of colour from July for many weeks.

Eschscholtzias

Present-day strains of Eschscholtzias are noted for their brilliant colourings, and amongst hardy annuals whose flowers are of service for cutting few are easier grown. Seeds can be sown in the open ground where plants are wanted to bloom, and as they do not shift very well they should be sown thinly. They are dwarf, and the pleasing thread-like foliage enhances them. A sandy loam suits them admirably, but the position should be a sunny one. Flowers are produced with wonderful profusion, but if wanted for vase decoration should be cut early in the day when in the bud stage. Those who desire to keep their rooms gay with cut flowers in the coming summer ought not to overlook a sowing of Eschscholtzias. Yellow, crimson, orange and flame are some of the colours of these very showy annuals.

Calendulas

Very showy are the blooms of Calendulas (pot Marigolds), and are worthy of the attention of all lovers of cut flowers, as call for little culture beyond providing with ordinary garden soil, which can, if heavy, be made light with a little coarse Sow seed where plants are wanted to b but allow plenty of room for develop 9 inches apart being none too much. I of Orange and Lemon Queen are two best. Seed can be sown in March or and from this sowing plants will give m of bloom.

Salpiglossis

This is a very charming annual, an the preceding is most useful for cuttin indoor decoration. It, unfortunately, often regarded as being outside the sc anyone except the owner of a green who is able to sow seeds in light February or March, and by gradual grow them on until plants can be g of doors towards the end of May. C sowing, too, may be practised, and if got in by the end of May, in light soi sunny border, and plants put out quently in a warm position, the shaped, richly-coloured flowers will very long after those raised from raised plants. LEAHU

Dianthus Spencer Bickha

This is one of the neatest and p of the dwarf pinks, and surpassed other plant in the genus in vivid colouring and density of bloom. It neat tufts 2 inches high, from which numerous flower stems, each bearing more fine rose pink blossoms fully in diameter. The outer margins are notched, which give the individual pretty effect.

When the plant is in good hea flowers are so numerous as to co hide the leaves.

It grows in very dense, crowded tu there is a bright, glistening look at all seasons which makes it attra

The plant thrives in the rock ga slightly elevated spots or fissures rocks closely packed with gritty l

It may also be grown successfully face of an old wall by first starting very small plant and fixing it firm deep, earthy chink with good mat

The plant should be frequen dressed with sandy material, and a of limestone chippings can be plac and about the plant to keep the gro and provide the plants with nouris

Cuttings root freely if pressed fi sandy soil in a cold frame. These planted in selected positions in th when each plant may be expecte duce a flower spike under good cul

The flower stems, unless sec quired, should be removed as soo flower is faded and, if necess watered. H. S

Early flowering Scill

The following species of Scillas a flower. The earliest seems to be the brightest of all hardy bulbo Next in point of earliness is the w S. sibirica. There is also a new this Squill well worthy of a spe it is named ucranica, and is said to more robust, and of even a richer the original. Another uncommon flower is Scilla puschkinioides, w ever, is not a very showy plant cidedly not so pretty as Puschkini notica, after which it is presumab The flowers are loosely arrang spikes; each is about the size of piece, and of a pale porcelain-blu flowering in an unheated frame.

A Herne Hill Reader's Garden

Garden facing south
Motor buses pass this spot and the front garden is a source of pleasure to all passengers

Garden facing north
Surrounded by a low fence, the garden is seen by thousands who pass on their way to the Congregational Church

General effect
The trees across the road make a pleasing background

Bed of Stocks and Asters
interspersed with large-flowered Gladioli

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Apricots

Some kind of protection must now be given as the buds are swelling freely, and with the sunshine gaining power each day south walls become quite warm, and thus we get a number of expanded flowers very suddenly, and it is advisable to be prepared beforehand with any frame work required. A good plan is to erect coping-boards about 2 feet wide near the top of the wall, and if these are fixed to skeleton iron bearings permanently adjusted the boards may be secured to them by thumb-screws, which will facilitate their easy removal when the flowering period is over. From the boards to the earth light stakes may be fixed to keep the nets or tiffany from being blown into the trees. These nets should be used at least treble in thickness and suspended from the outer edge of the sloping board. The same applies to early Peaches growing in the open.

Newly planted trees

These should now be securely staked, for the soil has by this time settled down, and wherever cracking is seen it will be advisable to prick over the surface and apply a mulch of litter.

Figs

The pruning and tying on walls must now be completed, and all those unripened growths which have been damaged by frosts cut away. Arrange the shoots evenly and thinly on the walls, for the Fig is a rampant grower and becomes a dense fruitless mass unless this is done. Those bushes or large specimens growing in the open in the south will benefit from judicious thinning and the removal of frost-damaged growths, which are more in evidence this year than is usually the case.

Plums

The pruning of these must be completed this month, as the buds are forward, and the trees should be given a light spraying of lime-wash.

Herbaceous plants

Whether growing in borders by themselves or in masses in the foreground of shrubs these may yet be lifted and divided, and before replanting the soil should be deeply dug over and enriched with well-decayed manure. This applies particularly to such strong-growing subjects as Torch Lilies, Galegas, Michaelmas Daisies, Day Lilies, Sidalceas, Lythrums, etc. Clean and fork over the surface of newly-made borders of these plants, and on older and established ones a sprinkling of bone-meal should be worked in.

Pampas grasses

Where not already done all old flower-spikes should be removed, as they present a very untidy appearance. Where firing is not possible, owing to their near proximity to trees and shrubs, they must be drawn out individually, but firing is the most satisfactory method as it will clean out old specimens thoroughly, the plants benefiting from this treatment, just a little trimming with the shears completing the task for the year. Old plants which have ceased, or been shy to bloom, may be lifted, divided up, and replanted in fresh soil at the present time.

Outdoor Chrysanthemums

These may now be divided up and fresh plantations made, a position sheltered from north and easterly winds being chosen for their benefit at flowering time. Cuttings taken and inserted in sandy soil strike freely if placed in a cool closed frame and shaded from bright sunshine.

Bulbs

Those which have been forced should not be thrown away, but kept growing for a while, and in the case of Freesias weak stimulants may with advantage be applied. Some of the finest Freesias I ever had were kept fed and watered until the foliage began to change colour, the plants being hardened off gradually. It is a mistake to stand them on hot, dry shelves and forget them immediately the flowers are over.

Flowering house

Keep this bright by introducing all plants coming into bloom, such as shrubs, bulbs, etc., which have been forced in greater heat, and introduce additional batches to the forcing-house as required. Arum Lilies, Carnations, both Malmaison and Perpetual-flowering, will derive benefit from weekly applications of liquid-manure.

Ventilating

This will require much careful observation during the coming weeks, otherwise scalding of the tender foliage of Vines and Peaches will occur.

Onions, Leeks, and Brussels Sprouts

Prick out into boxes filled with rich soil as soon as the seedlings are large enough to handle, the soil having first been brought to the same temperature as that of the house in which they were raised and in which they should remain for the next 10 days.

Vegetable Marrows

Where these are required for glasshouse culture seeds should now be sown, two seeds being planted in a 4-inch pot, the weakest being removed when germination has taken place. A temperature of 60 degs. is desirable, with a rise of 10 degs. from sunshine during the day. Moore's Cream, Pen-y-byd, and Table Dainty are excellent kinds for indoor culture.

Autumn sown Peas

These now require the support of small Birch or Hazel sticks and a dusting of soot and lime, coupled with the pointing over of the surface soil. This will encourage growth.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Delphiniums from seed

This delightful, stately, hardy perennial has been wonderfully improved of recent years, and seeds saved from really first-class flowers are certain to produce some excellent plants, able, indeed, to be seen alongside many of the named varieties. If seed be sown at once a few of the seedlings will bloom in autumn, while all will attain to such a size as will ensure their blooming strongly next year. Sow thinly in pans or boxes and set in a moderately warm house or pit. Prick off into boxes of good soil as soon as fit to handle, grow on steadily, and plant out in good soil when strong enough.

Long-spurred Aquilegia

The Columbine has been for many years one of the most popular of all perennial flowering plants, and the recent improvements in size, colour, and floriferousness has added considerably to that popularity. Unfortunately, these modern hybrid forms rather short-lived, as a rule, so that we be constantly raising fresh stocks if annual display has to be kept up. It i excellent plan, therefore, to raise a batch each spring, sowing the seeds in or boxes of light compost and setting moderately warm house or pit. By summer fine sturdy plants will be avai for planting in the open, these blooming as a rule, the following season.

The modern Polyanthus

Those of us who can recall the ty flower cultivated 40 years ago can testi the great advance made in the size of bl freedom of flowering, and richness variety of colour. Good strains are numerous, but difficult to maintain at this plant having a most disconcerting of deteriorating unless the greatest ca exercised. Seeds sown now in a g warmth will produce much finer speci than it is possible to obtain in any other

Spring flower beds

As soon as the soil is in working con beds of Tulips, Hyacinths, Myosotis, flowers, Polyanthuses, etc., should rece little attention. Remove all dead l weeds, etc., that may be present, and lightly stir the surface either with a hoe or a hand-fork, making everything and tidy. This, besides adding consid to the appearance of the flower garden also greatly benefit the plants.

Herbaceous borders

The majority of perennial plants ar showing signs of starting into life, thorough clean-up should be undertaken for the sake of the plants themselves a the sake of giving a smart, tidy appe to these beds or borders. First remo winter debris, weeds, etc., and then, if be spared, scatter some well-rotted n between the plants and lightly fork or in. In the absence of manure a dress thoroughly-rotted garden refuse will pr excellent substitute.

Sow Lettuces now

To provide unbroken succession esteemed salading plant a row or two now be sown on a warm, sunny choosing a hardy, quick-growing varie Carter's Holborn Standard. This tender and well-flavoured as any variety and grows to a good size, bla to a creamy-white of very fine quali does not quickly run to seed.

Where Onions succeed

In many gardens it is, unfortunat case that Onions sown out-of-doors in invariably succumb to the attacks of th of the Onion-fly. Where, however, t portant vegetable does flourish, the ve favourable moment must be seized the ground well prepared and the see in rows 12 inches asunder and ½ inch

Brussels Sprouts

In many districts it is difficult, if n impossible, to grow really fine Spr sowing out-of-doors in spring. For fi plies, even in more favoured localiti well to raise in heat, while in those l noted it really pays to raise the whol way, sowing a batch now and the m a fortnight later. The latter shoul ready, be pricked into prepared beds cold frame, but the early lot are best

C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithg

ıe Tangier Iris (I. tingitana)

HIS lovely Iris, which may be termed a glorified edition of the Spanish Iris, is a ıative of Tangiers, whence it was intro-l in 1872. It should, therefore, be by fairly common, but few grow it at the nt day, and many have given up its cul-on account of their failing to flower it. e flowers of Iris tingitana are very iful, the standards being violet-blue and ılls of a delicate French grey, set off by lowing yellow of the central blotch. A flower will measure 6 inches across, and the falls lifted 10 inches, so that it is twice the size of a Spanish Iris. The t of the standards is 4 inches, and the of the fall about 2 inches. The :s, as a rule, are not borne simul-usly, the earliest in some seasons ex-ng in the open days of February, while test are not at their best until the month ril. As soon as the foliage dies down, :st way to treat the bulbs is to lift them .ore them in a dry drawer until October, replanting may be carried out. Some ears ago, when a friend visited me, we :alking of foreign plants, and he said it ıo use trying to grow them in their soil, and that if a plant grew in sand ıot climate it would not probably suc-ı it in this country, but would require ood to make up for the change of e. I thought there might be some-in this, and I resolved to try it on Iris na. I therefore placed a deep layer of ıanure 8 inches below the surface, and he upper soil I mixed an equal quantity Mushroom manure. The bulbs were lanted 3 inches deep and entirely sur-:d by sand. The next year I had 29 s from 30 bulbs, and another year I ı flowers from 12 bulbs. Another who failed to flower this Iris adopted an of giving rich soil, and was re-l by a good lot of flowers. F.

The Tangier Iris

ALPINES

Saxifraga longifolia

finer Saxifraga has ever been intro-ıced than this. It is as easily grown ıd as hardy as any other species, and delightful ornament for the rock

rosettes are fully 6 inches across, and ves are silvery, distinctly tipped at nts and edges with tiny white dots. when not in flower the silvery of the foliage, together with its strik-ımetrical habit in growth, presents a l aspect during the winter months. ırly summer it pushes up its flower feet in height, bearing myriads of flowers, on thread-like stalks, on spreading panicles, with a light airy

ılant merits a good place on the rock in full sunshine; thriving in sandy l the better if mingled with broken positions where water will not be hang about the crown.

ally fix the plants, if possible, into so that the rosettes hang in an position, and the flower stem may thout touching the soil. Its graceful then seen to advantage.

ceeds well in this way, but if no at hand it may be grown equally se to a stone edging. They grow y among broken rocks or stones ith grit, where they are kept fairly ıll seasons.

deservingly popular for pot culture, ecious aid of much beauty, and will od culture.

It is an excellent wall plant. I have some fine specimens here growing between the joints of a wall; the leaves are developing fine proportions.

A good way to increase this plant is by seed; for not only can a large number of plants be secured easily, but frequently they possess greater vigour than those secured by the more usual method of side shoots after the plant has flowered. With the extra vigour they possess, due to pot culture, they are more readily inserted in interstices of rock, and secure a hold which it rarely relaxes.

Seed should be sown as soon as gathered.

For the purpose of sowing seeds an unheated frame only is necessary, and there are no better soil receptacles than earthenware pans about 2 inches deep, or ordinary flower pots. These must be well drained and then filled with soil composed of loam and coarse sand in equal parts; the seed covered with a light covering of sand. It takes some time to germinate, but may be hastened by placing a sheet of glass thereon.

When sufficiently strong enough to handle pot off singly as many as required in small pots. In these they will grow nicely, and become thoroughly rooted in the shelter of a cold, but arid, frame.

Plants usually take three years to flower from seed, therefore it is advisable to keep the plants growing in pots until well established and ready for consignment to their final habitat, whether it be rock garden or elsewhere. H. Stevens.

Saponaria lutea

The new purchaser of the rare Saponaria lutea generally cherishes the fond anticipation that this little alpine will bestow upon him a generous measure of beauty, but, sad to say, he is generally disappointed. If he knows nothing about the plant except the name, he probably expects some free-growing, free-flowering beauty after the fashion of S. ocymoides, but with flowers of a bright yellow. When the plant comes to hand some of his anticipations are shattered by the appearance of S. lutea. Instead of the free, trailing growth of S. ocymoides he sees a close-growing tufted plant, pretty in itself, but in marked contrast to what he had expected. When it condescends to flower, as it may do and has every chance of doing, he observes on little stems tiny starry flowers of a dull shade of yellow with black anthers, and not by any means attractive to the many and only pleasing a few. No culture will ever change this, but to succeed at all the plant ought to have a dry, light, well-drained soil in a warm, sunny place in the rock garden. It is not a lime-loving plant, and, according to some, it detests this ingredient in the soil. It did not show this with me, as it did quite well in a sandy soil mulch with fine seashore gravel, in which there was a large proportion of broken shells. Some doubt is cast upon its hardiness, but with me it proved quite hardy. S. Arnott.

Dentaria polyphylla

This is one of the prettiest of all the spring-flowering Crucifers. In damp, sheltered spots on the rockery, where its large pale-yellow flowers are somewhat protected from piercing winds, they may be seen in full beauty in February. As a pot plant for cool conservatory decoration it is thoroughly well worth growing. Besides being one of the rarest and most handsome of the European species of the genus, it is also one of the most interesting, by reason of the peculiarities in its geographical distribution. In Switzerland, Dentaria polyphylla is found in the humid ravines of some of the Pine and Fir forests.

Farmyard Manure

A common query to GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *is as follows:—"I find it difficult to obtain good farmyard manure. Will you kindly advise me the best manure to use for general purposes?" To answer questions of this type is not easy, because the subject of manuring is a somewhat complicated one*

FOR various reasons it is necessary to replace certain so-called plant foods in the soil. The chemical elements which we have to replace are nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potassium, and the addition of farmyard manure is a substance which contains these three elements in various quantities. If the supply of these three elements was the only benefit to be gained from the application of farmyard manure it would appear that we could easily obtain some other material which contained the necessary elements for use as a substitute for it, *e.g.*, a mixture could be made up of sulphate of ammonia, superphosphate of lime, and sulphate of potash in suitable proportions. This mixture would contain all the necessary plant foods and would certainly produce good crops under some conditions, but under other conditions it would not. If this be true we have to look for some other benefit which is gained by the application of farmyard manure.

The truth of the matter is that the action of farmyard manure is twofold. First, it has a chemical action, *i.e.*, it replaces certain amounts of nitrogen phosphate and potash in the soil. Secondly, it has a physical action on the soil. This physical action is of importance because it is not so clearly understood as the chemical action. We know from experience that good crops can be grown (other conditions being favourable) almost indefinitely if we use liberal supplies of farmyard manure, but we find that by using artificial manures alone the crop remains good only as long as the organic (humus) content of the soil does not drop below a certain point. Therefore substitutes for farmyard manure must contain supplies of nitrogen, phosphates, potash, and also organic matter.

The fertility of a soil depends to a large extent upon the amount of humus it contains; poor land contains 2 per cent. to 5 per cent. humus; fair land contains 5 per cent. to 9 per cent.; good soil contains 9 per cent. to 18 per cent. When the humus content rises above 25 per cent. the soil is generally acid, and only suitable for certain crops. Under normal soil conditions humus gradually decays, and in course of time disappears altogether. Farmyard manure in the soil becomes, in time, humus, and therefore yearly additions tend to keep the humus content of a soil constant. To understand the importance of humus upon the physical condition of the soil, in the first place it binds a soil together, giving cohesion, which is important in light soils; on heavy soils it prevents the clay particles from becoming too closely packed together. Secondly, on light soils it retains moisture and holds up the water in the soil; instead of the water escaping out of the soil by drainage it is held in a position where it can be used by plant roots; the presence of humus in heavy soils allows water to enter and move about freely. Thirdly, the presence of humus aerates a soil, keeps it sweet, and tends to promote a good tilth. These properties would seem to be of most importance on heavy soils. A good example of this third set of properties is well illustrated in the preference shown by gardeners for good rotted turf for potting soil. Good potting turf is permeated with the dead roots of grasses, the soil is kept open by the presence of the decaying roots, and air can get in and out easily. Bad potting soil contains few roots and is therefore badly aired and easily soured. Fourthly, bacterial activity is speeded up in soils with a good humus content, but this activity is slowed down considerably when humus is absent.

The properties of farmyard manure, as shown above, are many, and to find a substitute for it is essential if we cannot obtain it in fair quantities. Up to the present many things have been suggested, but the only one that seems really practical is to grow a green crop and dig it in as manure. We hope to deal with this aspect of the problem in the near future.

The effect of nitrogen

The requirements of individual plants differ considerably. Some require large quantities of phosphates, whilst others appear to do with very little; some take a heavy toll of the potash in the soil, whilst a few plants continue to grow reasonably well when potash is not very plentiful. But the most important element affecting the development of the plant is undoubtedly nitrogen. If this substance is withheld the plant refuses to grow, it becomes stunted, and the leaves assume a sickly yellow tinge and the crop becomes a failure. The effect of applying nitrogen in the form of sulphate of ammonia is very quickly seen on the leaves and green portions of the plants which grow more luxuriantly and assume a rich dark green and healthy colour. It is the essential substance which stimulates growth, and in consequence enables the plant to assimilate other plant foods. A well-grown plant can obviously make more use of phosphates and potash than a poorly-developed one, and these ingredients are only taken up according to the extent to which the plant's development has been promoted by nitrogen. When a satisfactory growth of the plant has been assured by the addition of nitrogen in the form of sulphate of ammonia the phosphates and potash subsequently taken up improve its vigour, hasten its maturity, and make it more resistant to disease.

PLANT FOOD.—Plants receiving sufficient moisture, air, light, and warmth will yet refuse to grow unless supplied with the required amount of plant food. The soil contains a natural supply of plant food, but it rapidly becomes exhausted under intensive cultivation unless those substances which are removed by the plants are replaced from time to time in the form of fertilisers.

Plants cannot grow or attain their full development unless their roots have access to an available and sufficient supply of nitrogen, phosphates, and potash. All three are necessary, and the omission or insufficiency of one cannot be compensated for by an excess of either or both of the others. These substances are absorbed by the roots of all plants and go to form the various leaves, stems, and tissues of which plants are composed.

DUNG.—Dung contains all three fertilising ingredients and usually forms the chief source of plant food in the garden and allotment. Dung, however, does not contain these three ingredients in the correct proportions for all crops. Any farmyard manure that can be obtained should, of course, be used. It should usually be dug into the land as soon as it arrives, a small quantity being stacked in a corner and covered with soil. This serve supply can then be used for cer crops, such as Potatoes, Celery, Le Turnips, or Onions, which greatly be from an additional dose of organic man In the case of Potatoes, instead of diggin in over the whole plot a little can be mad go a long way by placing it in the furrow which the sets are to be planted. A manure underneath Turnips, Ra Lettuce, or Spinach makes a wonderful ference to the crop. Dung should alway used to the best advantage and suppleme by chemical fertilisers, the best crops b grown by a combination of these two f of plant food. When dung is not avai its essential constituents can be supplie tirely by chemical fertilisers which im both the quality and quantity of garden duce, are much easier and cleaner to use in the end considerably cheaper.

VEGETABLES

Dwarf (Kidney) Beans for l districts

AMONG summer and early autumn tables the Kidney Bean holds a place, and it is the endeavour of gardener to produce good and early cro these. The varieties now offered are numerous, and I have tested the major these at one time or another, but can rely on three or four sorts for this som late, upland district. By raising in pot planting out early in June a few dishes be had a little earlier than is possib sowing out-of-doors, but "the game is worth the candle." Nor is early sowi be commended in gardens where the moist and retentive, for, unless growth away at once, the chances are that the will rot. During the last few years deferred putting in the first sowing unti the end of May, and the results have, in case, been quite good, whereas when in May was the date chosen great nu of the seeds rotted, while the few plan did appear were, usually, puny and st and gave a very poor return. I star Dickson's Earliest of All, which prod very heavy crop of good table q although the pods are by no means For main crop, Sutton's Masterpiece every satisfaction, while Sutton's Per thrives equally well. For latest crop t still nothing to equal, let alone sur good selection of the old Canadian W Both crop and quality are excellent, forced to confine myself to one varie is what I would choose.

It is a serious mistake to overcro plants as so many do. To get very sults allow from 9 inches to 12 inche plant to plant in the rows and 21 inc tween the rows. It is economical, end, to plant the seeds about 3 inche and thin down to the distance state the plants are 3 inches high. Rich a cultivated soil and an open, sunny are necessary to secure best result last sowing should be got in early in

C. I

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

Autumn-sown Onions and Sp

As soon as the soil will work freely these crops, removing all weeds, a well stir the surface between th Here, in the north, it is much too think of transplanting the Onions piece of ground could be got ready now, making it rich and working it

Answers to Queries

tions—Queries and answers are inserted in ING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre-nts follow these rules: All communications be clearly written on one side of the paper nd addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING TED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. on business should be sent to the* PUB- *The name and address of the sender are d in addition to any designation he may to be used in the paper. When more than ery is sent each should be on a separate paper, the name and address being added .. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

eya Coulteri

ould be very grateful if you would tell e correct treatment of Romneya i. I have had it for years, and it very well, so you may think I need rry, but one year, when the frost had adly, I cut it right down to the ground spring, and it made a lot of strong . Last year I left it alone and only t up and cut some of the oldest wood bloomed wonderfully. This winter alone again and gave it a good mulch, v I am wondering what I ought to do, own or leave it as before?

M. A. PILKINGTON.

evident from the fine growth and flowering of your Romneya that the neral treatment is to leave it to do as When, as in your case last year, it through the winter, it would be sure r rather more freely, but it is no in- the plant if the existing growths are or destroyed by frost and are cut In some places where Romneya is successfully it is the regular practice t down in the late autumn. When one it appears to favour the increase plant, which throws out stolens all ven to some distance from the parent. not easy to propagate, it is well to at when the growing ends of these ound runners appear above ground ade-cut is made about a foot behind us severing them from the old plant, he young plant cannot be taken up ame time, yet by the autumn it will de its own roots and can be safely

regale in Scotland

read with interest the article on lies (issue February 5th), and as like to try my hand at them, would lly advise on the following points? ey succeed in the north (Aberdeen) city? Is it best to grow from seed ? If getting seed could I now sow (cold) and plant out? Also, where bulbs can be obtained?

NORTH.

regale is one of the hardiest of s, and it should do quite well with Aberdeen. Although it is so easily om seed, you would do well to start s, and thus enjoy flowering plants seedlings are growing. You can at this time in a cold frame, using compost, such as you would use for ary run of garden plants. You can young seedlings outdoors, although case it might be an advantage to n a year in a cold frame. In the large proportion of the plants pro- ower at eighteen months from seed so far north we would expect pro- e slower, but it is certain that the longer in the north than they do uth of England. When planting the bulbs should be surrounded with clean, sharp sand. You should be et bulbs and seed from Messrs. nd Co., Ltd., The Old Gardens, Tunbridge Wells; also from Messrs. Dobbie and Co., Ltd., Royal Seed Establishment, Edinburgh.]

Outdoor Chrysanthemums

Kindly tell me the names of some good flowering outdoor Chrysanthemums against a wall facing south to follow on after Michaelmas Daisies; a good white, yellow, pink, and deep pink. "ORCHARD."

[We suggest September White, Pink Profusion, Cranford Yellow, and Jessie McAlpine.]

Plants for a roof garden

Will you, please, tell me the best plants for some boxes I have made to place on a low, flat roof well placed for sun? I should like something to trail over, as well as to stand erect. "ORCHARD."

[The following are suitable:—Helianthemums or Phlox frondosa in its varied hybrid forms, Nepeta Mussini, Wallflowers, Antirrhinums, Canterbury Bells, Campanula persicifolia alba and blue, Achillea Ptarmica, Agrostemma, Astrantia, Doronicum, Digitalis, Erigeron, Echinops Ritro, Eryngium amethystinum, Helenium pumilum, Libertia formosa, Iceland Poppies, Polemoniums, Rudbeckia Newmanni, and Violas. All the above should flower well in boxes in a sunny position if not allowed to get too dry, although they want good drainage. Aubretias would trail over the edge of the boxes and could be followed by Nasturtiums.]

Violet plants for examination

I am sending some Violet plants, and would be glad to know what has gone wrong with them, and the remedy, if any. They are growing in a carefully-prepared soil and at first did well, but subsequently all the plants in turn began to go off. C. M. T.

[The plants are affected by two saprophytic fungi, Macrosporium and Cladosporium. Little can be done in the way of cure and much in the way of prevention, it being generally the result of defective cultivation. It is too late to save the plants for this season.]

Iris Kaempferi in pots

Would you kindly let me know whether Iris Kæmpferi can be grown in pots, and, if so, what treatment they require?

Bridport. S. R. COOKSON.

[We have never attempted to grow Japanese Irises in pots, but we see no reason why they should not succeed, provided that they are not allowed to get dry during the growing season. Our correspondent should try this as an experiment and let us know the result.]

ROSES

Rose The General

Would you be kind enough to tell me where I can obtain that beautiful Rose, The General? The growers here in the north do not grow it. I have seen it in flower, and I agree with the writer in a recent issue that it is *the* Rose when properly treated.

Glasgow. WM. ALLISON.

[The handsome blood-red Rose raised by the late Rev. J. H. Pemberton appears in Pemberton's Select Rose List, address Havering-atte-Bower, near Romford, Essex.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Rhododendron leaf for inspection

(H. H.).—The leaf is badly affected with Rhododendron-fly. As the result of experiments carried out recently it is shown that plain soap and water (1 lb. good soft-soap, 10 gallons of water) is efficient as a wash and that the addition of nicotine is not absolutely necessary. Nicotine makes a considerable difference to the cost of the spray, especially in large operations. The spraying should be undertaken about the third or fourth week in June, followed by a second wash a fortnight later. The insect is not notifiable, but the sale of plants substantially attacked by the pest is prohibited by the Sale of Diseased Plants Order of 1922 under a penalty of £10.

GREENHOUSE

Perpetual Carnations for profit

I am anxious to grow some Carnations for winter flowering (Christmas time and after). Can you tell me when the cuttings should be potted up? What kinds have the greatest demand? Whether (barring misfortunes such as white-fly) this should prove a paying proposition on a small scale (to start with) with a greenhouse 12 feet by 8 feet? Can you tell me the best place to market the flowers? K. M. D.

[Quite a lot of people like to make their hobby pay. It is a legitimate aspiration, although the psychological effect on one's love of plants and growing flowers may not always be good. However, one is asked, Can they be made to pay in a small way? The answer is that they can.

Cuttings are put in between January and March in sand with a bottom warmth of about 60 degs. There are so many ways of striking them that it is only necessary to say that too much heat (as is often given) weakens the young cutting and makes it a hard, wiry plant in after life. Rather root it slowly and pot up into a sandy compost of loam, leaf-soil, and sand in proportion of two of loam to half a part each of the others. This should be done about five weeks after being put in, when young roots will, in most varieties, be about ½ inch long. Keep the young plants shaded and fairly close for 10 days, after which they should be hardened off by admitting air and keeping the temperature to about 50 degs. to 55 degs. during the day at this time of year.

Our correspondent asks whether Carnations can be made to pay with a house 12 feet by 8 feet. The treatment of young plants in a house of this kind, which is also carrying the flowering plants, is not easy; at least, it presents some moderate problems, such as the rather warmer atmosphere desirable for the young cuttings during winter and the more airy conditions necessary for the flowering plants.

It is less difficult during a month like March, when young cuttings are less delicate. At that date one must shade them, but temperature is of less consideration.

The worst enemy of the Perpetual Carnation under glass is the red spider, and after this the more easily eradicated green-fly. White-fly, mentioned as the pinnacle of horrors, is less troublesome to Carnations. While the spider can generally be kept at bay during spring and summer by the vigorous use of the syringe and cold water, the green-fly can easily be controlled by fumigant or insecticide gently sprayed into the points of the growths.

The most profitable varieties inquired for are those which produce the most flower in the popular shades. These comprise—

CRIMSONS (or dark Clove-red).—Topsy and Sir Philip Sassoon.

WHITE. — White Enchantress, Crystal White, and White Pearl.

PALE PINK.—Enchantress Supreme and Hon. Nita Weir.

ROSE-PINK.—Mrs. Ward Improved, Master M. Stoop, and Betty Lou.

SALMON-PINK.—Eileen Low and Lady Inverforth.

SCARLET.—Aviator, Brilliant, and Spectrum.

Of course, an amateur who grows his plants for the love of them would include many more varieties in his collection, such as the dainty mauves and heliotropes, a yellow, possibly a purple or two, and, personally, I should include a few fancies in my collection whose lovely shades and variations are so interesting. However, these are not considered commercial varieties.

Anyone with a 12-foot house can select the most convenient place to market flowers, which would surely be near at hand. Any florist with an ordinary trade could sell the product of several such houses, but in any case the best market would not be Covent Garden, where only large consignments receive the best attention.]

Cultivation of Eritrichium nanum from seed

I should be grateful if you can give me any help as to the culture and watering of Eritrichium nanum from seed. I propose to try it in a pan, not in the open ground at all.

S. S. VESEY.

We have submitted this inquiry to Mr. Clarence Elliott, who kindly replies:—

This is best sown in a pot or pan in a mixture of sand, a very little leaf-mould, and a great deal of broken slate, unless one can procure the rock on which it is most common in the Alps, namely, micacious schist. Slate, however, makes a very good substitute. After sowing thinly and just covering with a little sand give a good soaking of soft water. After germination has taken place the plants should be watered only from below, namely, by standing the pan in a larger pan of water so that it can soak up from below without actually reaching the surface. The best plan with Eritrichium nanum is to grow it in a pan in an alpine-house or cold greenhouse, giving it plenty of air. Cultivation in the open air is much more difficult, but it can and has been accomplished. Slate scree is the best, or a natural scree in some non-lime rock in which has been growing a grass or other weed. Remove the grass and sow the seed in the crevice. The plant should be protected from rain during winter. A non-lime rock is suggested, as the plant is much more common on such formations in the Alps than it is on limestone, but there are records of it having been found on limestone rock.

Freesias failing

I have grown Freesias for some years, somtimes with very good results. The last two or three years the foliage, which is always very healthy-looking to start with, begins to turn rusty about the time the flower-stalks push up, and rapidly deteriorates, with the result that the flowers are poor and very slow in growth. I plant early August to September. My greenhouse is small and without heat, except for a lamp at night. It only gets mid-day sun in winter. But all bulbs do well there, including the Freesias, the first year. It may be I have given too much water or neglected lime, which I used to mix in the soil. I should be so much obliged for your advice. F. M. C.

[We have failed to find a fungus on the specimen leaves you have sent in for examination, It may be that the trouble is lower down, and if you would send us a few complete plants we should be pleased to examine them for you. From the evidence we have we are inclined to think that the cultural details have been wrong somewhere. A good soil for Freesias can be made up by taking three parts medium loam, half a part dried cow manure rubbed through a ½-inch sieve, half a part leaf-soil, adding enough sand to make the mixture open and porous. The bulbs should be planted towards the end of August, placing eight bulbs in a 5-inch pot. The pots should be placed in a cold frame, plunged in ashes, and should not be watered until the bulbs are in full growth and the pots full of roots. When in this condition the pots may be brought into the greenhouse and will stand gentle forcing. If too much heat is used the growth is poor, often goes brown, and the flowers weak. It is important that the growths are kept growing in an upright position. This can be ensured by putting some twiggy sticks amongst the growths in good time. At all times use the water-pot with due care.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Strawberry Weevil

In your issue of December 18th, page 768, one of the answers to an inquiry about grubs eating Carnations advises the use of creosote mixed with soil to keep adult flies away. We had been using for Strawberry weevil, the larvæ of which eats the roots of a number of ornamental evergreens, such as Heather, Azalea, and Yew, to keep adult flies away, crude naphthalene. We would like to ask if you have any knowledge regarding this grub, particularly as a pest on ornamentals, and if the creosote mixed with soil could be substituted efficaciously for naphthalene, which is, no doubt, more expensive than the straight creosote. MALMO AND CO.

Washington, U.S.A.

[We are not clear as to what you mean by the Strawberry weevil. In England we have several weevils which damage Strawberry plants, and perhaps one of the most common is the clay-coloured weevil (Otiorrhynchus picipes F.). The larval stage of this pest does damage to the root-systems of many plants, including most ornamental shrubs; the adult weevils damage many hosts by eating the foliage, and also bark and tissue of the young growths. We think that your Strawberry weevil may be one of the Otiorrhynchus group. Naphthalene is generally considered to be a good control for the larval stage of the weevil group when the habitat is the soil, and we do not think that you would find the creosote mixture mentioned on page 768 of our issue for December 18th of much use. Many of the dipterous pests lay their eggs on or near the surface of the soil, and creosote is generally accepted as being a good preventive of the egg-laying stage. Dipterous flies do not like the smell of creosote, and hence go elsewhere to lay their eggs. The creosote and dry soil was advised as a deterrent to egg-laying, and not to kill the larval stage. We do not think you can improve upon your naphthalene treatment, but we should also try calcium cyanide.]

Moss on lawns

(Wilts).—It is generally asserted that the presence of Moss amongst the grass is always due to imperfect drainage, but it is equally true that extreme poverty of soil very frequently causes Moss to grow and smother the languishing grass. This has been proved many times by the disappearance of Moss after using a rich fertiliser, and where Moss is troublesome the following procedure may be adopted:—First scratch as much of the Moss as possible from its bed with a steel rake sweeping off all broken bits. Perforate the turf and then apply a dressing of "Purity" Lawn Fertiliser, with a bulk of powdered charcoal. After r washed the charcoal into the perforati dressing should be repeated. "Purity lisers are made by the Heckm Chemical Co., Ltd., Heckmondwike.

Horticultural Societies' I

Cardiff and District Gardene Association

The fortnightly meeting of the ab sociation was held at the Queen's Cardiff, on February 15th, Mr. J. H siding. The lecturer for the evening Rogers, the Bristol representative, subject was "Artificial Fertilisers a Use in the Garden." This lecture much appreciated by a large compan deners. Mr. Rogers laid particular the value of "Adco" being used mor for mixing with garden rubbish manure suitable for practically all p After dealing minutely with we chemical and other artificials, a and lively discussion took place in w Wilkins took the lead, followed by M Davis, who vouched for the value o rubbish, burnt ash from the bon rotted sacking and other material. meeting is on March 1st, when the will be Miss E. Vachell, and her sub be "Welsh Flora."

TRADE NOTES

A new and complete price list of ous well-known brands of "Ferry lisers, weed killers, and insecticides issued by the Briton Ferry Chem Manure Co., Ltd., South Wales.

Metro-Sulphate

The South Metropolitan Gas Comp now made arrangements for local s the counties of Cambridge, Lincoln, Suffolk, Hampshire, Kent, Surrey Berkshire, Buckingham, and O "Metro-Sulphate," their well-know of dry, neutral sulphate of amm unvarying quality, free-running, c and non-caking properties and high age of ammonia, guaranteed at cent., are appreciated by farmers, serve to be more widely known an deners. The Company will give a the address of their nearest agent o tion to Products Department, 709, Road, S.E. 15.

OBITUARY

HENRY JONES

There passed away at Norwich on 19th another of the old-time w East Anglian gardeners. For 62 Henry Jones had been in the serv late Jeremiah James Colman daughters. Although of a somewh disposition, Mr. Jones was very k profession, as was evidenced by t of the products he grew at Car ideas of outside planning and lay new borders were very pronounced tiveness, and when the opening up ruins of Carrow Abbey was going his skill to great advantage in harmonising plants with the ar roundings.

Though for many years he has r exhibitor, his services up to qui were sought as a judge at impo shows.

When he had completed 50 years Carrow he wrote a brief autobio himself, in which he mentions a deners that have served under compilation of all the trees in Ca grounds.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Chrysanthemums for Open Borders

N the hardy sorts be grown entirely in e open? When should cuttings be ob-ined, and how should they be treated? oil is a heavy clay, with a fairly good above it. Surely I could succeed with of the hardy white, yellow, and golden-varieties in a mixed border? A few as to suitable varieties, as well as cul-would be very welcome. You have fre-y dealt lately with Chrysanthemums, each case the notes have referred to arieties which are given the assistance es and heat. P.

e early-flowering outdoor Chrysanthe-differ considerably in their character. are of weak and unsatisfactory growth, fail to increase so readily as one would and of these a fair number only passes gh the severe winter of our rather moist e. The ideal outdoor Chrysanthemum ses a robust constitution, and develops ntity of beautiful blossoms in hand-sprays, on growths of a branching ter. Most important of all is the fact e plants make numerous underground s of a sucker-like nature, re proof against the trying ons of our winters. From ection we give below we ex-many well-known, beautiful because their constitution something to be desired.

being rooted, assuming s are inserted, the plants put out in their flowering s in late April or early May. this time their culture will e simplest. In the succeed-r the plants may be lifted ided, this being done in late or early April, as at this e new shoots at the base of nts will be making vigorous , thus assisting to make ivision a matter of greater ty. It is only those varie-at develop the sucker-like s that can be treated in this If you have no old plants u can divide, or from which n procure a supply of cut-write at once to any well-Chrysanthemum - grower, ain cuttings of the varieties ned below. They are very and if you will send your l state the number of cut-f each variety you want, specialists would give a on for the lot. In the ne, get your compost A suitable compost in to root the cuttings should e loam and leaf-mould in equal parts, adding coarse silver sand or road grit sufficient in quantity to make the compost porous. The loam and leaf-mould should be put through a sieve with a ½-inch mesh, and the ingredients thoroughly mixed. Three-inch or 5-inch pots answer well for the cuttings, which should be inserted around the edge of these pots, pressing the soil firmly at the base of each cutting. Label each variety as it is finished. Should you want many plants, use shallow boxes, which we prefer to pots, as space under glass can by these means be economised. When the box is filled with cuttings, water in with clear water, using a fine-rosed can. Place the boxes of cuttings on the greenhouse bench and let them remain there until rooted. When the cuttings are making free growth plant them out in prepared soil in the cold frame or any rough structure. Plant them rather firmly 4 inches apart and in rows 4 inches to 6 inches asunder. In a few weeks you will have a sturdy batch of plants.

Prepare the quarters where the plants are to be flowered in good time. Deeply dig the ground, and incorporate at the same time a fairly heavy dressing of well-rotted manure. New manure is not desirable, as it promotes growth of a rank and coarse kind. Should you desire to allocate a given portion of your garden exclusively to the Chrysanthemum you will find it much more convenient to plant them in rows. The plants that we recommend will need to be planted 3 feet apart in the row, and a similar space must also be observed between the rows if full justice is to be done to the plants. Under normal conditions the hardy Chrysanthemums enumerated below should completely fill up the intervening spaces. Stake the plants as soon as planting is completed, securing each plant to a stake. Hoe over the ground between the plants and between the rows once a week. Should you prefer to grow the plants in your hardy flower border, group them in colonies of three plants in each, arranging them equidistant in triangular form 3 feet apart. By this method of planting, grand patches of colour may be had till late in the season.

Plant the following 18 varieties:—Horace Martin, yellow; Mme. Marie Massé, lilac-mauve; Nina Blick, fiery-crimson and bronze; Goacher's Crimson, chestnut-crimson; Ralph Curtis, creamy-white; Mrs. A. Willis, yellow, shaded red; Mme. Casimir Perrier, white, tinted pink; Claret, bright rich claret; Roi des Blancs, white; Perle Chatillonaise, creamy-white, tinted rosy-peach; Perle Rose, pearl-pink; Pride of Keston, reddish-rose, silvery reverse; Well's Massé, white, sometimes tinted blush; Howard H. Crane, chestnut, gold reverse; Agnes, salmon-bronze; Elstob Yellow, yellow; Crimson Marie Massé, rich bronzy-crimson; and Diana, deep bronzy-orange. Six good singles for border culture are the following:—Dr. Ingram, terra-cotta; Florence Gillham, white; Surrey, salmon-cerise; Eric, bronze on yellow ground; Merstham Glory, purple-crimson; and Resolution, rosy-pink.]

Border Chrysanthemums and Stephanandra branches in grey stone ware

Notes of the Week

The Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution

LORD TREOWEN will preside at the 82nd Annual Festival Dinner in aid of the funds of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution on June

29th. The dinner will be held at New Princes' Galleries, Piccadilly.

Wisley Trials

The Royal Horticultural Society will carry out trials during this year of large-flowering Gladiolus, Alpine Phloxes, and Rhubarb. Three plants of each variety of Alpine Phlox and of Rhubarb, and 10 (or five) forms of each large-flowering variety of Gladiolus should be sent to reach The Director, R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey (goods via Horsley Station, Southern Railway), on or before March 31st, 1927.

Blackpool Flower Show

Excellent progress is being made in the arrangements for the New National Flower Show to be held in the new Stanley Park, Blackpool, on July 20th, 21st, and 22nd. Many of the leading growers and exhibitors have intimated their decision to stage exhibits. The full schedule will be issued soon, and will embrace over 300 classes. The prize money and value of trophies offered will exceed £3,000. One 100-guinea trophy, 10 50-guinea trophies, and many of 25 and 20 guineas have already been given to the show, and other offers are daily being received. Blackpool's first annual flower show will help to maintain the reputation which the resort has justly earned for carrying out its many projects on a big and successful scale.

The supremacy of British seeds in India

Readers will be interested to learn of the successes gained by the produce of British seeds at the Bombay Presidency Agricultural Show held at Poona in October last under the Presidency of His Excellency the Governor, Lieut.-Col. the Rt. Hon. Sir Leslie Wilson, P.C., G.C.I.E., C.M.G., D.S.O. For the general excellence of their exhibit of flowers and for the magnificent lawn from seed adjoining the Governor's Pavilion, Messrs. Sutton and Sons received the high award of a Gold Medal. In addition at the "Garden Competition" organised by the Agri-Horti Society of India, both the premier awards, *i.e.*, Challenge Cups, in Classes A and D, were won by Messrs. Sutton's customers, while the Viceroy's and the Governor's Medals were also gained by exhibitors with the produce of Sutton's seeds.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Planting Primulinus Hybrid Gladioli

ON the leading page of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED dated February 26th is an excellent article under the above heading signed "East Anglia." I can endorse all the writer has to say about this most glorious strain of Gladioli. To my idea there are no cut flowers to compare with them, perhaps, other than Sweet Peas, for vase decoration, and if cut as described by the writer they remain in a fresh state over a long period.

Another new race that will come into prominence when better known is the Prinsianus. The strain is the result of crossing Gladioli Colvillii and Primulinus. Although I have not grown the varieties personally I saw a most glorious bed of them last year and was greatly taken up with their beauty. They flower in advance of the Primulinus strain, and the flowers were well placed on straight, strong, and wiry stems. On some of these I noticed as many as four stems arising from one single bulb. The colours ranged from salmon-orange, pink, rose-pink, yellow with black blotch, and cream with rose shadings.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Rose Caroline Testout

We note in your issue of January 22nd last that one of your readers is very anxious to know the origin and parentage of the Rose, Caroline Testout. We are very pleased to see that he takes such a deep interest in Roses as to be so anxious to learn the origin and parentage of some of these old favourites, for Caroline Testout is an old favourite. She is nearly as popular at the present time as when she was first introduced. Now, in compiling our Rose list some six years ago we went to a great amount of trouble and expense endeavouring to ascertain the origin and parentage of all the Roses we grow, and in a great many cases we were successful. We have pleasure in imparting particulars. Caroline Testout was raised by Pernet Ducher in 1890. Parentage, Mme. de Tartas x Lady Mary Fitzwilliam. We would be pleased to forward a copy of our latest Rose list to "Scottish Gardener" on receipt of his name and address.

THE BURBAGE NURSERIES, LTD.
G. GEARY, Manager.

Near Hinckley, Leicestershire.

The Tangier Iris

On page 131, issue February 26th, "F." gives a very interesting account of his success with Iris Tingitana. I have had little experience in growing these in the open, but have grown them in pots for a number of years, and had several pots of very fine flowers for the last Christmas festival. The blooms were large and very much admired. They remain quite fresh in a room heated with radiators for at least a fortnight.

As regards their culture, for the first few years I had little success with them, owing to using too rich a compost and giving them liquid-manure. True, the bulbs all flowered, but the foliage was sickly and the blooms for the most part streaked. Being of an opinion that manure was the cause of the trouble, I withheld this entirely, including the usual sprinkling of bone-meal used for other bulbs. Good loam, leaf-mould, and sand was used, and a great improvement was realised in the health of the plants, although they were not what I anticipated, and a further test I was determined to give, as evidently there was something wrong with the ingredients. Leaf-mould was left out of the next potting material, and the plants did not improve at all. I then put it down to the retentive loam, and could see that the leaf-mould was one factor to their success and meant poorness of soil. I decided now to use old potting soil that had done duty for Cinerarias and other plants. I scalded this, and, when dry, mixed it with a little fresh leaf-mould and sand, and potted up the bulbs. The following season I had perfect flowers and strong, healthy foliage, and am quite certain that this is the secret of success with this lovely Iris. I pot up the bulbs five in a 6-inch pot early in September for Christmas flowering, place them in a cold frame until growth is 4 inches in height, afterwards taking them in a cool greenhouse and grow on a high shelf, giving them more heat if required several weeks before they are wanted. They require ample suppli water. W. E. WRIG

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Saxifraga longifolia

A note on the above subject appea your issue of February 26th, page 131, seems as though the author is not gr Saxifraga longifolia at all, judging advice on propagating the plant. H marks, "but frequently they (referr seedlings) possess greater vigour than secured by the more usual method shoots after the plant has flowered," is misleading, because once the plant and ripens its seed it deliberately dies, no offsets whatever. Of course, the many hybrids of S. longifolia almost a appearance that do throw offsets, the notable, perhaps, being Tumbling Wa glorious improvement on longifolia longevity is considered. F. BAR

Stevenage.

Cotoneaster rotundifolia

It is during the winter, when cover its large, bright scarlet fruits, that sirable shrub is most worthy of notice of its greatest merits lies in the fa birds leave these fruits severely although at the first prolonged spell o weather they will entirely strip many species of Cotoneaster.

Cotoneaster rotundifolia is very b and shrubby in habit, and is semi-eve rarely becoming entirely denude of It grows up to 8 feet in height. It s well on any soil that is not waterlogg is quite happy on poor or hungr Planted in a group in a border or in a the lawn it is always attractive and much admiration during a long seaso little else in the garden is interesting

T. H. EV

Senecio Greyii in northern ga

Re note, issue February 26th, page have grown Senecio Greyii here for 12 years, and it has never been inj frost. It is of the easiest culture, an either in sun or shade. It is very against a wall or fence, where it w up to 5 feet or 6 feet. Its fine grey f very decorative all the winter, its b like silver balls, and its clear yellow in large panicles, contrast exquisite the leaves. Cuttings put in the open in the autumn root readily.

Veronica Hulkeana, the most bea the New Zealand Veronicas, does v here with the protection of a wall. sprays of lavender flowers are bea the end of May. H.

St. Andrews, Fifeshire.

Does fruit growing pay

My interest in this useful corres was first aroused by the editorial s that we were spending £9,500,000 on imported Apples and by the letter illusioned," the point of which, as plained, was not sufficiently clear. elicited much valuable information fr growers and others, but what wished to know was whether it wou owner of a small orchard to give labour to his trees to supply his h dispose of the surplus. The answe to be that the grower must love his with love at first sight, but after a lo ship. With such love, which must he will be able to grow enough for and his maidens, and have some to

not be troubled with super-tax, as J. M." points out. To revert to the mic aspect of the matter. Is the stry of Agriculture taking any steps to rage Apple-growing, or has it ever such steps? Is there any reader of paper who is a Member of Parliament, o has a relative in Parliament, in either e, who will put or cause to be put that question? I am ready to believe, the information given, that English s are superior to most imported Apples, t is apparent that any effort towards vement in the supply is in need of engement and instruction. Is the Minis- f Agriculture giving encouragement or ction? POMONA.

Snowdrops in County Down

f the front of a farmhouse there are nasses of these vernal flowers. They ook very attractive at present, and, asking permission to take the enclosed graph, the farmer's wife gave us per- n to take a bunch, which now brightens nside of a sitting-room. These bulbs planted many years ago, and now have sed to thousands in number.

ywood, Co. Down. WALTER SMYTH.

Snowdrops in Ireland

Black Spot: A Dangerous Disease of Roses

WHEN I criticised the Rose Trials at Wisley in a recent article in these columns, which, by the way, has been contradicted by any official of the Horticultural Society, I stated that Spot was a disease which should not be ed by any gardener who knew his This statement has been responsible any letters inquiring how the disease e cured, and it seems to have caused rable interest. I have, therefore, been ted to deal fully with the subject in an devoted to it.

uld say, at the outset, that I was im- l with the truth of the remarks of one ondent—I believe it was Col. Wolley- who wrote "that healthy Roses should take disease." That, indeed, is the f the matter. Many of the Roses in ials at Wisley were seriously infested Black Spot; all such Roses were de- unhealthy and in a most miserable on. Starvation and bad cultivation he pre-disposing factors, and in con- ce of their emaciated state they fell victims to a serious disease. As with so with other gardens. In nine cases ten, Black Spot is the result of some- wrong with soil conditions. Under ircumstances spraying with fungicides se than useless. *Spraying alone can radicate Black Spot.* Such a remark und hopeless to the grower of Roses. however, for a moment examine the , and I hope it will be demonstrated lack Spot can be kept at bay. The cleaned it out of one of the largest gardens in the country, where a cure nsidered to be impossible so badly were nts affected. I shall detail how this complished, but, before doing so, I t well to refer readers to an article en- Roses and Disease," which appeared National Rose Annual for 1920.

e course of that article it is stated:— good grower of Roses very naturally to obtain the best possible results from nts, whether he exhibits or not, and I id, in the goodness of his soul, he all en errs in his well-meant but mis- liberality. The science of manuring rfectly understood in this country, and ecially so in the case of many amateur s. Just as privation can cause disease can an over-abundance of food in the soil, and the latter is more frequently the cause of trouble than is the former. . . . You cannot, for example, feed your Roses, season after season, with vast quantities of organic and inorganic manures without deteriorating the soil conditions. Unless some form of correction be applied—and it is rarely done in average gardens—humic and other poisonous acids are the result, and, then, you encourage all the diseases that are known to affect the Rose." After dealing with soil problems in relation to disease the writer of the article says:—"In our fight against diseases of the Rose, then, we have to consider first, and most important, the condition, the sweet, wholesome condition of the soil. That, really, is half the battle, and soil aeration is one of the most important factors in plant growth too often left out of account. Most people recognise that a plant respires, but they generally neglect the application of this principle to the roots. It is impossible for a plant root to properly avail itself of any food supply unless the necessary energy is available for the purpose, and such energy is derived mainly from the respiration of the roots. Soil aeration is a problem which affects the question of disease. So, too, is manuring. It is actually a fact that the annual mulch afforded to the Rose bed is followed by an appearance of mildew. Secondly, we have to deal with the elimination, as far as possible, of highly susceptible forms. Such sorts are not now wanted. There will be no room for them in all good Rose gardens in the near future. It has been proven that good resistant forms can be evolved by the careful breeder."

It will be obvious that in gardens where Black Spot is troublesome the first matter for attention is the condition of the soil. Has it been well manured for a series of years? If so, it is probably in a sour, or acid, condition. Has it been neglected in the way of manure? If so, it requires enrichment with proper well-balanced fertilisers. It is most necessary to deal with these questions, because immunity from disease rests entirely upon a healthy soil, and such a soil can be created in any garden.

In so far as the first question is concerned it is the practice of some growers to over-feed their Roses, and this is done consistently season after season. One of the worst features of over-feeding is the winter mulch. By this I mean the dressing of manure applied annually to the Rose beds in early winter. Such a dressing is a serious error; it is a fertile source of disease later on; it means ruin to healthy soil conditions. If, as in some parts of the world, our winters were severe and we had hard frost from November till the beginning of March, the necessity for a protective mulch could be understood. But our winters are mild, and rain is what we experience instead of snow. The result is that the soil requires perfect aeration. A heavy mulch of manure destroys that object entirely, and it causes stagnation and consequent root decay. Plants that survive such conditions are certain to suffer from disease when growth—weak, enfeebled growth—begins in due time in spring. Avoid the winter mulch of manure. Far rather fork over the surface of the Rose beds very lightly in late October and thus allow free aeration. Do not worry about frost. The modern Rose is hardy and requires no protection from an average winter if it be properly planted. I have dealt with point number one, in keeping Roses in a healthy state and giving them a vigour so that they can withstand the onslaughts of disease. I have seen untold havoc wrought by mulches of manure. Such mulches have been applied in good faith and in the belief that they did good. Think, only think, of the awful dampness, rot, stagnation, and sour conditions that must exist in the clammy darkness beneath a heavy winter mulch of manure!

Another important factor in relation to healthy plants is drainage. It is essential that the soil should be well drained and that the roots of the Roses are kept free from stagnant moisture.

Manuring must never be overdone. If organic manure, or dung, is used it is advisable to use only material that has been kept for a period and is thoroughly rotted and matured. Fresh, or unrotted, manure is disastrous. For heavy loams decayed stable manure is good; for light loams decayed cow or pig manure is recommended. Do not use manure in which peat in any form is incorporated. Peat turns sour very rapidly; it decays extremely slowly; and it creates conditions in the soil which the roots resent. If, let us suppose, a border or bed is being prepared for Roses, and manure is necessary, add this during the process of digging at the ordinary rate applicable to general garden work. An ordinary light dressing is all that is necessary. If the soil is exceedingly light a dressing of rotted manure can be applied the following spring, and it should be lightly forked into the soil immediately after pruning has been done. It is a good plan to feed from the surface in this manner as it encourages root-action upwards and keeps the fibres thoroughly aerated and healthy.

It is during the growing and flowering season that serious damage is often done, and this arises through the careless and thoughtless application of fertilisers, both liquid and solid. Liquid manures, especially those that are rich in nitrogen, promote soft growth. Such growth is a sure cause of disease. The foliage is so tender, owing to the forcing character of the fertiliser that has been employed, that it cannot resist the spores of disease. Bold, leathery foliage must be the aim of the cultivator. If a soil is so poor that manures must be applied during the growing season as a supplement to the dung used earlier in the year it is likely that trouble will ensue unless a well-chosen fertiliser is used. The indiscriminate use of nitrogenous substances should always be avoided. In the next instalment, dealing with the treatment of Black Spot in gardens where it has appeared, a manure for summer use will be recommended.

ROSARIAN.

Eighteen Reliable and Inexpensive Sweet Peas

By "East Anglian"

Very few flowers, indeed, present a wider choice of varieties to the grower than Sweet Peas, but to the inexperienced the very number of kinds offered in the catalogues is often bewildering. Their prices are not an infallible guide to their real merit, for some of the best modern varieties are among the least expensive. What the average amateur gardener usually requires are vigorous, large-flowered, long-stemmed varieties which will stand the sun and which do not require any extra cultural care to bring them to perfection. Clear, bright, and "decided" colours are preferred, with just a few light and delicate-toned kinds to balance them.

Here are 18 quite reliable and inexpensive Sweet Peas, fulfilling the conditions I have mentioned, and, further than that, as suitable for exhibition purposes as for indoor or garden decoration. They give a very wide colour range, and no two are "too-much-alike." Some are well known, others of more recent introduction have yet to attain general popularity.

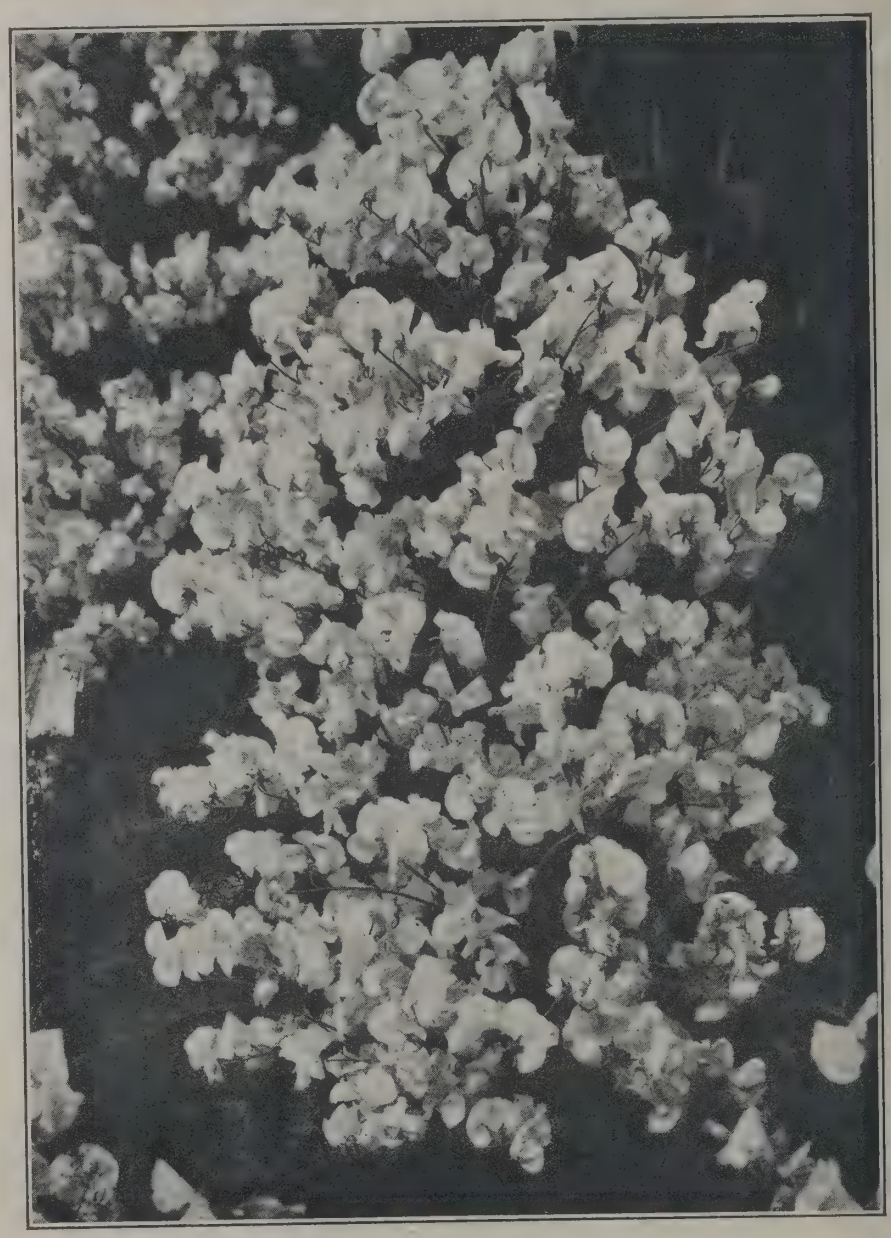
Blue Butterfly. — The colour is a silvery Cambridge-blue, soft and clean looking, without being at all washy. Very attractive singly or when associated in a vase with cream or light cream-pink varieties. It has the merit of being very sweetly scented.

Charming. — A grand Sweet Pea in every respect. A beautiful shade of bright rosy-cerise, wonderfully vigorous in growth and likely to do well under almost any conditions. It has become popular in a very short space of time, and deserves a place in every collection.

Constance Hinton.—An old and well-tried favourite, and, taken all round, still the premier inexpensive white. It has its faults like almost every other Pea, and during bad weather conditions its opaque whiteness is sometimes marred by pinkish flushings. An attack of green-fly has the same effect, but in this case the flushing is even more pronounced. Those who require a white which will remain pure white under any conditions will have to turn to the white-seeded whites, such as Florence Wright Improved, Edna May Improved, or Avalanche, the last-named being easily the best, but as yet a trifle more expensive.

Grenadier.—The colour class to which this variety belongs, the bright orange-cerises, has largely replaced the orange-scarlet class of late years as far as general popularity is concerned, solely because of their ability to stand bright sunlight without fading or burning. In fact, such Peas as Grenadier are seen at their very best during a bright, sunshiny spell. Grenadier is a brilliant Geranium-scarlet, and one of the best varieties introduced during recent years. Really, an improvement on Royal Scot.

Hebe.—This fine variety has quite taken the place of all other rose-pinks, including Hercules. One of the oldest in my list, but still the best of its particular shade of pink.



Sweet Pea Mermaid

Pure lavender suffused blue. One of the most popular of recent introductions

Matchless.—Undoubtedly the most popular cream self of the present time, but it has two strong rivals in the 1927 novelties What Joy and Cream Perfection. Where value for indoor decoration is of primary importance a cream variety is essential to every collection. Cream will blend well with almost any of the deep or rich colours, and particularly well with the orange-toned varieties.

Mauve Beauty.—A real deep and pure mauve self without that harsh purple tone one almost instinctively associates with this colour. It is pure and clean, and strongly and sweetly scented. Certainly the best inexpensive mauve.

Mermaid.—A comparatively recent in duction that is one of my personal favouri It is large, of ideal shape, and a swe pretty shade of soft pure lavender suffu blue. All who like the lavender shades be charmed with Mermaid.

Mrs. Horace Wright.—One of the Peas ever introduced, perhaps *the* best; tainly it is not excelled by any other var in vigour, size, form, or stem. Especi valuable for exhibition. The colour i warm shade of rosy-pink flushed on a w ground. I see that Mr. A. E. Usher, well-known exhibitor, says it is the large Sweet Pea he has grown, all fours, placed, and a good gro This is praise, ind from such an expert.

Mrs. Tom Jone Surely too well know need describing. It is most popular blue S Pea, a beautiful br Delphinium-blue.

Picture. — Another favourite. Very la flowered and vigor Deep apricot-pink o cream ground.

Powerscourt. — and soft-toned laver lilac; a lovely col which appeals to all which should be grow all.

Royal Purple. — grand variety has h very good "innings" has yet to be displace public favour, althou feel sure that at least 1927 novelty is better. name aptly describe colour, which is very and rich.

Sybil Henshaw.—A crimson which, in opinion, is easily the of the Charity-Un Crimson - Crimson group. Deep bloo quite sunproof, very very vigorous, and stemmed. A grand I every way.

Venus.—Perhaps described as a ri coloured Mrs. A Hitchcock or Cecily an improvement on two. A very va decorative variety, c pink suffused sa Exceedingly vigorou long-stemmed.

Warrior. — Ther many who wil that Warrior is sti best maroon for an pose, but there is little to choose between this variety an Sultan. The latter is the more vigoro longer-stemmed, and as near black as a Sweet Pea will ever be, but War larger in the flower and warmer-ton one needs a maroon it must be one two, and it is just a matter for persona to decide which.

W. J. Unwin.—Seen at its best, ve Sweet Peas can compare with W. J. in size and beauty of colouring. It is flowered, very vigorous, and althou does not take very kindly to the "cordo exhibition system of culture, having dency to "blindness," it is one of the

es in commerce to-day. Deep and rich ı-pink on a cream ground.

TH. — The premier Picotee - edged . Pure white, Picotee-edged with Very large-flowered and vigorous. Constance Hinton, an attack of green-ll cause the flowers to assume very colour effects, and the Pea will appear ıy sort of stripe instead of a clean-cut ·.

Herbaceous Pæonies

ize, in form, and in colour, modern ınies may be said to have reached a e bordering on perfection. Every of crimson, rose, and pink, from the to the most delicate of hues, besides vhite, primrose, and cream, may be for in an up-to-date collection of these As to variety and beauty of form, ay have large full double flowers with of glistening silk or you may have cup-like blooms with huge centres of ed tufts. But if your choice rests with kinds there are those enchanting varie-th centres of gold threads resting in a ıd of wondrous shell-like guard petals. , instead of the somewhat unpleasant vhich characterised the flowers of the hioned species you have in many kinds rance which equals that of any Tea

ıe utility of the Pæony there can be no n. Their proved hardiness and general ity from disease and insect pests them excellent subjects for the per- border, even when out of flower they ıeir handsome foliage to recommend They do well among shrubs, and even rees so long as their rooting medium ı way encroached upon. Pæonies are ell adapted for growing in beds on with spring-flowering bulbs planted ımong them.

cultivation of Pæonies is sometimes d as difficult because newly-planted ns fail to flower. This is an rasy which cannot be helped, but it is which naturally disappears with age. ılants are not difficult to grow if you m a generous start and bear patiently ıeir sparse production of bloom the ar or so. Plant them in well-drained, lug, and liberally-manured soil and ill not fail you. When once well hed let the plants remain undisturbed y will increase in beauty and produc- as the years go by.

ing may be done any time from Sep- to March, but not when the ground is und. If the soil be dry at the time of give the plants a send-off with a ıse watering-can. I refrain from any list of recommended sorts. My ks are bursting with descriptions of f intoxicating beauty, and I should omit many favourites in any possible ı I could make. But write to one of ialists advertising in these pages and l get all the information you require point.

ugh the old double red Pæony has perseded it is still often seen in cot- rdens, and the accompanying photo- vill show that the modern race has ed from no mean parentage.

H. GREAVES.

Delphiniums

Delphinium is one of the noblest of all ıus subjects, and embraces those so enchanting in rosy-mauve, blue brown, and white, which makes these border flowers so fascinating and g in their respective settings.

of the so-called varieties are very high-priced, but there are many sorts to pick from in place of these.

One may obtain a good border dozen for about a guinea, whilst for 30s. a dozen of real choice varieties can be bought. Having grown many varieties of Delphiniums I can recommend the following:—Lavanda, deep rosy-lavender, white centre, very attractive, and a strong grower; Monarch of All, violet and purple, brown eye, appearance of a bee having settled on the centre of the flower, strong grower, throwing a spike from 5 feet to 6 feet high; Dusky Monarch, purple with black centre, very showy and strong, a noble variety; Mrs. Colin McIver, lovely variety of a most pleasing shade of heliotrope, strong grower, and when seen to perfection always commands admiration; Rev. E. Lascelles, a real charmer, bright royal blue, with a conspicuous white eye, strong flower-spike often exceeds 6 feet in height; Smoke of War, a semi-double, reddish-purple with black eye, a telling Delphinium, associated with subjects in the herbaceous border, especially when near some of the yellow-flowering plants; Sir Douglas Haig, a splendid variety; in fact, one of the best, and may now be bought at 5s. each; a really majestic Delphinium, the individual blooms being very large, often measuring 3 inches across; colour, deep purple and blue; very vigorous, the spikes towering over 6 feet in height; Mrs. H. J. Watson, very large flowers of a deep mauve shade with black centre; the flower-spikes are strong, rising 3 feet to 4 feet high; very vigorous; Statuaire Rude, individual pips measure over 3 inches across, whilst the spike towers 6 feet high; a noble flower and one of the best; colour, pale heliotrope or lilac-lavender.

G. L.

Old double red Pæonies

A springtime effect

Early flowers are ever welcome, perhaps more welcome than at any other period of the year. They "open up" a brighter vista, hold for us an indefinable charm, and always command a greater meed of appreciation than do blossoms produced in the fullness of summer, for in later days we are satiated with the kaleidoscopic colours and effects of the garden. A particularly pleasing picture may be created by planting a generous mass of the Himalayan Primrose (Primula denticulata), freely interspersing the plants with a "trumpet" Daffodil of not too generous proportions, and if a few specimens of Rhododendron præcox, an old favourite blooming in February and March, with rosy-lilac flowers, can be thinly and irregularly dotted about, an extremely pleasing effect will result.

The somewhat small and delicately-coloured Daffodil, Johnstonii, Queen of Spain, is very attractive, and tones perfectly with the lavender-blue Primulas. If a bank or an undulating piece of ground may be utilised for this garden scene the resultant pleasure will be greatly enhanced. A southern or western aspect will be advantageous.

The Primulas increase apace, and division of the roots should be resorted to every third or fourth year, the most suitable time for this work being immediately after the plants have finished flowering, in April or early in May.

An annual surface-dressing of leaf-mould will be greatly enjoyed by these spring flowers. Rhododendron præcox is not so fastidious as some of its congeners, but will doubtless prefer a soil which is free from calcareous matter. As a substitute for the Rhododendron the somewhat new and dwarf-growing Forsythia ovata may be planted with good effect, its drooping yellow flowers being entrancingly pretty.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Crocuses after flowering

Almost everyone will be disposed to agree that in the Crocuses we have blossoms that make the gardens charming in spring, but somehow we do not trouble very much as to the culture they need or the treatment one should give them after flowering. When they have done blooming and the "Grass" becomes ragged-looking, and whilst still green, is there not a temptation, just for the sake of making a border look tidy, to cut off the foliage? Such a practice is harmful, and this year I noticed the difference between bulbs whose foliage had been cut last year whilst fresh and green, simply for the sake of giving to beds a neater appearance, and those the foliage of which decayed naturally. The blossoms in the one case were poor and not so numerous, whilst on those that were not touched they were much superior. We do not defoliate Tulips or Hyacinths, or cut down Pæonies immediately the last blooms have gone, and why should Crocuses be any exception to the rule?

C. F.

Edinburgh Botanic Gardens

A VISIT to the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens in April last found plants much further forward than at the same period in the year previous, many fully two to three weeks earlier. Rhododendrons, one of the outstanding features of these gardens, were intensely interesting, even to one who is only in the early stages of the "fever." The large number of species and hybrids that flourish and flower in this somewhat exposed East Coast garden augurs well for the future in our gardens, where they are bound to become a dominant feature. A shrub with evergreen leaves and such a magnificent range of flower colour, with blooms extending over a long period, is certain to prove irresistible to many amateur gardeners. There are large, well-established Himalayan and other species, and hybrids of many years standing in various parts of the gardens, dense thickets of them in places. An unlabelled bush, 10 feet to 12 feet high, near the east entrance, with brilliant trusses of bright crimson flowers from ground to top, stood out very prominently.

Many of the more recently-introduced species are planted in a sheltered position at the east of the Regius Keeper's Garden, the high evergreen hedge providing a good background and also affording protection from the westerly gales. These should not be missed by visitors interested in Rhododendrons, as they include many of the finest of the more recently introduced species. A deep yellow-flowered bush of Rhododendron campylocarpum was quite the best yellow that I have seen. Another yellow—R. flavidum—was fine, and a group of R. Cunningham's Sulphur, smothered with its pale sulphur trusses, is one of the most effective. A specimen bush in the open, set off by the green surroundings, was an outstanding feature in the grounds a little to the south-west of the plant houses. The dwarf R. ciliatum and R. racemosum were past their best in the rock garden, where they do exceedingly well. R. oleæfolium, somewhat similar to R. racemosum, was doing well wedged in between rocks, and had not suffered in the way a small specimen in my garden further south had, which had its flowers finished off and the young growths killed back by an unwelcome night's frost a little after Easter. Hundreds of young Rhododendrons raised from seeds collected by Reginald Farrer, Kingdon Ward, Forrest, and others who have been working the lesser-known regions of Tibet and Burmah, have been planted out alongside the tracks through the Arboretum to the west of the rock garden, also in various other parts, including several groups at the back of the herbaceous border on the north boundary. A very fine bush of the North American Rhododendron Vaseyi, covered with its bright red flowers, was very attractive to the east of the rock garden, and another effective species was R. Bayleyi, with a profusion of bright scarlet trusses. In the ROCK GARDEN one or two Celmisias were in flower, including C. viscosa, one of the striking New Zealand Daisies, which seem to be quite happy at Edinburgh. The deep yellow flowers of Draba nivalis, set off by the vivid green foliage, were effective, as was a drift of the pretty blue flowers of Collinsia bicolor, a flower referred to in a paper recently received from Canada: ". . . . The pale blue of the tiny Collinsias makes azure masses on the shallow soil of the rocks. . . ."

The most interesting plants at this period are the Primulas and Meconopsis, which include many of the more recent introductions from the regions bordering on the "eaves of the world." While many of them are in the rock garden proper, by far the most interesting are along the outside facing south, a more recent lay-out and a development worth extending to provide for the different aspects. This arrangement makes the plants more accessible to those specially interested, and also, from the gardener's point of view, more easily overlooked and watched, an important point when you have rare plants going to seed. Meconopsis coming into flower included M. integrifolia (with its large sulphur-yellow flowers), M. simplicifolia (with its more robust and finer-flowered Bailey's Variety), M. rudis, M. aculeata, a very healthy group of Meconopsis Baileyi not yet in flower, and M. Pratti. Among the Primulas in the south portion of the rock garden were some fine groups of P. muscarioides, with the purplish-blue flower-heads. Smaller-flowered forms of the same series were included under the names of P. lepta, P. deflexa, and P. cynanicha. Groups of P. conica alba were healthy and flowering very freely. The cone-shaped flowers were mostly purple flushed, not pure white. This Primula looked a stronger grower than P. muscarioides, but none of this group are safe perennials. P. pinnatifida, another of this section, was coming up strongly in a pocket in the rock garden facing north, and sheltered from the other aspects. This is a difficult Primula to winter outside. Five or six are coming up in my garden, but it is possible that the cold dry winds we are having will prevent them developing properly. Many interesting Primulas are grown in the boggy places by the side of the lake. The only one prominent at this time was a very fine group of the incomparable Primula rosea, which evidently had to be wired in to prevent destruction by birds. Primulas are being planted extensively alongside the seedling Rhododendrons—P. lichiangensis, P. Sieboldii, P. sikkimensis, P. florindæ, and P. gerainioides—and they look much happier in their more natural position in the woodland shade. Some species are planted in the Rose beds, including such varieties as P. sino-plantaginea, the peculiar omphilogramma vincæflora, with its large single, blue flower, a difficult plant from the highest parts of Tibet, and the dainty North American P. elisæa.

The recently-introduced P. Cawdoriana was seen in flower under cover. It has exceptionally long and broad tubular corollas, with serrated tip, and of a lovely pale silvery-blue, much larger tubes than P. muscarioides, and only a few in the loose cluster. It must have been a revelation to Kingdon Ward and his companions if they came across it in numbers in flower, as it is so dissimilar to any of the other generally-known Primulas.

A vertical wall with 1 inch to 1½ inch joints, recently erected at the south of the rock garden and at the back of the south rock border had P. Forrestii and P. Dubernardiana planted in the crevices, which had come through the winter and were remarkably happy, both commencing to flower. P. Dubernardiana has pretty crinkled leaves and delicate pinkish-mauve flowers, lovely when produced under happy conditions. P. Forrestii has done well outside with me during the past three or four years, flowering especially well in 1925, but this last winter killed off every plant, probably the snow lying and freezing on the plants being too much for the nervous system. Lewisia Howelli had very large rosettes full of flower-spikes, and Phyteuma comosum was particularly fine in the wall crevices.

Two Megaseas, M. purpurascens and M. Delavayi, are attractive plants for smaller gardens with smaller leaves and flower-spikes than the usual Megaseas of gardens. Pyrethrum radicans from seed obtained by me about 7,000 feet up in the Sierra Nevada come through the winter in a recently-rockery. There were also self-sown lings. In north Yorks part of the plan P. radicans have come through, and lings are appearing in positions occupie the plants last summer. It is a delig dwarf, greenish-grey leaved plant with and sulphur-yellow Daisy flowers, the ye flowered plants more desirable.

In the border by the plant houses ther always some interesting plants. Ompha Luciliæ, with glass protection, which been in the position some years now, is perfectly happy. Clintonia alpina had Daisy-like flowers, and the oval Polygo shaped rose-coloured flower-spikes Helonias bullata were attractive. T. A.

Some early Saxifragas

It is with great anticipation that we for the opening of the first buds of the Perhaps we may say that at no time individual plant so carefully watched tended, and, shall we say, talked of should be the aim of every alpine enth to add to the blooming period of the garden, and for the very earliest part year we must rely to a great extent upo great family the Saxifragacæ, the blooms of which seem to defy winter worst moods. It is rather difficult t definitely, the earliest of these gems aspect aiding some and retarding others the type of soil.

All the following require gritty, drained soil, and, if possible, should south or west to ensure the earliest p bloom:—S. apiculata, an easy grower primrose heads; S. apiculata alba, a sport from apiculata; S. sancta, with g yellow flowers; S. burseriana, grey cus white flowers with red stems; S. burs gloria, the best of the burseriana type, ordinarily large white flowers; S. burs tridentina; S. Faldonside, a beautiful S. Irvingii, a dwarf form of burserian shell-pink flowers; S. Kewensis; S. K ensis, a cushion-like little plant with flowers; S. oppositifolia and its va alba, latina, and splendens. S. R

The Nepaul Cinquefoil

Potentilla nepalensis, or formosa, h a number of years been a favourit garden plant and has gained inc favour as the years have rolled on more recently a specially charming has made its appearance and has been Willmottiæ in honour of that great l flowers, Miss Willmott. That it has earned the appreciation of alpinists is due, not only because of its greater ness, but also on account of the beaut flowers and its general habit. W known as the typical P. nepalens formosa, is often said to grow about high, but in rock gardens in poor soil be kept lower than that without detrim its beauty. It has pleasing foliage an bearing several of its lovely che flowers.

The variety Willmottiæ is only abo the height of the type and has very ch blooms of a brilliant magenta-rose.

No difficulty need be experienced cultivation of these two Potentillas, will grow in ordinary soil. In the they look quite attractive, but th especially pleasing on rockwork, es P. n. Willmottiæ. Plants may be from seeds or increased by division. be added that the writer has grow successfully in both sun and shade.

S. AR

[Photographs by Robert Adams.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, EDINBURGH

Above: Lilium giganteum in open woodland. *Below:* The world-famous rock garden. View from west side.

Royal Horticultural Society

FLOWERS of early spring greeted the visitors to the fortnightly meeting held at Vincent Square on February 22nd. Apart from the spring bulbs and early alpines there were glorious displays of Cyclamens, Carnations, and Orchids.

Early bulbs and Alpines

Perhaps the most spring-like of all exhibits was that of Barr and Sons, in which Hellebores (Christmas and Lenten Roses), early Irises, Daffodils, Crocuses, Dicentra spectabilis, and Snowdrops were all well represented. Here we saw the little Narcissus minimus, the smallest of all Daffodils, having dainty little trumpets of a full rich yellow. It is collected annually. Near by was the true N. minor with its gracefully-twisted perianth. It has not been collected for 20 years or more, and is grown on annually in the nursery—the true species is now very scarce.

A capital collection of alpines in pans, including Saxifrages and Primulas, was shown by Mr. C. Kirch, Beckenham. Not the least interesting of this collection were the pans of Crocus Sieberi (see illustration). These pans of Croci had been grown on for the second year without repotting. Saxifraga Grisebachii was more variable than usual, as seen in this group.

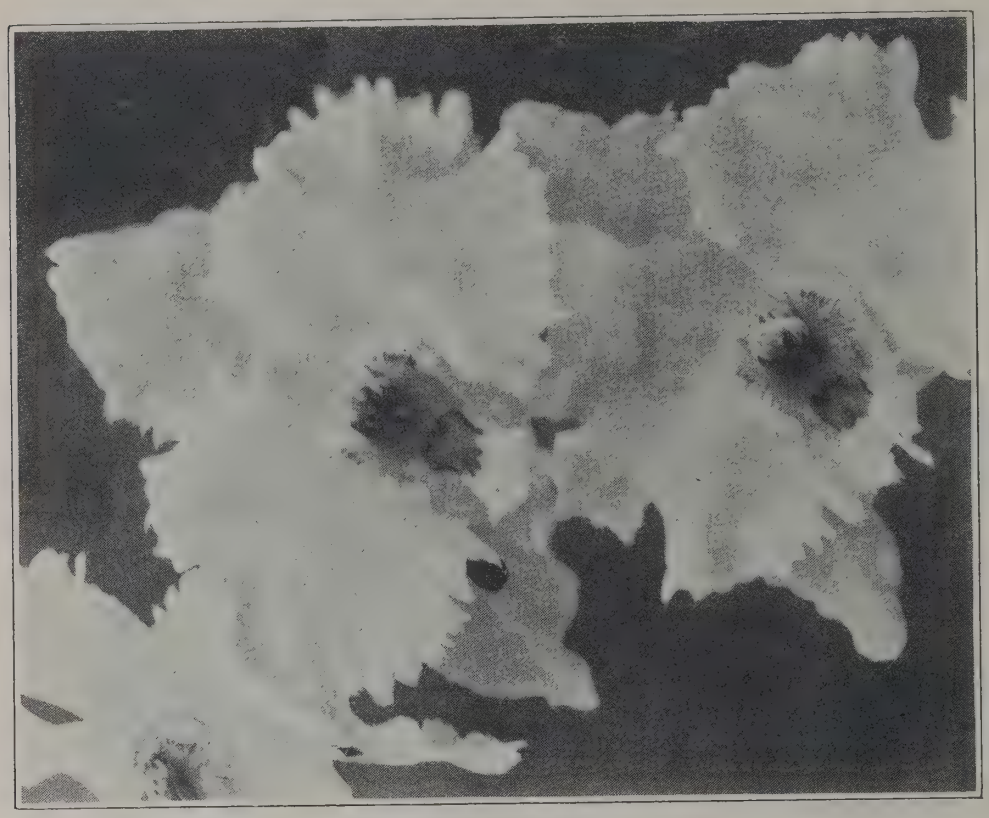
Alpines in pans were shown by many others, but the best Saxifrages came from the alpine-house, Wisley. We illustrate two of the pans on the page opposite, viz., Saxifraga Jenkinsiæ, a hybrid of the Kabschia section with large pale blush flowers, in 4-inch pan, and S. burseriana crenata, with white crenate flowers, in 12-inch pan.

Daffodils in bowls, including Homespun, Admiration, and Fleetwing, were well shown by R. H. Bath, Ltd.

Perhaps the most interesting Narcissi were the Poets shown by Mr. F. A. Secrett, Marsh Farm, Twickenham. Poets are notoriously difficult to force early, but these were well shown in bowls as grown. The varieties included Red Rim, Barbellion, and seedlings under number, including the hybrid Poet A3, yellow-eyed, edged orange, illustrated on the page opposite. These varieties were about three weeks earlier than ornatus and far better.

A brilliant display of early Dutch Tulips closely planted in a sloping border or bank was arranged by James Carter and Co. The varieties included Vermilion Brilliant, Sir Thomas Lipton, De Wet, Augusta, Coleur Cardinal, and the large yellow Mon Tresor.

Galanthus byzantinus, with large white flowers, green markings, and broad leaves, was well shown by Mr. C. T. Musgrave, Hascombe Place, Godalming.



Odontoglossum crispum Repulse

This magnificent variety of perfect form and remarkable for the breadth and depth of its petals was shown by Mr. R. Gerrish, Salisbury

Orchids

There were many groups of Orchids, but the most outstanding variety was a magnificent form of Odontoglossum crispum named Repulse, shown by Mr. R. Gerrish, Milford Manor, Salisbury (gardener, Mr. Sorrell). It is probably the largest and finest "crispum" in cultivation. The flowers are glistening white with dark chestnut markings on the lip. The broad, deep petals, which meet and overlap, are 4 inches across at the widest.

Dendrobium Renown Armstrongiæ, shown by Armstrong and Brown, created a sensation. Rose-purple is the dominant colour, and it is by far the most richly-coloured Dendrobium we have seen. The flowers are large, conspicuous, and of grand form.

Greenhouse plants and flowers

There were a few old garden favourites in the Hall. It was like meeting an old friend to see and smell the Amaranth Feathers (Humea elegans) which the Duchess Wellington sent in quantity with the b flowered Eranthemum pulchellum and a Cineraria stellata. Humea elegans ha peculiar and agreeable scent like incense.

One gentleman who could not withst the temptation of rubbing the leaves Humea elegans was later in the day wal down Victoria Street where he met a fri who remarked, "What a long way the s of the incense from Westminster Cathe carries, doesn't it?" The associatio plants and their odours is, indeed, an i esting study.

Messrs. Sutton and Sons were award Gold Medal for a bold and remarkably arranged exhibit of Cyclamens that filled end of the hall. Among the most te varieties were Salmon Pink, Salmon Sca Firefly (with flowers of an intense sea wax-red), Sunrise (rose-pink), White Bu fly, and the crimson-maroon-coloured Vu

Another group of Cyclamens came Mr. J. W. Forsyth. These were of the known Caledonian strain. Some of plants were in 3-inch pots; all were flowered. Most of the plants had sil coloured leaves.

Camellias in pots in no less than 18 ties were shown by Robert Veitch and Exeter. Two of the best were C. retic (pink) and Mrs. William Thompson (double white). H.

Galanthus plicatus Warhar Variety

This is one of the best forms of the b ful and interesting Crimean Snowdro well deserves the Award of Merit given at the R.H.S. meeting on February The form of the large globular flow about as perfect as can be. The wide show very distinctly the folded margin are responsible for the specific name pli —that means folded, pleated. The c portion of each leaf is glaucous with a covering while young, and the ma bands, when they unroll, are of a pecu rich and glossy green that contrasts with the central band of sea-blue. It h another virtue in its strong constitutio it is a good doer and increases rapidly.

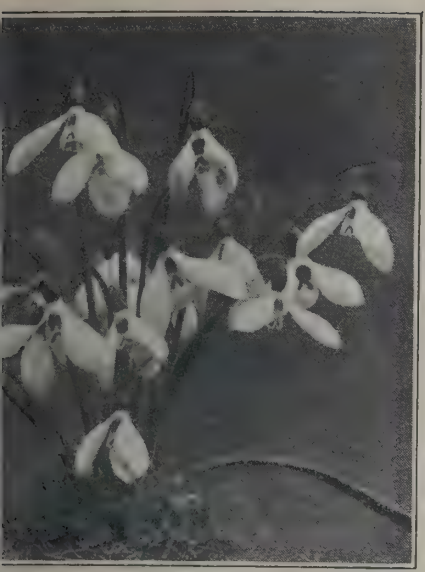
The first I saw of it was a box blossoms sent to me by a dear friend dead, Charles Digby, the Rector of Wa in Norfolk, who asked me if I could na I replied that it was the finest form plicatum I had seen, and asked him t out whether it came from the Crimea.

At the end of the dreadful winte soldiers spent in the trenches durin Crimean War, when at last the snow r the earthworks were once more covere a white mantle, not of snow, but tho of Snowdrops. Many a soldier sent bulbs of these flowers that spoke so ho to them of home. Mr. Digby found o this large form was brought from the by Captain Adlington, and was gro Bradenham, near Swaffham. Bulbs were given to Mrs. Groom, of Warha spread from her garden to the cotta den in which they still grow, and whence they have been distributed lat those who love a good Snowdrop.

E. R. Bo

Gladioli

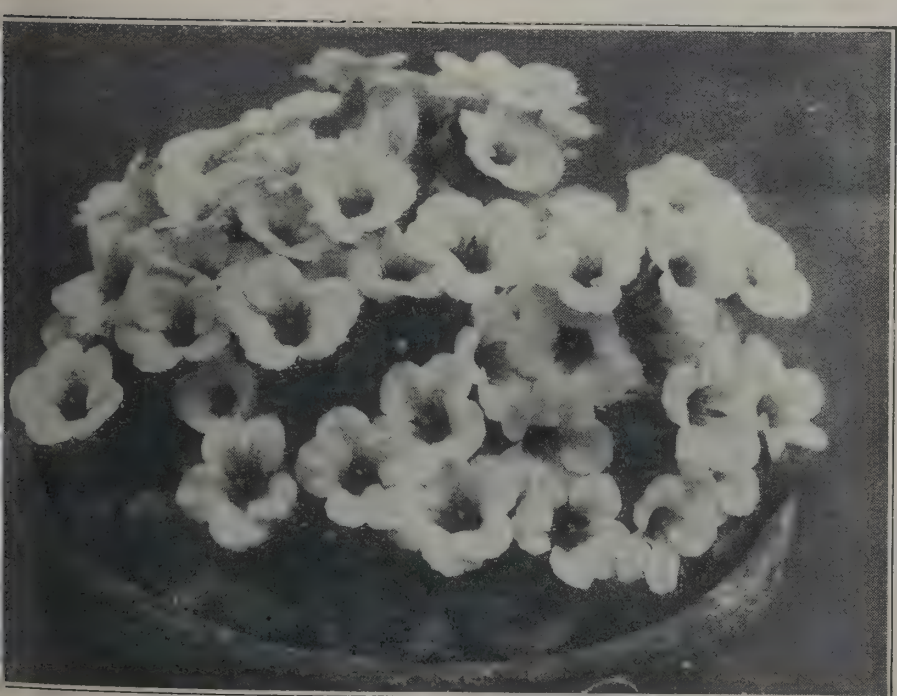
Now is the time to prepare grou Gladioli for summer flowering. Th of these magnificent and showy pla scarcely be exaggerated. The eas which they can be grown, and their ingly low price, make them the m sirable of all flowers for decorating berries or grounds.



Galanthus byzantinus, shown by Mr. C. T. Musgrave

A well-flowered pan of Crocus Sieberi in Mr. C. J. Kirch's collection of Alpines

Saxifraga Burseriana crenata in a 12-inch pan



Saxifraga Jenkinsiæ from the Wisley collection

Seedling Poets forced by Mr. F. A. Secrett

FLOWERS OF SPRING AT VINCENT SQUARE

OBITUARY

William Profeit Thomson

W. P. THOMSON retired on pension from the Editorial Staff of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED at the end of last year. He had reached the age of 77, and he left with the good wishes of all his colleagues for his well-earned retirement.

Within a few weeks he had caught a chill, influenza followed, and he died at his home at Chiswick on Friday, February 25th, having retired only eight weeks.

Thomson was a gardener of the old school. He came of a gardening family, his father and two brothers all being gardeners.

He was born on September 27th, 1849, at Easter Skene, an estate about eight miles to the north of Aberdeen, where his father was gardener to Mr. W. McCambie. In such surroundings it was natural that he, as a boy, should be a Nature and garden lover.

A sound education in the parish school at Kinellar paved the way for a bursary to the Grammar School at Aberdeen.

At the age of 18 he was apprenticed by his father to Mr. John Clark, who was then gardener at Brodie Castle. This was at a time when the present Brodie of Brodie, of Daffodil fame, was a child-in-arms.

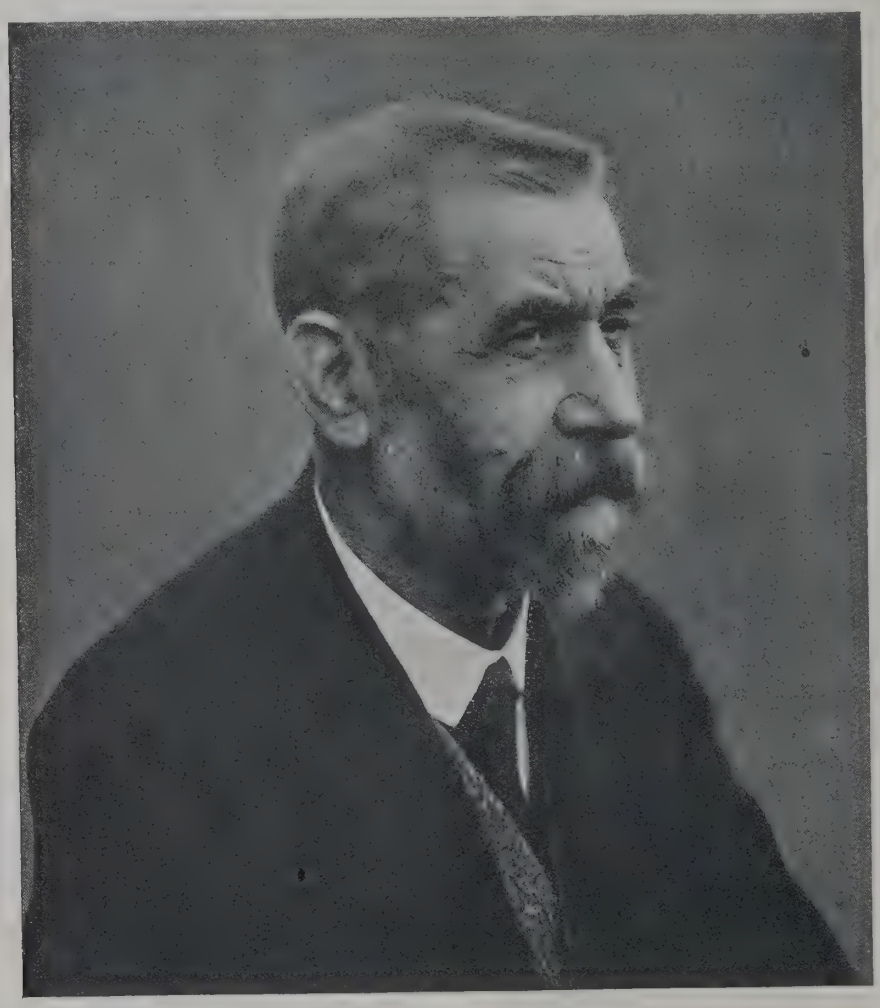
Thomson cherished fond memories of the gardens at Brodie Castle, and it was his intention this summer to re-visit the scenes of his youthful activities.

Leaving Brodie Castle, he went to Fyvie Castle as outside foreman, and from there he passed to Linkfield House, Musselburgh.

In 1874 he joined the staff of the Royal Horticultural Society as clerk to Mr. Barron, the Superintendent of those days. The same year he was appointed foreman at Chiswick, a position he held for 13 years. Then followed, in 1887, his association with Mr. William Robinson, the founder of this journal and the author of the "English Flower Garden."

Mr. Robinson, the great doyen of gardening, had the invaluable gift of selecting the right man for the job and of infusing a large measure of his enthusiasm in his work, and Thomson was loyal to him.

In 1887 Thomson was appointed Sub-Editor of "The Garden," and when that journal was sold to "Country Life" he took over the editorship of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, which was founded on March 1st, 1879. It was the first of the penny gardening papers, and was an immediate success. For 24 years W. P. T. was responsible for the weekly editorial of this journal.



The late Mr. W. P. Thomson

A most careful, painstaking, and conscientious Editor, he was a great worker, and his life was devoted to service. One remarkable feature about him was his memory for references to little-known plants. Some almost forgotten species might be under discussion when Thomson would recall a note on the subject. It may have been 40 years ago, and he would take down a volume and turn up the page in surprisingly quick time.

He was not a genial man, he was what the world calls a dour Scot, but under his rugged nature lay a kind heart that was known only to his closest friends.

All his interests circled round horticulture. He was one of the first workers for the Gardeners' Royal Orphan Fund, and for many years he was on its Executive Committee.

He was also a member of the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, and the crowning glory of his career was the Veitch Memorial Medal in gold besto upon him last year by the Royal Hort tural Society for his contributions to h cultural journalism.

When a man attains to the advanced of 77 years the happiness and success w he has achieved must necessarily be ti with regret for those friends and collea of his who have been gathered into the Few of us would be able to hide our sor from the world in the way W. P. Thor did, nor does there fall to many of us a so heavy as he had to bear. A hard ope life in the highlands gave him phy strength to withstand the buffetings of but the mental anguish and loneliness he has endured for nearly half a lifetin London are realised by only a few fri All three of his young children died w two months of each other, and his poor w has borne ever since upon her mind and ing the marks of her great grief, and is too ill to fully realise her latest loss.

Despite these tribulations, our coll will always be remembered for his dev to his work, his painstaking care in all he undertook, his great love of his g and gardening in general, and his coura these latter years of failing health.

It is less than two months ago we farewell to our friend, to wish him god and years of happy rest.

Was it not Francis Thompson who w "Look for me in the nurseries of Heav It will be in the gardens of Paradise tha must seek the spirit of W. P. T., and he is the loveliest flowers will bloom these were the most abiding joy and in tion of his long life.

Report on condition of Horticult Crops on the 24th February

Broccoli (Spring Hearting). — damage by frost, but condition normal.

Broccoli (Sprouting).—In good conc though somewhat backward.

Cabbage (autumn-planted). — Ger satisfactory, but progress this montl been slow.

Cabbage (autumn-planted for gree Making good growth; cutting has menced in eastern counties.

Cucumbers (under glass).—Doing we need sun.

French Beans (forced).—Plants clea healthy, condition satisfactory.

Kale (Green).—Normal generally; yields in Middlesex.

Lettuce (frame).—Progress satisfact

Radishes (forced).—Healthy and pro good crop.

Rhubarb (forced).—Average crop; supplies available.

Rhubarb (natural).—Growth backw

Tomatoes (under glass).—Good pla ing planted out; more sun needed.

Anemones.—A. fulgens flowering fr Scilly, but St. Brigid and De Caen less factory; in Cornwall flowering not so usual.

Arum Lilies.—Plants clean and h and promise well.

Carnations, Perpetual (under g Growing well.

Daffodils and Narcissi (indoor).— crop.

Daffodils and Narcissi (outdoor).— crop in Scilly; in Cornwall crop is lat usual; elsewhere growing satisfa though backward.

Hyacinths (forced).—An average cr

Tulips (forced).—An average crop.

Violets.—Flowering freely; good flowers.

Wallflowers.—Have wintered we show good promise.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

outhern and Midland

es

ommence the pruning of dwarf Roses, ng the most delicate Teas until last, and e old maxim is adhered to (the stronger Rose the lighter you prune) the work of ing should not present any great diffi- even to the beginner. First of all re- the bushes of all old, thin, and useless l, and such as tends to crowd the centre, t is important that sunshine should pene- to all parts. Follow this by reducing remainder of the growths back to within or four eyes from the point at which were cut last year, cutting whenever ble above a bud pointing outwards. h will depend upon the size and constitu- of the kinds dealt with, and the operator find it necessary to use a little discretion dealing with individual plants. For nce, many very choice Teas are weak ers and must be pruned more severely. les upon pruning are invariably accom- d with an illustration of a perfect plant as the beginner will rarely find among stablished collection of Roses, the size shape of which leave him puzzled, but dence comes with a little practice, and I e all growers, large or small, to prune ast a few bushes each year and watch ts.

ed Pansies

nts raised from autumn-sown seeds and ngs which have been growing in cold es should be given a free admittance of ven to the removal of the sashes alto- r during favourable weather, as it will ly be found advisable to transfer them rmanent places, such as the carpeting se beds, broad edgings to borders, or in ase of the small alpine kinds to moist on the alpine garden.

stemons, Calceolarias, Scabious, Evening Primroses

se and similar plants which require space for development than the boxes pots they were struck in should be d out in improvised frames which can otected at night, where they will form g plants in readiness for the beds as as the latter are available and the danger frosts no longer feared.

tylosa

present is the best time for lifting and ng up this valuable winter flowerer, ing a warm and sheltered border for its ion, and if the soil is heavy a quantity nd or brick-rubble should be added to it more friable. This Iris is later in g into bloom this year than I have n it to be for several seasons, but im- tely the flowers are over, replanting ike place. I have a poor opinion of the variety.

se growing in pots and which have a few inches of growth may be intro- in batches, as desired, to gentle heat, hen they have reached a foot in height al top-dressing may be applied.

s and bulbs

se intended for forcing must be intro- to gentle heat according to require- , and here I might state that forced f the Valley are greatly improved when d to harden gradually in a cool house week or so before being cut or other- sed. The leaves assume a natural deep and the flower-spikes get taller and , and thus last a good deal longer.

Indoor Carnations

Many of these are blooming freely, and it may be found advisable to lower the blinds for a short time—when the sun is most powerful—each day to protect the open flowers. Admit abundance of air, and although watering will claim more attention than hitherto it must be applied with care. Weak applications of Carnation manure given every 10 days will increase the vigour of the plants. Cut the fully-opened flowers daily and place in a cool room.

Vines and Peaches in bloom

Maintain a dry atmosphere whilst these are in bloom, with a slightly increased temperature, and assist the setting by hand fertilisation, in the case of the former a tapping of the rods at mid-day, except in the case of Muscats, being usually sufficient for the setting of the fruit.

Seedlings

Many of those sown during the past month are now ready for pricking off into boxes or pans of sandy soil. These must be kept in the same temperature for a time and stood on shelves near the glass. The soil for this purpose should always be brought to the same temperature as that in which the seedlings have been growing beforehand.

Early Potatoes

A first planting may now be made in the open on a warm, sheltered, and well-drained border. Leaf-soil and ashes placed about the sets will assist this early batch, which should not be on a large scale. The following are excellent varieties:—Witch Hill Early, Webb's Express, Webb's Colonist, and Duke of York.

Brussels Sprouts

A sowing may be made in the open, as this Sprout requires a long season of growth, early and well-grown plants usually providing the finest buttons. Those raised under glass are ready for pricking off into boxes and will be grown on for a time in cool frames.

E. Markham.

Gravetye Manor Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Plant Strawberries now

In many of our northern districts it is practically impossible to make new Strawberry beds in autumn, the "runners" being produced too late to permit of their being set out in time. Excellent results are had, however, by planting during March, or early April. Choose a nice open position and have it given a fair dressing of rich old manure, and then deeply dug. If the ground is newly prepared it must be well firmed by treading with the feet before planting is begun, the Strawberry resenting a loose root-run.

Recently-planted Raspberries

It is fatal to the future well-being of the plants to permit of their carrying a crop the first season, so all such should be cut back to about 9 inches from the soil. If the ground is of a light nature, or the plantation in an open situation, a mulching of long stable litter will greatly aid the plants, helping, as it does, to preserve a cool and moist condition of the soil.

Pruning and nailing

Should there be any arrears in this section have it overtaken at the earliest opportunity, for the buds will now be swelling and are very easily rubbed off when attending to these duties after this date.

Planting Roses

I have had such excellent results from spring planting that I never hesitate to advise any arrears of this work held over from autumn being carried out at any time from early February till the middle of March. Do not, however, be tempted to carry out the planting while the ground is wet and sticky, for it is imperative that the soil be well trodden over the roots, and this cannot be properly accomplished when the earth is wet and sloppy. Prune before planting.

Plant hardy perennials

Providing the soil is in nice working order the present is about the most suitable time of the whole year for the laying down of new perennial borders, or the renovating of old ones. Whenever possible select a fresh site for a new border, but if this cannot be managed a rich dressing of old manure or decayed garden refuse must be worked into the ground and some fresh soil added, if procurable.

Sowing Brassicas

The main batch of Cabbages, Cauliflowers, Brussels Sprouts, Savoys, curled greens, and autumn Broccoli should be sown at the very first favourable opportunity now. Select a sunny border where the soil is not too rich and sow thinly in shallow drills 12 inches apart.

Maincrop Leeks

These should now be sown on rich, well-tilled ground, shallow drills 9 inches to 12 inches asunder being better for this purpose than the old-fashioned "broadcast" method. For general use there is nothing better than a good stock of the old Scotch Musselburgh. It is very hardy, branches easily and well, and grows to a good size if given fair treatment.

Early Carrots

It is now safe to put in a row or two of a hardy variety like Early Scarlet Nantes, choosing a sunny border and sowing thinly so that no subsequent thinning may be necessary.

Lettuce

If not yet done, a small sowing on a sunny border should now be got in, so as to provide a succession to the batch raised under glass. Carter's Holborn Standard is a very reliable sort for this early work.

Tomatoes

Continue to give these judicious attention. The earliest batch may be fit for a shift into larger pots, later sowings fit for pricking off, while, if necessary, another sowing may be made for use later in autumn.

Pricking-off seedlings

Quite a number of kinds are now fit for pricking off into pots or boxes, as the case may be. This is excellent work for bad weather, but it is a mistake to permit seedlings to get drawn and leggy waiting for such conditions.

Potting-off rooted cuttings

Cuttings of Pelargoniums, Fuchsias, Petunias, Salvias, Statices, Calceolarias, and other greenhouse subjects should now be potted off singly and set for a little in a rather close pit or greenhouse to permit of a rapid recovery from the check incidental to this operation.

C. Blair.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

Planting a hedge

I shall shortly have to plant a hedge some 150 yards long. I am divided in my sympathies between Beech and Hornbeam. What are their respective merits? Which is the quicker grower, and is Beech brighter in colour than Hornbeam? Both seem to do well in this neighbourhood, though I have only seen trees—not *hedges*. The soil is rather poor—sandy loam on chalk. What is the best season to plant? MRS. THRUSH.

[We should have no hesitation in recommending Hornbeam in preference to Beech. Hornbeam usually fills out quicker and makes a better and more durable hedge. It also holds its dead leaves better during winter, which are an additional attraction. The plants should be set out in autumn about 18 inches apart and the soil should be pressed very firmly round the roots. Once established, they will make good progress, and beyond the necessary cutting back to induce branching and occasionally trimming the growth to obtain the desired shapes little further attention is required.]

Is the foliage of Kalmia latifolia poisonous to cattle

Please tell me if Kalmia latifolia is a poisonous shrub. Would it be injurious if eaten by any kind of cattle, goats, etc.? F. HAND.

[Yes, the foliage of most of the Kalmias is poisonous to cattle that graze on it. The flowers, too, of this particular species yield a honey said to be deleterious, and for this reason we advise you not to plant your shrubs where animals of any kind can reach them. Kalmia angustifolia, probably for the same reason, is known in America as "Sheep Laurel," and "Lamb Kill," and the Canadian Partridge is said to become poisonous as human food afted feeding on Kalmia berries.]

Rhododendron leaves for inspection

(E. M., Harrow Weald).—Yes, the leaves are affected with Rhododendron fly. The leaves have also been attacked by a beetle which has cut the leaves at their edges. There is no need to destroy the bushes. Follow the advice given, issue February 26th, p. 133.

Shrubs and flowers for shaded positions

(G. A. Hopkins).—Providing that the soil is not full of tree roots the following will thrive:—*Shrubs:* Berberis Aquifolium, B. japonica, Aucuba japonica (fine in berry), Rhododendrons (many kinds), Ribes alpinum, Ruscus aculeatus, Gaultheria Shallon, Sarcococcas humilis, S. ruscifolia, Vinca major, Hypericum calycinum, Erica arborea, and E. lusitanica. If the sun can reach the plants for a part of the day, Daphne Laureola, D. pontica, Skimmia japonica, Cotoneaster horizontalis, Andromeda japonica, Daphniphyllum glaucescens, Veronica parviflora, Fuchsia globosa, and F. corallina. *Plants:* Hemerocallis (various), Lilium auratum, L. regale, Acanthus candelabrum, Trillium grandiflorum, Hepatica triloba, H. angulosa, Anemone japonica, A. appenina, Aquilegias, Foxgloves, Petasites fragrans, Leucojum carpathicum, Snowdrops in variety, Lenten Roses (Helleborus orientalis), Myosotis, Epimedium sulphureum, Saxifraga Megasea, Asperula odorata, Inula glandulosa, Iris (all the Flag section), Omphalodes verna, Geranium armenum, Lysimachia vulgaris, Campanula lactiflora, C. macrantha, Sedum spectabilis, Pampas Grasses, Phormium tenax, Doronicums, Narcissus poeticus in variety, Hardy Cyclamen in variety planted in leafy soil about the base of coniferous trees, Anchusa sempervirens, Snake's Heads, Fritillarias, Corydalis nobilis, Dentarias of sorts, Polyanthus, and Auriculas in variety, and Lily of the Valley. Many of these could be raised from seed, but we strongly advise you to obtain plants instead.

Pruning a Passion Flower

I have a Passion-flower (Cœrulia) growing rampantly over a wall. Last year it was so tangled that I cut it quite close, but too late in the season. Ought I to prune it every year, and at what time? G. L. B.

[Instead of cutting hard back each year endeavour to prevent the growths getting entangled, and thin out rather than actually prune. Do this early in April. In summer, when the shoots are getting overcrowded, some of the weaker may, with advantage, be cut away, and thus permit of the growths left ripening properly, which is of great importance.]

ALPINES

Position and soil for Gentiana acaulis

I am very anxious to grow Gentiana acaulis, and would like to know the position and the soil that would suit it best. My garden is a sunny one with dry and moist places. E. L. W.

[This Gentian loves a deep, moist, loamy soil which will hold the roots without becoming dust-dry during the summer months. The soil must not, however, be of a boggy nature, for when this is so the plants sicken and turn yellow. Lime is sometimes recommended for this plant, but the finest we have ever grown or seen were in good, free, loamy soil absolutely devoid of lime. Choose a sunny piece of ground sloping to the south-west or full west, and mix a few broken stones—sandstone for preference—in the top 9 inches of soil. These will keep the ground sweet. Put out the plants at 10 inches apart or slightly less, according to their size, and after planting is completed cover the surface between the plants completely with broken stones about the size of hens' eggs and you should get a handsome return in two years' time. If your plants are large and in poor health divide them up into small pieces in order that a vigorous growth may be restored.]

GREENHOUSE

Cinerarias unsatisfactory

Can you tell me why the leaves on some of my Cinerarias curl up on the edges? This only happens in an occasional plant, but it is not confined to any one variety, as in t or four different types of Cineraria this curs here and there. It seems to dominate in the varieties the underside whose leaves are slightly coloured, but may only be a coincidence. F. WHITCHURC

[Probably you have subjected Cinerarias to too high a temperature. plant resents this, a cool shady position ing necessary for best results, only en artificial heat being given to exclude fro

Building a lean-to greenhouse

I propose building a lean-to greenh but to make use of a wall I find I sh have to excavate the soil to a depth of a 2 feet 6 inches. Would it be sufficient to excavate the pathway to a width of 3 along the centre of the house and just platform of some sort on top of the ea banks? F. WHITCHURC

[You could merely excavate the pat as you suggest, but this would neces building a brick wall on either side to vent the soil crumbling down. A better would be to heighten the wall, and th pense would be no greater, or, alternat making your proposed lean-to a three-qu span; and here again the difference in could not be very great. Yet another native, and one which we adopted with cess, is to heighten the back with wooden beams, and this would, probab the cheapest method.]

ROSES

Rose Emily Gray

I have some strong-growing Emily Ramblers which were planted last Nove They were then about 5 feet and had long shoots. The next season these threw laterals, but only one or two b appeared. They also sent up six or so did long shoots for this year's flow Soil good medium loam. Is this Rose bloomer, and would it bloom freer laterals formed last year and in this c March be pruned to two eyes ea course, the long shoots formed in 1926 left intact to send out the usual trusse CHAT

[Emily Gray is not, as a rule, a ve bloomer, but you made a mistake in ing the shoots at full length when pla They ought to have been shortened b about 9 inches from the ground. Cut all the old wood and train in the strong shoots you mention, merely removing t tips, and the plants should bloom qui this year.]

Climbing Chateau de Clos Vouge

I have two climbers and they will no higher than tall dwarfs. How shou be pruned to be made to grow as cli My plants had a lot of blind shoot Should these be left and allowed to lower, or does it help to cut back to as I see no eye at tip of blind shoot? CHA

[The climbing form of Rose Chat Clos Vougeot has never been p "fixed," and it is not at all uncom find it revert to the dwarf form. All do to try and get your plants to clim cut away all blind and weak shoots, r only two or three of the most pro which may have the desired effect.]

Roses for rustic fence

I have a rustic fence 30 yards long high which I would like to cover with Are there any Austrian Briars which be suitable for covering a fence that if so what are the names and colo what other varieties of rambling Rose

recommend to plant on the same fence :hat I might have a variety and a good lay of bloom? AMATEUR.

The Austrian Briars are not suitable for purpose, but you can cover your fence comparatively short time if you plant the wing climbing or rambling Roses:—erican Pillar, Dorothy Perkins, Hia-ıa, Excelsa, White Dorothy, Shower of l, Lady Gay, Lady Godiva, and Emily y. Should you prefer large-flowered eties you could select from Climbing oline Testout, Frau Karl Druschki (Snow en), Gloire de Dijon, Climbing Mrs. J. Grant, Climbing Richmond, Gruss an itz, Mme. Isaac Pereire, and Mme. ırd. Colours can be got in any Rose logue.]

FLOWER GARDEN

ins turning yellow

ın you tell me why the leaves of some of perennial Lupins turn yellow quite early heir flowering season? Is there any ? The plants are large and produce flowers even after the leaves turn w. Other Lupins grown from the same keep their green leaves throughout the e summer. L. N. MONTREAL.

t is not unusual for some varieties of n to produce yellow leaves early in the on. We have noted that the white varie-in particular are somewhat addicted to trouble, and there does not appear to be re or preventive.]

oloured and crumpled leaves of Lychnis chalcedonica

n you tell me why many of my Lychnis edonicas have discoloured and some-s crumpled leaves? The flowers are factory, but the leaves are ugly. What e cause, and is there a cure?

L. N. MONTREAL.

ychnis chalcedonica, even in this coun-ıas often poor, crumpled foliage, especi-in hot, dry seasons. Perhaps frequent ng of water at the roots would prevent rouble.]

ewed Delphiniums

an article on Delphiniums, in a recent , I noted the remark that Delphiniums ree from disease, but we are not so for-e in our gardens about the Lower St. ence River. The plants which are ed come on splendidly till the flowers ıst about ready to open, and then the s and stems become discoloured and and lose all beauty; and the flowers, they open, do not materialise at all so as they promised to do, though they do how any disease. Can you advise me o avoid this mildew? I have been told ıfectious, so my plants may have caught n neighbouring estates where the plants first infected some years ago.

L. N. MONTREAL.

e fear that the mildewing of your Del-ıms is owing to climatic conditions. iniums thrive particularly well in Scot-and some of the cooler and moister of England, so most likely your warmer lrier climate is not quite suited to this Try dusting with flowers of sulphur the foliage is wet.]

e of double Nasturtium

ase can you tell me the name of a double rtium? It has a peltate green leaf exactly he leaf of an ordinary Nasturtium; the is a deep rich shade of red with about ows of strap-shaped petals and a few stamens with small and probably use-ellow anthers in the centre. The plant s to a height of about 4 feet. As it s no seed it must, I suppose, be propagated by cuttings, as I do not think it will stand frost any better than the ordinary Nasturtium. MARGARET G. LOVEGROVE.

[We are afraid we do not know a Nasturtium which fits exactly with the above description, but we rather suspect that a semi-double form of Tropœolum speciosum is the one indicated. This is a very popular and useful climber, and is, to all intents and purposes, hardy. It is best propagated by root divisions in spring or autumn, but it also sometimes produces seed, which can be purchased from the leading seedsmen. Young plants can be bought from most nurserymen. If you could send us a specimen when available we could probably identify it.]

Plants for a stone vase

WE have two ornamental artificial stone vases standing upon a terrace facing S.S.E., size about 1 foot 8 inches over diameter and about 12 inches deep. We cannot as yet get anything to grow satisfactorily in them. We do not want the conventional Geranium Lobelia setting, we have tried

Fuchsias, and then again Alwoodii Pinks, but without real success, due, in part, to a cross draught. Can you suggest any plant suitable for both winter and summer, not necessarily flowering, or is there any variety of Aloe which could be removed for the winter and protected? W. J. O.

[Quite the best plant for your purpose is the American Aloe (Agave americana). There is a white-striped variety which is rather more refined-looking than the type. There appears to be ample space in your tazza for the Aloe to be in a pot standing inside and easily removed for winter housing. But in some places the Aloe is planted direct in the vase, the earth slightly raised in the middle, and has a thick thatch of straw fitted over it for winter protection. In this case, or indeed in any, there should be some provision for drainage, as no Agave can stand being waterlogged; but probably some drainage holes in the bottom of the vase have already been provided.]

Helleborus odorus

(E. M.).—This Hellebore is mentioned by A. W. Darnell, "Winter Blossoms from the Outdoor Garden," page 169. Flowers, usually two in number, with broad oval segments, which in the type are of a purplish-green colour varying to a dark purplish-red in some specimens. The form known as purpurascens has blossoms of a peculiar purplish-grey colour overlaid with a beautiful white bloom. It is found in the wooded parts of Hungary. The type and its forms are spread over the wooded regions of Eastern Central Europe, being usually found on a limestone formation. It flowers throughout the winter months. N. G. Hadden, of Underway, Porlock, Somerset, has the plant from the Balkans, but we do not think that it has yet flowered with him. Mr. Bowles reports that the scent is like that of a ripe Plum. The plant has, we understand, been compared with H. purpurascens.

Statice tatarica

I was very interested in a paragraph written by S. Arnott on page 110 of your issue of February 19th on Sea Lavender. I should like to know if you can put me in touch with him, as I should like some plants of the variety he mentioned (S. tatarica).

R. L. ROGERS.

[Seeds of Statice tatarica may be obtained from Thompson and Morgan, of Ipswich. The price is 3d. per packet.]

VEGETABLES

Tomatoes under glass

I have, approximately, 350 feet of glass. I have been pretty successful with Tomatoes, but am anxious to keep the houses employed right round the year and to make myself independent of the soil in the borders by growing the Tomatoes in pots or boxes. I should have preferred the latter, because they retain the moisture better, but they are such a price, and I cannot get second-hand ones suitable. Pots (9-inch) are, approximately, £25 the 1,000, but they are so porous that they require water almost daily in the middle of the season. I am planting two houses in March, and the plants for the other two will be in pots or other vessels between the rows and not brought out till the Mint is finished with. Can you suggest any cheap suitable vessel in which to grow the Tomatoes that would cost less than pots? J. L.

[We know of nothing cheaper than flower-pots for the purpose, but are rather doubtful as regards the use of either these or boxes on a large scale. For one thing, the initial cost is by no means the finish, breakages, even with the most careful handling, being considerable, while the time required in potting and placing in position during a busy part of the season must not be overlooked. The question of soil will not be overcome by the use of pots or boxes; will, indeed, be more acute, for, be it noted, when beds of soil are used, these need not be renewed every year, but, even if they were, the work can be carried out during the winter when things are slacker. If treated with fresh lime and a fair amount of dry wood-ashes the soil is good for at least three years, providing, of course, that the usual fertilisers are applied during the growing season. Then in autumn Chrysanthemums from the open can be planted in the same beds, thus carrying on the occupancy of the space profitably. Even if the Chrysanthemums were in pots, these can be set on the Tomato borders without doing harm. Incidentally, a 9-inch pot is too small, nothing less than the 10-inch size giving the Tomato much of a chance.]

Club root in Cabbage

For the past two seasons I have had a good deal of trouble with regard to club root in Cabbages, etc., and I should be glad if you could kindly advise me as to the best method of treating the soil before replanting. We have tried lime without much success.

"PATETA."

[Lime is the only known remedy for club root, and should be applied at the rate of 2 tons to 3 tons per acre. We have, recently, been experimenting with a form of lime known as "Carbo-Limo," and with most gratifying results. It is in the form of

a very fine, dry powder, and is easily applied. It is not at all expensive, and it is only necessary to use about half the quantity required when ordinary lime is used. Your seedsman should be able to procure it for you. A common mistake made in using lime is to dig it in. This is entirely wrong. First dig the ground in the usual way and then scatter the lime evenly all over the surface and lightly fork it in. This may be done three weeks previous to planting or sowing.]

FRUIT

Re pruning Black Currants

I have just planted some Black Currant bushes. They are two-year-old plants. Would it do to let them fruit this year, or better to cut them back, and in what manner?
L. E.

[Owing to late planting, the bushes would thrive better by leaving them alone this season, when hard pruning would be advisable next autumn.]

Vineries and Peach house

I am an amateur and have taken over two Peach-houses and two vineries. I cannot force any of the houses because of lack of fuel. The early vinery has Foster's Seedling and Black Hamburgh in it. I did not water the border in the autumn. It has an outside border. The house is now ready for starting. Could you, please, tell me when I can safely start it, and should I give the borders a good watering before doing so, and if I gave them a good watering would it carry them over the flowering and the thinning period? When I took off 2 inches of the top soil and replaced it the border seemed very dry under the pipes and round the stems, so I gave it a few buckets of water. Was that all right? Could you, please, roughly tell me how many waterings to give the vinery, and manure waterings, and when? My late vinery has Mrs. Pince and Muscat of Alexandria in it. It also has an outside border. When shall I start it so as not to have the thinning of both houses on my hands at once? The two Peach-houses have no outside borders. The trees had a good watering as late as last October, and I kept the trees well syringed. One is a late house and the other early. The trees are now looking very well, the flower-buds are just showing the pink in the tips. A few buds seemed to be dropping, but nothing to speak of, so I have given the borders a light watering to-day. AMATEUR.

[The management of cold vineries and Peach-house will require keen daily observations, especially in dealing with so fickle a climate as we experience in this country.

Question 1. The house or vinery being unheated, the Vines will commence growth naturally, whilst all ventilators must be kept closed during cold days, whilst air on mild or sunny days must be carefully adjusted, closing all about 3 p.m. so as to retain all sun-heat during the night.

Question 2, *re* borders. Test the border by taking off the top spit about a foot wide and 18 inches deep. Should the soil at this depth be dry, proceed as follows:—Fork over the border to enable free percolation of moisture. Procure a quantity of Thomson's Vine manure, using same as per instructions given with same. Water the border to flooding purposes, *i.e.*, not a couple of gallons to each Vine, but between 20 gallons to 30 gallons to each Vine. Mulch the border about 6 inches thick with half-rotted stable or Wakeley's Hop manure. Water with liquid-manure three times during the season, viz., after the setting of berries, again in three weeks from the first application, last watering three weeks from the second watering.

Question 3. "Amateur" will find the setting of these varieties early and late will give him ample time for the thinning process. Now comes the rub. "Amateur" must watch with both eyes, mind, and application, or the Vines will suffer internally with mildew ravages, and it is only by proper airing and nourishment the Vine resists these contaminating nuisances.

Question 4, *re* Peach-houses. "Amateur" did quite right by giving the borders a GOOD watering, if this really means about 20 gallons to each tree. Ventilation must have every attention, similar in a sense to the advice given to Vines. Liquid-manure may be given every three weeks after setting until the colouring of fruit.

Question 5. Bud-dropping is a source of annoyance to the grower of Peaches and Nectarines, but can be abated by giving attention to the feeding requirements of such. These fruits require a fair supply of lime phosphates, and should be applied at once. Slaked lime will greatly assist the formation of the stone, also fix the next season's flower-bud. Copious supplies of water during the autumn after gathering of fruit will allay this bud-dropping annoyance.

Question 6, *re* starting the houses. The Peaches will flower according to weather conditions, and cold draughts must be kept at bay. Finally, we advise "Amateur," if at all possible, to use a little heat in vineries and Peach-houses during severe frosty nights or when east winds prevail.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Creosoted wood trellis for fruit houses

Is wood trellis used as paths, etc., in fruit-houses dangerous to the roots when treated with solignum or creosote? T. G. R.

[This is used extensively in fruit-houses at the present time, but it is advisable to have the wood creosoted and left in an exposed place some little time in advance of its being required for the houses. We have, however, used freshly-creosoted trellis in vineries to cover the entire borders a fortnight after the application of the creosote without any apparent detriment to the Vines, but do not recommend this, as there is the great danger of scalding the tender leafage on sunny days. In any case a little air should be admitted through the top ventilators to any houses containing freshly-creosoted wood, in order that the fumes may escape. If you take this precaution no harm should result, as there is little danger to the roots.]

Millipedes or centipedes?

Will you kindly tell me if the enclosed are millipedes or centipedes? Are they beneficial or not in the garden, as we have a great many of them? HACKNEY.

[The specimens are those of centipedes which do good in the garden. It may be taken as a general rule that creatures that move rapidly in the ground live on other creatures and are harmless to plants. It is the sluggish insects that live on plants. Centipedes are usually orange-brown or yellow in colour as the specimens sent. They are entirely flesh-eating creatures and live on leather jackets, snails, etc. They are among a gardener's best friends.]

SHORT REPLY

F. Whitchurch.—*Re* a book on hybridisation. Probably Professor L. H. Bailey's work on "Plant Breeding" would answer your purpose. Published by Macmillan and Co.

NAMES OF PLANTS

Pelargoniums.—Sender's name lost. 1, P. Dainty, a useful little bedder; 2, P. crispum variegatum; 3, P. grossularioides; 4, P. terebenthum. No. 2 is the Aldenham variety sent out some years ago, and makes a effective bedding plant, both as small gro work plants and tall standards, as well a pyramid form.

J. A.—1, Cryptomeria japonica elegans Cornus capitata (Benthamia fragifera) Arbutus Unedo (Strawberry Tree); 4, Dri Winteri; 5, Sycopsis sinensis; 6, Pho Davidsoniana.

G. R. C., Cardistown.—1, Galan plicatus; 2, G. nivalis fl.-pl.; 3, G. niv 4, Vinca minor var. cœrulea.

Miss Ellis, Newmarket. — Sparma africana (the African Hemp), an favourite. We should be interested to more of the other greenhouse plants to w you refer.

A. P., Esher.—1, Ligustrum japoni 2, Olearia macrodonta; 3, Sequoia sen virens (the Giant Redwood of California Juniperus chinensis (Chinese Juniper).

Severnside. — Berberis Wilsonæ. never a vigorous grower. Leave it a but give it room to develop. It will att height of 2 feet or 3 feet.

NAMES OF FRUITS

H. Jones, Penley.—Apples: Green, Ed VII.; red, Lady Henniker.

John T. Wood, Heswall. — Ne Wonder.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

Waterer, Sons, and Crisp, Ltd., Tw Berks.—Seeds, flower and vegetable, horticultural requisites.

W. Atlee Burpee Co., Philadelphia, Annuals, seeds, flower, and vegetable.

J. Barbour and Sons, Ltd., South Sh —Weather comfort—weatherproof wea gardeners, etc.

Carl Beck and Co., Quedlinburg.— vegetable.

Isaac Poad and Sons, Ltd., York.— Potatoes.

Ellison's, West Bromwich.—Seeds, Roses, fruit trees, sundries.

Barr and Sons, Covent Garden.—Bult tubers (spring), Lilium Neilgherrense Ochraceum, new Earlham Month Schizostylis.

Storrie and Storrie, Glencarse.—No in seeds.

Adco, Ltd.—Fertilisers.

W. E. Th. Ingwersen, East Grinst Seed list of hardy and alpine plants.

Shipment of nursery stock Canada

Official warning to exporter

The High Commissioner for Can London is advised that it has been brou the attention of the Department of A ture at Ottawa that inspectors at p importation in Canada are having co able difficulty in identifying and ch consignments of nursery stock, owing fact that the containers of the shipme not properly marked.

The regulations under the Dest Insect and Pest Act demand that upo container (unless the shipment is for by parcel post) there be marked the fol information:—

1. Name and address of consignee
2. Name and address of consignor
3. Kind or kinds of nursery stoc tained and quantities of each
4. The permit number.

The officials of the Department i that, though they would regret being to hold at the port of importation shi improperly or insufficiently marked, no alternative unless shippers are mo ful to give the information listed abo

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Cultivation of Border Carnations and Pinks

OWADAYS Border Carnations occupy almost a niche by themselves. They usually receive special culture, and are ed through the winter with great care. equires an effort on the part of some le to believe that they are as hardy as common Sweet William, another mem- of the same family, but it is so. Border ations—by which is simply nt the better-growing varieties orists' Carnations—are propa- l by layers or cuttings ally, about July, and these g plants are put out where are to bloom in spring, the plants being thrown away. same cultural observations ap- also to Picotees. Young s, if there be enough of them lant them thickly on the r, will produce a good effect; he most that a one-year-old can do is to produce one r-stalk, or two at the very and several flowers. This t a great result; therefore we el growers to give up the al propagation of flowering s and to keep the old ones, ng the shoots if they like, eaving them on the spot to the mass of flowering growth l the parent plant. In this large plant is formed by the d year, and it produces a quantity of flowers, such as ould require a number of plants to do. In short, the lan with Border Carnations, quantities of flowers are d with the least labour, is to all old plants as long as they r to grow freely, and make nks only by means of young We have often seen masses rnations that were six or years of age, and these had divided from former masses had spread and rooted lly. When beds of Carna- and Pinks are formed in this hey yield by far the greatest ty of flowers, the latter being of size bstance, just according to the culture the plants receive. Mulchings of cow se manure or good fresh loam are all nt in their way, and keep the plants in us health. Long and rather straggling may be pegged down to the soil and d over. It will not check them in any nd they will root and make independent by August or September, when they e transplanted. No tonguing or manipulation with the knife is needed, and this is a good way to propagate Carnations and Pinks in places where frames and other appliances are not available.

Carnations have recently been mentioned among the summer flowerers, but all the best double forms continue to bloom till late in autumn. Last winter being mild, we gathered individual flowers of the white Clove from November till March, and some of the blooms were wonderfully fine. Seedling plants that produce single and semi-double blooms always flower before the doubles, so that those who care to have a long display should grow single kinds. Between the common border Pinks, which begin to flower in June, and the Carnations which succeed them, and last all through the autumn, beds or patches on borders may be had in flower for several months every year by planting both sorts judiciously together. Most gardeners propagate Carnations every year, but, as already explained, that is not necessary, as old plants will live for a number of years, only it is a wise plan to peg down the side limbs close to the ground, and cover them over with rich light compost, consisting of leaf-mould, loam, and sand. The shoots will root into this and grow, of course, more vigorously the next two or three years.

An edging of Pinks in June

Layering is by far the best way of propagating Carnations and Picotees, and it should be done in July and August. Any small side growths that cannot be bent down for layering may be taken off and inserted as pipings in fine sandy soil in pots. They will nearly all form roots under close bell or hand glasses. The best time to sow seeds is early in April. Sow them in pots or pans and place them in a hotbed where they vegetate very rapidly. When large enough to handle they are pricked off into boxes and ultimately planted out in the open ground where each plant will produce a large head of bloom the following season.

Notes of the Week

Incarvillea grandiflora

THIS is one of those beautiful plants that come from China. The leaves are almost flat on the ground, and from the centre of them rises a tall spike of rose-purple trumpet flowers with yellow throats. They do particularly well in the rock garden, making themselves quite happy and at home. They make a pleasing contrast to the smaller flowers. As a rule, they yield seed, so a good stock may be raised. As they are not quite hardy they must be carefully raised for the winter and started in the greenhouse in spring before planting out. They are well worth this extra trouble. In this warm part there is no need to lift the roots, all that is required is a mound of ashes over the roots for the winter to throw off too much moisture. F. H.

Sidbury, Devon.

Two good Snowdrops

Those now in flower are Galanthus Elwesi

and G. Melvillei—the first-named a wild species, and the latter a very distinct variety raised by Mr. Melville in the gardens at Dunrobin Castle. There are at least a dozen species and varieties of Snowdrop in cultivation. Of these the best are G. Imperati, G. plicatus, G. nivalis, and the two above named. All are far too rare in our gardens; even the common kind is rarely met with in profusion. It is one of the earliest and prettiest of all our native wild flowers, and at home everywhere in gardens and woods, or on lawns and meadows alike. Once well planted, Snowdrops rarely die out, but increase in beauty and profusion year by year. If stock is desired quickly, replant the bulbs every June. In Lincolnshire (the great Snowdrop county) they are grown by the acre for sale, but I never yet saw a garden where there were too many Snowdrops, or a field too full of Daffodils. V.

Visit to gardens in Ireland

Arrangements are being made by The Garden Club, 9, Chesterfield Gardens, W. 1, to visit well-known gardens in the beautiful neighbourhoods of Cork, Glengariff, and Killarney at Easter. Among the gardens it is arranged to see are Foaty Island, Queenstown, and Garinish, Co. Kerry. Visits will also be made to Ballingeary, Kenmare, and Parknasilla. Lady Edith Gordon has invited the party to her garden at Caragh Lake, Co. Kerry, and Mr. Richard Beamish will meet the party at Glounthaune and take them round his interesting garden in Co. Cork.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

New Potatoes at Christmas

WITH reference to recent notes on this subject I have here, in Stirlingshire, been experimenting with Christmas Potatoes since 1921. First to find the best method, latterly to find the best varieties, for I found, early in my trials, that some varieties were better than others, some were quite useless. In 1923 I tried planting old, retarded seed in July; the last week in the month was selected, as it so happens to be the week that suits my ground and situation for sowing my Cabbage seed for autumn planting. I had gained some knowledge by this year, and I only tried two methods and five varieties of Potatoes.

I had the ground forked and cleaned, but not manured, as I had manured it in the spring for early Cauliflower. The drills were taken out with a spade about 7 inches deep, the Potatoes planted in carefully, and the drill filled in and the soil drawn on the top as in drilling up in the field. When they showed through the ground the earth was forked between the rows, bringing down the drill to the level of the rest; in another 10 days or so they were ready for to be drilled up again. In October, when the shaws began to show ripening, owing to the cold nights straw was laid in the drills, starting on the first row. The shaws were parted and the strawing went on till all were covered with about 9 inches of straw. The Potatoes that year were very good, and the varieties that were best were Bloomfield, a variety of the Abundance type, and Tinwald Perfection, a fine main crop Potato in this district, where my ground is light.

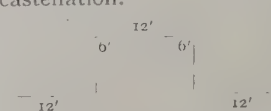
I might say, in my experience and trials I tried seed saved from early varieties, Duke of York and May Queen, that season. That is, Duke of York planted in 1921. Seed was saved of these, laid in the sun to green, and planted August 1st that year. These, I may say, to save anyone the trouble of wasting time, were a failure. The seed of the same variety kept over from spring were not much better. I then decided that a very early variety was no use, and have proved since that main crop varieties suited to the soil and district are best. Now I confine myself to the two varieties named, and 1925 Christmas Potatoes were my best ones. My 1926 crop was too late in being planted, owing to my labour all being engaged fuel-getting during the strike, the date of planting being August 12th. I have tried lifting the crop and laying in sand, but I find they keep their flavour much better if left in the ground till wanted, but removed before they start to grow again in the spring. JOHN G. DAVIDSON.

Larbert, Stirlingshire.

Planting a hedge

In this week's publication I notice a query from Mrs. Thrush with regard to the planting of a hedge 150 yards long, and I venture to suggest a somewhat unusual form of planting which will undoubtedly produce an original and pleasing effect.

It was introduced here 20 years ago, and we have never regretted its adoption. When planting, we recognised that the one disability of a long hedge lays in its somewhat rigid appearance, which we improved by castellation.



The indents, each 6 feet by 12 feet, thus created immediately produced sheltered nooks for various forms of either delicate shrubs, Roses, or Lilies, while if only Mrs. Thrush will adopt the dark form of purple Beech she will possess a remarkable and original background to any colours which may be subsequently introduced in these protected recesses, and at the same time secure valuable breaks in what may otherwise prove to be too rigid a treatment of line.

RICH. H. BEAMISH.

Ashbourne, Glounthaune, Co. Cork.

Double Nasturtium

In your issue of 5th inst., page 147, Margaret Lovegrove inquires for particulars of the above plant.

This Nasturtium does not produce seed, and it is not hardier than the ordinary Nasturtium, and only requires a degree or two of frost to kill it.

To keep a stock of this plant one must work it up from cuttings every year.

To my knowledge there are at least three varieties, a scarlet, yellow, and orange-scarlet; the latter is known as Tropæolum Hermione Grasshoff.

The foliage of this last variety, and habit, are similar to those of the ordinary Nasturtium, but not having grown the yellow I cannot speak too freely of it.

I should be very pleased to furnish this reader with the name and address of a firm who could supply plants of Hermione Grasshoff. CALLUNA.

—— In the "Answers to Queries" pages in the issue of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED dated March 5th, Margaret G. Lovegrove asks for the name of the above. The answer is, "We rather suspect that a semi-double form of Tropæolum speciosum is the one indicated." The double-flowered Nasturtium is quite distinct from Tropæolum speciosum and is best grown in the greenhouse, as w grown properly it is at its best during autumn and winter months, although bloom practically all the year round. T of the best of these beautiful do Nasturtiums are Ball of Fire, which ans the description given by M. G. Lovegr Clapham Park, orange; and Herm Grasshoff, orange-scarlet, extra double. tings should be taken at any time and ro in small pots of sandy soil, where they quickly if subjected to slight bottom hea

These plants are excellent for growin balloon frames for the conservatory. nary potting soil suits them. They pro no seed, and the only means of increa from cuttings.

It would be interesting to know if the a semi-double form of Tropæolum speci and where it may be obtained.

W. E. WRIG

Tregarth Gardens, Creigiau, near Cardiff.

The hardiest Fuchsia

Among the many so-called hardy Fu there is only one that retains its sh character; except in very favourable loc the others are killed to the ground by and thus become herbaceous. Fu Riccartonii is the exception; it also has other good qualities. The strong s stems, often 3 inches or 4 inches thr support bushy, red-stalked branchlets covered with dark green foliage, and July, August, and September, with cou neat blossoms of rich red and navy Although it attains a height of 6 feet to in Sussex, it can be easily regulat judicious pruning in March, which is al best time for planting. The plant lov posure to full sun, it grows well bo heavy and light soils, and makes a goo side plant; in fact, the finest plants kno me are on the Welsh Coast. Only in of our colder Midland counties is it into a herbaceous existence. In such a few shovelfuls of coal ashes over the in early winter is a great help, and always be given to those newly planted. Fuchsia was raised at Riccarton, near burgh, but who was the raiser?

Handcross. J. Co

New hybrid Saxifrages

With reference to the article on Hybrid Saxifrages," by Mr. W. I Ingwersen, in your issue dated Fe 12th, 1927, may I correct the write few points through your paper? really no fault of Mr. Ingwersen's, mistake was really made in the catalo Messrs. M. Prichard and Sons.

As an employee of that firm I have all of these Saxifrages, with many and should know a little about them.

Mr. Ingwersen gives Saxifraga Ade child from S. Godroneana x S. which should really be S. Godronear Irvingii. Also Saxifraga Etheline is descendant of S. Tombeana x S. Bur crenulata, but comes from a cross bet Tombeana x S. lilacina.

Lastly, Saxifraga Riverslea is the r a cross between S. Frederici Augu lilacina, and not S. Godroneana x lila

Apart from this, the writer gave unique article, the descriptions beir accurate, and I venture to say if Mr. Prichard were here he would feel ver ful to Mr. Ingwersen for the tribute paid him. W. C. Mc

Christchurch, Hants.

Gladioli early planting

I have on more than one occasio cated the early planting and late li

ioli, and the more experience I get on subject the more am I convinced that the ice is sound. Having at the beginning st winter some old roots and some young raised from spawn standing in the nd which I did not value very much, I hem to go through the winter where they growing, with the result that in the le of April last many of the corms made 2 inches to 3 inches of growth above nd, while those lifted and stored in the l way and planted again early in March not shown any signs of coming through oil. This is sufficient evidence, I think, ow that these corms suffer from being ong out of the ground. It is not often we get sufficient frost to injure them be- the middle of December, and when such case I would advise that they be left in ground until that time, and be planted as early in March as the weather will it. Those who have opportunity should the behaviour of both old and young s. I have found that the younger the the more vigorous the growth for this n; it is desirable to be constantly raising sh stock either from seed or from the g bulblets so freely produced round the of the old bulbs. C.

September flowers in a walled-in garden at Westbrook, Godalming

A Rose garden

WHAT can sound more delightful? One of the most beautiful flowers and all collected together in one garden! with knowledge, skill, and a very great of labour it is attainable. But it has to membered that for nine months of the you do not wish to take your friends our Rose garden. China Roses are a to themselves, for they are in flower all varm weather—say, all June, July, st, September, and often October. A garden of China Roses is well worth e's while to make, for no pruning l be done, and all they need is that the ood should be cut out during the win- They require no disbudding and no cut- ff of dead flowers. Also, when out of they have not the ugly growth of other . But when a Rose garden is spoken not one of China Roses that is thought t one which contains the many Roses are not China Roses. A garden which ter and spring you find the Rose bushes standing up like sticks and the ground covered with dung; in fact, a place which any garden lover would wish to avoid. And when the time comes for the Roses to be in flower the gardener does not like them to be cut, as it spoils the show, and yet one of the joys of Roses is when they are gathered and placed in a big bowl. Now suppose if, in spite of the charm of the words "Rose garden," you dig up all the Roses in your Rose garden and plant them along the borders of your vegetable garden, you still have your Roses, and you will be able to cut the flowers as much as you like. The gardener will no longer object, and you will have more pleasure when walking in your vegetable garden. The late Rose garden can then be planted entirely with Dahlia, and you can have in its place a lovely Dahlia garden which should be in flower almost as soon as the Roses, and which will make a really fine show until the frost cuts them down. There are so many beautiful new varieties, and they can be had in different heights, which makes it easier to arrange them so as to make a good show. You can still have a fine show of Roses in your garden by having big Rose trees in the shrubberies.

THACKERAY TURNER.

Westbrook, Godalming.

other view of the gardens at Westbrook, where Roses and flowering shrubs are well grown on and around a lawn

Does fruit growing pay?

Your correspondent, Mr. Bruce Hewitt, has made a valuable point concerning commercial fruit-growing in avoiding a wide variety. There is all the more reason, therefore, why much thought should be devoted to the characteristics of the few which are finally selected.

The same writer asks what the cost of planting 4 acres would be. Dealing with the cost of buying the trees, this would not be very high. Another writer on Black Currants stresses the value of maidens and yearlings rather than older trees and bushes. My limited experience would confirm his view. There is also less trouble at planting time, as the room required for the root of each tree is not so large; the holes are therefore smaller, a considerable item even on 4 acres.

As no inter-pollination between Plums and Apples takes place there is nothing gained in planting the top fruits, he suggests, in one plantation. I would therefore suggest putting the Plums on the windward side of the Apples

If the Apples are planted 15 feet apart on the triangular system 223 would be used per acre. If Baldwin Currants are planted they can be placed 3 feet apart in a row midway between the rows of Apples, and three bushes planted between the Apples in each row. The trees would cost about £13 10s. and the Currants about £12 if a good strain (East Malling) were obtained. If Seabrook's Black were planted instead they would be much more widely spaced, *e.g.*, one bush between each tree in the row and one row between tree-rows at 7 feet 6 inches apart. The cost for Currants in that case would be about £3. The Plum plantation could be planted at the same spacing, the trees costing rather more, say, £17 per acre.

The earliness of the return and the consequent revenue in the first five years would depend on the selection of varieties. If a

plantation is made of Early Victoria, Devonshire Quarrenden, and Worcester Pearmain Apples and Baldwin Black Currants the return in the fifth year, under good management, could reach as much as £60 to £70 per acre. But if Bramleys and Newtons are selected—at a wider spacing, of course—there would have been hardly any return of top fruit by that time.

Concerning the Plums, the best varieties for market, Czar, Purple Pershore, and Victoria, are outstanding as the most reliable and saleable.

For the purpose of spreading the picking season it is worth while having at least two, if not three, varieties of Currants. Boskoop, as the earliest, is rather soft, does not travel well, and is thus confined to local markets. Early Currants, moreover, are, contrary to expectations, not so valuable as later, in which case Daniel's Late September might be used, although there has not been much experience of this variety. B. S. LIDIARD.

Waltham St. Lawrence Fruit Farm, Twyford, Berks.

Humea elegans

It was very interesting to read the remarks on the above plant in the excellent report of the Royal Horticultural Society, issue March 5th. "H. C." has certainly a high regard for this old favourite that is so seldom met with to-day. The plant is a native of Australia and is a biennial, which means it should be sown one year to flower the next. It is the large, rough leaves which carry the delightful scent. The flowers, which are of purply-red colour, are borne in plume-like masses, and form a charming plant for the large greenhouse or conservatory, and may also be put out in the sub-tropical garden during the summer. Well-grown plants will attain the height of 6 feet and even 8 feet. Seed sown during summer will readily germinate in the greenhouse, and if the plants are grown on under cool conditions during the autumn, potted as required, and grown on in a light, airy greenhouse during winter, fine large plants that will flower freely will be the result during the following season. Good fibrous loam, leaf-mould, well-rotted manure, and coarse sand forms an excellent compost for the plants. W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens, Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Single Anemone-flowered Chrysanthemums

Why is it that the Anemone-flowered Chrysanthemum is so seldom to be met with in these days? They are a valuable section, especially the single-flowered, for greenhouse decoration. Their quaint flowers are produced in graceful sprays, and are very useful for cutting for the decoration of the house and rooms in November. Amateurs with greenhouses I can strongly recommend them to if they would like to grow something different to the ordinary Chrysanthemum. A few good varieties are Ceres (canary-yellow), Kathleen May (crimson), Aphrodite (mauve-pink), Thora (rose-pink), Elspeth (mauve-pink tipped yellow), and Snow Queen (a grand white). F. H.

Black Spot: A Dangerous Disease of Roses

(*Concluded from page 137.*)

IN gardens where Black Spot has obtained a footing amongst Roses it is essential to take preventive measures with as little delay as possible. The first thing to be done is to see that all foliage carrying the disease spores is destroyed. Spraying with Bordeaux Mixture is often recommended as a destructive agent, but I have found that it is of little value unless it be supplemented by other measures. At this season of the year there is no foliage to trouble one, and the work that wants attention now must all be directed to a means of preventing the disease from going any further and doing more damage, and also towards an endeavour to rid the garden of it entirely.

Let us assume that we are dealing with a garden badly infested with Black Spot last season. The previous note on this subject has dealt with soil conditions, and the grower should examine his Rose beds and borders, and satisfy himself that the ground is in a healthy, well-drained condition. If there is any suspicion of humic acid in the soil it must be removed and sweetness restored. Humic acid is the result of over-manuring. The corrective for this is lime. Lime in a suitable condition for using for application to the soil in gardens can readily be had from any good seed store. Several thoroughly reliable brands are offered by various houses. The lime is applied to the surface of the soil at the rate of about 4 ozs. or 5 ozs. to the square yard, and it is best not to dig it in, but to scatter well over the ground and allow weather conditions to work it into the soil. A shower or two of rain will soon do the needful.

At this time of the year the lime should not be applied until pruning has been done. The reason for this is very obvious because after pruning operations are completed the beds are forked lightly over and made tidy for the season. That is the time to apply the lime. At the same time, if manure is wanted apply it then also. Fork it lightly into the soil, then apply the lime, and leave the beds alone for the time being.

If Black Spot has been very bad during the previous year the pruning will require more attention than usual. If bushes are examined that have been badly attacked by this fungus it will be found that the wood, especially towards the tops of the branches where it is softest, is carrying latent disease. In due time the covering of the spores will burst and the disease will be at once spread to the young, tender foliage, which will prove a welcome host for its reception. All such wood should be removed. This means that hard pruning must be the rule in such cases, and I have actually had to prune Roses down to the last "eye" from the stock in order to get a start with clean, healthy growth. Diseased wood is readily recognised. Black or reddish-brown patches will be observed on branches that are unhealthy. All such must come away, and it is useless to delude one's self with the consolation that spraying will kill the spores.

When pruning has been done, manure added if required, lime scattered as already directed, and the borders made neat, the next thing is the advent of the young foliage. The idea here is not to cure the disease, but rather to prevent it getting a further hold upon the Roses. You have pruned your plants down to the level of the soil if they were badly affected; you have removed all likely sources of infection; the lime will remedy the soil conditions. You are, in effect, beginning with a clean sheet. A clean bill of health is what every grower wishes for the forthcoming season.

The young foliage will come away in a healthy state to begin with, and the problem for the grower is to keep it in that condition. As I stated previously, something more than spraying is wanted to achieve this. The soil has been sweetened by the addition of lime, and from this stage onwards the beds must be kept well hoed so that the surface is always broken up and the ground thoroughly aerated. Once the young lea have unfolded I have found it a good plar spray them with Katakilla. It may so strange to advise rosarians to use an ins cide for employment against a fungus dise but, nevertheless, this well-known insecti has been employed with good results for s a purpose. I noticed, when using Katal upon Gooseberry bushes in order to des caterpillar, that it had the effect of givir glossy surface to the leaves. When the had dried after spraying had been done I served that the leaves were covered wi film, and this, in the case of Roses, la long enough to carry the foliage over the attack of any spores that might be al The smooth, glistening leaves were, for time being, resistant to the spores. could not attach themselves to the foli This method, however, is only a very porary one, and an endeavour must be r to get the foliage into a healthy, leathery dition by means of cultivation. One or sprayings of Katakilla, however, applie young leaves develop, will help matters the grower has had time to use manures will give the desired resistant foliage.

Potash is the manure to keep foliage disease-resistant state. But potash dangerous manure to handle, and it mu applied with extreme caution. The s means of feeding with potash is by the of kainit. In order to get the best re from kainit it should be applied in aut November is the time to make the ap tion, and from 3 ozs. to 4 ozs. to the sc yard is a good dressing. Fork it int surface of the soil and the winter wet w the needful, and the benefits will be app when growth begins in the following yea have kept Black Spot completely o several gardens by manuring with kai autumn and by giving the soil a dressi lime after pruning. The lime dressing only be done triennially; it need not annual operation. Kainit should be a every autumn.

As it is now too late to apply kain must look to another form of potash fo now. The best is undoubtedly sulph potash. Two ozs. of this can be put the soil now, and at the beginning of similar dressing may be applied. It advisable to use more of this manure. strongly of the opinion that it is not des to manure during the growing season. applications tend, on the whole, to mal plants susceptible to disease. In beds Roses are established, by far the bes safest method is to manure as so pruning has been done. The manu take the form one year of well-rotted the second year it can be applied in th of a mixture of artificials and bone The latter is a very good manure for Forcing manures that promote soft should never be used, and such substar sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of so simply not for the Rose beds.

As a change from rotted dung the fol manure is suggested:—Two parts meal, two parts superphosphate, and o of sulphate of potash. These are thoroughly together and applied at t of 3 ozs. to the square yard of surfac pruning has been done. In cases wh cannot make up a manure for them good proprietary manure is desirable. is a safe manure for Roses, and it d force growth unduly and so make the susceptible to the attacks of disease.

Some varieties of Roses are unde owing to their weakness to Black Lyon Rose, now, fortunately, not req gardens, is an example. Such sorts, Princess Victoria, Iona Herdman,

erbilt, and others showing a high pro-
on of Austrian blood, are worth watch-
These are the kinds upon which an out-
is likely to begin, and all such should
refully observed and should be dealt with
ice if any infestation is noticed. But
s are now exercising more care in
ing, and during recent years we have
getting varieties which are less prone
ease. It is unfortunate that such kinds
e but little encouragement when put up
cognition before the various Societies.
udges who make awards seem to be
sed with the idea that new colours are
d. If a raiser put up, for example, a
y similar to, let us say, Mme. Butterfly,
ith a constitution that would withstand
isease, it would be passed over as too
he old favourite. That is where a trial
d would be valuable. What we now
e is Roses with a constitution, and we
a Society to test them for such. It will
some day.

here are any points that are not quite
I shall be glad to answer any questions
ig to them. There is still time to do
the work recommended in the notes I
given. ROSARIAN.

ROSES

Pruning Roses

ust be set about soon. There are shoots
ore me a yard long as I write, and the
s are broken along the whole line and
an inch or two of their base. The
shootlet gradually graduates in length
he point of the shoot downwards. At
int some of the young wood is from
es to 6 inches long, and it graduates
hat to nothing or dormant buds at the
of the shoots. The term dormant is
however, inapplicable; though not
, they are all in motion, agitated with
robbing of life within, or the great
t of sap that is sweeping their bases as
es forward to the support of the grow-
oots beyond them. To cut back to
would but break these buds the sooner.
ve the entire shoots much longer would
ipate and disperse the vital energy of
nts that their base buds would but
o starve.

so the Rose must be pruned. Sup-
a compromise is tried thus: Shorten
ots back in the first instance about
y. Should the mild weather last, the
left in advance of what will ultimately
final cut will, by drawing away a por-
the sap, prevent the base buds from
g. Being only half the number of
ts as before, they will drain the Rose-
ss. So soon as climatal dangers are
ese young shoots can be rubbed off,
another month or so the shoots may
ly pruned back to the flowering buds.
ode of pruning is more tedious than
re common methods, but it is also far
fe, and is therefore worth much more
l the extra trouble and labour. The
-planted Roses have had a rare grow-
ter in which to thoroughly re-estab-
mselves, which they have done to such
rpose that they will be likely to yield
f the finest blooms next June. The
these are also somewhat later than
ot disturbed, and had one been sure
a winter it might have proved safe
e practice to have lifted and replanted
ater number of our Roses. The
look well, and are also beginning to
o strong and early as to promise a
udding season. With a few sharp
oon to arrest the swiftly-flowing sap
p the few reserve buds a little longer
t, it is to be hoped that all may yet
for the Rose season of 1927. T.

The garden of H.H. the Prince of Monaco

AT the desire of the Director I spent a fortnight in September last in visiting some of the more interesting gardens in the South of France and Northern Italy. Among them is the garden belonging to H.H. the Prince of Monaco, which, perhaps, is the most wonderful on the Riviera for its collection of Cacti and succulents. Jutting out into the Mediterranean about a couple of miles from Monte Carlo and backed by mountain ranges of moderate height is the principality of Monaco. Here a precipitous mass of rock has been transformed into a garden paradise, and, as the Prince spares neither money nor pains to secure the best, his garden is becoming famous throughout Europe. Monaco is truly a garden of Cacti and succulent plants; the collection is remarkably rich in its number of species, and their condition is most satisfactory. I have never seen plants so luxuriant and perfect as they are in this garden. I did not detect a plant which had a blemish of any kind upon its stem or branches.

On this steep rocky slope a series of winding paths and short flights of steps give easy access to all parts of the garden. Much judgment has been exercised in both the planting and grouping of the different genera.

A list of all the plants in the garden would be longer than space will permit. One of the most imposing features is a group of Echinocactus Grusonii. The plants resemble huge cushions, several of them being at least 2 feet in diameter, and if it were not for their stiff spines one would be tempted to sit on them. Among the many giants of the place is a plant of Cereus peruvianus var. monstrosus, which is over 20 feet high, and at the time of my visit was bearing a quantity of large red fruits. Cereus scoparius, with its tall columnar stem, reminds one of the Giant Cactus (C. giganteus). C. Houlletii is 10 feet high, whilst C. smaragdinus, with stems resembling huge snakes, was trailing over the rocks. A magnificent plant of C. validus is seen towering to a height of 20 feet or more, while C. marginatus and C. gemmatus are about 10 feet high. Good specimens of Opuntia include O. senilis, which is remarkable in having long white "hairs" on the young branches. O. subulata is very distinct in having its branches almost cylindrical. A very fine specimen of O. tomentosa is 15 feet high and nearly as much in diameter. O. tunicata is represented by a large clump of this very spiny species. Euphorbias of the candelabra type are represented by some very large specimens ranging in height from 10 feet to 25 feet, and include such species as E. abyssinica, E. alcicorne, E. grandicornis, and E. grandidens.

Among Aloes the tree-like A. Bainesii was most conspicuous, the largest specimen being about 12 feet high and branched into four good heads. There are several species of Agave, the most noteworthy being A. Victoria-Reginæ—one plant in flower had a stem 12 feet high. Crassulas, Haworthias, Mesembryanthemums, and many more equally notable succulent plants are quite at home and look very happy in this most interesting garden.—W. TAYLOR in the *Kew Bulletin*.

Rose beds in lawn

In this garden each Rose is given a bed to itself. Delphiniums are seen in the outside border

Polygala Chamæbuxus purpurea

This is a sturdy and dwarf little evergreen plant which may be grown well on fully-exposed spots on the rock garden in deep sandy peat.

It grows in very dense rounded tufts, the little stems ascending to a height of 6 inches to 9 inches, are erect and clothed with small, bright, shining green leaves. The flowers are a bright magenta-purple with a yellow centre.

In spring it produces a plentiful crop of flowers, and indeed with me it is in bloom more or less the whole year round.

It is difficult to increase by cuttings, these being slow in growth, and where plants exist a good plan is to work some sandy material into the tufts in autumn. Before doing so some of the shoots should be half severed, and then work in some more soil.

Many of the growths thus treated will root by the spring and quickly make plants. Cuttings made in the ordinary way are by no means certain, and make plants slowly. The plant may be divided in July, but will never outgrow its position. H. STEVENS.

Retinispora filifera syn. Cupressus pisifera filifera
A remarkably distinct form (adult), in which the branches become cord-like

TREES AND SHRUBS

Retinispora filifera

AMONG the Japanese Coniferæ that succeed in this country, this is one of the most useful. It forms, when young, a somewhat globular bushy plant, but as it increases in size it acquires a tree-like character. What makes this Retinispora different from all others is the long, pendulous, thread-like branchlets, often terminated by tufts of little shoots. For small gardens and in permanent bedding arrangements, or for similar purposes, this Retinispora is, in its young stages, well suited, and when 6 feet or 8 feet high it forms a handsome specimen for lawns of limited extent. When larger, its growth is, as a rule, more irregular in character. Retinisporas are easily propagated, quite hardy, and do well in most situations; if they outgrow their bounds they can be reduced by means of the knife without destroying their beauty, as, if cut back, they all again break freely into growth. R. obtusa and pisifera are the largest-growing sorts, but of both, dwarf, compact specimens may be met with.

The principal recognised variety of R. pisifera is that in which the foliage is golden, but of R. obtusa, which varies more than R. pisifera when raised from seeds, there are several varieties recognised as distinct. Amongst them are aurea and gracilis aurea, compacta, and pygmæa, the distinctive characters of which are explained by their respective names. Apart from these recognised varieties, however, from a bed of seedlings may be picked out many distinct and beautiful types varying greatly in habit, colour, and rate of growth from the original. R. plumosa is of rather dense habit, with delicate plume-like branchlets. In colour it is an attractive shade of green, and altogether a very desirable kind. Of it there is a variety (alba picta) in which some of the shoots are marked with white, and two others, argentea and aurea, in which the young growth is suffused with white and gold respectively. R. squarrosa is a pretty low tree or bush, noteworthy on account of the beautiful silvery hue of the foliage, a character which stamps it as very distinct from the rest. The leaves, too, are longer than those of the others and not adpressed to the branchlets, but stand out clear of each other like the juvenile foliage of Thujas, Biotas, and some Junipers. R. filicoides is a good deal in the way of obtusa, but the branchlets are unusually short and stout, and the colour a very deep green.

R. LYCOPODIOIDES is of loose, irregular growth, with branchlets curiously flattened at the tips. It seems to be more particular as to its requirements than the rest, as it frequently fails to grow satisfactorily. R. leptoclada is a densely pyramidal plant of slow growth, with cheerful greyish-green foliage. It is well suited for cultivation in pots or for winter bedding, as it will by no means outgrow its bounds. Among small or select shrubs, too, it well deserves a place. It has been contended that this Retinispora originated as a seedling from Cypressus thyoides, and certainly its appearance tends to bear out this supposition, another point of affinity being that both do well in dampish spots. R. ericoides is a dense, upright shrub, seldom more than a yard high, with long pointed leaves, green during the summer, but changing to a purplish-brown in autumn, a colour which it retains throughout the winter. R. tetragona aurea is a little dwarf plant with spreading branches and bright golden-coloured leaves. It is a very desirable subject for rockwork.

PROPAGATION.—Retinisporas constitute one of the easiest classes of conifers to strike from cuttings, the quickest to root being R. ericoides and R. squarrosa, the two that bear only juvenile foliage; then come R. pisifera, plumosa, leptoclada, squarrosa, and filifera; while the slowest-rooting, but still by no means difficult, are R. obtusa, filicoides, and lycopodioides. ALPHA.

Clerodendron fœtidum

ALTHOUGH its name does not recommend it, this Chinese plant, introduced by Fortune in 1844, has several good qualities. It is easily grown, has handsome foliage, and large heads of fragrant purple-red flowers, opening during August and September, when comparatively few shrubs are in bloom. It must be admitted that the leaves smell vilely, but only to revenge themselves when crushed. If killed to the gr by frost it pushes up suckers with the dom of a Raspberry, and these shoots often reach a height of 5 feet or 6 feet, flower the first season. In Sussex growths survive most winters, a bran stem next summer carrying two or heads, but they are never so fine as the year, and probably the best course is t all the stems down to the ground in Febr The plant is not particular as to soil, a quite satisfied with a slightly shaded co The present is the best time for planting

Nymans. J. COMB

Corylopsis spicata

This pretty shrub was introduced Japan about the year 1863. It is of sp ing habit and up to 6 feet in height. growth is slender, twiggy, and bears q ties of drooping inflorescences, each co ing of from six to 12 pale yellow flo At the base of each flower is a bract same colour, and the yellow of the fl and bracts contrasts well with the dee stamens. The flowers are delicately sc

When in leaf this shrub is very str having broadly, heart-shaped, strongly- leaves, which are serrate at the margin downy-white beneath.

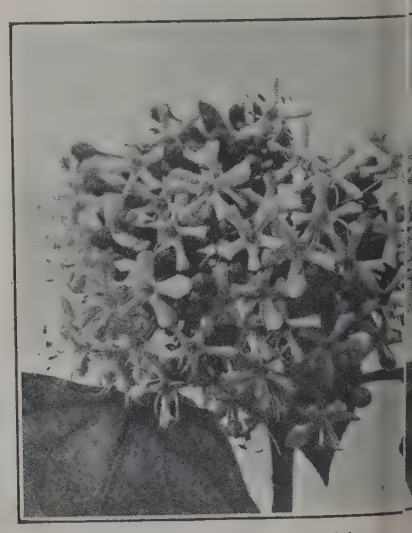
The flowers of Corylopsis spicat rendered doubly welcome from the ti the year at which they appear, often be their best in the month of March. Alt quite hardy, the flowers are apt damaged by inclement weather, and fo reason it is advisable to plant in a som sheltered situation. T. H. EVER

Nuttallia cerasiformis

This is by no means a common shr it is especially desirable from the fact flowering at the present time, when others are in bloom. It forms a branched globular-shaped bush, genera more than 4 feet or 5 feet high, a whole plant is now thickly studde drooping racemes of rather small flowers. Owing to the frosts that ge occur about the present season this N is seldom seen in such good conditi is generally regarded as a peat-loving but that is not absolutely essential to doing.

The double Plum for forc

This useful hardy shrub (Prunus albo-fl.-pl.) is an excellent subject f ing into flower early. Its blossoms a white; they are so double as to r diminutive rosettes, and every slend is thickly wreathed with them.



Clerodendron fœtidum

The Almond Tree

e Almond is a lovely tree in blossom, a vell fitted for our northern climate, and hat seldom fails to boldly announce the ng to quick life of trees and buds and rs. Occasionally, by a suburban road, nay see beautiful aspects of the Almond in spring; but it is a tree which is cted in the larger places and in country ; and this is a pity, because such places better means of developing its beauty the suburban garden. In Japan, we been told, the flowering of the Almond festival time, the climate favouring a complete development than ours does; ur climate suits the tree thoroughly—better than it does the Peaches, double ngle, which were brought from Japan years ago, and which are beautiful enough, so far as they go, and extremely bright in colour; but they do not seem to grow into healthy trees, no matter what care they get. Therefore the improvement of the Almond tree would be much more worthy of our attention; raising good varieties from it, brighter in colour or hardier, would be a gain. There is a very large-flowering variety in cultivation now in the nurseries about London, and no doubt where the tree is cultivated for its fruit there are other varieties.

Shrubs

Complete the pruning of these, and I would remind readers that the present is the correct time to prune the Winter Sweet (Chimonanthus fragrans), Jasminum nudiflorum, and any of the Cydonias which may have passed their flowering stage.

The three Rhododendrons here illustrated were shown at the Rhododendron Society's first show last April

he top illustration is that of a single truss of R. orbiculare. The ers are self pink in colour, and the leaves orbicular. Shown by Lionel de Rothschild, Exbury, near Southampton.

he illustration on the left is that of R. Penjerrick (Aucklandi x campylocarpum), with large white cream-tinted flowers. Shown by Mr. R. Barclay Fox, from the famous gardens at Penjerrick, Falmouth.

The illustration on the right depicts the strikingly beautiful Rhododendron Mrs. Helen Koster, white with bold dark blotch.

The Forthcoming Rhododendron Show

Provision for the smaller Rhododendron garden

May 3rd and 4th the Rhododendron ociety is holding its second annual ow in the Royal Horticultural Hall, nt Square, Westminster.

success of the first show, held last is still fresh in our memories—was it e of the great events of the year?

ood show is again anticipated, and the le of prizes issued from Vincent Square thy of careful perusal.

fewer than 62 classes are provided, prizes are offered, and silver-gilt, and bronze medals will be awarded. rst half-dozen classes are for groups of dendrons. The largest trade exhibits nited to 250 square feet. In these , Azaleas are reckoned synonymous Rhododendrons, and no foliage other Rhododendron foliage will be admitted oration. The Rhododendrons exhibited e six classes may be grown in the open er glass, and unless particularly speci- he flowers may be shown either cut or g on the plants. Then follow classes trusses of distinct species, 12 hybrids, cies, and six hybrids. All except three remaining classes are for single trusses dodendrons, and these are so arranged that the principal series of groups of Rhododendrons may be represented. There is also a class for three alpine Rhododendrons lifted from the ground or grown in pots, one for six distinct trusses of hardy hybrids raised by nurserymen and capable of being grown and flowered in the open at Kew.

This year the Rhododendron Society is catering for the man with a smaller Rhododendron garden by altering the size of the space for exhibits. For instance, in Class 5 arrangements are made for a group of Rhododendrons for amateurs, not to exceed 72 feet super, while Class 6 is for Rhododendron species, not to exceed 30 feet super. In Class 62 provision is made for a group not to exceed 4 feet by 6 feet of alpine Rhododendrons.

The schedule defines that for the purpose of this last group an alpine Rhododendron shall be any of the Cephalanthum, Lapponicum, Lepidotum, or Saluenense series, or the Campylogynum sub-series of the Campylogynum series.

For educational purposes the members of the Rhododendron Society will, on this occasion, arrange an exhibit of plants of the Lapponicum series. Mr. J. B. Stevenson, Tower Court, Ascot, has kindly agreed to take charge of this arrangement, and anyone who is willing to lend plants of this series for this display is asked to communicate with him, but while every effort will be made to return the plants in good condition, no guarantee can be given. All entries for the Rhododendron Show must reach the Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 27th. The members of the Show Committee are Mr. Lionel N. de Rothschild (Chairman), the Hon. H. D. McLaren, Mr. J. B. Stevenson, Mr. E. H. Wilding, and Mr. P. D. Williams. H. C.

Erica carnea

There is no more useful hardy Heath than this; it will grow without the aid of a peat or boggy soil—in any soil, in fact, that is fairly light. It is best not to resort to cutting to keep it in good form. The better plan is to lift and divide the plants once in four years if they get too large, and then they can be made into large or small specimens according to space. As it flowers in February, and continues in good condition for three or four weeks, it is a useful plant to cut from.

ALPINES

Dryas octopetala

THE native Dryas octopetala is one of the most beautiful plants of its kind, and is suitable for the rock garden or for the front of the mixed border. In Britain it is found very abundantly in the north of Scotland, and is not uncommon in the limestone mountain regions of northern Ireland and England.

Under cultivation it will grow in almost any ordinary soil, but appears to thrive best when planted in moist, peaty beds, and under these conditions I have seen it used in the north as an edging. When the soil is too rich it favours luxuriant growth at the expense of flower production, but if the plant is partially starved it flowers so freely as to almost hide the masses of small Oak-like foliage.

The solitary flowers are borne on erect peduncles in June. They are over 1 inch in diameter and are white in colour, with yellow stamens. The flowers are followed in autumn by bunches of fruit with long, silvery, feathery appendages, which give to it a very attractive appearance.

Dryas octopetala requires a position in full sun, and, when once established, should not be disturbed. All that is necessary for its well-being is a top-dressing occasionally.

T. H. EVERETT.

Alyssum Spinosum

This species is quite distinct in aspect from any of the family, and one of the most useful, being a tiny shrublet, and when well grown will prove a delightful ornament, especially when it grows into silvery bushes.

The stems are prostrate, but so thickly produced that they rise into a full, round tuft a foot high in the centre and falling low at the sides. It is best to give it room to spread, otherwise much of this beauty will be lost, as, for example, a specimen plant.

The wiry branches are clothed in all their parts with tiny white leaves, and it bears clusters of white flowers.

It is one of the hardiest and most easily cultivated of plants, thriving anywhere, even in hot, dry places, where rich vegetation is difficult to establish.

The plant spreads into dense bushes, and on old branches become transformed into spines, hence the name.

It is easily increased by cuttings or seed, grows in any soil, but thrives the best in soil of a sandy nature.

H. STEVENS.

THE FLOWER GARDEN

Scabiosa Columbaria

THIS pretty perennial Scabious, from South Africa, has hardly been in gardens long enough for us to know whether it can be depended on for absolute hardiness. For this information we must wait for reports from gardens in different parts of the country, but it is much to be hoped that it will prove to be hardy. It forms neat tufts of foliage near the ground; the flowers rise on stems from 9 inches to 12 inches high; they are nearly 3 inches across and are of a pleasant low-toned pink colour, a colour that is exactly described by the proper use of the word mauve, meaning the pink of the wild Mallow. It will be a valuable plant in those colour combinations of pink, white, and purple, with silvery foliage, that are coming to be so much in favour with those whose pleasure in gardening is to form living pictures of good colour harmonies. It is easily raised from seed. It may be in the catalogues of other seed houses, but I have only seen it in that of Messrs. Thompson and Morgan, seedsmen, of Ipswich.

G. J.

The early Sulphur Daffodil

So far as our present knowledge extends, this would seem to be the earliest of all the Daffodils. It is grown under the name of Narcissus pallidus præcox, and it was described (but not figured) by Parkinson at p. 73 of his "Paradisus" under the name of Narcissus pallidus oblongo calice flavo præcox, or, as he puts it in English, "the early straw-coloured Daffodil with a long cup." The description is as follows: "The leaves of this Daffodil are as green as the former (the small early white Daffodil with a long cup), but much narrower, and the leaves of the flower (perianth segments) are more inclining to yellow, but yet very as if it were a light straw colour, and to be a little more narrow and pointed the former. The cup of this is as long yellow as in the precedent. The whereof is very like the former, yet ne of them being so sweet as those that foll The perianth segments are, as Parkinso scribes them, "light straw colour," broad-mouthed trumpet being very lemon-chrome. It is a beautiful and di form, and its early-blooming habit will it additionally welcome when it bec better known.

Scabiosa columbaria

Good Summer flowering pla

SPIRÆAS.—There are some four good border kinds of these. S japonica is in perfection about summer on the open border. This is th so much forced for market purposes London in spring. It is a most useful b plant, and is easily and quickly increas division of the roots, one good root m many plants in a year. Plenty of should be grown, and some of them m taken up annually for forcing, and put into the border again, when, if the shoots are cut away, fresh ones will b duced, and good flowers in the autumn. plant grows freely in any situation. best variety of the family is S. pal which grows about 18 inches or 2 feet producing broad palmate leaves and corymbs of rosy-red flowers, that are e ingly pretty either in a cut state or o plants. Indeed, this is one of the b hardy plants, and a great favourite. complain of its not growing well, but h a dry, but strongish soil, it grows and fl with great freedom. We have man clumps of it, all propagated from one plant received a few years ago. It sho increased by division of the roots in O S. venusta is a taller-growing variety ducing pink flowers, and flowering late palmata; it is a pretty variety, but effective as the latter. S. Filipendula pleno and S. Ulmaria flore-pleno, the M Sweet, are also pretty varieties, with c white flowers produced in July.

DELPHINIUMS.—These showy borde jects are too well known to need descr and yet they are not so extensively gr they should be. Mostly all the varie the formosum type are tall, running feet to 6 feet in good soils, and pro spikes sometimes nearly a yard long branching out below the main spikes, are always perfectly erect and symm The prevailing colours are blue, purple, and indeed almost every shade of the all of the most lustrous description. are many named kinds, and both dou single varieties, but the singles are t effective. It is desirable to start wit lection of the best-named sorts, an wards raise the plants from seed, by means an almost endless variety of may be produced. Seedling plants gr flower best, and a batch may be raise two or three years; but old plants liv while, and may be readily increased sion of the root in autumn and spri seed ripens in August, and should as soon as ripe, either in boxes or in a able spot outdoors, and the seedli flower the next year. Seed sown in produces plants that flower freely, strongly, late in the autumn, and good way of securing flowers at that Old plants cut down when about 1 f in spring will also flower late, but no as spring-sown seedlings. The Del delights in a good deep rich soil, a its top roots down deep; it is very har

PHLOXES.—There are two sections

Herbaceous border at Messrs. Cheal and Sons, Crawley, Sussex, in September

herbaceous hardy border flowers, lox suffrutiosa and Phlox decussata, being an early-flowering kind, and r a late flowerer. Between the two uffice to say that Phloxes may be had r from July till November without a In our late district some of the varie- notice are so late that they never open wers at all, while some of the earlier come into flower in July. The best to grow both sorts. As a rule, the rieties are not so tall, but some of kinds reach a height of 5 feet. As the flowers, there is not much to between the two. The early kinds course, the summer flowerers. propagate most readily by division ots, and may be propagated by cut- the young shoots in early summer. hardy and easily grown, and afford s shades of colour, such as white, crimson, red, lilac, vermilion, etc., lues or yellows.

-This is a numerous family, so far as oes, and nearly all bloom about mid- -German, Spanish, and Japanese. ould be planted extensively, as they able to take care of themselves, and almost any soil, doing tolerably well, the wild garden, where they are not p during the summer by long grass.

TIONS AND PINKS.—Carnations flower y till frost sets in, but July is their They need only to be named to ex- 's wonder that such fine border ould ever have been neglected in Carnations and Picotees are pro- y layers or cuttings. Varieties vary tution, but all are hardy, and when masses and mulched during the lo better than when grown in pots, so far as flowers are concerned. Some of the best Border Carnations consist of the crimson, scarlet, and white Cloves, Royal Purple and Duke of Wellington Carnation, but all the intermediate shades are very pretty, some soft and pleasing. The common rockery Pink flowers during June and July; there are single and double forms of it, mostly white and bright pink in colour, and all are exceedingly pretty and effective. Plants soon extend, and produce dense masses of fragrant flowers, easily propagated by cuttings under handlights in July and August.

POTENTILLAS.—The hybrid kinds of these are a great improvement on the old garden form, their flowers being much larger, semi-double and single, and unique and striking in colour, mostly all bearing a golden or bronzy velvety hue. They flower in June, and will continue to flower till late in August; they are propagated by division of the crowns early in the autumn or in spring; any portion of the crown with a bit of root to it will grow.

AQUILEGIAS.—These may be said to have come into popularity only of late years, but the old Columbine is well known. Mostly all the forms are good growers outdoors and hardy. They are easily propagated by seed sown as soon as ripe, in autumn, in a slight heat, and the seedlings will bloom the season following, and strongly the third year. We have had three-year-old seedlings 5 feet high. Plants of them continue to flower for six or s ven weeks. The finest sorts are Aquilegia chrysantha, glandulosa, californica, cœrulea, and the hybrid varieties.

LILIES.—There are now many so-called hardy Lilies, but they are not all alike sure growers. Probably the best sorts for planting out permanently are Lilium regale candidum, pure white, fragrant and beautiful; L. auratum, L. lancifolium, and the Martagon Lily. The first is one of the best, if not the very best outdoor sort, as it is hardy, and grows almost anywhere if left alone and not disturbed at the root. The scarlet Martagon is, however, the best grower and flowerer, and is a very effective flower in the shrubbery or border. L. auratum does very well almost anywhere the first year, after planting imported bulbs; and in many places in the south it succeeds permanently, but in the north it dwindles away in two or three years, or becomes weak and flowerless. Much depends on the situation, however. We had stems last season close upon 7 feet high, showing over 30 flower-buds, from roots planted in 1881 in the open ground in front of shrubs.

LYCHNIS VISCARIA RUBRA FLORE-PLENO.—I regard this plant as about the very best of its class for the border, and can compare it to nothing so much as a vivid rosy-crimson Stock. The plant seems all flower together when it is in flower, and is a most telling subject. Some masses of it here last season were the first objects that arrested the attention of visitors. It is not a very strong-growing plant, and we have occasionally lost plants in winter, but it is easily increased by division, and seems to thrive best on a warm border.

LUPINES.—The herbaceous forms of these flower in June, and are good, especially the old common azure-blue and milky-white varieties, which have a pretty effect in the mass. They will grow well for years on the same spot, and are quickly increased by division of the roots.

VIOLAS AND FANCY PANSIES.—These begin flowering in April and continue to flower through the whole summer and autumn, but

are at their best at midsummer. They grow in any situation, but love coolness and moisture, and if the seed-pods are picked off before they fill, the plants will grow and flower considerably longer. Cuttings strike freely in a sandy compost on a shady border under handlights all through the summer and autumn.

St. Bruno's Lily (Anthericum Liliastrum).—This beautiful pure white-flowered Lily-like plant lasts but a very short time in flower, but it is well worth growing, and plenty of roots should be put in pretty thickly together. It is delightfully fragrant.

Sweet Williams.—A wonderfully rich and effective display can be made with these alone. There are all shades of colour amongst the varieties, from white to vivid scarlet and crimson; indeed, the Sweet William affords some of the richest and most intense colours among garden flowers. Stock is easily raised from seed, which is the best way. The seed should be sown in July on the open border, in a favourable position, and the plants will be fit to transplant in spring, and will flower the following year, and strongly the third year. It is wise to sow seed every two or three years, as old plants run out. Good varieties may be preserved and propagated by cuttings of the young shoots inserted under handlights, like Pinks, from July till the end of August.

Pyrethrums.—Both single and double kinds of these are very pretty. We think the single kinds are best, some of them, large Daisy-like flowers with vividly-coloured petals, being very striking; but both sorts are good border plants. They flower in June or July. Their great fault is that on some soils it is hardly possible to prevent the slugs destroying the young shoots as fast as they push, for they are very fond of them; otherwise Pyrethrums are good growers, and, once established, they do well.

Japanese Pæonies.—For telling p either on the grass or border, commend these. The colours are numerous, and as well as showy. All the varieties are growers, and are best planted in goo and left alone, when they will soon form stools, and bloom with certainty ever about midsummer.

Giant Thrift.—The common Thri well known as an edging plant, is very when in flower, and the giant form is like it, only the flowers are a goo larger, and borne on much stouter It is a good subject for carpeting b among other plants.

Day Lily.—There are several varie this, mostly pretty, some of them ta attractive with orange or yellow flower plant is a good grower, and flowers i and July. There are few better subje cutting for large vases.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Border Carnations

Clean and stir up the surface soil between the plants in order to encourage growth, and on heavy soils much benefit will be derived from a free sprinkling of slaked lime, which should be applied before the working of the surface takes place. Admit abundance of fresh air to those wintered in frames on all possible occasions, removing the sashes altogether on fine, warm days, as these must shortly be planted out. In the meantime have the beds or borders thoroughly prepared for them. Seedlings of Border Carnations raised during the past month are ready for pricking off into boxes filled with light, sandy soil.

Sweet Violets

Give plenty of air to those growing in frames as they are now blooming abundantly, and a little liquid stimulant may, with advantage, be applied once each week if the weather is fine and dry. In some instances cuttings are already available and may be detached from the plants, dibbled into boxes filled with sandy soil, and kept under a closed light until root-action is in evidence.

Annuals

Bring forward the digging of all plots which are intended for these, as it is advisable to admit the drying influence of the wind into the newly-moved soil. It sometimes happens that such ground becomes well pulverised and may be actually prepared and sown with some of the hardiest kinds by the middle of the month, and efforts should be made to see that the various plots or borders are ready.

Pea sticks

These will shortly be required for autumn-sown garden and Sweet Peas, therefore use inclement weather for the preparation of same, as every hour from this date will be precious, and the preparation of such things during fine weather is not advisable in a busy garden.

Early Peaches

These are swelling freely, and a temperature of 60 degs. should be maintained during the night; a few degrees either way, according to the weather, will do no harm. Complete the disbudding by leaving one sound shoot at the base and one at the tip of each growth, unless a further spread is desired to cover empty spaces, in which case buds most favourably placed must be left. Syringe the trees freely before closing the house down on sunny days, maintaining a moist growing atmosphere at all times. Such houses should be closed early in the afternoon, the sunshine so enclosed carrying the heat of the house well into the night.

Cucumbers and Melons

Sow seeds of these for planting out on specially-prepared hotbeds and where a temperature of 65 degs. is maintained during the night.

Flowering house or conservatory

More air must be admitted on sunny, warm days, and fire-heat curtailed, otherwise the open flowers will be fleeting. Blinds must be erected in readiness to break the strong rays of the sun from the fully-open blooms, if only for a short time each day.

Broad Beans

A maincrop sowing of these may now be made in rows 3 feet apart and the seeds in double lines at about 6 inches apart.

Broccoli

Remove all frosted or decaying foliage from this plantation as many of them will now be hearting freely. The same applies to plots of the delicious sprouting Broccoli.

E. Markham.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Increasing Dahlias

Where only a few plants are required the old stools, after they have started into growth, can be divided with a sharp knife. Every tuber having a shoot springing from its neck can be severed and placed singly in a pot of suitable size, employing a light, rich soil. Return to a warm house or pit until growing freely, when they should be removed to cooler quarters, grown slowly but steadily on until the end of the first week in May, when they should be set in a cold frame.

Prick off Begonias

Although a slow and patience-trying job, it is decidedly advantageous to have this carried out as early as possible. Care and patience in abundance are required where good quantities have to be handled, but it is well to do the work thoroughly, taking special care of the smaller of the seedlings, these not infrequently proving to be the best when flowering time arrives.

Dahlias from cuttings

When large numbers of plants must be raised, the best plan consists in placing the old roots in a warm, moist house, an the growths are some 3 inches to 4 long they should be carefully severe the stools with a knife, endeavour secure a "heel" with each, the doubtedly producing the best plants, al those that cannot be had with hee readily enough, but are seldom as stro healthy.

Sow Gloxinias shortly

To have these gorgeous warm hous bloom well the first year the seeds sh sown in January, but I think far be sults are had by deferring the sowin about now, growing the seedlings on but steadily, right through the followi ter and transferring to the flowering February. By this simple metho grandly-blooming plants are had quite the season, the older bulbs that we off in the usual way coming in su and thus prolonging the season.

Pot off Chrysanthemums

Continue to pot off the later ba these as they become fit. The cold f the best place for the early-potted keeping the sashes close shut for a f and matting well at night shou threaten.

Sow Brassicas

If not yet done it will now be nece seize the first favourable opportunit in the requisite quantities of Cabbag flower, Brussels Sprouts, Savoys, Kale, and Autumn Broccoli. Select border where the soil is not und Sow rather thinly in shallow drills asunder.

Brussels Sprouts in late districts

In many localities it is almost imp secure good crops of this, the most of winter greens, by sowing out-of- to overcome this difficulty the seed be raised in gentle heat and, whe pricked into a bed of good soil und frame, being planted out when fit.

Peas for succession

A good guide as to when to sow P to keep up an unbroken succession in a fresh sowing immediately the one shows through the soil. This than sowing every 10 to 14 days a advised. It will soon be safe to Marrowfat varieties.

"Sprouting" Potatoes

It is now time the "seed" of season and late varieties were boxe in a suitable place to "sprout." C

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

FRUIT GARDEN

The Shoulder Hoe

OEING is one of the most important of all garden operations. "Keep the hoe going" is sound advice followed by all sful cultivators. Hoeing plays such a part in the growing of all crops, both and abroad, that any invention which ises its labour and increases its effi- must be of great interest and import- o all connected with horticulture.

John Hampson has invented the son Shoulder Hoe, a new and simple for getting the work done quicker, and with less fatigue. Practical strations in the use of this new hoe are by The Shoulder Hoe Company, Ltd., s Place, Oxford Circus, London, W. 1. is a great future for this hoe for work- tween long rows in kitchen gardens, t gardens, and fruit plantations.

The new shoulder hoe in use

Fruit tree spraying

time that a last look should be taken position in regard to spraying or wash- uit trees for the prevention of blight. poor crops are the direct results of s by insect pests. Neglect spraying u neglect the only sure method of con- the insect and fungus pests which do ch damage every year. The new tar- te or tar-oil washes are very efficacious ning up mossy or Lichen-covered trees icidentally, in destroying the eggs of s, such as Rosy Apple Aphis, Leaf- Plum Aphis, and those of the Apple . They prevent a considerable propor- the eggs of the Winter Moths from g, and also keep down the larvæ of rtrix and similar moths. But they n no account be used when there are f life in the tree and the buds begin to They are too strong, and it is pro- hat in most districts it is already too use them with safety.

at case lime sulphur or ordinary lime should be used. Of the two, the lphur washes are the stronger. They de by boiling together lime and sul- gallon of lime sulphur at 1·3 specific being used with 14 gallons of water. ncentrated solution may be bought ade, and instructions taken as to add- er. The wash should not be used in r spraying machine.

washes are made from lime and lone; they are just cover washes, a deposit on the surface of the trunk nches, which will imprison a large of both insects and eggs. 10 lbs. to of the best quicklime mixed with 10 of water will give a good wash. First, ficient water over the lime to cover it is slaking, and add the remainder of er afterwards and stir vigorously. sh, which is the milky water resulting he mixture, should be carefully before it is put into the sprayer. y limewash is usually applied in early st before the buds break, but it may much later, almost until the bursting blossom, without any ill-effect. In ainst insect pests the later applica- e the best results. In spraying with shes care should be taken to cover rt of the tree trunk, branches, and It is not sufficient to spray the main ly.

Top-dressing fruit-trees

tablished trees on walls that have regularly, should be top-dressed ey show signs of exhaustion. Re- oodly portion of the old soil, forking carefully to prevent damaging the roots. Suckers springing from the roots should be traced to their origin and cut clean away while the roots are uncovered. The compost for the top-dressing should consist mainly of rich, turfy loam mixed with a quantity of lime or mortar rubble, and enriched with a concentrated manure used in accordance with the maker's directions. Mix the materials thoroughly and use the compost in a moderately dry condition. Work in a little of the finer soil amongst the smaller roots, and keep the latter near the surface. Tread or ram the whole firmly, as a loose-rooting medium is not suitable for fruit-trees. If the weather is dry when the operation is carried out, water the soil copiously to settle it about the roots, and finally apply a mulch of some light material, such as manure from a spent Mushroom bed. At this season of the year it is not wise to apply a heavy dressing of animal manure to fruit-tree borders, especially where the soil is cold and heavy, as it would exclude the sun's rays and thus keep the border unnecessarily cold.

G.

Hardy fruit

The buds of Gooseberries are now pushing noticeably, and where birds are troublesome the approved methods of circumventing their attacks ought not to be delayed. Dressings of fresh soot are at times effective, but in aggravated cases it may be necessary to net the breaks closely. Most of those who grow Peaches on south walls leave the pruning and tying of these trees until everything else on the walls has received attention. Rightly so, for when the winter has been a severe one there is a chance of minimising the damage to Peaches (and Apricots) by readjusting the branches as the training goes on. The buds will shortly be moving, and protecting material—nets or hessian coverings—ought to be looked out in readiness.

Scot.

Raspberries

Cut down newly-planted canes to within an inch or so of ground level. Permanent plantations of summer fruiting kinds should have been finally tied, tipped, and mulched ere this, but no digging between the rows should be allowed. This is the best time to cut down autumn fruiting varieties. With the assistance of a good dressing of rich manure applied after clearing away weeds, etc., the stools will in due course produce robust canes, which will in turn return the grower a fine crop of fruit in the autumn.

Strawberry beds

Where a mulching of short manure was applied last autumn, the same will now be in excellent condition for being lightly pointed in. Deep digging, for obvious reasons, should be avoided. Apply stable or farmyard manure, or, in lieu of either, artificial manure in cases where manuring has not had attention. Examine young plants put out last autumn, and make them firm if they have been lifted by frost during the winter.

Birds

This is the month when bullfinches and other of our feathered friends attack the buds of trees seriously if permitted to do so, and a sharp look-out must be kept on those trees most subject to their depredations. We dislike killing them, but find a shot-gun the only really effective protection.

VEGETABLES

Seasonable work in the kitchen garden

A FIRST sowing of Lettuce may now be risked out-of-doors if a sheltered, sunny border can be spared. The soil, of course, should be in a fairly dry state. One of the best varieties for early sowing is Holborn Standard, it being hardy, quick-growing, and of excellent flavour. It also remains long in use, even in a dry season.

The main crop of Onions should be sown as early now as the ground can be got into a nice working condition. It is, unfortunately, the case that in numerous gardens the ravages of the Onion grub make it useless to attempt the culture of this vegetable by sowing out-of-doors in spring, but wherever there is a fair chance of success this method should be tried, as Onions raised in this way invariably keep better than do those sown in heat.

For general use Leeks sown now will furnish excellent plants for setting out in their permanent quarters in July. Sow on fairly rich and well-tilled soil, making shallow drills, 12 inches apart, and scattering the seeds evenly, but rather thickly, as they have to be transplanted later. By thickly is not meant overcrowding.

Broad Beans may now be planted freely, although to maintain an unbroken supply all through the season it is better to make only small sowings at intervals of two to three weeks until the end of April. This ensures fresh, tender produce right up till severe frosts set in.

Although much too early to think of sowing main crop Carrots, a few rows got in now on a warm, sunny border will, early in the season, give some fine little roots which will be much appreciated. A good strain of Early Scarlet Nantes is a very suitable variety for early work.

The planting of Jerusalem Artichokes should be finished soon now, as by doing so it economises time later on, and the Artichoke does not mind lying in the ground. Unlike most other vegetables, this crop can be planted on the same site for several successive years. A moderate dressing of well-rotted manure is very beneficial.

When the soil can be got into a nice working condition the main crops of summer, autumn, and winter Brassicas must be got in. Select a sunny border where the soil is not unduly rich, and sow in shallow drills 12 inches apart, the seeds to be scattered evenly and rather thinly. All kinds, except spring Broccoli, should be sown now. The seeds should be moistened and well dusted with red lead before sowing, to prevent birds and mice devouring them.

Another sowing of Cauliflower should be made in a frame, and when the ground is dry enough one or two varieties can be sown in the open. Protect the seeds from birds.

Parsley may now be sown in lines 15 inches apart, but the seeds will only need a slight covering of soil. When large enough thin the seedlings to 9 inches apart. Parsley should be sown near a path, where it can be gathered without any trouble.

A pinch of Celery seed sown now will furnish a supply of Celery in the autumn. Pots or pans are chosen and filled with light soil, when the seed is scattered thinly and lightly covered. Raise the seedlings in a warm pit or greenhouse, and when large enough prick off into a cold frame in which several inches of soil have been placed.

As a chance crop a few lines of Snowball or Early Milan Turnips can be sown on a warm border. It is too early for large beds in exposed positions. Continue to sow Radish, Lettuce, Mustard and Cress.

Working stiff soil

The winter was full of trouble and almost of terror for the cultivator of stiff, retentive soils. The rain fell more or less heavily almost without material cessation, and the ground was drenched and clogged with water. All the work of preparing the ground for the spring cropping was worse than thrown away. After having had twenty years' experience of clay soil I can realise the general condition of all similar ones under the long continued rains. The very worst thing to do in wet winters is to trench or dig or even ridge up the ground, even to move it at all. Prior to disturbing it when left after some previous crop has been removed, the surface has been perforated freely by worms, whose tiny channels have been of exceeding service in allowing the falling water to percolate away, and equally in permitting air to follow the water, and thus again dry and sweeten the soil. But digging or trenching disturbs the excellent work the worms have performed, and the first rain that falls, especially if it come soon after the moving, closes up all pores, air-holes, or channels, causes the surface to form a close paste, which holds water and excludes air; and in a very short time the ground which just before was, when moderately worked, fairly dry, is now converted into the consistency of prepared brick-clay. Not for months can it be again restored to its former condition.

Unfortunately, it is never possible to tell what kind of weather will follow after soil has been thus moved ready for cropping. If the winter be dry and frosty, all is well; if it be wet, then all is disaster. I did in time learn that, without waiting to see what sort of weather the winter would bring, the best possible way of dealing with vacant ground of this clay formation was to sow as early in the month of September as possible, thickly, some kind of green crop, such as Tares, the best; or Turnip, Rape, or Mustard. These green crops, Tares especially, served three useful purposes: through the root action, soil surfaces were kept fairly porous; the leafage of the crop served to check materially the beating force of the rain on the ground; and, finally, when dug in in the spring, the green material became at once very excellent manure. Even a crop of weeds —and it is often wonderful how soon a crop of Groundsel, Chickweed, or similar plants, will spring up if left growing—so far from robbing the soil, as is so commonly held, when no crop is on the ground renders distinct service. Worms work very freely when soil is thus surfaced with vegetation. Better than no such protection at all from the constant rainfall is a mulch of long manure, as that also encourages worms to work freely. Soil that has been cropped or mulched, and left, so far, untouched till, in March or April, the weather may be dry enough to admit of free working, will be in a much better condition for cropping than will any that has been previously worked and has become little better than clay dough. It is difficult to observe the nature of the prevalent weather—the continuous rains, sometimes heavy, sometimes light, but so generally falling—without entertaining feelings of grave apprehension. It is not merely that work, which should be in process of accomplishment, is so greatly hindered by such swamping of the soil as is proceeding, by excluding the air and washing off its manurial properties. Whilst it is held in some quarters that nitrogen alone is thus lost, it is impossible for such continuous washings to do other than convey away also other important pl crop foods. Those who have—in fie stiff, retentive soil, when there have be quent heavy rainfalls—seen as a consec here and there, patches of ground water, though but for a day or two, full well that these areas will exhibit productiveness a little later on. Suc tinuous rain washings as we have enced can but have similar harmful re

Broad Beans

In dry districts where Broad Bean sown about the beginning of the ye will be now above the ground, and a sowing should be made; this crop als heavy soil. Sow more Radishes, ral the seed, it not being necessary now t it with litter. See that the litter is r altogether from the second sowings as up, for after this time the frost likely to be sufficiently severe to injur Sow a little Mustard and Cress eve night in well-manured ground; to ha young and tender it is necessary to so Lettuce should also be sown on the piece of ground available—a little of t bage variety (Tom Thumb) as well a the former will be sooner fit for use a cede the erect-growing kinds. Rows latter should be 15 inches apart; the will do a third less. In sowing, t method is to drop the seeds, half-a-d gether, in patches as required to be afterward thin them out to a singl If the weather be mild, a portion that have been wintered in frames sh planted out in a sunny, sheltered but do not risk the whole, as I have the weather after this time to be so s to seriously affect them, especially winter like the present, when every vegetation has been kept continuou and growing. Take them up carefu a trowel, so as to preserve the root as possible from injury; give some soon as planted, and if the days be the nights cold place a small flower- each plant for a few days, but not down so closely as to exclude the lig

New varieties of Potatoes in from wart disease

The Ministry of Agriculture and has approved the following new va Potatoes as immune from wart di Potatoes:—Aberdeen Favourite; Favourite; Cardinal; Doon Star; Perth; Earlyfield; Glencoe; Herald ful; Macbeth's Castle.

Details of the characteristics of the ties are given in the current issu Ministry's Journal, and a complete l names of the varieties of Potatoes approved as immune from wart dis be obtained on application to the offi Ministry of Agriculture and Fishe Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1.

Seakale and Rhubarb

Keep up a constant supply of covering small fresh batches with fe material in the open every fortn introduce a number of fresh roots o and the various Salading Dandelio forcing-house frequently.

Early Celery

While a month later will suit sowing the main crop of this ind vegetable, where an early demand pinch of seed of a variety like G should now be got in and the result grown on without check until it plant them out.

Judging gardens by points

itions of competition to encourage good ns all the year round, and not merely for the local show.

this district there is an excellent local wer and vegetable show held in August. common with the rest of my neigh- I find that everything is grown with ole object of the show. We never get itoes till after the show, and our man's attention is given to producing ires for it, and the rest of the vegetables ially just come on as best they can. I want to offer a challenge cup with as for the best-kept and most productive n garden all the year round, so that cropping of ground, good average y, and general good gardening would as much as just a few extra fine speci- at show time. There would most be about 15 gardens which would be e for this competition, being gardens a gardener is kept. Some have hot s, but others only heated frames, so vould have to be taken into account. me system of marks I suppose this be done fairly, couldn't it? The chief being to encourage men to make the of the resources available. Allowances be arranged for where more than one s employed in the garden, as there are ich houses which might compete; but, rse, they are larger than most of the I should like to get a similar com- n for cottagers, but fear it would be t owing to the number of competitors. *erset.* MARGARET E. LOVEGROVE.

following is one of the best schemes lging gardens. It can be applied to nd small gardens alike, and usually to be quite fair, and allows for various ual ideas and local circumstances. cal judge can, after a little examina- ollow the scheme and work out the ing" satisfactorily. Under most of judging schemes the more kinds of les a man grew, the better his chances ning a prize, but this often meant that w certain vegetables which were not d merely to make up the number, a which is not to be commended.

E FOR JUDGING GARDENS BY POINTS.

figures in parenthesis represent the um number of points awarded.)

	—	Col. 1.	Col. 2.
al ent.	Cropping Scheme (40)	28	28
	Superior work (30) ..	25	25
	Cleanliness (20) ..	18	18
	Fruit (30)	15	15
	Flowers (30)	24	24
	Potatoes (20)	26	26
	Winter Greens (12) ..	9	9
	Onions (10)	8	8
	Cabbages (8)	7	7
	Peas (8)	8	8
	Runner Beans (7) .	7	7
	Carrots (8)	5	—
	Parsnips (8) ..	6	6
	Beet (8)	5	—
1.	Turnips (8)	7	7
	Cauliflowers (8) ..	6	6
	Tomatoes (8)	7	7
	Asparagus (8)	4	—
	Dwarf Beans (7) ..	6	6
	Celery (7)	5	—
	Leeks (7)	6	6
2.	Lettuce (7) . ..	7	7
	V. Marrows (7) ..	6	6
	Cucumbers (7) .. .	5	—
	Broad Beans (7) ..	4	—
	Artichokes (5)	4	4
	Rhubarb (5)	3	3
	Spinach (5)	3	—
3.	Red Cabbage (5) ..	2	—
	Radishes or Cress and Small Salads (5) .	4	4
	Herbs (5)	3	3
	Any other vegetables (5)	2	2
			242 out of a possible 300

ed changes can be made in the groups, or a n one to another.

The first 11 items should be present on every judging card, but where a vegetable garden only is under consideration the items "Fruit" and "Flowers" should be crossed out.

"Cropping Scheme" indicates the system of cropping and planning to ensure a rotation of crops and the best use being made of the ground, and also includes the manurial system.

The remaining items are grouped together as shown, and after each item has been judged individually and the points awarded, four only from each group (those scoring the highest number of points) are counted, the others being discarded. The above columns show an imaginary judging score. In column 1 each item has been "pointed"; column 2 shows the selected items to be counted in the final total. The object of this grouping is to allow for personal tastes and requirements. For example, a man may not grow Parsnips or Asparagus or some other vegetable which does not find favour with the family, and it would obviously be unfair to penalise him for not doing so. So long as he has four items of each group he has just as good a chance of winning as if he had grown them all. It is also possible under the above scheme for the small garden to compete successfully with the larger ones.

Gardens at Olympia

We give below some personal impressions of a contributor, which are not necessarily shared by the Editor

THE gardens at the Ideal Homes Exhibition this year are better and brighter than ever. Our impressions are promptly brought right up to date upon entering the garden section. As we passed through, the ladies' Italian orchestra were playing "Have you seen a straight Banana?" and surely it was more than coincidence that we immediately saw, being carefully nursed under glass, a real Banana tree complete with the fruit, thanks to the kindly thought of L. R. Russell, Ltd., of Richmond.

The Country Gentlemen's Association's efforts seem to be scattered generally over the Exhibition in all sections. This may account for the rather weak effect in the garden section of pool, rocks, and Heather, with an over-large area of uninteresting turf. They also show a Heather-thatched garden home, approached by a pretentious rustic (horrid word) bridge over an 18-inch rill. The poor little rill looks entirely overwhelmed.

Messrs. Cheal and Sons' formal garden is entered through a wrought-iron gate with straight path leading to a wall fountain and pool. A little more attention to height of elevation in relation to the perspective of what is planned as the main feature would have made this garden more interesting. The little pool below the wall fountain is not as pleasing as it might be, owing to the enormous relative width of the stone coping to same. There is nearly as much coping area as water area. The over-use of clipped Box is also rather unfortunate.

We were greatly impressed by the splendid display of bloom, principally Azaleas and Magnolias, arranged around the circular garden of G. Whitelegg, of Chislehurst. The circle as a figure is perfect, but it can be overdone. Here we have a circular stone wall very well built in thin bedded York, a circle of Yew hedging topping same, then a circular border; inside this a circle of canal-like pools with a York stone circular path surrounding a central circular pool, while a central fountain constantly playing throws out circle upon circle of ever-widening ripples. We fear the draughtsman ran amok with the compass when designing this garden. This fine floral display and good craftsmanship is also weakened by the lack of elevation in the design at any one point.

A central rectangular area of good quality turf with brick paths and stone walls sums up Messrs. Skelton and Kirby's effort.

Central Garden Supplies have a similar design to the above, surrounded with formal rock banks of Westmorland stone. The designer has also allowed the shape of his site to govern his every thought and line.

In passing, we noticed Mr. Whitelegg's nice little rock piece with a background of trees "all in a row."

Herbert Brooks has the only rock garden in the show, a fine collection of Westmorland stone and plants tastefully placed. It is a rock garden of many parts, and this work is marred by the omission of a main or fundamental theme. As every picture must have each and every part helping to frame and lead up to a culminating point so must every rock garden.

Messrs. Baker's, of Wolverhampton, have a fine show of flowering shrubs. Everything here is designed to focus attention on the central feature which, of all things, is a mediæval pump complete with handle and spout. When we first saw this wood-covered pump we feared that it was a new and elaborate loud speaker cabinet. A great deal of labour and material has been spent on this original effort. The designer has found a good idea, but, unfortunately, has laboured the point rather unmercifully. Still, one would delight to come down every morning and wash under such a beautiful pump amidst such ideal surroundings.

We wondered why The Orpington Nurseries had moved right across the hall to the opposite corner to which they were in last year. Now we know. So that a similar design to last year should be made to look different when laid out again this year. A large piece of ground is here devoted to an imitation of a mountain stream with rock and Heather. Erica carnea here reigns supreme, together with a few conifers and one poor, isolated, shrivelled-up Beech tree. Oh, why be so unkind to the unfortunate little tree to make it stand all alone! There is a strange sombre tone over this exhibit. A little spot of colour taken, say, from Messrs. Carter and Co.'s palette would not have been amiss here. There is also a garden house on this stand, tucked around the corner, rather trying to look and say I really do not wish to be noticed.

R. Wallace and Co., Ltd., of Tunbridge Wells, exhibit a formal design of walls, pool, and stone garden house, together with a comprehensive collection of trees and shrubs. This is a garden full of pleasant views from all points. The design has been worked out without striving after originality with good lines, material and craftsmanship, and unity of thought, the result being a garden that could be reproduced almost anywhere and one that would be interesting throughout the year. The various levels and planes in this garden add to its interest. A general fitness of the main idea and general finish in detail is here noted.

Rows and rows of pyramid and ball-shaped Box shrubs in tubs laid out in a geometrical design represent Messrs. J. Klinkert, of Richmond. All is one shade of green. One little touch of colour would have been ever so welcome.

Mr. Pinney, of Borough Green, is tucked

up in a corner nearly out of sight. He has a little model-like design built with varicoloured tiles. These tiles will be a perfect godsend for the amateur who aspires to build his own walls and lay his own paths.

A fine display of Carnations by Messrs. Allwood, the latest variety being Shot Silk. This should be a great favourite with the ladies.

Perhaps we should have placed Carter and Co.'s exhibit first in our observances. In size it dwarfs all other competitors. This is a reproduction of an Italian garden with pillared garden temple and huge splashing fountains. There are several Dracænas, with Azaleas and Daffodils interspersed with Cinerarias. Although anything may grow out-of-doors in Italy, it does not follow that these several plants, which have nothing in common one with the other, should be so placed cheek by jowl. Much depends upon the scenic effect created by pretty-coloured lighting. It is a fine piece of theatrical display, and every credit is due to Messrs. Carter's, but this exhibit does not embody the real traditions of gardening in England. Really, one feels that Drury Lane would be a better place to try out this greatly-admired scheme.

Messrs. Reamsbottom and Co. give a bright display of colour in beds and borders, with a centre design carried out in the shape of a butterfly. Unfortunately, this figure, as seen from the front, appears to be three little flower-strewn graves side by side.

It is very difficult to see, eye to eye, with the designer of Messrs. Burton Holt's garden. There is a choice of four stairways leading up to a balustraded landing with circular pool in the centre. At the back of this pool stands a full-size pair of wrought-iron entrance gates large enough for a carriage entrance, with wing walls on either side surmounted with panels of fish and tortoise. We trust that no one will take this as a sincere piece of garden design instead of what it is, a collection of pieces of masonry work.

A. PAINTER.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

VEGETABLES

Watercress cultivation

Will you, please, give me any information you have relative to the growing of Watercress on a commercial scale. What I particularly want to know is the method of making the beds, time for planting, and the time it takes to obtain paying crops.

W. E. M.

[Two kinds of Watercress are grown, viz., dark green summer Cress in the summer months and brown winter Cress in the winter months. While the water for the former may be drawn from any reliable source, such as spring or stream, the water for the latter must be spring water only. This is because of the higher temperature in the winter months of spring water—roughly about 48 degs. F. Such water may be obtained by means of artesian wells or from natural springs, but in any case it must be kept under cover to keep up the temperature as much as possible.

The beds should be constructed of a length and breadth to suit the lay of the land and the amount of water available. They should be made to slope gradually in order to maintain a gentle flow, in and out, of water. The water must be brought under proper control by means of small sluice gates so that the volume of water admitted to the beds may be increased or decreased according to requirements. It should be noted that actual watercourses are often suitable for transforming into beds, and many such beds are in existence.

Watercress does not require soil in which to grow, and the floor of the beds should be made of clean sand or fine gravel rendered as firm as possible. The sides of the beds may be constructed of turf, large stones, rough planks, or concrete. The latter is more expensive, but makes for general cleanliness.

The beds are planted by means of cuttings—long stems of Watercress which has been allowed to grow to a height of about 18 inches. Planting consists of distributing a thin, even layer of these cuttings over the surface of the beds. The cuttings are allowed to have a little water (just enough to cover them) until they strike root and commence to grow. As growth proceeds, more water may be admitted to the beds. Normally the beds should be cleaned out thoroughly and replanted once a year. They are then kept in good condition and the growth will be vigorous.

As the growth of the Watercress proceeds, more and more water is admitted, but the plants should never be more than just submerged.

The planting of summer Watercress should be completed by late autumn. It will then stand the winter and will come in after the winter Cress during the following season. Winter Cress beds should be got ready and planted about Michaelmas—not later—and these beds will commence to crop by about Christmas. Under normal conditions a cut of Watercress may be taken every three or four weeks in the case of winter beds and more frequently in the case of summer beds.

It is necessary, when starting beds, to procure stock for planting from an established grower. This can usually be arranged, but care should be taken to see that the stock is true to type and free from pests, etc. It is wisest to go to a good grower for stock.

The chief pest is the Mustard Beetle, which will establish itself in the beds unless watched for and increase enormously in numbers. Both the fully-grown beetles and the larvæ devour the Cress voraciously.

Watercress should be gathered and dispatched the same day. It may be either bunched ready for sale or sent in bulk, using wicker baskets holding about 70 lbs.

It goes without saying that the water used for Watercress-growing should be absolutely free from any form of contamination. Water from the chalk appears to suit the crop best of all, but most waters, save those containing heavy doses of metals, such as iron, are suitable.]

FRUIT

Are bush fruit trees better than standa

(D. B. D. and others).—From the as of the newly-made orchard the bush s heavily against the standard tree, and i case of the well-established orchard the much to be said for the bush, not only yield of fruit, but as to management, for tainly the bush tree is less difficult to p spray, and so on, always bearing in that bush trees must be controlled and allowed to run all over the shop, as it And in this matter we have the axis which success turns, for unless prunin carried out judiciously, bearing in min shape of the tree so that it is compact shapely, trouble will accrue. So many tirely disregard this latter important of pruning.

American blight

(G. B.).—Wherever this is seen, steps be taken to destroy it, and the best way apply pure paraffin oil or methylated with an ordinary sash tool. Work i into the cracks wherever this pest is no

Fruit tree or climber for east wall

I wish to utilise an Oak tub 22 inche (lately used for washing clothes) in wh grow against an *east wall* a fruit tr climber. Holes will be bored for draina

(*a*) Would such tub be too deep? what height do you advise?

(*b*) Would a fan-trained Plum tre ceed in such tub? What specia cautions would have to be taken? following, which would you recomme Reine Claude de Bavay, Early Tran Gage, Denniston's Superb, Oullin's Gage, Golden Transparent Gage, B Louvain, Giant Prune.

(*c*) If fruit tree unsuitable wi kindly let me have a list of climb such position?

(*d*) Would you kindly sugges plants for placing against rim of that they would grow and flower wards and so hide the tub somewha

"TOM

[(*a*) The depth of the tub renders i suitable for the purpose you desire, p it is not less in diameter; indeed, it all to the advantage of its occupa measures 3 feet across.

(*b*) Yes, and of your list we pref Transparent Gage, although Den Superb Gage is excellent and would in such a position. A Morello Cherry also prove satisfactory. The tub sh drained by placing a few large inverte over the holes, with a scattering c crocks over them. Over these place of turf, grass-side downwards, and the filling of the tub with a mixture ing of two-thirds of rich loam and made up of old mortar-rubble, wood- bone-meal, the whole to be thorough before placing in the tub. Plant moderately firm.

(*c*) Climbers suitable for such a po utilon vitifolium, Trachelospermu catum, Jasminum nudiflorum, and montana var. rubens.

(*d*) Convolvulus mauritanicus, P communis, and Rosmarinus prostrat

Sowing Melons

I planted 36 Melon seeds in a proj box in a temperature of 85 degs. to Thirty-six came up, but the troubl seem to grow up thin instead of stu you think I planted in too much hea you think they will be all right, or discard them and plant more in a lo perature?

CONSTANT F

[While there was no harm in ge

Melon seeds in such a high temperature, ought to have been moved to a some- lesser warmth as soon as growth ap- ed. We think you had better sow fresh s, as plants weakly at the start seldom uch good afterwards. A temperature of gs. will give better plants.]

Grapes

ase give names of three best late varie- Grapes, first-class flavour, skins not good keepers, for heated vineries; con- is for high cultivation not of the best, must not include the following varie- —Alicante, Lady Downes, Gros Colmar, Maroc, and Madresfield Court.

T. M. K.

ou have set us an almost impossible for, unfortunately, there are no known ies of Grapes that come anything near specification. The nearest, in our esti- n, would be Appley Towers, Prince of s, and Lady Hutt.]

FLOWER GARDEN

r to Dahlia tubers

ould be very much obliged if you could n the reason of the enclosed Dahlia being defective. They were taken the ground early October and turned down in an airy shed for a month, and removed to a frost-proof shed on a t floor. A month ago they were covered a little dry leaf-mould as they were d to shrivel, but on examining them for the purpose of placing them in h for propagation I find most of them condition as the enclosed. They seem nk from the top of the tuber down- Is it a disease or some cultural

F. J. J.

ts.

hear numerous complaints regarding d keeping of Dahlias this season, and at several of our own have died. It is ite clear why this should have oc- but we think that the roots were but matured last autumn. Yours, how- ppear as if they had been in rather too place, as it is decay that has set in, s most of the others to which our n has been drawn were badly ed. Ordinarily it is better that the should shrivel a little rather than be oist. Curiously enough, no loss is re- in the case of the dwarf Coltness

sm Lily bulbs

e some bulbs of Auratum Lilies that o late for planting out, and I have a cool cellar in 12-inch pots in gar- l mixed with sand and leaf-mould. dvise me if I should let them remain ots or put them in the garden as soon ground can be worked.

MRS. OLIVE GOENS.

tt, N.Y., U.S.A.

t out in the open at the first oppor- using a compost consisting of good m, leaf-soil, and sand, and choosing a where the lower part of the rising vill be partially shaded during the part of the day.]

Tulips and Narcissus

tell me if it would be injurious to Tulips and Narcissi soon after they or while they are blooming. I have ed of these bulbs that must be moved ey can be properly ripened.

MRS. OLIVE GOENS.

l, N.Y., U.S.A.

urse, moving at such a time is bound the plants, but if you lift them care- l replant straight away on some re- round no permanent injury will accrue, as the plants will continue their growth. It would be very detrimental to dry them off at this stage.]

Late flowering Chrysanthemums

I have a number of late-flowering Chrysanthemums (decorative varieties), chiefly those recommended by the specialists as being suitable for Christmas-flowering and afterwards. Can these be grown in the garden to be lifted before frost touches them? Is it necessary to stop the plants at any time? If so, when? I shall be very grateful for information on above, and also any other suggestions you may make. My object in view is to provide flowers (cut bloom) for Christmas time and as long as possible afterwards for sale purposes.

S. M.

[It is quite possible to grow most of the late decorative Chrysanthemums in the open garden during the summer, providing they are very carefully lifted in autumn. Allow about 2 feet from plant to plant, staking securely. Without knowing the varieties it is difficult to advise about the stopping of the plants, no general directions being suitable for all. Generally speaking, however, all varieties may be stopped about the middle of April, while some will require this again about the middle of June. On the other hand, some varieties only require it once, these latter being varieties that are, naturally, very late in blooming.]

Snowdrop bulbs

Will you kindly tell me if any firm buys Snowdrop bulbs in quantity and when they should be taken up, and how they should be treated?

NORFOLK.

[Take up the bulbs as soon as they are quite ripe, which will be about the last week in June or first week of July. They should then be laid out thinly in trays in some cool, airy space away from the sun, where they can gradually dry. With regard to a market, you might try Messrs. Barr and Sons, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C. 2, and Messrs. J. Carter and Co., Raynes Park.]

GREENHOUSE

Cinerarias and Primulas unsatisfactory

(Miss Kate E. Gibbs).—It is difficult, without fuller particulars, as to the conditions under which your Cinerarias and Primulas have been grown, to say just what has caused the trouble. The leaves appear very thin and poorly nourished, so would be very easily damaged by even a slight overdose of the fumigant mentioned, while the sun's rays striking on them might also cause the browning of the foliage. Then, again, the plants may not have been in a condition to absorb the feeding supplied, and the soil had thus become "soured," which would also cause the trouble.

Raising Anemones from seed

Please give me, through your valuable paper, the best plan for raising Anemone from seeds. Last season I planted three varieties in cold frame; seeds obtained from a reliable house in England; also some from Germany, and not one plant was ever seen from all this effort. I would be very thankful for any help you can give.

MRS. OLIVE GOENS.

Burdett, N.Y., U.S.A.

[This is not at all difficult if you sow your seeds thinly on the surface of boxes filled with sandy soil which has been passed through a ¼-inch sieve. After sowing, scatter a very light covering of fine soil over the seeds and stand the boxes or pans inside a warm greenhouse or frame; water with a fine rose and then place a sheet of glass over the box until germination takes place, shading the boxes from bright sunshine in the meantime. When germination has taken place admit a little air and gradually expose to light and sunshine.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Daphne to name

(W. R. J., Cornwall).—Your Daphne is D. laureola (Spurge or Wood Laurel). It is a native of Europe and Britain, and, of course, is hardy. It produces yellowish-green flowers in the axils of the leaves, and usually flowers from January to March. The flowers are fragrant, though, curiously enough, some observers deny it has any scent. Planted out in a half-shaded position or under trees it makes a fine evergreen bush 3 feet to 4 feet high. Your method of watering by plunging the pot in a vessel of water is quite good and very thorough, especially if you have time to carry it out. Regarding the mechanical action, it does not seem possible that any harm could result from this method of watering.

Daphne Cneorum

I do not succeed with Daphne Cneorum. Would you, please, state kind of compost best suited and the position (*i.e.*, sunny, shady, dry, or moist)?

"TOM TIT."

[Good fibrous loam and well-decayed leaf-soil or broken peat with a sprinkling of bone-meal and sand is all you require, with a sunny position which does not at any time become dust-dry.]

LEGAL

Overhanging trees

I have a small plot of land (freehold) and my neighbour has got a small belt of trees by the side of my plot, and the branches of these trees come some distance over my land. I wrote and asked him if he would have them cut back from overhanging my property. He replied that I could cut them back at my own expense and return the lop to the owner If I go to the expense of having them cut can he claim the lop after. My neighbour also said I was to keep on my own property to do this. If I cut them from my own property can he come on my property to take away the lop?

J. B.

[You are not bound to return the lop to your neighbour, whilst he is not entitled to come on your land for it. You must be careful only to cut the branches so far as they overhang your property and no further. To save trouble you will be wise to give the lop to your neighbour if he demands it.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Manure heap

I have recently purchased a quantity of stable manure which, I understand, has now been standing about 10 weeks. In what time should I be able to use this for the Rose garden and herbaceous borders? Would it be possible or advisable to use it in late March? There seems to be very little obvious heat in the pile, although some of the straw is still quite long. Much of the manure I wish to keep till the autumn. As my garden is not large the flying insects breeding on the pile in summer appear likely to become a serious nuisance. Could you advise me of any germicide in the form of spray, powder, or any other form which would keep down the breeding of insects whilst not being dangerous to the plants in the subsequent use of the manure?

"GNAT."

[You may use the manure about the end of March with all freedom. To keep the remainder in good condition for autumn use cover the heap over with earth to a depth of at least 3 inches or 4 inches. This will, to a considerable extent, prevent waste, the soil absorbing most of the virtue that might be lost by evaporation and other causes. This

would also prevent, in great measure, the breeding of insects. We know of no safe spraying material for the purpose you name.]

SHORT REPLIES

W. L. I.—Some of the best hardy Azaleas for your purpose would be A. pontica, which may be had in various shades of yellow, pink, and red, and A. mollis, also in shades similar to those of the last-named. For names consult a nursery catalogue and choose the colours you prefer.

Alfred James Jackson.—Besides grease-banding your trees you should spray with arsenate of lead about 10 days after the blossom drops. This is about all that can be done to prevent the trouble, and if the spraying be thorough much relief will be had.

NAMES OF PLANTS

S. M.—Rhodostachys andina. We hope to refer to this plant in an early issue.

A. P. Esher.—1, Tradescantia virginica; 2, Juniperus chinensis; 3, Pseudotsuga Douglasi (Douglas Fir); 4, Cupressus pisifera plumosa (syn. Retinispora plumosa).

W. R. J.—Corydalis lutea (N. O. Fumariaceæ).

Enquiry

CRANBERRIES FOR PLANTING.—Would you, please, let me know where I could get Cranberries for planting? A. J. CHEVERTON.

"Summerlands," Curdridge, Botley, Hants.

BOOKS

"Family Endowment"*

A VERY determined movement is afoot to introduce the principle of family endowment into our wages system. It is argued by Miss Eleanor Rathbone and many others that the payment of the same wage to a bachelor and to a man with a family is an injustice that should be removed. Agitation on this subject has been much strengthened by the fact that abroad, especially in France and Belgium, efforts have been made in this direction. Certain trades, by agreement, set up pools into which a percentage of all wages is paid, and from which allowances are made to wage earners with dependents. The case for some such plan is quite complete if the appeal is to be made only to sentiment and emotion, and a good deal of literature has been issued by the Family Endowment Society in its support. This little work by Mr. Alexander Gray takes the other view and points out the dangers of these proposals. Mr. Gray is well qualified for the task and speaks with an authority that is all too rare in discussions of this character. This will be realised when it is recalled that he was for nine years engaged in the administration of the Insurance Acts, is Chairman of the Consultative Committee of the Scottish Board of Health Insurance, and a member of the Advisory Committee of Experts of the International Labour Office on Local Insurance Questions. "Family Endowment," which the author calls a critical analysis, does not set out to make a case. It states impartially and fully what there is to be said for and against these proposals, and in the end demonstrates that their application cannot fail to lower the basic rate of wages. Mr. Gray possesses a racy pen and a sense of humour, and thus what might have been a heavy dissertation on technical questions becomes a charming little book which even the layman can read with interest. To employers, Trade Union leaders, and all involved in any way in the practical side of the wage problem, "Family Endowment" is a book which must be read.

* "Family Endowment," by Alexander Gray. Ernest Benn, Ltd., 4s. 6d. net.

Tributes to the memory of the late W. P. Thomson

I am very sorry to hear of the death of our friend. A good, careful editor, his good work based on actual knowledge of living plants and fruits. I knew him many years and under varying conditions, and you cannot say too much for his steady care of his journal and his practical ability. I never saw so good a likeness before of a man I knew (issue March 5th, page 144). The account, too, of his life is very good. Many thanks for both. W. ROBINSON.

Gravetye Manor, East Grinstead, Sussex.

—— It was with keen regret that I read in last week's issue of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED the obituary notice of my old friend W. P. Thomson. I have known him for over 20 years, and I think I am one of the few to whom he mentioned the heavy cross he was called upon to bear. After hearing this I had nothing but admiration for my old friend. Nevertheless, I always found him cheerful and of a kindly nature. His death brings back to my mind the many conversations I had with him at the R.H.S. meetings before the war, and since then, when on my annual trip to London, I paid him a visit at the office. Here he would expand and talk freely of things horticultural, and his knowledge of plants was, indeed, a revelation. With the passing of "W. P. T." we lose not only a horticultural journalist, but also a gardener; perhaps a rarer combination than many will admit. T. W. BRISCOE.

—— I received quite a shock when opening GARDENING ILLUSTRATED to find that our old friend W. P. Thomson had passed away. It is with feelings of intense regret that no longer shall I see his familiar writing. You are quite right about his losses. I remember him telling me the story years ago of the loss of his three children in the space of a few weeks; enough to bow the strongest down! Poor Mrs. Thomson, I do feel sorry for her in her loneliness! I remember him going to his old Aberdeen home some few years ago; he had not up to then taken a holiday for years, and he told me how both he and his wife enjoyed going over the old scenes again. For 25 years I sent up to him regularly, and I shall have the kindliest feelings for him always, as to him I owe much encouragement. With appreciation of your kindly notice concerning my friend,

Derby. W. FOWKES.

To further the cause of Individualism

Sir Ernest Benn, Bt., is to be the speaker at the fifth of the series of luncheons arranged under the auspices of the Individualist Bookshop, Ltd., to further the cause of Individualism. The luncheon will be held at the Hotel Cecil on Wednesday, March 23rd, at 12.45 p.m., and the chair will be taken by Sir William Plender, Bt., G.B.E. The speaker is well known as the author of that startling and successful book, "The Confessions of a Capitalist," and also of "If I were a Labour Leader," published just after the General Strike last year. Since the Individualist Bookshop began its work, early last summer, the movement to resuscitate and spread the spirit and teaching of Individualism in all sections of the community has made great strides. The steady success of the luncheons is only indicative of the growing belief in the soundness of the cause which they serve. That cause is making unobtrusive, but nevertheless steady, headway in the daily life of the country. An important feature of the movement has been the interest it has aroused among thinking workmen, whether they be Trade Unio or not. To all those who are intereste the development of sound economic thin the work of the Individualists will examination, and particulars of the Re Circle, the Works Library Scheme, and information will be willingly given upo plication to the manager of the Book Tickets for the fifth luncheon on March are obtainable, price 5s., from the dividualist Bookshop, Ltd., 40, Mar Street, London, S.W. 1.

TRADE NOTE

Bamboo Canes

Messrs. A. E. Davies and Co., 164, Street, City Road, London, E.C. 1, the established firm of Bamboo cane impo informs us that, notwithstanding the culties attending trade with China at th sent time, they are able to offer Ba canes and poles at lower rates this than for some years past. This is due to increasing output. Large stocks ar ready for prompt deliveries. Bamboo kinds is the leading line, and the s "From twigs to yacht masts," suggest Bamboo can be supplied in all sizes, fro smallest twigs for pot plants to canes and 12 feet long, such as are used for tr exhibition giant Sweet Peas, and B poles large enough for yacht mast spars, wireless aerials, tent poles, surrounds, and various other purposes a combination of lightness with streng durability is desirable.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

Clarence Elliott, Ltd., Stevenage.— alpine and herbaceous plants.

A. E. Kunderd, Goshen, Indiana.— —Evolution.

James and Geo. H. Matthews, Wood.—Garden seeds and manures.

Sutton Bros., Hassocks.—Orchids- logue of private collection.

Dixon's, of Hull.—Seeds, vegetab flower.

Joseph Fison and Co., Ltd., Ips Weed killer and fertilisers.

John K. King and Sons, Ltd., Cog —Garden seeds, vegetable and flower.

Torrance and Hopkins, Busby, nea gow.—General seed and plant list.

James Watson, Whitchurch, Spring—Gladioli, Dahlias, Chrysanth herbaceous plants, vegetable seeds.

Andrew Ireland and Hitchcock, Tey.—Seeds, vegetable and flower.

Ransomes, Sims, and Jefferies, Ipswich.—Lawn mowers.

Viola Violetta

Many new varieties of the Violetta Viola have been raised, some of them beauty, but in several respects the V. Violetta, originally raised by the Stuart, of Chirnside, holds the field was greatly interested to see, in the c last year, how much this charmin flower was appreciated for some of t gow parks, where it is largely empl carpeting beds of Roses and other In the nursery for the parks large of Violetta are grown, and even in th nursery beds it is very pleasing; ar it is employed in the parks for other it is most attractive. For those w it not it is best described as a n bedding Viola with white and yello and of delightful fragrance. It is ve and is increased freely by cuttings sion, just as the larger bedding Viol type of Maggie Mott, Archie Gr other well-known flowers. S. A

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Violets for Frames

ERE is a charm about Violets which w are proof against, and in many gar-ens their culture is a matter of con-ble interest. One of the most remark-hings about the whole family is the d difference in the habit of growth be-single and double flowered varieties. ormer is a loose-growing plant, with eaves on long foot-stalks, and 12 inches idroom when planting in frames is ary to allow for their full development. e varieties are dwarf and t in growth; the leaves are but much more numerous, nly half the headroom in is needed. Personally, I doubles are the sweeter . But singles have the ad-e of richer colour and longer I have heard it said that are the easier to grow, hen visiting some gardens an plainly see there is ing in the statement, while 's, if one type is doing well, he other. The reason, in nion, why doubles are put s fastidious is because red-the greatest enemy of has been allowed to as-and retain the mastery the summer months, and ossible to grow good plants face of such an insidious y reason of their tufted e small leaves of double-l plants are less easily l on the undersides than singles, and, other things qual, this is where the e at flowering time is r the clean plants will he winter through, while lean are throughout the of misery.

econd week or so in April itable time to begin pre-s for another season, the then in frames having ly finished blooming. tion is effected by the of runners and division of the old n the former case a start is made the year, the runners being pegged to a little sandy soil. It is seldom, that sufficient of these can be ob-and the latter system has to be re-. Lift the plants with a fork and e strongest crowns from the outer the clumps, and pull them gently re being taken to see that each has ached. Such plants will then have n life equal to rooted runners, and will, under fair treatment, produce as many flowers.

The choice of summer site is, I consider, an important one. In their wild state Violets are naturally of a retiring disposition, and are always the most plentiful on the shady sides of hedgerows, and sheltered from cold winds. If we go according to this we shall avoid exposing them to more than a few hours of either morning or evening sunshine. There are many such borders in gardens, and which at the same time are sheltered from the north and east winds of spring, and it undoubtedly pays to give these plants preference over others not so liable to the attention of the pest referred to above, since a shady soil is easier kept moist, and dampness is the only reliable preventive. The soil should be deeply dug and heavily manured, and when planting, boards should be used to stand on to prevent the ground being made too solid. It often happens that soil in shady places is very heavy, and to lighten it there is nothing more suitable to Violets than leaf-mould. For ease in working amongst the plants during the summer it will be found most convenient to plant in beds of five rows each a foot apart, and allow an alleyway between each a little wider. The

After-treatment up to the end of September is summed up in watering and syringing. Drought is fatal to the well-being of the plant in itself, but even if the roots were not seriously affected, red-spider is quick to take advantage of it, therefore it is doubly dangerous. The only way known to me of keeping Violets clean and healthy in dry weather is to syringe the foliage well on the undersides every afternoon with weak soot-water, and to keep the surface soil at all times damp. If these conditions are maintained the pest will never obtain a hold to do much mischief. All runners must be regularly removed, and the careful use of the Dutch hoe between the rows is most beneficial. About the middle of September frames must be got ready. A mixture of ordinary garden soil, leaf-mould, and sand is that which suits the plants, and the surface of the bed should be as near the glass as the varieties will allow. Strong plants will lift with a good ball of soil, and they may be set in the frames fairly close together. Unless the weather is favourable to lifting, it is advisable to close the lights for a few days, and shade them until the plants have fully recovered from the transfer. Afterwards ventilate as freely as the weather will allow. Very little water suffices for the needs of the roots during winter. Good singles include The Czar, Princess of Wales, and La France; doubles, Marie Louise, De Parme, and Lady H. Campbell. J.

Violet Princess of Wales

Flowers large and of true Violet scent and colour and borne on long stems. Excellent for all purposes and still a great favourite.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

The British Carnation Society

The 32nd floral meeting of this Society will be held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, on March 29th and 30th, when the "Daily Mail" Gold Challenge Cup will be offered for the best-scented Carnation not in commerce prior to 1925, the exhibit to consist of not less than six flowers, although more may be staged,

and, if possible, a plant of the same variety. Entries close on March 26th. An exceptionally good show is anticipated. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. P. F. Bunyard, F.Z.S., 57, Kidderminster Road, Croydon, S.E.

Railway station gardens

The London and North-Eastern Railway Company announce a competition for prizes to be given by the Directors for the best-kept stations throughout their system. Many prizes and certificates will be awarded, and an inspection will be held in July and August this year. In awarding the prizes the judges will take into consideration the situation of the station and space available for flower and shrub displays, apart from the general condition and cleanliness of the station premises. Last year several hundred prizes were awarded in a similar contest.

Rhododendron praecox

Growing on both light and heavy soils, groups of this Rhododendron are now a gorgeous mass of colour and form a striking feature of the landscape. One large mass is growing in the foreground of bushes 8 feet high of the Golden Bell (Forsythia spectabilis), which is daily becoming more rich in colour, and alongside lies a carpet of about 50 plants of Erica carnea in full bloom, the whole forming a beautiful example of our early-flowering shrubs when grouped in sufficient numbers to emphasise their real value and charm. R. præcox grows about 4 feet high and through with me, although, doubtless, it would grow larger. Its flowers are of a very bright rosy-pink shade, and if cut and placed in vases when the buds approach the colouring stage will open freely indoors, and a few sprays so cut will escape the damaging frosts which often put a sudden end to the glorious masses of colour in the open; indeed, frost is the only enemy of this fine early-flowering shrub, but, even so, it invariably happens that we drink in their beauty for 10 days or so each year before damage is done. Although this shrub grows quite well even on heavy, tenacious soils, there is no question that a warm, open, and sandy loam is preferable, and in this it not only revels, but develops shoots from about the base which root freely, and may be detached to extend plantations. Golden Crocos make an effective groundwork for this shrub, and the gentle shade provided by the twiggy growths suit the latter admirably.

E. Markham.

Presentation to Mr. W. W. Pettigrew

Mr. W. W. Pettigrew, the Manchester Parks Superintendent, received the Victoria Medal of Honour at the annual general meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society. To commemorate the bestowal of this rare honour upon Mr. Pettigrew the Parks Committee presented him with a handsome writing-desk. The presentation was made by the Lord Mayor, who, with Alderman Fox (Chairman of the Parks' Committee), spoke eulogistically of the work done by Mr. Pettigrew since he went to Manchester 12 years ago. Mr. Pettigrew, replying, referred to the great changes that had been made in the Manchester parks during those years, and in that connection acknowledged the great help of the Government's unemployment grants.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Roses and black spot

HAS it been the experience of any readers that very damp soils enhance this disease—in fact, attract it?

The Rose, so frequently written about, is yet a source of mystery to many an expert gardener, and its "fads" are still to be dealt with. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Rose is, of all flowers, the most particular to deal with. It has its likes and dislikes, and disregard of these means indifferent results.

I have found the liberal use of old soot a wonderful tonic for the Rose garden. Clay's Fertiliser is undoubtedly of value used with discretion, but my experience with artificial manures is that it is preferable to apply in the dry state and to water in, or allow rain to do this rather than dissolve in water and use it through the can.

But for really "stoggy" soil, sticky in the extreme, what are your readers' experiences? I have, at the moment, under construction a Rose garden with one very wet side or border, and I am trying Moss Roses here. The entire garden is wet, but this border is a mass of sticky soil that really wants some turning, and, even allowing for good weather, it will always be very damp.

It is a most interesting matter and one that might be enlightening to readers if dealt with in the pages of Gardening Illustrated.

B. Hewitt.

Irises in the rock garden

Being some way inland and in a rather cold and exposed situation one naturally does not expect the blooms of the earlier Irises so soon as in more genial climates and surroundings. Here, in the rock garden, the first blooms of Iris reticulata were observed on March 6th, and on the same date the pioneer blooms of I. stylosa were on the point of expanding. Both are in sheltered pockets facing south, and, all things considered, do fairly well. I prefer, of course, to plant both (as well as I. Tingitana and I. tuberosa) at the base of a warm south wall. In such a position the plants thrive in a more marked manner and bloom at an earlier date. Yet they are all attractive in the rock garden and associate well with the earlier bulbous plants, such as the Scillas, the Chionodoxas, and the charming Narcissus minimus. Krelage's variety of I. reticulata is, I think, to be preferred to the ordinary form. What a pity it is that, in many gardens, disease takes a heavy toll of this beautiful Iris, and its slowness of increase is equally to be deplored.

W. McG.

Mabie.

Hardy Fuchsias

Undoubtedly, J. Comber is correct (issue March 12th, p. 150) in regarding F. Riccartoni as the hardiest Fuchsia for all districts, though on clay soils I have found it succumb during an extra wet and cold winter if planted out in the open.

I feel, however, that mention should be made of F. gracilis, which has stood equally well on medium and light soils in any position without even a dressing of ashes in winter. Of course, in comparing the two varieties this latter is not so fine in foliage or flower as the former, but it has a charm of its own, and is correctly named, with its light, arching stems and branches from which the numerous red flowers droop so prettily. Close by are several plants of a variegated form of gracilis, and though not so robust in growth are exceedingly pretty and equally hardy.

As the above writer mentions, these take on a herbaceous existence inland, in a favourable season of moisture and l when the stems reach a height of 4 fe 5 feet, they seem well worth growing.

A. V

Iris Susiana (The Mourning Iris

When in a garden near the sea I had than ordinary success with I. Susiana i borders, and its handsome if rather so blooms were always a centre of attrac In a less favoured place I find it bett grow the Mourning Iris in pans and in a frame until the plants are on the poi blooming, when they are removed to a conservatory. This mode of cultivatior be recommended to those who have moderate success with the variety o doors. In the cool house the blooms clean and spotless, they last well, ar reason of their size and of their uncor colouring they are promptly singled o attention by visitors.

W. M

Mabie.

Does fruit growing pay?

Divers views have been expressed i correspondence regarding this imp question, and it is to be noted tha Lidiard, on page 151, recommends Malling Black Currants among c Now it is an interesting thing to not one person favours one strain of fru another something else. It would point to most of us having "pet strain this, that, or the other. Throughou pages of gardening periodicals it has n my lot to read an appreciation or mendation of the well-known Black C Edina. Why is this? I have found markably good, although it does not in many catalogues. I think M Clibrans, of Altrincham, include it in but beyond this firm I have but seen i tioned once or twice.

It is certainly a mistake to be led a popular names in all matters of gar especially in market garden work, exp being far better than the acceptance that is stated about this or that st either fruit or other stuff.

Trial is the thing in all cases, a actual experience of others does mo can ever be realised to solve that im question, "Which or what is best." in my opinion, Gardening Illus affords the opportunity of learning fr experience of others—an opportuni commonly available.

Bruce He

The Nepaul Laburnum

Piptanthus nepalensis, the Nepaul num, is a good evergreen shrub o tree, deriving its popular name fr native home, and from its resembl our well-known Laburnum. The flow sembling those of the Laburnum, a good yellow. P. nepalensis has the not being so hardy as one would lik sometimes badly crippled by severe and usually takes a considerable tin cover from its injuries. Nor does i so freely as one would like.

Synthyris reniformis

At the time of writing, in the earl March, Synthyris reniformis in a go in the rock garden is an attractiv The spikes of blue flowers are ab produced. The plant is by no mean cult one, and in view of its earliness formis might be more widely used gardening. The blooms remain eff almost two months and stock is creased by division, which ought to taken immediately after flowering ce

W M

Mabie.

Clematis paniculata

HIS beautiful species seems to be much neglected, and quite undeservedly, for it not only has every merit as a garden , but it blooms in October when outdoor rs are becoming scarce. It may be easily described by saying that it does is in October what Clematis Flammula in September, only it does it a good deal r, for though the whole manner of th and the general aspect is that of our mber flower, yet the blooms are larger, eaves wider, thicker in texture, dark and y, and the whole plant has a look of gth and vigour that gives it a more t appearance. It is a native of Japan. ay not be quite hardy in our colder mid-, but here, in the extreme south-west of y, it is quite at home. It likes the r of a wall, and may prefer a warm one, he plant illustrated is on a wall facing little north. As a cut flower it groups tfully with solid things, such as any as that may still be about, and har-es most pleasantly with the October s. G. J.

Libonia floribunda

interesting question arises touching the nclature of this plant. Its generic name een changed to Jacobinia and the al name to pauciflora, according to the ohnson's Dictionary and other works. there not something very much wrong isleading in this change of the varietal Pauciflora means few-flowered—an tely erroneous description when applied plant these notes are about and which th me, a most profuse-flowering sub- Incidentally, perhaps the Editor will say whether Kew sanctions such ions, and what authority a gardener ally rely upon for giving the correct of plants. Is the Kew Hand List ble for all and sundry? Is Kew taken final tribunal of appeal in such mat- In an *old* Johnson I possess, the name a floribunda is given, and most cer- the latter is a more correct description flowering habit of this plant. In fact, ora is entirely misleading. An edition mpson (1901) does not give the variety nda, but gives the name of Jacobinia, e remark that these plants are known e as Justicias. On the other hand, w Johnson refers readers back from to Jacobinia. C. TURNER.

rding inquiry about the name of floribunda being changed to ia pauciflora, it is really going back to er name, which, according to the rules nical nomenclature, is the correct pro- provided the plant is, or was, cor- laced in its proper genera.

specific name pauciflora certainly ap- misnomer, but is in the original de- n of the plant, and the term pauciflora s not applied to the plant generally, each inflorescence or set of flowers in of each leaf, and in the original they en as varying from one to three in . This plant, in common with many is blessed, or cursed, with more than our correspondent wots of, for it en called Sericographis pauciflora. y worry about a name, why not use you like best, and you will probably as correct? Kew, of course, is re- as the authority in this country, h Kew does not claim that it may be correct. In any case, most of our nurserymen, in compiling their cata- follow the Kew Hand Lists. anyone can purchase the Kew Hand The whole question of botanical lature is very difficult; as, indeed, is true of any subject dealing with natural history, many of them being worse than botany. The trouble arises largely from the fact that in the early days plants were often described from poor material, and by several different botanists who, unknown to each other, gave the same plant different names; so now, so far as possible, botanists go back to the first published name, and it is all quite easy when the synonyms are also published.

Bocconia cordata

It is not often that I differ from Mr. Arnott in his estimate of plants, and especially of hardy plants. Yet I venture to think that, in a recent issue, he overpraises the Plume Poppy. I readily admit it is a stately plant, and not unattractive in either foliage or flower. Yet I would hesitate to plant it in an herbaceous border unless the latter were very large and, in the background, confined to the more robust plants. In small or even in medium-sized borders the Bocconias give an effect of coarseness, and, in even moderately good soil, they rapidly overgrow themselves and invade other plants. I must not, however, be held to disparage the family, but I think the proper place for the Bocconias is in the foreground of shrubberies or in places where it can be associated with the New Zealand Flax (Phormium), or with the Pampas Grass (Gynerium) and similar plants. W. McG.

Clematis paniculata

Helleborus odorus

In GARDENING ILLUSTRATED of March 5th I see my name mentioned in connection with this plant. An Austrian correspondent kindly sent me two small plants last autumn, the stronger of which is now in flower. They did not come from the Balkans, but were, I believe, collected in Hungary. It is an interesting little species, but not sufficiently showy to become a very popular plant. The foliage died down completely in late autumn, and nothing more was seen of the plants till the end of February, when one stem, bearing two deep green flowers, made its appearance. The specific name "odorus" was evidently bestowed on it because of its slight, but distinct, fruity scent, rather like that of Iris Graminea, faintly suggestive of plums. The habit of the plant and wide-spreading sepals show that H. odorus is much closer akin to H. viridis than to our other better-known native, H. fœtidus. It is a good many years since I have seen H. viridis, but my recollection of it growing, apparently wild, in an orchard near Pershore, in Worcestershire, is that it is a more beautiful flower than H. fœtidus, but that its more deciduous habit detracts considerably from its charms. Of all the green-flowered Hellebores surely none can vie with Mr. Bowles' form of H. argutifolius—or is it called a form of H. corsicus? Anyhow, it is a vastly finer plant than H. corsicus as grown at Kew. From seeds which Mr. Bowles generously gave me I raised a number of plants which are quite a feature of the garden every year when in bloom, from Christmas till April. The emerald flowers are carried on a stout stem well above the handsome leathery leaves. The plants flourish even at the base of an Elm tree, and are just as easy to establish as H. fœtidus.

Last spring most of my Hellebores suffered from an attack by aphides, and the young foliage was seriously damaged in spite of spraying with insecticide; but the inherent vigour of H. argutifolius carried it through the trouble, while a number of Lenten Rose varieties succumbed. N. G. HADDEN.

West Porlock, Somerset.

Grapes Gros Colman and Gros Maroc

The notes on these two handsome Grapes have been of interest. Both, and especially the latter, make large and handsome bunches, the berries are large, and when well finished they "fill the eye." But large berries with a good bloom, and large bunches, however attractive they may be, are at times disappointing when quality is desired. No one, I think, will claim that either Gros Colman or Gros Maroc is more than third-rate in quality. To grow them well they require the treatment accorded to Muscats; and I have often wondered why the planters of bygone days used these vines so freely. There are so many better Grapes which are so easily managed, and which are of far better quality, that, were I likely again to plant a Muscat house, neither Gros Maroc nor

Gros Colman would find a place. While on this subject, has anyone a good word to say for Lady Hutt or for Golden Queen? I do not like, nor have I ever liked, either, and the former I have always considered to be overrated. Golden Queen, like Gros Maroc, is large in bunch and in berry, and the bunches are handsomely shaped; but it fails, in my estimation, in the crucial test, that of quality.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Setting Peach Blossoms

AT this season, when Peach and Nectarine trees grown under glass are either in bloom or more or less advanced towards that critical stage, many will be considering the readiest means of ensuring fertilisation; like all other operations connected with horticulture, different cultivators pin their faith on the means they have found to answer best in their own case, and uphold it both in theory and practice; while others who have tried exactly opposite means with equally successful results faithfully record the same, and in many cases to the great perplexity of the uninitiated in gardening matters. Who has not read over and over again the desirability of maintaining a dry atmosphere while the blossoms are setting, while syringing is put forward by others as a ready means of fertilising them? I have no wish to question the possibility of getting a good set of fruit by the damping system, but I am so thoroughly convinced that it is not necessary, that I would always caution beginners in Peach culture against it. I have hitherto had very fair success in fertilising any kind of crop that appeared to need such assistance by using a camel's-hair brush lightly drawn over the flowers about midday, when the pollen is dry, and knowing that the majority of growers get good crops year after year, without fail, by the same means, I would strongly recommend anyone to follow it in preference to adopting less firmly established customs. In fact, under glass the camel's-hair brush, in addition to being a powerful aid to the hybridiser in trying to raise new or improved varieties of fruits and flowers, is equally potent in assisting the cultivator who aims at perfectly-developed fruits, as, if fertilisation is imperfect, the produce will be more or less affected thereby.

We have at the present time ripe Strawberries that were carefully fertilised about Christmas—for the Strawberry needs to be fertilised in every separate pip, or it will not swell evenly. The same with a bunch of Grapes. Every separate flower must be perfectly set, or small stoneless Grapes will be the result, spoiling the bunch, or rendering it anything but uniform or perfect. Some sorts are especially liable to be affected in this way—as, for instance, the Alicante, while Hamburghs seldom give any trouble in setting perfectly. But the Peach and Nectarine crop, being a valuable and important one, is worth all the pains that can be taken to ensure good fruit. The course that I have proved over and over again to yield such results is to keep up a light, dry, buoyant atmosphere by means of gentle fire-heat; to admit of a gentle circulation of fresh air; and about midday, as long as the blooms are expanded, to go over them with a camel's-hair brush, and set the varieties that are deficient in pollen with those in which it is abundant —for, as a rule, the small-flowered section are much more liberally supplied with pollen than the large-flowered varieties, such as Noblesse. Of course, late houses, which flower about the same time as those on open walls, do not need anything like the attention necessary for trees in flower in houses during the short days of January; but by carefully attending to the above simple rules, and not being tied to any fixed temperature, but regulating it by the external atmosphere, viz., forcing very slowly in dark, dull weather and pushing on whenever favoured by a few bright intervals, I have invariably had as good a set of fruit in early as in late houses.

I have no doubt that many beginners in Peach culture fail as much through keeping too low a temperature as from any other cause, as the ranges of temperature given in many works on forcing are so low that in mild weather any nervous cultivator would be afraid that the temperature ranging outside would be too much for his trees. But this is quite a fallacy; a gentle heat in the pipes from the time of starting never yet spoilt a crop, if other conditions were favourable. I have oftener seen the best set at the warmest corner of the house than the coldest.

Almond Blossom (Prunus Amygdalus)

A still, damp atmosphere is more likely to render the flowers abortive than any other cause of which I am aware. After the blooms are set, and the foliage healthy and active, a moist, growing temperature may be safely indulged in, going gently over the period of stoning, after which they delight in heat and moisture as much as any fruit which we cultivate.

G.

Late Pears

The period between the end of December and the end of March usually presents greater difficulties in regard to the maintenance of a regular supply of Pears for the dessert than at any other time while Pears are in season. In many instances this is largely due to the late ripening varieties of Pears when compared with the number of mid-season varieties, for example, being somewhat scarce. This and the fact that the season of ripening of many late varieties is rather variable—as it is not often they mature at the same time two years in succession—as well as the liability of their yielding but a poor or pa crop in some seasons are factors w ofttimes makes matters difficult whe regular supply is looked for.

As far as the risk of failure from adv weather conditions is concerned, late v ties are no more immune than mid-seaso early kinds. In the circumstances it w therefore, on the part of those contempl the planting of late Pears with a view t tending the season, be well to make a s tion of the varieties of real merit and as many trees of each as may be consi necessary to enable future demands b met, and at the same time prevent, as f possible, a break in the supply occur Any likelihood of a surplus arising at time could always be obviated by usin smallest fruits of any variety before it r for stewing or for compotes. In conne with this matter it should be mentioned late Pears keep in good condition for a l period than the mid-season sorts, and should be taken into consideration there appears a possibility of a surplus h to be dealt with.

Some of the best and most reliable o Pears have long been in cultivation; are of more recent introduction. In and favoured situations some will su either as bushes, pyramids, or espalier the majority, as a rule, require the w and protection afforded by a wall to do justice, where they can be grown eitl fan, diagonal, or cordon-trained Where wall space is restricted the last-r form of tree is to be recommended. Of ties the writer has found Beurré d' berg and Winter Nelis to give a suppl into January. Both do well as cordons Quince stock. The same may be s Glou Morceau, to get really fine specim which a specially-prepared border, the as for a Peach tree, should be pr Next may be mentioned Nouvelle Beurré de Jonghe, President B Duchesse de Bordeaux, and Le Lect of which are good as cordons. Pr Barabe may, under suitable conditio well as an espalier. Josephine de M will succeed either as an espalier Quince or trained diagonally on a wal cordons. Monarch, in spite of its ba of casting some of its fruits prematur on account of its rich flavour and goo ing qualities, still grown. Be d'Esperen is equally good from trees open on a warm soil or from those on It is a great cropper and must b thinned. This and Olivier de Serres always have a place where late Pe grown. Easter Beurré is so unreliab time of ripening, and Beurré Diel g so gritty, that they are not included foregoing list. Both Josephine de and Bergamot d'Esperen have beer best flavoured when stored and ripene cool atmosphere of the Apple store.

As regards the gathering of the fr should not be done—weather permitt the last week in October or first November. This allows of the fr coming more fully developed, while tl sounder and are of far better quali ripe than when gathering is p earlier.

A.

The Almond (Prunus Amyg

ONE of the most popular of f shrubs is the Almond. Flowerin March and April and bearing p coloured blossoms, it shows to a with a background of evergreens. I best upon a warm, well-drained soil. ous varieties are cultivated on the for their fruit, but grown in this Almonds rarely are fit to eat.

In this country Yuccas are easily grown and add a tropical appearance to any garden.

Yuccas

IERE are about half-a-dozen species of ucca, and several varieties and hybrids, ll of which are amenable to cultivation le gardens of this country. Although ıtive habitat of these fine plants is the er States of North America, they are, heless, quite hardy in the British Isles. will withstand 20 degs. or 30 degs. st, providing they are planted in suitositions. Some of the larger kinds add a tropical appearance to any garden, the less vigorous species are suitable ds and conspicuous places on the rock ı. No doubt Yuccas are seen at their vhen planted in bold groups, and this s to all kinds; even on the rock garden h of several plants is far more effective one or two isolated examples. The ing season is from July onwards, and ge handsome spikes of cream-coloured s are truly among the finest displays in rden. They will thrive in towns as in untry, and this fact should be borne in by the small grower with his little patch lund. Y. gloriosa is an admirable and ting subject for the suburban lawn, ver, it is not so liable to outgrow tion as many of the plants chosen to-I have never found Yuccas particular ard to soil, but a wet, cold rooting medium should be avoided. In such a position the roots often decay during the winter months, and this applies more especially to the less vigorous kinds.

For preference they should be afforded a place fully exposed to the sun and where it is fairly well drained. When selecting a site it should be remembered that Yuccas do not mind periods of drought, so they would thrive in many spots where other plants would only linger. The flower-spikes are produced from the centre of the growths, and after the inflorescence is removed the growth may die, but, as a rule, several young shoots appear to take its place.

Yuccas transplant badly, except direct from pots, and whenever possible this method should be adopted, although there are exceptions, which are dealt with below. The best species for beds and the rock garden is, undoubtedly, the beautiful Y. filamentosa, a dwarf plant with tufts of strap-shaped leaves from 2 feet to 2½ feet long and 2 inches wide. A characteristic feature of this Yucca is the curling filaments which are borne on the leaf margins. This plant does not form a stem, and where it thrives a large number of new shoots will be seen soon after the flowering period. These eventually develop into strong growths capable of producing a spike from 4 feet to 6 feet high with a wealth of creamy-white flowers nearly 3 inches across.

Y. gloriosa is quite distinct from all others and the common name is Adam's Needle, on account of the leaves being terminated with a sharp spine. This plant will grow from 4 feet to 8 feet high, having a stout stem on the top of which are massive heads of firm dark green leaves. These are 2 feet or more in length and about 3 inches wide. The upright branched spikes of creamy-white flowers, often 4 feet to 5 feet high, are most effective, and several in a group is a noteworthy display. A similar species is Y. recurvifolia; the leaves are rather longer and the spikes less vigorous than in Y. gloriosa. Both these plants make fine specimens, and occasionally the side shoots or branches will break off during the summer months. When this happens we merely dig a hole and insert the stem to the leaves, making the soil quite firm, and eventually the stem forms new roots. Two other species call for notice, viz., Y. flaccida, somewhat similar to Y. filamentosa, and Y. angustifolia, which will be useful for the rock garden and similar positions. I have found the latter rather more difficult to get established than any of the others quoted.

The best time to plant these stately denizens of our gardens is late spring. At this season growth is on the move and root-action begins at once. T. W. Briscoe.

Royal Horticultural Society

A glorious display of Cymbidiums, Hyacinths, and Alpines

THE show, held on March 8th and 9th, reached the high-water mark of excellence, and provided a wealth of glorious colour such as is rarely seen at this time of the year. There were displays of Orchids, extensive groups of Hyacinths and other forced bulbs, interesting alpines, Rhododendrons, Cyclamens, and no lack of new and rare plants.

Cymbidiums and other Orchids

This was the Cymbidium show, and never before has this genus been so well represented.

A most interesting and beautiful group of Cymbidiums shown by H. G. Alexander, Ltd., gained the high honour of Gold Medal. It goes without saying that all of the plants were well grown and every plant a specimen. Cymbidium Butterfly, which forms the subject of an illustration on this page, was much in evidence. The most striking and magnificent novelty was Cymbidium Flamingo Memoria Sir George Holford (see illustration page opposite), named in honour of the beloved and former owner of Westonbirt. The flowers of this exquisite variety are very large, of fine substance, and perfectly shaped, with ivory-white petals and sepals slightly suffused with rosy-pink and a deep velvet-crimson blotch on a white lip (parentage, Alexanderi x Merlin). This plant received the First-class Certificate and a silver Lindley Medal—a rare honour to plants of special beauty. Other good varieties were Alabaster, Goosander, Magnolia, Martin, Ringdove, and Curlew.

Cymbidiums were well shown in the large group of Orchids by J. and A. McBean, who gained a Gold Medal. This group contained a specimen plant of Cymbidium Ceres, with 11 spikes and over 150 flowers and buds. It created a sensation. Will the plant recover from the strain? we are inclined to ask. In the same group was the new Odontioda Frederick J. Hanbury, the centre of attraction and said to be the finest Odontioda ever brought to Vincent Square. This plant, which received the rare honour of First-class Certificate and silver Lindley Medal, carried one branched spike nearly 4 feet long and bearing 61 brilliant flowers rich reddish-scarlet in colour.

Forms of Cymbidium Eric Sander varying from green to yellow were shown by Sanders, of St. Albans. Two of the best were Glory (the rich golden-yellow) and Yellowhammer.

Cymbidium Butterfly, over 4 feet ac carrying 65 flowers on 4 spikes, s by H. G. Alexander, Ltd.

Crocus Imperati alba, large white flowers with rich orange-yellow filaments, [Award of Merit, shown by Mrs. W. R. Dykes

Hyacinths, Daffodils, and other bulbs

A considerable area of the hall was filled by Messrs. Sutton and Sons with a large oval bed of Hyacinths in which 2,500 spikes of bloom of many hues shed an almost overwhelming fragrance. A portion of this Gold Medal display is shown in the illustration on page 172. These Hyacinths were large and uniform in size, and included shades of orange, cerise, indigo, and heliotrope. About 40 varieties were shown. Particularly good were Ivanhoe (dark blue), King of the Lilacs, City of Haarlem (yellow), Myosotis, Daylight (shrimp-pink on yellow ground), and Marconi (pink and orange-cerise).

Daffodils, Tulips, Crocuses, and forced bulbs in bowls were shown by Me R. H. Bath, Ltd. The pick of the Na were Mme. de Graaff, Harmony, Olympia.

Hyacinths were well shown by J Carter and Co., and the following var were greatly admired:—Boeven (sal orange), Schotel (china-blue), Moreno (bl Avalanche, La Grandosse (white), Marconi (pink).

It was quite refreshing to see the L ham Daffodils in their usual corner again. Messrs. Pearson's collection of 50 varieties included General Town Golden Emperor, Florence Pearson, Roberts, and Hon. Mrs. Francklin.

Bulbous plants for the rock gard cluding Crocuses, Narcissus species, laria pudica, Water Lily Tulip Kaufmanniana), Erythronium Hend Hellebore Prince Rupert (described and dwarf early Irises, were shown b and Sons.

Crocus Imperati alba.—This, a ver form of the well-known purple-fe species, has six narrow petals spread pure white rays, and the filaments a orange-yellow. Shown by Mrs. Dykes, Woking, Surrey. Award o (see illustration).

Rhododendrons

A group of Rhododendrons sent b Admiral Walker Heneage-Vivian, Castle, Swansea, was most effecti foreshadowed the fine groups of Rh drons that we may reasonably expect the next few weeks. R. Thomsonii, red trusses, was well represented, with hybrids of R. catawbiense, R. and R. arboreum.

Rhododendron cilpense.—A prett green hardy Rhododendron for rock with flowers of white and Apple-b pink (parentage, R. ciliatum x R. nense) Award of Merit. Shown b Aberconway and the Hon. H. D. M Bodnant, North Wales.

Rhododendron Mackenzianum.—A rather thin-growing species, flower flushed with rose. The chief virtu

(*Continued on page* 180.)

Interesting Plants at Vincent Square on March 8th and 9th

Iris stylosa, shown by the Rev. Rollo Meyer

The new Saxifraga Gem (pale blush), shown by M. Prichard and Sons

Cymbidium Flamingo Memoria Sir George Holford, ivory white with deep crimson velvet blotch on the lip. First Class Certificate

Helleborus orientalis Prince Rupert, nodding flowers freely speckled red, shown by Barr and Sons. Award of Merit

The Importance of Rest to Plants

RECENT inquiries in the columns of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED with reference to various diseases of the Arum Lily recall to mind many similar complaints and inquiries during the past few years, particularly on the part of commercial growers, who cultivate the Arum Lily as a catchcrop in Tomato and Cucumber houses. Where this is done, one commonly hears of vague and mysterious diseases which are interfering with the cultivation of this popular flower, and many remedial measures are being tried with varying success.

Under certain circumstances the plant is undoubtedly subject to maladies which merit careful investigation, but some of these so-called diseases are merely secondary troubles following on a weakened constitution brought about by cultural defects. There appears to be an increasing tendency nowadays to look to the pathologist to get us out of our difficulties instead of approaching the question from a purely practical point of view, and attending more carefully to cultural details.

One common cultural fault lies in neglecting to consider the natural habitat of the plant and to cater for its requirements accordingly. In parts of South Africa, where the Arum Lily flourishes in a wild state, we find that, after the season's growth, the plant dies down, and the soil containing the corms is baked hard and dry for well over six months until the rainy season comes round again, when growth is rapid and vigorous, and the plants produce flowers in abundance. This clearly demonstrates the importance of the resting period, which is absolutely essential to the health and well-being of the plants. But under glasshouse culture this requirement is often neglected, and the plants are kept in moist and often shady positions for the greater part of the year, and consequently soon become exhausted. Where the plants are ripened off naturally after flowering and placed in the full sun in the warmest place available, and kept dry through the late summer months, they store up energy for the following season, and are rarely troubled with the maladies common to their worn-out neighbours.

This annual rest requirement is by no means confined to Arum Lilies. In the case of many tropical and sub-tropical bulbous and other plants the dormant or resting period is as necessary to the well-being of the plant as a successful growing season, and one of the first essentials in the cultivation of such plants is a knowledge of, and due attention given to, their resting or dormant period. Such plants as Hippeastrums, Nerines, and other bulbous subjects are always more vigorous, and produce better flowers if given a complete annual rest, but their dying-down period, which precedes dormancy, must not be hurried.

To many hard-wooded plants a partial rest is of great benefit, and it is often observed that a hot, dry late summer and autumn is followed by a floriferous spring, the dry period having ripened the wood and developed flower-buds rather than vegetative shoots.

I well remember once having a batch of young Himalayan Rhododendrons which, owing to the removal of the nursery stock, were very much neglected. They were placed in an open frame in the full sunshine in July and remained there, almost forgotten, till the end of September. Some of them lost a good many leaves and looked rather sorry for themselves at that time, but in the following spring they produced a truly wonderful display of bloom and were exhibited at Vincent Square, where a well-known West End florist purchased them for his shop. Since then I have never failed to give to Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and other pot-flowering shrubs every scrap of available sunshine and a rather dry treatment during the latter half of summer, and always with good results in the flowering season. Sometimes a rest is beneficial in cases where Nature has not indicated its necessity. Even Maidenhair Fern, if cut right down and packed away almost dry in a cold frame for a month or two, will, when brought into a warm, moist atmosphere and repotted, produce an abundance of vigorous frond short time. Many other greenhouse will benefit by a similar rest, provid course, that such treatment is attende good judgment and common sense.

C. H. MIDDLE

A Gold Medal bed of Hyacinths shown by Sutton and Sons at Vincent Square
Over 2,500 spikes of bloom of many hues shed an almost overwhelming fragrance

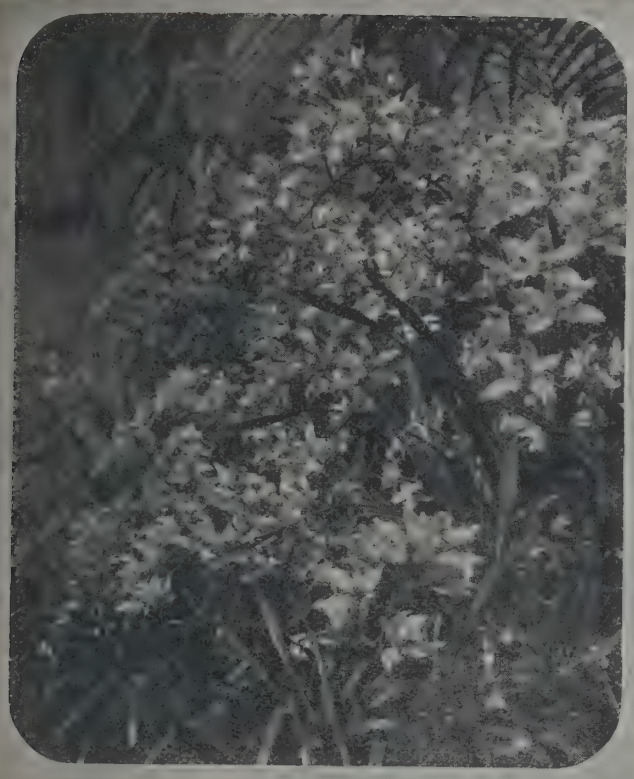
Anemones in the garden a woodland

The common Wood Anemone is one most beautiful wild flowers, carpeti ground with its fresh green foliag innumerable pure white flowers. It f pleasing picture of floral beauty at when flowers in the open are none too ful. There are about a dozen white shades of purple, and at least one pink of which, I feel certain, would thrive i lar conditions to those in which the form grows naturally. As a fact, Ro has been found growing wild in several ties. It is of a free growth and is ver tive in the form of good-sized colonies double white is as free-growing as the form and should make a fine display woodland. The most vigorous of th kinds is Cornubiense, which increases and would, I feel sure, be quite happy woodland. The little ranunculoides is times called the yellow Wood Anemon anyone say where it grows naturally a is really a woodland kind? I should clined to give it a trial in the clearin wood or in some semi-wild place. It only in the woodland and wild gard these Anemones would be at home, th places in the garden where they w quite happy. In many gardens there is called the shrubbery, which cons evergreen and deciduous trees and Neatness being a characteristic fea English gardens, the common practi clear away the leaves every winter an point over the soil. This is a pernicio tom; it deprives the occupants of n ment and of the natural covering to th With the natural fall of the leaf the sh could be the happy home of An Daffodils, Scillas, etc., and Primroses they would increase yearly in b power. Surely, this would be better t bare soil all through the early spring

J. COR

Irish Anemones

A lady writes to ask why seedling of Anemone coronaria should be call Anemones, seeing that they are wild hillside near the Mediterranean. I n form my fair correspondent that doub ties of Anemone coronaria are rare and the best Irish Anemones yield proportion of double and semi-doub soms as raised from seeds, and th moreover, so hardy, that by sowin seeds in February or March, they f England or Ireland as well, or near they do in the south of Europe, an surely a great gain to our gardens the mode of sowing the seed. C sunny open spot, sheltered from rough put on a good dressing of rotten n cow manure is best—and well dig, the manure at least 5 inches deep, soon in February as the surface is friable sow the seed (this must separated by rubbing with a qua sand), taking care to distribute it as possible; it is almost impossible to thinly. Keeping clean from weeds occasional watering with liquid cow during very dry weather is all the tention they will require. Bloom w mence in October, and continue thr winter and spring months. They not transplanted. The most vivid Windflowers from the open air,



A magnificent exhibit of Cymbidiums by H. G. Alexander, Ltd.

Ranunculus calendrinioides, an uncommon species and notoriously difficult to grow, shown by Mr. C. T. Musgrave

of white Christmas Roses for our New Day bouquet is, as I take it, a precious and this much may be done in all ed seaside gardens by sowing good t once. V.

me indispensable annuals

ence of the ever-increasing interest n annuals and their wide cultivation in rge and small gardens alike for a bril- splay outside and for cut flowers, is ed by the interesting notes on the same ng from time to time in GARDENING RATED, and as the annual catalogue to hand one picks out a few or many best according to requirement to suit ve needs. For outside planting, where re to take the place of more tender that have been under glass in winter, the first essentials is their enduring something that will last nearly the season. Personally, two of my oices are always Antirrhinums of the required and Pentstemons, and in g good strains of these in varying one is sure of a bright display for n-sized beds or for central clumps in , the great point being to get ghly established stuff ready for plant- at the end of May. For small beds front of borders three of the best of arfer annuals are Nemesia Blue Gem, grandiflorum, and Tagetes Golden they are all most enduring, very free, n be relied on for a thoroughly bright

n the above, and some of the best types x Drummondi and Nasturtiums, one not lack brilliance and great variety ar for the borders all through the sea- t is to annuals also that the small looks mainly for his supply of cut and here, too, with the wealth of l available, it is well to have of the One of my first choice of late years among the taller flowers has been the lovely pink and white forms of the annual Mallow Lavatera trimestris. Fragile in appearance and flimsy of texture, it is yet one of the most enduring of flowers, and will stand for close on a fortnight in a cut state with occasional renewal of water, whilst for purity of colour it is not surpassed or hardly equalled by anything in outdoor flowers. Among other annuals of totally different appearance, but equally enduring and acceptable in cut form, are the newer varieties of Sweet Sultan (Centaurea moschata). Like the Mallows, they will stand nearly a fortnight in water, are of many different shades, and the ability to cut them with stems from 2 feet to 3 feet in length renders them adaptable either for bowls or large vases. Growers should also make a point of securing in variety the beautiful hybrids of Dimorphotheca, the South African Daisy, with some remarkable shades of a very pleasing character. Two good Nasturtiums that will be found pleasing and effective for vases are Beauty of Malvern and Golden King, as both can be cut with fairly long stems and show up well when arranged with their own foliage. Following up a selection of single flowers of an enduring nature one would welcome Calliopsis and the best of the Gaillardias and Poppies; but they are not quite so good as those earlier named. One thing is certain, there would be plenty of choice to secure alike a fine display in the garden and plenty of cut bloom. B.

Pæonies

The herbaceous Pæony always commands admiration, and greatly so when associated with genial surroundings. To make Pæonies doubly attractive the arrangement of clumps are more so than just single specimens. Planting three to five clumps in a mass, interspersed with Lilium croceum, L. tigrinum, and L. tigrinum plenum, gives a floral display of long duration besides great effectiveness. Pæonies deserve generous treatment, they being gross feeders. A few of the showy and useful varieties are herewith appended:—Duchesse de Nemours, a large, double, snow-white flower with a delightful fragrance, hardy and free, one of the best of its colour; Mons. Chas. Leveque, rose, carmine, and white, very attractive and useful for vase purposes, hardy, and very profuse; Canarie, white, tinted yellow, free-blooming, and one of the best for cutting purposes; Reine des Roses, full rich rose, powerfully rose-scented, a very fine all-round Pæony of dwarf habit; Festiva maxima, extra fine grower and very large white variety with scarlet stripe markings, showing its features under a subdued light, giving great charm when used for room decoration; Edulis superba, a Pæony of great merit, the colour being a beautiful shade of pink, whilst the blossoms are highly fragrant; Lady Leonora Bramwell, lovely silvery-rose, the blooms being large and well formed; healthy grower, hardy and free; can be highly recommended; Rosea elegans, a bicolor flower of great charm, the colour being rose with salmon shadings; the blend of colours always finds admirers, the blossoms being well formed and useful for cut-flower purposes; The Queen, a delicate colour of flesh-pink and a lovely variety, highly fragrant, and for vase purposes for room decoration a real charmer; Whitleyi major, a beautiful single, white and sulphur blossom, lending great charm and enchantment to the garden and its surroundings; every garden ought to contain a specimen of this showy and fascinating Pæony.

GEORGE LOVELOCK.

Border Carnations

Wintered in pots, these may be planted out into prepared beds which, on heavy soils, will be vastly improved if a good dressing of chalk or lime is applied and forked into the surface.

TREES AND SHRUBS

The large-catkined Goat Willow (Salix caprea var. major)

THE ordinary Goat Willow is known in the British Isles under the names of Sallow and Palm, the latter having originated in connection with its use for decoration on Palm Sunday. It is one of the commonest of our British Willows, and is found either as a small tree or large bush, usually in damp or wet ground, on a great variety of soils. As is the case with most other Willows, male and female flowers are borne on different plants, the male flowers being the more attractive. They appear during late March and early April, in stout catkins, each an inch or a little more long and an inch wide; in the variety major, here figured, the catkins are rather longer than in the type. They produce a large quantity of yellow pollen, which is greatly liked by bees; therefore a bush or two should be planted in the vicinity of bee-hives, so that the bees, after their long confinement to the hive, can gather pollen without the fatigue of a long flight. S. caprea can be increased by cuttings of varying length from a few inches to as many feet, even large posts placed in the ground will form roots. It crosses very easily with the closely allied species S. cinerea, and the hybrids sometimes produce catkins bearing both male and female flowers.

There are several other varieties of the Goat Willow in addition to the one of which an illustration is given, two of the best known being pendula, the Kilmarnock Willow, which has long, stiff, pendulous branches, and variegata, which has white-variegated leaves. Neither has much to commend it, and for general purposes a male-flowered specimen of the type may be regarded as preferable to the varieties.

The large-catkined Goat Willow (Salix caprea major)

Viburnum coriaceum

Of the many choice evergreen shrubs which may be used for forming the background of a shrub border, this rather attractive Viburnum should not be overlooked. Thriving well in any good garden soil here, in a few years it has attained a size of from 12 feet to 14 feet in height and about 30 feet in circumference. The upper surface of the dark green are covered with a thin waxy layer cracks and turns grey when the leav rubbed or bent, and at times one almost think that the light winds bendi leaves to and fro give them a rather tive greyish hue.

The creamy-white flowers, which a dueed during September, are usually in seven-rayed cymes 3 inches to 5 across, and are rendered very pretty protruding bunch of lilac-coloured sta

Native of the Himalayas and Viburnum coriaceum is quite hardy country, and ought to be more planted in gardens than it is.

Exbury Gardens.

Fuchsia-flowered Currant (R speciosum)

This Ribes, whose usual season o ing is late in spring, is now beari numbers of its red Fuchsia-like b They are smaller than those produc proper season, and the foliage is beginning to appear, though ordinal

eveloped at flowering time. The pre- ; habit of this particular plant has, er, been remarked previous to the present season, so that in this character at least it seems to differ somewhat from the common kind. The mere shelter afforded by a wall would scarcely make so much difference as regards earliness, as has been noticed in this case.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

uthern and Midland

thinning

best and most shapely bunches will e selected for thinning and the re- r removed, leaving those bunches e left evenly disposed along the rods, g an equal number on each side of the possible. The quantity to remain lepend, to a large extent, upon the and condition of the Vines, but for a Vine of from 14 feet to 16 feet in 12 to 15 bunches may be left overtaxing its strength. Thinning carried out early in the morning dull days, and care must be taken bruise the berries left with the s, or cause them even to be brushed ne's hair, otherwise permanent dis- ent will follow. First remove weak shoulders and thread a broad piece a through those remaining, fixing the the wires above, the tie being pulled uch shoulders are gently raised from nainder of the bunch. This simplifies nning. Cut away those berries which beyond what should be a shapely and follow this by a free thinning of nainder. Permit no inner berries, and thinning is better than under-thinning.

s

e up hotbeds for the second crop, or if of bottom-heat is provided by pipes the may be built over them, a tempera- f 60 degs. to 65 degs. being main- increasing with sun-heat during the 75 degs. or 80 degs., walls and stages damped frequently. The atmosphere ses containing Melons in bloom should ner drier until a satisfactory set has secured, and to obtain which the must be artificially fertilised each

nbers

e another sowing of these for the oc- n of deep pits, which will become le as the present occupants get trans- to cooler quarters.

es

oon as the fruits attain the size of s the work of thinning must be com- l. Do not overcrop the trees as this es against their future welfare. Thin lly, and a space of 1 foot between each fruits will be found satisfactory in nstances.

ating

ch all houses containing trees or plants tually in bloom for the presence of ly, and burn a little nicotine on still gs to check their ravages on young, shoots and leaves.

an sown Onions

time has arrived for the thinning and anting of these. Onions enjoy a rich ll-drained soil, and this must be borne l when planting out; also they should nted as deep only as before being from the beds. Those left in the beds be thinned to 9 inches apart, the soil up among them, and be given a application of soot and lime to stimu- velopment.

h

the surface clean and stirred, when , among autumn-sown plants, and a light dusting of artificial manure once every fortnight will favour growth. Fresh sowings may be made at intervals from this date.

Salads

Admit air freely to salading plants growing in frames to prevent undue damping off of the leaves.

Potatoes

A further planting of early Potatoes should be made on a warm and well-drained border, and also a few lines of an approved second early variety.

Peas

These may now be sown in larger quantities, choosing sheltered borders for this purpose and well-prepared soil, Senator, Royal Salute, and Gradus Improved.

Artichokes

On well-prepared land make the final planting of this desirable vegetable, placing the lines 3 feet apart as advised in a former calendar.

Asparagus

The surface of the beds may now be lightly forked over, burying any manure or other dressing which may have been formerly applied. Clean and shape out the alleys at the same time.

Protecting wall fruits

Maintain a careful watch on all stone fruits, and see that material is in readiness so that it may be drawn over the trees when frost threatens. A few thicknesses of tiffany usually suffices.

Annuals

Continue to prepare ground intended for these, especially where the annuals are to form groups among shrubs. Lavatera, Mignonette, Poppy, Lupin, Collinsia, Clarkia, Cornflower, Nemophila, Nigella, Godetia, etc., may now be sown where they are to bloom. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Parsnips

If the sowing of this vegetable has not yet been accomplished, the very first favourable opportunity must be seized to get the seeds into the ground, the Parsnips demanding a long season of growth. On no account must this root be sown on newly-manured ground unless this material has been buried quite 18 inches deep. Much better results are had by selecting a spot that was well enriched for the previous crop.

Onion sets

This method of growing Onions is not to be commended where this vegetable succeeds from seed, but nowadays so few gardens are able to carry this plant, owing to the ravages of the Onion grub, that one is glad to fall back on any method that promises some return for the time and trouble expended. Plant on rich soil in rows some 12 inches apart and the little bulbs 7 inches asunder in the rows. Press into the ground a little and then draw a little soil right over the bulbs to prevent their being thrown out, as so often happens. After the bulbs are well rooted the soil can be levelled down with a trowel.

Peas

Up to time of writing, the soil has always been so wet that even the earliest sowing is yet to be got in in many gardens. Those who are in this predicament must just be ready to seize the first favourable day in which to get this important matter put right, while those fortunate enough to have got in a line or two earlier should now get in another sowing.

Spring Cabbage and Broccoli

These have stood the winter very well, and to encourage and stimulate growth a little attention is now advisable. Whenever the surface gets moderately dry go over the beds, removing all dead leaves and any weeds that may be present. A sprinkling of some approved fertiliser should then be given, scattering it evenly between the plants and well hoeing it in.

Carnations from seed

Some really fine varieties may be secured by this means. Seeds sown now in pans of light, sandy compost set in gentle heat will usually produce plants that will bloom the first season. If really good strains are procured a high percentage of double flowers is certain.

Begonia Gloire de Lorraine

As soon as cuttings can be had, have the necessary number inserted in small pots of light peaty compost and plunge in a little bottom heat or in a close box, covering with glass. For producing large plants for hanging-baskets the best of the old plants should be retained and carefully repotted or top-dressed so as to induce good, healthy growth. A moist, warm atmosphere and shading from all bright sunshine are the main wants of this popular winter-flowering plant.

Planting Gladioli

Although there is, as yet, no particular hurry with this important operation, still, if the soil is in a nice working condition, the chance should not be neglected, as one is never certain about our British weather. Deeply-worked and richly-manured ground will give by far the best results. In planting, make suitable holes with a trowel and place a good handful of sharp sand in the bottom of each for the bases of the bulbs to rest on, this being absolutely necessary where the soil is of a retentive character.

Protecting Peach blossom

Where outdoor Peaches are cultivated it is absolutely necessary to afford some protection to the trees while the flowers are open. Canvas movable blinds are, of course, best, but where these are not provided, a double ply of fish-netting hung up in front of the trees will often ensure immunity from frost or sleet.

Herbaceous Calceolaria

Plants of this gorgeous subject that have been wintered in 5-inch pots should now have a shift into the flowering size. Very good plants may be grown in 7-inch pots, but any particularly strong specimens may be given the 8-inch size. Use a compost of three parts good fibrous loam, two parts leaf-mould, and one part coarse, clean sand. The addition of a 5-inch potful of Thomson's manure and a 6-inch potful of bone-meal to each barrowload of the other ingredients is a decided improvement. C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

VEGETABLES

Early vegetables

ALL green vegetables will be scarce as the spring advances. In my own garden nearly all the Broccoli has perished, while the Scotch Kale has also suffered. With this shortened supply arises the question, how to forward early crops. In gardens where there is abundance of glass, the difficulty is easily overcome. Still, many crops may be forwarded if thought and attention are given, with only a few cold pits or frames. A slight hotbed may be made, where many things can be raised.

At the present time, in these frames, early dwarf Peas may be sown. Between the rows may be sown early Radishes. A pinch of seed of an early Cauliflower to raise plants for putting in the open later on may also be sown. Raised under these conditions, these plants seldom damp off or go back in the stem, as they do when sown in boxes, etc., in heated structures. When these seedlings are large enough to handle, they should be pricked out into some sheltered position and protected for a time. If only a few are needed, then a few boxes would be best, using good soil. Some 30 years ago I used to arrange several frames in a row in the Melon ground on a hard bottom. Before these frames were put in position I made a bed about a foot deep, of rotten leaves, old spent tan, garden refuse, or anything to hand. On this were placed a few inches of soil, and the frames put over. In these were sown Carrots, Radishes, Turnips, Lettuces, early dwarf Peas, and early Cauliflower. Later on one was used for dwarf Beans, raised in pots. About the middle of January, noting the effects of the frost, I obtained a few barrow-loads of hot stable dung, mixed a few leaves with this, and placed the whole in a warm corner. On this I stood three or four boxes, in which I had sown Lettuces, Cauliflower, Cabbage, etc., covering these with paper, to keep in the moisture. Over the boxes I put some sticks, covering the whole with mats. Now I have a fine lot of young seedlings, which will soon be big enough to prick out. Observing cultivators must have noticed the benefits attending raised positions for early crops. For years I used to obtain my early Celery plants by utilising the top of our loam-stack. Being in a warm place, with a frame or handlight over them, the plants grew very fast, and were much earlier than those raised in heat in boxes. J. C.

Planting Rhubarb

Although the crowns will continue to produce good leaf-growth in the same position for some years, it repays to form new plantations every five or six years. The best time to do this is when the crowns show signs of activity in March or quite early in April, splitting up a large crown with a spade, reserving a small crown or growing shoot, with a little root attached. So long as the plot is not unduly shaded with trees or high buildings, Rhubarb is not very particular as regards position; but the roots must have a good larder, therefore let the ground be trenched 2 feet to 3 feet deep, with plenty of manure at the bottom and again midway. If it is intended to force the crowns in two years, the clumps must have 4 feet between them; 1 foot less would suffice if only to be pulled from after two years' free growth. Now is a good time to manure the ground between established clumps, applying a heavy dressing, and forking the same in as soon as the ground is workable. The stalks are very much better in colour when blanched, and we always get a few branched sticks and place around each crown, shaking some straw over these to keep out the light. This also prevents the young growth being crippled by late frosts or heavy hailstorms. All flowering shoots, as they appear, must be cut out, and the ground between the plants constantly hoed before the large leaves cover the ground, or a mass of weeds will result in the early autumn. Rhubarb can also be raised from seed, sowing half-a-dozen seeds in clumps some 2 feet across, 3 feet or 4 feet apart in the row where they are to remain, and thinning out to three only when it can be seen which is the most prominent. Division of old crowns is much the better plan, and, if not in stock, the nurseryman can supply planting crowns at a very small charge.

Cultivation of garden Peas

Culinary Peas are undoubtedly enjoyed during their season more than any vegetable in cultivation, and in order to secure full crops from various sowings throughout the season it must be understood that thorough cultivation during their period of growth is essential. There may be risks of light crops from the earliest sowings, however practical and thorough they were carried out, owing to the vagaries of our climate, but not so with any subsequent sowings. Peas respond readily to deep cultivation, and owing to the heavy demands they make on the soil the space allotted to them should be well trenched, and a liberal quantity of farmyard manure worked into the bottom of the trench.

Farmyard manure is very difficult to obtain in some areas. Reasons for this are well known, but a splendid substitute becomes available by reserving all lawn mowings, leaves, and other rubbish from the garden that is subject to decay, turning this over at fortnightly periods and mixing a quantity of "Adco" with it, as described by the makers, until the whole is in a well-decomposed state. If the soil is of a heavy and retentive nature a sprinkling of old lime-rubble, wood-ash, and road scrapings may be incorporated in the top spit; this will render it more porous, and the seedlings will find their way through under more congenial conditions.

A Canterbury hoe is a useful tool with which to draw out good wide drills. These should be from 2 inches to 3 inches deep, according to the nature of the soil, sowing the seed the full width of the drill about 1½ inches apart. Some protection should be made against the ravages of birds in the early stages of growth, and if mice are troublesome a few baited traps serve a more effective purpose than using red lead at the time of sowing.

Draw the soil up on either side of each row when about 2 inches high, after which sticks for support according to their height may be placed in position. Peas love moisture, therefore keep the surface soil well stirred, and if prolonged periods of drought have to be considered, water thoroughly, followed by a good mulch of grass mowings or portion of an old hotbed.

By adopting these methods it will be found that the size and quantity of pods and flavour of the Peas will well repay for the labour expended in their cultivation.

Sevenoaks, Kent. W. F. FAIRMAN.

Broad Beans

The Broad Bean is often a neglected vegetable. Certainly it is not appreciated to the same extent as Peas, although few vegetables are more nutritious. There are white-seeded varieties which are employed for early supplies, and green-seeded varieties which some consider superior to the former. Autumn sowing is practised in many districts, most seasons they are a success. Th sowing is made as early as possi January, and the main crop shou planted in February. Further sowin be made until the middle of April; aft date it is more or less a chance crop. Beans will thrive in any good garde and they are usually planted in doubl 9 inches apart and about 2 inches de seeds being 6 inches or 8 inches as The strong-growing varieties will r space of 3 feet between the rows, but dwarfer kinds 2 feet will be ample.

The worst enemy of Broad Beans is fly, but occasional sprayings with an cide will keep this pest in check. Bean aphis only thrives on the young the stem it is a good plan to remove t directly sufficient pods are formed, an tion which also assists the earlier m of the crop.

Exhibition Longpod and Green W are two reliable kinds.

Planting Early Potatoes

Although a simple operation, much d upon the method adopted whether th will be successful or otherwise. Only t first earlies should be chosen for thi and I know of none more reliable tha Queen, Sharpe's Express, Midlothian (also known as Duke of York), and I Ashleaf. These should have shoots an inch long if they have been treat perly, and these should now be redu one, or not more than two. Presumi ground has been previously dug and ma a dusting of lime and wood ashes r forked in the surface, and drills mad apart and 6 inches deep; a dusting thrown along the ridges will prove be The sets should be placed carefully w shoots uppermost at one foot apart, available cover them with several in old potting compost, Mushroom man leaf-mould. This will cause quick and the tubers to turn out clean and shape. Fill in the remaining soil, a tect the shoots when they appear thro ground if frosts put in an appearanc warmest site in the garden should be for the early crop of Potatoes.

W. E. WR

Seakale

The planting of the sets should be n delayed. They require a long season fect stout crowns for forcing next No This being a moisture-loving plant choosing a hot, dry position. I do n by this that a shady spot is necessary, that is moderately flat and that will by the summer rains. Forced crow sometimes planted a second year if scarce, but root-cuttings make ver better material for planting, securi at lifting time in November or De Give the selected site a heavy dre rich manure, and it repays the gr double dig the ground, placing a go of manure at the bottom of the sec and another layer between the two roots of the Seakale plant penetrat when the soil has been well move young sets will have callused by no is unwise to rub off any young shoo present; defer this until growth is enough to select the strongest shoo will form the crown for next year's Plant the sets 12 inches apart, 2 i 3 inches below the level, with a dite rows 20 inches to 24 inches asunc the ground be raked over as plant ceeds, to avoid further treading on soon as growth appears, run the flan tween, continuing this until the le

: being done. In disbudding the use a small label, care being taken disturb the strongest growth that is tained. In showery weather frequent s of common salt will benefit the and, should the summer prove a very , artificial waterings will not be lost. nings from a farmyard or stable can ed with clear water, so much the Where pheasants abound, they some-lay havoc with the young shoots, even hey come through the soil.

DEVONIAN.

ALPINES

Soldanellas

Modern Painters" Ruskin gives a charming description of Soldanella a as it emerges through a little open-the Alpine snow. "A slender, pen-ragile flower," he writes, "whose dark purple-fringed bell hangs down udders over the icy cleft that it has " In many gardens it is not possible oduce the conditions that Soldanellas n their mountain home, but where lants can be given a congenial situa-y are well worth introducing into the rden. Moisture is the prime require-f Soldanellas throughout the summer, must be placed in a particularly well-situation, as any excess of water heir roots in the winter is fatal to their ing. The practice of putting a small of glass over the plants in winter by some Alpine specialists is no doubt ible for much of their success. The are thus protected from excessive e. Soldanellas revel in sunshine for n of the day, but should be placed so y may be protected from the sun's rays the hottest portion of the day. The tuation is at the base of large stones east or west, with some small stones ound about the crowns of the plants. iful supply of leaf-mould should be with the soil and a liberal sprinkling sand is also beneficial.

a few species of Soldanellas are in rock gardens in this country, and e alpina is the one whose culture is often attempted. It has reniform and prettily-fringed, purple, drooping s which appear in April and May. is also a white-flowered form. S. a is not quite so fastidious as the fore-and often succeeds where the other The bluish-violet flowers are deeply and appear a few weeks after those lpina. S. minima is the smallest of vated species and is not an easy plant . It is perhaps wiser to grow this pans where it can get special atten-Indeed this may be said of all the where congenial conditions cannot be outdoors. The flowers of S. minima c and slightly fringed. S. pusilla is difficult, but it is worth while using atience in coaxing out the pretty red-let fringed flowers. H. GREAVES.

axifraga Burseriana rosea

is a very dwarf plant, resembling the ut having rose-coloured flowers. It only 1 inch high and bears very large for its size, which appear above the nd rise well above the ground. It is for the rock garden in dry, sunny well-drained sandy soil. Grit or limestone may be mingled with the if there is plenty of sand this is not l; a few pieces half buried in the soil rd the plant until it has taken root, o form a key to subsequent top-. Frost, wind, or wet seldom does any damage to the flowers, which continue the same freshness all through their long flowering season. It should be planted in broad patches somewhere on a level with the eye, as its beauty is of a showy order, and where its distinct habit will prove attractive at all seasons. The plant is of easy increase by cuttings, and old plants are benefited by a top-dressing of sand in early autumn.

H. STEVENS.

Saxifraga Burseriana

This species resembles a silvery Moss in the dwarfness of its tufts, and in dry, gritty, or sandy soil spreads into little neat cushions from 3 inches to 6 inches across. The tufts are dark green, with a silvery tint overlying the same. The flowers are pure white and borne singly on a bright purple-coloured stem in January and February. The unopened blossoms present a cheerful aspect when emerging from the rosette of leaves. Being purple in bud they enhance the pure whiteness of the full-blown blossoms. It is one of the earliest of alpine plants and one of the easiest to grow on an open spot on the rock garden in well-drained sandy soil, the surface covered with broken sandstone. Exposed to the full sun and being minute, the first consideration should be to keep it free and distinct from all neighbours. It is a valuable plant, being hardy, dwarf, neat in habit, profuse in bloom, forming gay cushions on the level ground, or silvery tufts from the chinks of rocks. The plant is easily increased by cuttings pressed into sandy soil under the shelter of a bell-glass. Old plants will be benefited by a top-dressing of sand worked well among the plants. H. STEVENS.

Soldanella alpina

"A slender, pensive, fragile flower."
—*Ruskin.*

Schizocodon soldanelloides

Novelty claims for many plants an admiration which does not always stand the test of time, and numerous flowers which on their first introduction were hailed with delight have been found lacking in some point and have taken only a secondary or third-rate share of favour in later years. But I do not think that this can be said of Schizocodon soldanelloides, whose first introduction to our gardens from Japan gave us keen enjoyment when we examined its lovely flowers and no less lovely little leaves. No doubt many disappointments have been experienced in its cultivation. Some of these were due to the vicissitudes imported plants underwent in the course of their transportation from their native habitats and nurseries in Japan until they were planted in our gardens. I have been assured by importers that the percentage of losses due to this cause is enormous, and it is much safer to purchase plants which have been established in pots in this country. The difficulties of culture are comparatively few and easy to overcome. A shady position with a soil mainly composed of leaf-mould with stones intermixed will answer well for it. I first saw it looking happy at Wisley in the time of the late Mr. G. F. Wilson, and it is probably there still in the wood. The plant is a truly delightful one, only a few inches high, with leathery leaves which at various seasons assume most charming tints, and drooping bells of a lovely pink. It may be raised from seeds with some care, but seeds are not offered in any list I can discover, and the plant is very scarce in nurseries. S. ARNOTT.

Notes on hardy flowers

The modern Aquilegia is one of the loveliest and most graceful of all garden flowers, and to have really fine displays fresh plants should be raised annually, these high-class hybrids being by no means long livers. Sown in pans of light soil now and set in a little warmth the resulting plants will be much stronger than it is possible to get them by sowing in the open. Good strains are now numerous, so there is no excuse for cultivating poor kinds.

Seedling Delphiniums give a fine display, and that at a trifling cost, provided, of course, the seeds are procured from a good source. Sown now in a little warmth and grown on sturdily many of the plants will flower before autumn. Treat in the same way as half-hardy annuals.

Probably no spring flower is so beautiful and satisfying as the fine modern strains of the Polyanthus. To obtain fine, sturdy plants that will bloom profusely a year hence seed should be sown now in pans or boxes of light compost and be set in a gentle warmth. Prick off when fit to handle, grow on steadily, and plant out in June. Seedlings can also be successfully raised in a cold frame.

There are many beautiful and brightly-coloured forms of Phlox Drummondi, and they are ideal for the border or beds. Seeds may be sown now in boxes of light soil and allowed to germinate in a warm greenhouse. When the seedlings are through the soil they should be gradually hardened in a cold frame and pricked off directly they are large enough. Pinch out the centre of each plant when it has made two or three pairs of leaves.

The old favourite, Mimulus, may also be sown, and later on the plants can be transferred to any damp spot in the garden, although this is not essential if the roots are afforded water freely during a dry period.

Primroses and Cowslips are useful for woodland walks or the wild garden, and if seeds are sown now there will be plenty of flowering plants next year. Sow in pans and place them in a cold frame.

Polyanthus seeds of these lovely spring flowers are sown too late, and no doubt early March often is the best time to sow, then nice sturdy plants are ready for planting out in the beds about September. The seedlings should be raised in a cold frame and planted out in nursery beds when ready.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

ROSES

Roses for greenhouses

I shall be very glad if you will tell me which is the best pink Rose, with upright stem, for a greenhouse? Would Mrs. W. J. Grant do well, or perhaps you could name others? I want one for pots, the others for planting outside and bringing in through the brickwork of the house. I also want a good yellow and orange, to be used in the same way. I have Maréchal Niel, Niphetos, Frau Karl Druschki, and Souvenir d'un Ami; but all except F. K. Druschki hang their heads.

M. E.

[A good pink variety having erect stems would be Mme. Abel Chatenay. Mrs. W. J. Grant is a very good variety, but its growth is not always satisfactory. That desirable sport of this variety named Joseph Lowe would be excellent, so also would Mrs. David Jardine, another good Rose. For the climbing variety, Climbing Mrs. W. J. Grant has growths rather too rigid to be used as you propose, otherwise it would be a splendid sort. We think, perhaps, Climbing Caroline Testout would be the best for you to plant. We take it you require the yellow and orange-coloured varieties as climbers. Here there is not much choice of sorts with stiff stems. For the yellow, we think Bouquet d'Or would be one of the best, and for orange either Mme. Pierre Cochet or Mme. Hector Leuilliot.]

Roses and black spot

My Roses had black spot badly last year, especially Independence Day. In November last I lifted them, defoliated them, and planted them in good medium loam soil with a dressing of lime as there is not much in the soil, and manure two spits down. I have just read the article on black spot in the Rose Annual for 1925, by Major Shelley, Guildford. He advises between January 15th and February 15th spraying twice, with an interval of 10 days, with a solution of sulphate of copper, ¾ oz. to 1 gallon of water, and in April with a mild but adhesive fungicide, such as three-quarter strength Bordeaux mixture. I have missed the first dates. Could you advise me as to what I better do now? I propose to cut the plants hard back to about two eyes (they are two-year-olds) end of March. They have very good growths on them (with the exception of Independence Day, which is very thin and twiggy—in this case is very hard pruning correct?) The plants lost their foliage last season and look so bad. Can I cure this disease in one season by perseverance? Near by a wood is being cut down and the branches burnt. There is a great amount of charcoal refuse on the heaps as enclosed. Is this of use to dress the soil? The fine wood-ash I know is good if stored quite dry. What percentage of the ash should be mixed in a barrowload of soil to dress herbaceous borders? G. M.

Guildford.

[We should not like to guarantee an entire cure in one season, but by dusting repeatedly during the summer with a mixture of flowers of sulphur and arsenate of lead in the proportion of 10 parts of the latter to 90 parts of the former very great improvement is certain. When pruning, gather up and burn every twig at once, and should the fungus appear again in autumn gather up and burn all foliage and any twigs requiring shortening back. The weak bushes demand the closest pruning, this being an invariable rule in Rose culture. The wood-ash, of which you enclose a sample, is most valuable in the garden, but must be secured dry or the chief virtue—potash—is lost if left lying exposed. You need not mix it with soil unless you like, merely scatter it between the herbaceous plants and immediately fork in.]

Pruning Pernetiana Roses

(G. H.).—The Pernetiana Roses are pruned pretty much in the same way as are the H.T.'s. Some are rather weakly growers and should be hard pruned, while others are very robust in habit, and should, therefore, be lightly pruned. Angele Pernet, being a fairly strong grower, demands moderate pruning. May be pruned at end of March or early in April.

GREENHOUSE

Erythrina species

Would the plant which I am about to describe be an Erythrina? I saw it growing on the veldt 9 miles from Johannesburg, South Africa. It was of a trailing habit with spikes of brilliant scarlet Pea-flowers arranged on the stem like a Tritoma. The leaves were rather like Runner Beans with thorns on them, and the stems of both leaves and flowers were covered with thorns. The root was as large as a man's arm, from which the flower-stems rose. The flowers exactly resembled the Kaffir Broom tree, but as it flowered so close to the ground and seemed so eminently suitable for pot culture I am surprised I have never seen it advertised in this country. Can you tell me where I could procure it? I may add that there was nothing of the "shrub" about this plant, the stems being succulent. It was flowering in January in South Africa.

D. D.

[The plant you describe is, no doubt, an Erythrina, but without seeing specimens it is impossible to say what species it is; but it may be E. Zeyheri, a species which grows from 12 inches to 18 inches in height and is widely spread in South Africa. It does not seem to be in cultivation in this country, so we cannot say where you can procure it unless you get seed sent from South Africa.]

Musa ensete

Can you tell me whether Musa ensete ever fruits, or is it merely a foliage plant, and, if it is fruitless, where does the seed situate itself? D. D.

[Yes, Musa ensete fruits and produces seed, but possibly never in this country, as it requires such a large house to grow it in. The fruits are produced at the top of the plant in the same way as the ordinary Banana.]

Charieis or Kaulfussia

Can you tell me whether the plant called Charieis heterophylla in South Africa is procurable in this country or whether known by another name here? D

[Charieis heterophylla is more com known as Kaulfussia amelloides, which name you can procure it from an seedsman, such as Messrs. Carters, Park, London, S.W. 20.]

Orothamnus Zeyheri

Can you tell me anything of Oroth Zeyheri, the Marsh Rose? Could grown in this part of England treate sub-tropical plant? D

[Orothamnus Zeyheri belongs t natural order Proteaceæ. This be plant has never been successfully cul in this country. In the first place, i be raised from seed, and, like many members of this order, it very much any disturbance at the root. It shoul in a warm, dry greenhouse.]

Diseased Freesias

(F. M. C.).—We have incubate material sent in and have found that a (Botrytis sp.) is present and is proba cause of your Freesias failing. Th plan for you to follow would be to b the affected plants and soil, and to sta August with a new lot of bulbs. You sterilise the pots in which the plant been growing by placing them in a go infectant for 24 hours. When pot your new bulbs be careful not to use s has been used for bulb-growing Should the disease re-appear you spray the plants with a solution of sulphur (potassium sulphide), using 3 gallons of water.

Begonia Gloire de Lorraine

(D. L.).—If you have old plants you had best cut them down so s flowering is over, keeping them rath at the root than usual. Some time la tings will issue from the base, and when 2 inches or 3 inches long, may serted as cuttings, placing one cuttin pot of 2½ inches across. Plunged u bell-glass, or in a frame where gentle heat is at hand, and kept only mo moist, the larger number will root in month, when more air may be given, presently potted into 4-inch pots. Fr time daily watching will be necessa particularly in watering, never gett plants too wet. Finally, as the plant the smaller pots with roots they may the final shift into 5½-inch or 6-inch po soil should be loam, peat, leaf-soil, ar sand, about equal parts of each. T ture 50 degs. to 55 degs. for growi rather more for the cuttings. Perfec age, with constant care in growing, chief items, as any neglect cannot be A light position and ample room ar sary from the start. If you wish to these old plants you may cut them within 6 inches of the pot, and as new shoots push out, the plants shoul some of the old soil removed and be a mixture of loam, leaf-mould, and s very careful with the watering. W prefer raising from cuttings every ye

FRUIT

Peach-tree dying

I am sending herewith a cutting Peach tree. You will notice that the the older part is dark and patchy, young wood appears quite healthy. specimen of much of the growth o trees. They are outdoors, against brick wall, facing south, and the w glass coping, or lean-to roof, about 4 feet in depth. It extends over th wherein the trees are planted, which

et wide, and the eaves of the roof are t 7 feet above the ground-level. I am in t whether the dark appearance is the t of frost or a disease.

SOUTH SOMERSET.

/e do not think your Peach trees have injured by frost, neither do we consider nhealthy condition of the wood to be due y disease. On the contrary, we incline e opinion that the trees—judging by the men shoots sent—are in a debilitated tion, this arising from neglecting to keep well furnished with young bearing , or, in other words, in not disbudding ch a manner in the early summer that a iency of vigorous young shoots will re- or bearing the next year. By gradually ing the number of shoots to proper , which is the chief aim or object in ising disbudding, for Peach and Nec- trees produce a great many more ths than can possibly be retained, the ies of the trees are then concentrated e production of these selected growths, ll conditions being right as regards root branches, such are, when fully grown, od length, robust without being gross, urnished with flower-buds throughout, the trees are maintained thereby in a ous condition. There is a very decided of vigour in the portions of wood you it and it appears to us that you have to remove the old bearing wood as soon crop was gathered.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

ng back an overgrown Ceanothus

C. Bush).—Your shrub is, probably, thus dentatus. Cut away a portion of rowths in order that those which re- may be tied back to the wall and thus le a display of bloom during the present n. Immediately the flowering season is thin out and shorten back—even ly—the remaining growths, and if you ue to do this annually your shrub will sily kept under control and maintained interesting condition. Cuttings in- in sandy soil and kept in a heated pro- ng-case strike freely at the present and if inserted likewise in September ept in a cool closed frame a fair pro- n may be relied upon to strike root. hoots torn off with a heel attached and 9 inches to a foot in length during nber and planted firmly in sandy soil cool and partially-shaded border will a fair percentage of rooted plants a ence.

t conifers

keha).—Our correspondent has been what unfortunate in his choice of a yman who seems unable to distinguish en a Pine and a Cypress, which, it is necessary to say, belong to entirely t genera. It is possible, of course, the nurseryman may have confused Lambertiana with Cupressus macro- var. Lambertiana, which is the most able thing one can say about it. Also ould add that Pinus Lambertiana, the rnian Sugar Pine, is very difficult to nurseries, but the nurseryman might st have sent something in the same

VEGETABLES

ng Asparagus

year before last I had an Asparagus- ade, and it was seeded, not according instructions—in drills—but in round s. The seedlings came up very d, though strong plants, therefore I second bed made to use up the surplus; wing to circumstances, my intention t carried out, and the second bed has ecome cold. Will you kindly advise me whether the second bed should be reconstructed, and the plants removed to it when at a proper temperature, or whether, as it is well manured, they could be put in as it is? Also, would May be too late? The ground is in Wales, where the season is rather late.

C. W.

[It would have been much better had the Asparagus seedlings been thinned out to one plant in each patch, provided the latter were distant 1 foot or 1 foot 6 inches from each other, as soon as they developed sufficiently to determine which were the strongest. We do not care to plant two-year-old roots, because, if well grown, it is impossible to lift them without seriously damaging the roots. Still, if you do not care to dispense with your surplus roots, you may plant your second bed with them. One thing must, however, be borne in mind, and that is, the roots of whichever plant is fixed upon to remain in each patch must not on any account be disturbed, otherwise the future success of such plants will be jeopardised. You will thus see that it will be better in the long run to do away with the surplus, and sow seed in drills for the furnishing of the second bed, or to plant it with roots one year old. If the beds are properly prepared, and seed is sown, splendid Asparagus may be had the third year. From beds so treated, and quite out in the open, we cut heads last year (the third season) quite equal in size to the French produce seen in the shops, and of the best quality. We do not quite comprehend your meaning as to the beds having become cold, because when made in the usual way nothing in the nature of a hotbed enters into their composition. If you will kindly explain, we shall be glad to advise you further. The best time for planting is towards the end of the present month.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Chelsea Show

(A. D.).—The Chelsea Show is held on May 25th, 26th, and 27th. Please note the first day is Wednesday, not Tuesday as in previous years. On May 25th the show is open from 9 to 12, this being a private view for holders of Fellows' tickets only. The admission to non-Fellows is as follows:—May 25th, 12 to 8, 10s.; May 26th, 9 to 5, 5s.; 5 to 8, 2s. 6d.; May 27th, 9 to 6, 2s. 6d. The Daffodil Show is held on April 12th and 13th; April 12th, 1 to 7; April 13th, 10 to 5; at Vincent Square, Westminster, London, S.W.

Sparrows

Can you possibly suggest any means of getting rid of sparrows, which enter my kitchen garden in hordes and practically destroy everything that is sown there as soon as the shoots appear? They infest an adjoining orchard, but as it is used for poultry I cannot put down any poisoned grain, and traps appear to be quite useless. M. F. R.

[Much can be done to reduce the number of sparrows in any given district if a joint effort is made by the local gardeners and farmers; *e.g.*, eggs and nests may be destroyed throughout the breeding season. Special attention should be paid to Ivy and other creeper-covered houses and sheds. During the winter months an effort should be made to locate the places where the birds roost, and there are various forms of nets which can be used on dark nights to trap the birds when they are disturbed from their night quarters. Shooting the birds with small shot is another way of reducing their numbers, and should be useful in orchards. There are many devices used by the gardener to keep sparrows away from his crops. These devices fall mainly into two groups. (1) Dressing the crop with something that makes the crop distasteful to the birds. (2) Using something which frightens away the birds. If this latter mode is to be used frequent changes are necessary, because the birds very soon get used to the alarm. We know of one lady who is very successful in keeping birds away from Gooseberry buds, and her method is to hang rags which have previously been soaked in paraffin amongst the bushes.]

Dracænas and Palms

(H. Mayer).—We suspect that your Dracænas and Palms are suffering from an attack of thrips, the main cause being too dry an atmosphere or dryness at the roots, or both. If the attack is a bad one, as your letter seems to indicate, you will have considerable difficulty in entirely overcoming this pest. You must very carefully and thoroughly sponge the foliage with a solution of nicotine soap, repeating two or three times at intervals of 10 days or so. Vaporise, also, with XL All on several occasions and you will get rid of the trouble, while to avoid it in future maintain a moist atmosphere in the house and syringe the plants with lukewarm water each evening.

NAMES OF PLANTS

Sunlight.—Iris reticulata, bulbous species from Caucasus, of which there are many forms (see "Irises in the rock garden," page 166).

M. B.—Origanum Marjoram, commonly known as the Eau de Cologne plant. It is seen occasionally in gardens, and is sometimes grown as a window plant by cottagers. It is not very hardy, and we look upon it as a cold greenhouse plant.

John Turner, Argyllshire.—1, Rhododendron præcox; 2, Cineraria maritima.

LATE NOTE

Apples more popular

During last year the public spent £34,789,219 on fresh fruits, according to official figures supplied by the Board of Trade to the Fruit Trades Federation. This was £2,000,000 more than in 1925, and nearly £3,000,000 more than in 1924. The heaviest increase was in Apples. There was a falling off in the popularity of Nuts, Plums, and Strawberries. According to the Federation the average consumption of the various fruits in 1926 was: Apples, 93 per head; Oranges, 67; Bananas, 52; Lemons, 15. Mr. Charles Wray, President of the National Federation, said in an interview that the industrial condition of the country during the past three years would have been calamitous to the fruit trade without steady and consistent advertising. In a word, advertising had saved the day.

Benn Brothers' Other Journals

The Cabinet Maker.—New Books; Supply of Furniture Designs; Furnishing Shipments in February; The John Benn Hostel: The First Annual Banquet.

The Chemical Age.—Report of the Chemical Engineers' Conference; Chemical Overseas Trade Returns for February; China Clay Trade Review Section.

The Electrician.—"Glyptal—a New Synthetic Resin," by H. Warren; The Measurement of Earthing Resistances; Exhibits at the Leipzic Fair.

The Fruit Grower.—Exclusive Report of Western Commercial Conference; Can Orthodox Pruning be Improved?; Fertiliser in Horticulture.

The Gas World.—"Thoughts on the Distribution of Gas," by Walter Hole; Preparation and Uses of Gas Coke; The Measuring of Gas.

The Hardware Trade Journal.—Hardware Exports in February; Wireless for the Retailer; Day by Day Problems of the Ironmongers.

Royal Horticultural Society

(*Continued from page 170.*)

species is the delicious fragrance of its flowers. Shown by Mr. Lionel de Rothschild, Exbury, Southampton.

Greenhouse flowers

The Clivias sent by Baron Bruno Schröder (gardener, Mr. S. J. Henderson) were the source of great attraction. Not only were the plants well grown and of unusual size, but there were many fine forms of Clivia miniata among them.

Large bold groups of Cyclamens were sent by Mrs. R. Emmet, Moreton Paddock, Warwick, and Mr. F. G. Forsyth, Putteridge.

Alpines and hardy flowers

A group of alpines in pans, chiefly Saxifrages, was shown by Mr. C. Kirch, Edenhall, Beckenham. Among the best were Saxifraga oppositifolia coccinea, S. Boydii, S. gloriana, S. Stuarti rosea, and S. Burseriana sulphurea. Daphne Blagayana and the interesting Primula Fortunei, with lilac-mauve flowers, were also shown.

A large pan of Saxifraga Grisebachii, Wisley Variety, shown by Clarence Elliott, Ltd., was the object of envy among lovers of alpines. Near-by were pans of Primula Winteri, Primula Allionii, and its white form.

The new Saxifraga Gem, with pale blush flowers (see illustration page 171), was one among many shown by Maurice Prichard and Son.

Ranunculus calendrinioides.—A very uncommon plant and notoriously difficult to grow. Flowers pink with golden-coloured anthers, and long glaucous leaves waved at the edges on red glaucous stems (see illustration page 173). Shown by C. T. Musgrave, Hascombe Place, Godalming.

Helleborus orientalis Prince Rupert.—Nodding flowers of greenish-white, densely speckled in the centre zone with crimson (see illustration page 171). Shown by Barr and Sons. Award of Merit. A useful hardy flower for the herbaceous border.

The Rev. Rollo Meyer, Watton, Herts, sent most attractive groups of the lovely Iris stylosa, illustrated page 170, also Iris Cantab and I. reticulata. Iris stylosa is at least flowering freely with this exhibitor. H. C.

Gardens at Olympia: Some Further Comments

HOW tainted one's impressions of a thing can be, generally are, in fact, by one's mood or state of mind at the time they are recorded! It is possible even to have one's views completely warped if one sets out to pass judgment—a dangerous undertaking at the best of times—in one of those moods of complete dissatisfaction with the world in general and distaste for one's immediate surroundings in particular, from which few of us are completely immune at all times.

Admittedly this is a generalisation—almost a homily, perhaps, but it is also an attempt to find some reason for the extraordinarily melancholy view of the gardens at Olympia taken by "A Painter," as he expressed himself in these columns on March 12th. Nothing was right! So distressing, indeed, did he find the prospect that one feels he must almost have regretted his visit to the show altogether. After reading a straight line into the very artistically-arranged group of Pines acting as a background to Mr. Whitelegg's rock garden he goes miserably on to be intoxicated by what he considers the dizzying effect of the same firm's circular garden. The Pines were "all in a row"; the formal garden is all in a circle as it were. But then one is tempted to ask: "What is a circular garden if its principal lines are not concentric circles?" The essence of design, as this artist himself remarked in another part of his diatribe, is to emphasise some one feature or idea and make the others subordinate to it, and here we see this principle excellently illustrated. The well-proportioned circles are properly diversified by four paved paths radiating from the central pool and dividing the beds of forced shrubs, thereby carefully avoiding the catherine-wheel effect which our disgruntled painter endeavours to foist upon the design. Not content, indeed, with abusing the designer, he has a quarrel with the very water issuing from the fountain, on the grounds that, in falling in circular ripples, it joins hands with that abominable draughtsman to intensify the circle-effect of the whole. It would be hard, one imagines, to find water whose ripples could be relied upon to assume any other shape—and if they did they would be still less in keeping with the round pond.

In attacking Messrs. Skelton and Kirby our critic resorts to ill-concealed sarcasm. Carefully passing over a well-planted collection of first-class shrubs and ignoring some charming red-brick paving, he merely remarks on the good condition of the turf.

Again, in times like the present it is not encouraging to find cold water being poured mercilessly on the initiative behind so original an exhibit as Messrs. Baker's. They have reproduced an old-world village pump, with the effect of a narrow, cobbled street down which the water from it runs. Daffodils and Primulas have seeded themselves and formed clumps in the cobbles, while the exhibit is enclosed by some good shrubs planted between low, dry walls.

Messrs. Cheal have a charming little Rose garden with perfectly-grown dwarf Polyanthas and some examples of topiary-work in Box, the background being formed by a stone terrace with a pool on the lower land. This too, however, provokes some withering remarks about the "height of elevation," unleavened by any spark of appreciation. The exhibit is flanked by a closely-packed but extremely interesting collection of shrubs, all in splendid condition.

When it descends on the Orpington Nurseries this "higher criticism" seems slightly to run amok. Erica carnea is alleged to "reign supreme" on their rock garden, "with a few Conifers and one poor, isolated, shrivelled-up Beech tree," whereas, in reality, Erica x Darleyensis drifts so effectively over a typical Westmorland hillside, and the trees are so naturally and artistically grouped in the background as to make this picture as beautiful and realistic a reproduction of Nature as one could wish to see.

"There is a strange, sombre tone over this exhibit," says "A Painter." Yes, and how beautiful! What a change from the overcrowding and over-colouring that predominate at shows! How thoroughly restful to look at, and to look long at. Every tree has its own artistic significance, including the little Beech that the critic so pities, and yet they blend together into a harmonious background and the Beech crops out a little further down the hillside, exactly as a Beech might in Nature. The "little spot of colour," too, that we are told might be taken from Messrs. Carter's palette, has, in effect, been taken, and not only taken, but put in exactly the right place—a clump of white Primulas are growing near the water's edge.

It could be argued quite correctly that the water should not come over the fall at the highest point as it does here, but that is not sufficient to mar such a thoroughly satisfying touch of Nature; and if it is similar to the Orpington Nurseries' last exhibit at Oly the fact only serves to show that th knows a good thing when it sees one.

What an unwitting tribute is pa Messrs. Carter when we are told that Lane stage is the place for their Italia den! Their exhibit is admittedly a overplanted, but it is intended to pageant of colour, and the object is ac

True, Cinerarias are a little out o mingled with Daffodils, but they con to the magnificent effect of the whole g with its leaping columns of water, posing flight of steps, and the flower-be terrace they lead up to.

Moreover, no amount of overplanting detract from the glorious beauty wrought-iron dome that crowns their t it is an exquisite work of art, apparen noticeable to the trained eye of a paint

Messrs. Wallace seem to chee pessimist up a little, despite the cramped effect of their moat garden. have a charming stone summer-house admirable collection of shrubs, but seem a little huddled—seem rather t over and compress the formal garden

Finally, Messrs. Brook actually c for a little well-merited praise. Th puts his finger on the absence of a principal feature in their rock gar which the rest should be subordinat he still finds room for appreciation of charm of their garden as a whole, fined beauty of their water and stor and the extraordinary attractiveness plant associations. F. C. S. Robi

Nice Flower Show

There was an extremely pretty show at Nice on March 12th, which notice on account of the artistic treat the cut flowers. Carnations were, of the feature of the show, and the grouped in big earthenware pots— orange, green, or lemon colour—wh great sheaves of flowers that co with the shade of colour of the These were all placed on the groun pillars rising from the grass. The no stages, and the very largest gro some light sprays of white bloom, wit of room to show off the beauty arrangement. The style of Ca grown here would not appeal English growers, but the beauty o the size of the flowers, and the str the stems tell very strongly in their so much so that many flower-lover these irregular but beautiful flower faultlessly regular and symmetricall we see in England. Too many are s alas! but their beauty is undenia their arrangement is admirably arti

At the sides of the show were g Palms, Orange trees, Ferns, and shrubs. Huge Camellias in tubs a Lilacs and many others, but the Citrus shown by Messrs. Dupoux w tional, with its huge and varied fr really cannot be described as they Fruits as big as a child's head, scarlet in one case, lemon-colo another, clustered in bunches as t fruit, so beloved by Americans, or s tiny as a small round Plum on t Myrtle-leaved Orange, which is so d Vegetables also were shown that summer shows, and the display of Kail or Cabbage caused some a and surprise, for they looked l Pæonies, white, pink, and purple, on tall stalks that raised them shrubs they were grouped with. tive pot plants to place among sh rival the Hydrangeas of autumn th are forced into bloom—I need "flower." E.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Perpetual Carnations: The Effect of March

E third month of the year has, perps, more pronounced character than y other. It may be wintry or springut there is something in the lengthenys and nearly always many sunny which is the first real awakening of life, and gives to horticulture a real us and pleasure of antici-

suddenly we find much for the first bursts of ne have a very definite on plants, young and old, have sustained the dull f winter and are, contly, abnormally soft; so ndeed, that Carnations mes flag during the spells. This, however, e normal, although the may not at first be ood. What, perhaps, is urprising is the fact that oming of better weather nger days our flowers do prove, but rather otherr quite a period.

phenomenon may be understood when one rs that flowers opening date are produced on s made during the shortl darkest days of the and this immature does not produce of the finest quality. course, however, the days produce their result r growths which bring owers of a higher stansize, colour, stem, and, t, perfume, for this imwith the sunny days.

RANCE. — The long-lost of Carnations has many sighs of regret in years, but raisers of s have not been unof the great importthe quality, which apt only to our sense of ut also to sentiment.

e coming show of the Carnation Society, to on March 29th and 30th, up offered by the "Daily Mail" for -scented Carnation should bring forme real developments in Clovevarieties, but I will be so bold as to hat the majority of these competitors ance will be nothing outstanding in olour.

s a people get the Government that they deserve, so flower-lovers (on the whole) get the type of flower that they deserve, and it is they, rather than the raisers, who are to blame for the loss of fragrance which has been progressing, or rather deteriorating, for the past generation, because those novelties with large or brightly-coloured flowers have been preferred to those of outstanding perfume.

The whole case of fragrance is analogous to the birds of plumage and those of song. The birds which have developed plumage lack sweetness of song, while our own sweetest birds of song are those of plumage the most simple.

This spring may, therefore, see the return swing of the pendulum, for the judges are instructed at the forthcoming show to give 60 points to fragrance, 15 to size, and only five each to colour, form, substance, calyx, and stem.

The lasting qualities of Carnations.—One of the most valuable points about a Carnation is the wonderful way flowers last when cut. In pre-war days flowers were, on certain occasions, dispatched to destinations as far away as Moscow, and some 15 years ago I myself took out a quantity of flowers to Dresden, right in the heart of Germany, which were on exhibition there in good condition for a week.

There are points to observe which may cause flowers to keep well, or otherwise, when in a cut state. The first is to grow one's plants in a cool, airy house. To cut flowers when young and before they are fully expanded, early in the day before the sun is high or the house hot. It is quite essential to stand them in water in a cool place for several hours before packing, and to pack in airtight boxes lined with damp paper. The condition of the soil prior to the blooms being cut is also of importance. This should never be dry. Flowers cut from plants which have been overmanured do not keep well. Varieties vary, some having a much longer life than others.

The lasting quality of the Carnation, which, under cool conditions, can be kept from two to three weeks, makes this the most useful of all flowers.

Laurence J. Cook.

Perpetual-flowering Carnation Susan Pam

A full pink of bright rose cerise shade

Notes of the Week

The Purple Rockfoil

Native of the higher mountains of Britain and the Continent, where it is generally found in straggling tufts, is this early flower, of which we now have several interesting varieties. When visiting a natural rock garden recently I was pleased to see this charming plant in bloom, and to note the pleasing effect produced when allowed to spread out in its own natural way,

aspect north-east. A drift of this little mountaineer had made its way between large rocks in very sandy soil, and on March 16th was literally covered with handsome rose-purple flowers which sat close upon the dense cushion of leaves and scarcely exceeded 2 inches in height. E. MARKHAM.

R.H.S. Amateur Show

The schedule is now ready, and from it we observe that it differs from last year's in the following points :—

(*a*) Last year Division B was open only to those amateurs whose garden wage-bill did not exceed £4 a week. This year the wording has been amended to read: "Open only to those amateurs who do not regularly employ more paid assistants in the garden than one gardener and one boy."

(*b*) The classes for Roses have been increased from seven to 16.

(*c*) In the open division classes have been added for—

Six vases of cut sprays of hardy shrubs,
Six pots or pans of alpine plants,
Three species of Lilium,
A bowl of water Lilies,
Six species of Rhododendron,
Six Rhododendron hybrids,
One hanging basket,
A new plant, species, introduced to cultivation since 1920,
A new plant of garden origin, raised since 1920, and
A vase or a pot of a plant not mentioned in the schedule.

As in the past, substantial prizes are offered, and a cup is offered for award to the most successful competitor in each division.

Garden scheme on behalf of Queen Alexandra's Memorial

A large and interesting scheme to garden lovers is being inaugurated by the Women's Committee of the National Memorial to Queen Alexandra all over England and Wales. In other hands the scheme has spread to Scotland and to some parts of Ireland. During the Whitsuntide holiday, from May 30th to June 11th, inclusive, garden owners are being asked to open their gardens at a small charge. The owners are responding most generously, and we are in a position to say that nearly all notable gardens are to be opened. In a short time it is hoped to announce a full list of these gardens and the facilities for visiting them.

The Chimney Campanula

Plants which have hitherto been in 6-inch pots should, during the month of April, be moved on into 9-inch or even 10-inch pots. It is essential that the drainage be free, yet not over-abundant. A good sound loam with the addition of sufficient sand and a sprinkling of any good fertiliser will suit the plants well. When the flower-spikes come away, liquid-manure or feeding in some form ought to be provided at least twice a week.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Saxifraga longifolia

THE article on the above plant (issue February 26th) is, I fear, somewhat misleading. Whilst fully agreeing with Mr. H. Stevens as to the beauty of the plant and its easiness of cultivation there are many points in his note in which I am at variance with him.

I will take these points seriatim. I agree that in the Pyrenees it would be rare to find the handsome rosettes exceeding 6 inches, but in our gardens, with careful cultivation, it is not at all unusual to see the rosettes reaching nearly, or quite, double this diameter.

Again, I have yet to see the flower-spike reaching 2 feet in height. In Nature it rarely exceeds 12 inches, and some of the finest cultivated plants I ever saw, and exhibited at Vincent Square since the war, stopped short at about 20 inches. The main stem is stout and densely glandular, and the branches carrying the myriads of flowers are also stiff and thickly clothed with glandular hairs, not threadlike as, for instance, those of Saxifraga cochlearis.

Saxifraga longifolia does not grow naturally among broken rocks or stones mixed with grit; it is the exception to find a few specimens thus at the foot of the sheer rock-walls and precipices that this species selects for its home. It grows in narrow fissures and crevices with the star-like rosettes splayed tightly against the rock, and the flower-spike shows no sign of drooping, but stands out stiffly, or it even slightly ascends. I certainly should look upon a plant with a flower-spike that dropped as an unhealthy specimen.

I fully agree with Mr. Stevens as to its making precious pot or pan plant, that it repays good culture, and that it is an ideal wall plant. Now as to increasing this plant. As Mr. Stevens remarks, seed is a good way; in fact, almost the only one, for offsets after the plant has flowered are unknown to me in the true species. The real S. longifolia makes but one rosette unless injured during the years preceding the flowering. After flowering it promptly dies, but generally it ripens a generous crop of seeds before it succumbs.

There is, however a great *But* about this seed. If sown at once after ripening, or as soon after as is practicable, the seed germinates very readily if treated as Mr. Stevens suggests, and produces an abundant crop of hybrids nine times out of ten, and this even if the whole flower-spike has been carefully inserted into a sort of sleeve of fine muslin to keep insect visitors at bay. As long as there is in the same garden at the same time another silver-leaved Saxifraga in flower cross-fertilisation takes place.

However, nearly all the resulting mules are pretty enough plants and often very near in appearance to the Crown Royal, as S. longifolia is commonly called on the Spanish side of the Pyrenees. I rather think Mr. Stevens must mean one of these hybrid forms instead of the typical plant. There are some very close to it in many ways, notably that beautiful plant known as S. l. Mount Usher form, which is difficult to tell from the type until side rosettes appear, which take the place of the flowering rosette and carry on the life of the plant. And there is that beautiful form known as Tumbling Water.

I am sure this must be so, for of all the thousands of seedlings I have raised of S. longifolia I cannot recollect one that flowered within three years of sowing. Four or five years, yes, and often a good many more years unless the plants were allowed to starve in small pots.

If Mr. Stevens would like to grow some really fine specimens of this plant let him procure a few healthy young plants, and make sure of starting with the true plant. When these come to hand let him pot them on into a pot a size larger than the r requires, and choose the best fibrous l can lay his hands on. He may add t fair sprinkling of sharp sand, a han so of stone chips—limestone by prefe and, yes, really, a dash of fine bon He can then apply the treatment h tions on page 131; it should answer ve

After about a twelvemonth the pla be ready for another move on into a size pot or pan, and the grower wi some inkling of the appreciation this of arid cliffs has for generous treatme may even find that the plant is read move on in five or six months. At thi to grow really fine specimens the should not be allowed to become pot and so repotting must be proceede until a diameter of 11 inches or 12 inc been reached, when it is hopeless to much more increase, and the plants r come pot-bound and be allowed to flo do not, of course, advocate the gro this plant to such a size for the rock such specimens are for the alpine-h the show bench; for the open rock g plant 6 inches to 7 inches across is enough, and it would be difficult t crevice big enough to accommodate t system of such a giant plant without jury that would mar the patient cultiv years, besides which, in an alpine-h other cool greenhouse or conservato easier to isolate such specimens and a true crop of seeds from which to successors.

I think this Saxifraga should be wall or wall-like cliff in the rock gard all possible, and the nearer the crow plant in such a place can approach t cal the better for it. Even in such a will appreciate a dusting of bone-m planting time, and I should not hes plant it in a wall facing due north.

If Mr. Stevens cares to send me dress I will gladly send him a few plants of Saxifraga longifolia collecte Pyrenees last summer.

W. E. TH. INGW

The Birch, Sharpthorne, Sussex.

Acacia dealbata out-of-doors i north

Not having seen any reply t Saunders' inquiry (February 12th) i ence to Acacia dealbata growing ou the north, I may say that we planted in these gardens five years this spring were, at that time, in 3-inch pots a 2 feet high. The following year plant was taken from the group and in a right angle corner of the castle facing south, the main stem being s the wall. It has now attained a h about 30 feet, and the stem at the b inches in circumference. The talle group is about 20 feet; all are health, but regret to say that they yet flowered. Last year they show but did not mature. I, too, sh pleased to know how far north it i to flower out-of-doors. We hope to so here. R. M

Muncaster Gardens, West Cumber

Parentage of new Saxifrag

Regarding my notes on Messrs. P new Saxifrages in a recent issue journal. I note that I gave the information with regard to the pare three of these hybrids. I had ref Messrs. P.'s catalogue for this and information given there. I should b if you could insert the following c which I have received this morning f Maurice Prichard:—Saxifraga x hybrid between S. Godroneana

ii. S. x Etheline is a hybrid between ıbeana and S. lilacina. S. x Riverslea ybrid between S. Federici Augusti and cina, and not as given erroneously in icle. WALTER E. TH. INGWERSEN.

Brussels Sprouts

le, fortunately, my own crop of this ensable winter vegetable is all that can ired, in many gardens they are prac- a failure. A neighbour told me, re- that this season he had not picked ın, nor was he likely to do so. Curio- d me to go and look at his plants, more robust, well-grown, or healthy- breadth I have seldom seen. Yet sest inspection failed to reveal a single ; as my friend said, there were y of Brussels, but no Sprouts." I of other gardens similarly situated in ighbourhood. It would be interesting n if Sprouts have behaved so erratic- ewhere. Late sowing or late planting responsible; seeds were sown, and put out, at the regulation time. Nor, in the leading case referred to, can a ive crop of Brassicas on the same be held responsible, for the site of the year's breadth is that occupied, last by Onions and Celery.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Mazus reptans

who desire to furnish in a speedy a portion of the rock garden might ly consider the possibilities of Mazus . It is, of course, quite a dwarf being but a couple of inches or so ht, but the quickness with which it es a bare spot and the freedom with ts rosy-lavender blooms are produced rather a desirable plant. W. McG.

Bouvardias

plants are now making a fine dis- the greenhouse with their brightly l flowers. March is an excellent time ase stock, and I much prefer to pro- by root cuttings, as the resultant grow away better than those secured ıoots. The pieces of fleshy roots are 2-inch lengths, placed on the surface y soil in well-drained pans covered sheet of glass, and the pans plunged of cocoanut-fibre refuse in the warm- of the greenhouse. Shoots soon ap- nd when the young plants can be andled they are potted up singly into ıots, grown on through the summer es, and pinched a few times to make e bushy specimens.

ly the old plants go out of flower at once, and directly growth is again ey are repotted, and when thoroughly ed removed to airy frames and later outside for the summer. At one ised to grow these plants in nearly but I get much better results from st of two parts loam, one part leaf- part decayed cow manure, and a inkling of silver sand. F. H.

Anthemis macedonica

lant is, at times, put out in the rock to provide that greyish effect of hich, by some, is desired. For such se A. macedonica is, undoubtedly, ıted, yet it is a plant which I would to recommend, preferring, as I do, er-known Santolina incana. The under notice is a vigorous—nay, a -grower, and it quickly invades the of choicer plants, and if not con- hecked by cutting it soon smothers loreover, its white Marguerite-like equire to be kept closely picked, otherwise the foliage effect is marred. For these reasons, when grey-foliaged plants are desired, it were better to rely, as has been said, on Santolina incana, or on Cineraria maritima, or, indeed, upon Stachys lanifera —an almost forgotten and neglected plant.

Mabie. W. McG.

Double Nasturtium

The double scarlet Nasturtium (issue March 12th, p. 150) was raised by a lady friend of mine about 20 years ago at the city of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. She sent me a piece to see if I could raise some. I have grown it for many years in Ontario. It does not seed nor divide. It is easily raised from cuttings from side shoots about 4 inches long. It will not stand any frost. It will grow 7 feet to 8 feet high. There is a double yellow one as well, propagated in the same way. The flower is the size of a two-shilling piece. The Tropæolum speciosum is a different plant altogether, not to be compared with the double scarlet Nasturtium.

Leeds. J. LONGBOTHAM.

Transplanting Snowdrops—Do it now

The common Snowdrop and most of its varieties multiply very fast, and, contrary to the advice generally given, should be parted and transplanted at least every fifth year, that is, if the greatest increase in numbers is desired. What they do *not* like is being disturbed in July or August when they have already made a mass of new roots or are about to do so. Snowdrops are by no means particular as to soil, nor do they suffer to any great extent from the proximity of the roots of other plants. Suitable sites can often be found partly under deciduous trees, for the latter are without foliage in February and March, and consequently do not intercept the light and water required by the Snowdrop. In such places the grass is thin and less likely to starve out the more beautiful plant. Perhaps there is no place where they are more at home than in a wood. This was well shown in a fine illustration (p. 94). Years ago I helped to spread such a colony, transplanting a portion each year. It was useless to search for the bulbs when the leaves had withered, so the work was done as soon as the flowers had faded and the leaves attained their full size. Clumps of 20 or 30 bulbs were divided into quarters and replanted, thus causing less disturbance to the roots than if parted out singly. The results were far better than from those planted at the orthodox time. I have proved the above many times, also when "rogues" have been lifted from Daffodil beds in blooming time. If replanted at once they will be stronger than those planted in August. J. COMBER.

Handcross.

MUGHAL GARDENS IN CASHMERE

The Mughal Emperors laid out some of the finest gardens in the world, and though most of them have been allowed to fall into ruin, there are several in Cashmere which are still kept up by the reigning prince of that State. There is a wonderful combination of water and flowers, the water being carried down the terraces by means of channels with stone or marble facings. In the centre there are fountains which play on State occasions.

Hassan, Mysore State, S. India. ARTHUR R. SLATER, F.R.G.S.

Vitaglass and plant life

As one of the oldest converts to the new glass which admits the ultra-violet rays of the sun, may I suggest another most useful manner of applying its unique qualities at this season of the year?

My wife and I have carried out some simple experiments with seedlings, comparing the growth under identical conditions of seedlings screened by vitaglass and ordinary glass. The vitaglass seedlings germinated before the others and showed a much taller, sturdier growth.

This seems to open a field of usefulness in glazing greenhouses where specially valuable show plants are being grown or where it is desired to get very early produce, such as Strawberries, for the market.

W. KERR RUSSELL, M.D., B.S.
(Part author of "Ultra-violet Radiation and Actinotherapy").

An Unusual Pimpernel

AT a recent meeting of the Linnean Society of London, Dr. A. B. Rendle, F.R.S., President in the chair, Miss Eleanor Vachell gave an account, illustrated with coloured lantern slides, of an unusual specimen of Anagallis. The plant of Anagallis was noticed in a newly-constructed public park at Coldknap, Barry, Glamorgan, in July, 1926, in a flower border about to be weeded, growing amongst a large colony of normal plants of A. arvensis. It had 11 stems—seven bearing scarlet flowers and four bearing blue flowers. Two types, A. arvensis Linn. and A. fœmina Mill., were apparently represented on the same plant, *i.e.*:—

Seven stems.—Corolla segments scarlet, edge even, fringed with numerous glandular hairs, calyx two-thirds as long as corolla.

Four stems.—Corolla segments blue, edge denticulate, with very few glandular hairs, calyx as long as corolla.

The root appeared normal, no fusion of two roots being visible. The interest of the specimen is that the characteristic features of two species (as usually recognised) are represented, but remain distinct. No parti-coloured flowers suggested hybrid origin; it appears, rather, that one portion of the plant may have reverted. The capsules on the seven stems bearing scarlet flowers were considerably in advance of those on the four stems bearing blue flowers.

Colour slides (Paget Process) of the plant, taken by Capt. Morrey Salmon, and a diagram slide showing the proportion of glandular hairs on the two different calyx segments were shown as well as the specimen itself.

The President read the following letter from the Rev. Canon F. W. Galpin on the subject of Miss Vachell's paper:—"With reference to Miss Vachell's interesting exhibit, I should like to state that, in the year 1924, a great quantity of Anagallis fœmina, together with an abundance of the common A. arvensis, was growing in a field near Rivenhall Place, Witham. My neighbour, Mrs. Bradhurst, who lives at The Place, and is a good field botanist, observed a plant on which three stems bore red flowers and one stem blue. She transferred the plant to her garden, as the field was shortly coming under cultivation again; there I saw it, but, unfortunately, all the flowers had dropped. I am glad, however, that her find, which was somewhat doubted at the time, has now received ample corroboration.

"I may add that, after a prolonged search, I failed to find any similar specimen; nor did I observe any parti-colour hybridisation between the two types."

In reply to the President, Miss Vachell stated that all the leaves of her plant were like those of A. arvensis.

Dr. Stapf suggested that Miss Vachell's plant was an instance of somatic segregation. He referred to Hoffman's experiments at Giessen and to Professor Weiss's, which showed a high constancy of colour and reluctance to cross. He paralleled the case of A. arvensis and A. fœmina by reference to A. Monelli (blue) and A. collina (red), which in their native areas are colour-constant. They are, however, to all appearance the parents of our garden Pimpernels, of which seven colour forms were known by 1839. He suggested that these two species should be subjected to genetic experiment, which might throw much light on the problem of our smaller wild Pimpernels.

Mr. F. J. Chittenden referred to other examples, such as Primula sinensis, and Matthiola incana, in which several characters are affected by a sport. The sport in these cases is due probably to somatic non-disjunction. The sporting Anagallis may be heteroxygous for the various fœmina characters shown by the sport, and the fœmina characters being linked, the elimination of the homologous arvensis chromosome at a somatic cell-division would give a chimera of the type shown.

Mr. C. Leonard Huskins (visitor) remarked that phenomena similar to the one described by Miss Vachell were known in wheat. Plants had been found bearing both Triticum vulgare heads and heads of the speltoid type, *i.e.*, similar to T. spelta. Heads had also been found which were vulgare on one side and speltoid on the other. There was considerable evidence that this change was due to chromosome aberration. In species which had arisen by hybridisation and subsequent polyploidy it would seem that only a irregularity in cell-division was needed set the balance and permit the appear characters belonging to one of the o parental or other related species.

Mr. W. B. Turrill urged that genetical experiments should be mad the blue and scarlet British Pimpernel stated that there were other blue for sides that usually recognised as A fœmina Mill., and certainly one in Britain, which had the corolla charact of A. arvensis except that the colour w

Crocus vernus by a woodland path

CHRYSANTHEMU

Stopping and timing Chrysa mums

(Reply to "C. B.," Lancs.)

YOUR list of varieties is a lengt and contains both Japanese and i types of the flower. If you pr grow these for exhibition, we fear be at a disadvantage, as they are n ciently up-to-date to stand much ch competition with the more recentl duced varieties of better quality. T given in the subjoined table are for s growers. You must, therefore, co operations fully seven to 10 days earl

Name.	When to Pinch the Plants.
Mrs. Eric Crossley ..	First week April
Lady Hanhan	Late April
Brightness	May, third week
Chas. McInroy	May, third week
Bessie Godfrey	End May
Algernon Davis	Early May
F. S. Vallis	Late May
Chas. Davis	Late April
Valerie Greenham ..	Last week March
Mrs. Chas. Beckett ..	First week April
Viviand Morel	Late April
Lady Audrey Buller ..	Third week May
Madeline Davis . ..	Third week May
Mrs. A. T. Miller ..	Late March
Niveum	Second week May
Guy Hamilton	Mid-March
Commandant Blusset ..	Third week May
Miss Elsie Fulton ..	First week June
Mrs. J. Ritson	Late April
General Hutton.. ..	Early March or last week May
Mrs. Geo. Mileham	End May
Mrs. Harry Emmerton..	End March
Nellie Perkins	Mid-April
Mrs. J. Dunn	End March
Norman Davis	End March
Emily Mileham	Third week May
Beatrice May	First week April
E. J. Brooks	First week April
Walter Jinks	Mid-March
Magnificent	End March

The foregoing are all Japanese and those that follow belong to the section:—

Name.	When to Pinch the Plants.
Ralph Hatton	First week April
Mme. Ferlat	Early June
James Agate	Fourth week March
Golden Mme. Ferlat .	Early June

The variety Mme. Dees is not kn Try pinching the plant about May retain first crown buds.

The spring Crocus (Crocus

THERE are few sights more de early spring than a woodland p with spring Crocus, C. vernus. when wild flowers are at a premiu colour range of this plant, from wh purple, is doubly welcome. We sa visedly, for C. vernus has no naturalised in several parts of Eng flowering period depends upon the which it grows, and ranges from July. The spring Crocus is the most of the purple and white Dutc

Supporting Exhibition Sweet Peas

An Amateur's Ingenious Method

OME little time ago an enthusiastic amateur Sweet Pea grower, Mr. A. Walbank, of Keighley, wrote me asking would like to hear of a method of grow- or, rather, supporting "cordon" trained ıts on 4-foot Bamboo canes. Expecting vould say "join two together," or some- g of that sort, I, nevertheless, asked for her particulars, and whether I might ish the method for the benefit of others. ders who do not practice the "cordon" em of culture may ask, "What would be advantages of such a method?" Well, ıe first place, long Bamboos are very ex- ive, and, apart from this, keeping the ts so low during all stages of their vth has its obvious advantages. The ts would be much easier to attend to, tie disbud, shade, etc., etc. The nearer the ace of the soil the greater the measure of ection from the wind, a frequent cause amaged flowers. Then, again, for some on or other (probably the rising of mois- from the soil), the nearer the head of the ts to the surface of the ground the finer quality of the blooms and the better their ır.

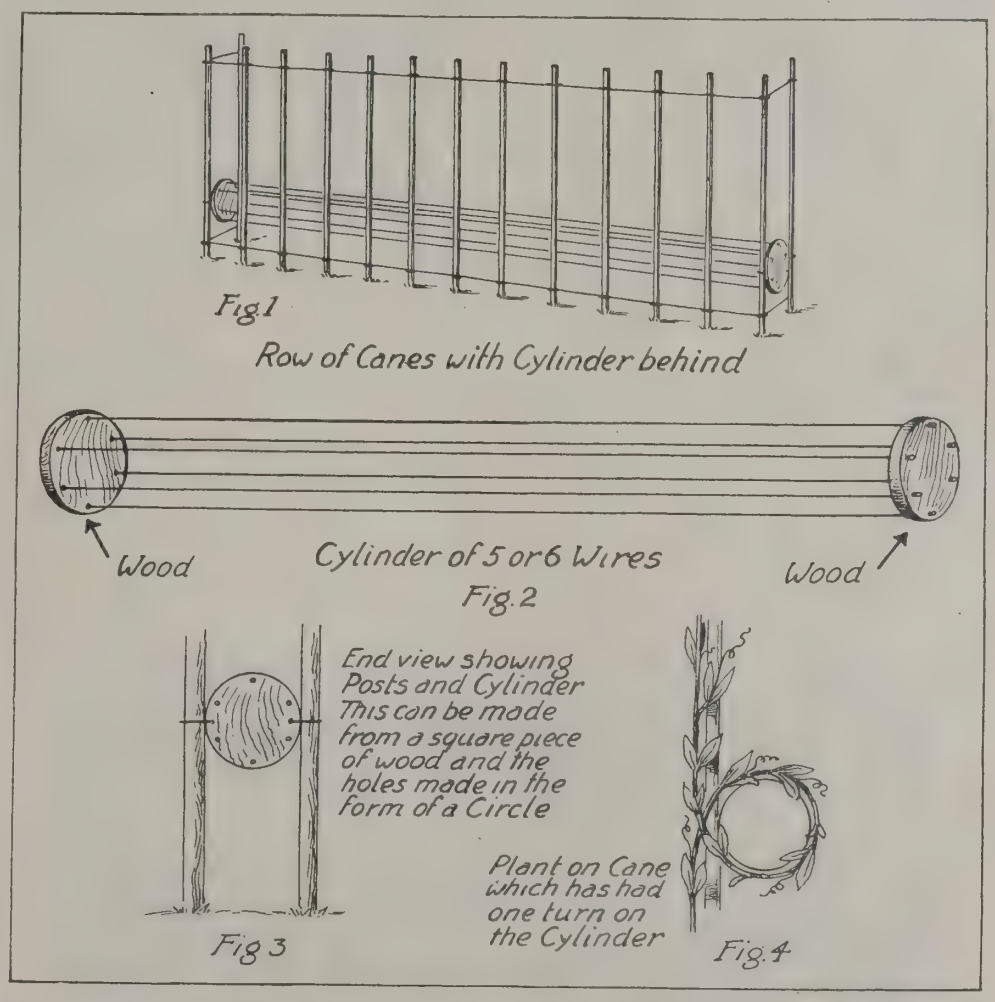
iefly, this is Mr. Walbank's procedure. ransplants in single rows running from ı to south, giving each plant plenty of ı. Four-foot Bamboos are used, one to growth, and the canes are fastened to horizontal wires at the tops and ms. Then a rough cylinder about hes in diameter made of wire strands is horizontally on the west side of the , the bottom of the cylinder being hes from the ground. The plants are planted on the east side of the canes, as they grow, are fastened in the usual but with galvanised split wire rings in- of raffia ties. When the plants attain eight of 4 feet they are unfastened, one ıe (an easy matter with the galvanised), and each plant is taken over the top ıe cylinder and gently brought round neath it and again started on its ey up the cane. When the plants reach the top of their canes the opera- is repeated as many times as necessary g the season.

taking down and wrapping round the ler I am assured is a simple matter, than it sounds. I know from experi- that all but the top 12 inches of haulm eadily bend into any position. The top hes should be handled with care so that s not snap or crack. I also know from ience that no adverse effects need fol- his continued bending of the haulm. I uote Mr. Walbank, who writes: "The ıas many advantages—abolishes the use step-ladder, saves galvanised rings, and lants are always well under the eye of rower. It is a much better way than them go up to 8 feet and then lower- ıem. I seem to get a longer stem and her-coloured bloom by keeping them he ground. The method should prove ı to the grower of the orange varieties, shade can be so easily erected to keep from burning."

Walbank pointed out the ease with such low-growing plants may be pro- from the wind, and suggested a row culinary Peas, Runner Beans, or a of Raspberries or Black Currants d on that side of the row from which ind usually comes. Other "natural" seful wind-screens will no doubt occur reader.

for my own opinion of the method. first place I have not personally given it a trial, but I see no real reason why it should not be entirely successful. I do not like the idea of a wire cylinder, for in a hot season the wires would tend to scorch the haulm. I would rather make the cylinder of Bamboos fastened to a wooden framework or thin, smoothed laths fastened in like manner. Stout cord, too, might be utilised in the same way, and I would make the diameter of the cylinder nearly a foot instead of 6 inches, thus giving a wider turn (with less tendency to the cracking of the haulm). No other modification occurs to me at the moment, but I would add that the idea strikes me as very practical and ingenious, and I congratulate Mr. Walbank on evolving a simple, inexpensive, and time and labour saving method of supporting exhibition Sweet Peas. It must not be forgotten that 8-foot canes are at least six times as costly as those of 4-foot, a great point with those who grow any quantity of Sweet Peas on exhibition lines.

EAST ANGLIAN.



Herbaceous Phloxes

The month of April is a good time to pay attention to the above. During the last few years the Phlox has been so greatly improved that it is now one of the handsomest of hardy plants. Perhaps improvement has been most marked along the lines of perfecting the individual flower and the enrichment of the varying hues of colour, for the latter may now be had from purest white to deepest crimson. Well-grown clumps of, say, three to five plants make an effective show in late summer and early autumn, or they are still more impressive when seen in large beds or batches. Whichever way grown, they are worth the cultivator's best exertions, the chief of which will be the deep digging of the place to be occupied, liberal manuring, and an occasional thorough watering should a dry spell set in. Half-a-dozen good varieties are:—Brilliant, salmon-carmine; Coquelicot, bright scarlet with purple eye; General von Heutz, salmon-scarlet with white centre; Meteor, rose-pink with white centre; Paul Bert, lilac with violet centre; Sylphide, pure white.

Herbaceous Potentillas

Many of these are showy subjects in the border, though the habit of growth is not ideal, the long flowering stems often spreading out laterally along the ground. For this reason, although the flowering stems are long, they are more suited for the front of the border, and they are also quite well placed in a large rock garden, where they are capable of producing a very pleasing and sometimes brilliant effect, the long procumbent stems rambling among the low-growing neighbours without harming them, and sending up their pretty flowers in profusion. I like the single forms best, P. atrosanguinea Gibson's Scarlet being a general favourite with its brilliant blood-red flowers; P. formosa Miss Willmott, one of the dwarfer kinds, with carmine-rose flowers; and P. Hopwoodiana, with pale salmon-cream blossoms. There are several good doubles in yellow, crimson, and orange, perhaps the most brilliant of these being Wm. Rollison, with large semi-double orange-scarlet flowers, a large patch in full bloom giving a very gorgeous effect. They are all easy to grow and good doers in ordinary loamy soil in a sunny position, and can be increased by careful division or by seed.

L.

ALPINES

Saxifraga Elizabethæ

PLANTED among stones in a sunny position, this little hybrid, a cross between S. burseriana and S. sancta, is giving a display of its pale yellow flowers, numbering from two to five, raised on stems 2 inches in length above a cushion of small, closely-packed rosettes of foliage. It is named after Elizabeth, the late Dowager Queen of Rumania, better known as Carmen Sylva. Although it has been of value as a parent, it is not, perhaps, so beautiful as some of its hybrids, but it is a useful addition in the rock garden, being fairly free in growth and aiding the floral beauty of February and March. The best time for replanting is in April. This allows a full season for growth. When preparing the site drainage is essential, therefore the soil should be taken out to a depth of 2½ feet and broken rock or bricks placed in the bottom. On heavy soils a quantity of old mortar-rubble and sand should be incorporated, giving an open rooting medium and the lime which Saxifraga require. Light soils, of course, will require less sand, but may at the same time be deficient in lime. When planting, place between stones about 2 inches in diameter and 6 inches in depth, this prevents splash and is helpful in keeping the plants in a semi-starved condition. In this state they flower more freely than those of greater vigour.

Handcross. C. N.

Burford, Dorking, the residence of Sir William Lawrence, Bt., Treasurer of t Royal Horticultural Society

The house is sheltered by Box Hill from east winds

Campanula tommasiniana

So many lovely dwarf Harebells claim our attention that the merits of some are apt to be overlooked. C. tommasiniana is one of much grace and beauty. It is in the rock garden that it should find a home with us. It has exquisite small foliage, and in autumn a wealth of pale blue flowers, hanging gracefully from the most delicate stems. It may be badly cropped by slugs if not protected when small. It is usually about 6 inches high, and rarely as many as 9 inches.

Achillea tomentosa

This pretty little dwarf Milfoil makes quite a brilliant splash of yellow in the rock garden when in bloom, the soft Fern-like foliage being almost entirely hidden by the flowers. It is easily cultivated in a well-drained, sandy soil in a sunny position, but it abhors anything in the way of a heavy soil—or that is my experience. Its habit is can be desired for the rock garden.

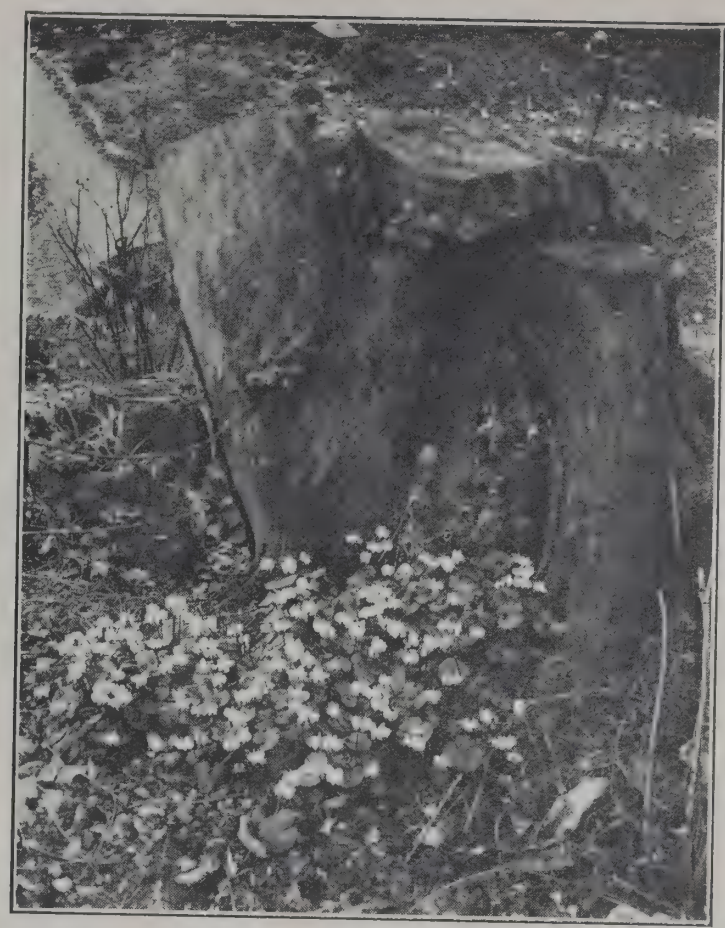
The Crocus beds at Burford

Flowers of mid-March Burford, Dorking

BURFORD, the beautiful home William and Lady Lawrence, is the famous Box Hill, near D The gardens are noted for their tre more particularly for the rich collec flowering bulbous plants that are grow with marked success.

One of the first flowers to catch was that of Viburnum fragrans. No how cold the winter may be, this shru fails to open its flowers in Februa sooner or later it will find its way in garden worthy of the name in the Viburnum fragrans was originally int from China by the late Will Purdo subsequently re-introduced by Farre not so fine in flower as V. Carlesii, there are also some good specimens ford, but for the time of year it is un for its loveliness and fragrance. We refer to the trees of Burford at a lat in the meantime let us turn our atte bulbs and other plants in flower.

The Crocus beds were at their brig the time of our visit in the second March. The kinds of Crocus m preciated are the species collected fr mountain homes, and not the large Dutch varieties, the result of artifici tion. Crocus aerius was in the heig beauty, also its pale-coloured variety, with grey-blue flowers almost white Other March-flowering species n flower were C. chrysanthus, golden Imperati, clear violet, purple lined; rare Imperati albus, with pure white g a real treasure among early-flowerin Crocus etruscus and its variety superl in full bloom. The pick of the variet E. A. Bowles, soft yellow; Chr Bullfinch; and Chrysanthus Bowles' almost dark crimson in bud.



Cyclamen Coum and its white variety now flowering at Burford

ty colonies of Cyclamen Coum were ing with great freedom over and around Elm stumps on a high bank. The crimson-pink flowers of the type plant l pleasing patches of colour. There also countless blooms of the white-ed C. Coum album.

happy-looking plant of Daphne ana about 2 yards across carried scores er-heads, and near by, in full bloom, collected form of Anemone blanda Cyril Baker.

this Tubergeni, a large and free-ıg Winter Aconite, was giving a good of itself. It is a new hybrid of great , with bright yellow flowers, evidently subject for woodland planting.

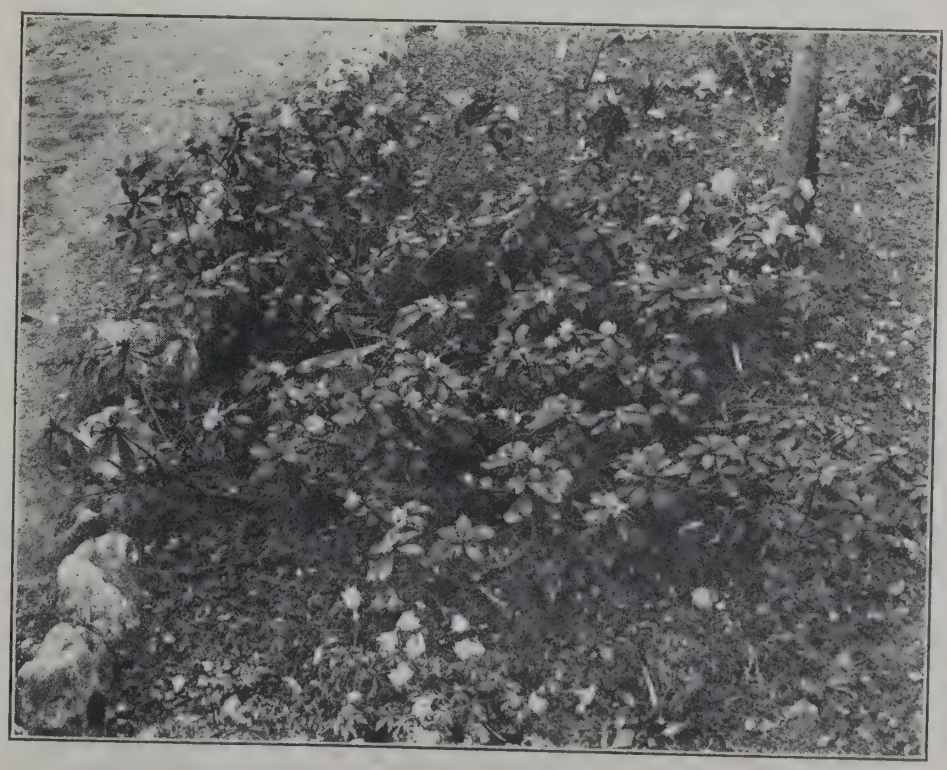
drops, of which over 30 varieties are at Burford, have been exceedingly ıs may be seen from the clumps of robustus, nivalis maximus, and ti, but most of the Snowdrops had or were passing, out of bloom at the our visit.

ion must be made of the lovely Iris s, with fragrant porcelain-blue that opened full at this date. Many rises, including June-flowering and Irises, are extensively grown in this ked and interesting garden, but otes touch only upon a few of the lowers noted during a brief but very e visit to Burford before the Ides of

HERBERT COWLEY.

ouble-flowered Primroses

of the double Primroses are difficult ı, but the white, yellow, sulphur, and ıre fairly plentiful, and can be pro-t less than sixpence each. These arieties are not likely to thrive for any time in full exposure to the sun, except, perhaps, in northern districts and in some parts of Wales. They need some shelter from the desiccating influence of hot sunshine in a time of great heat. Here in Surrey I find that they are happy among deciduous Ferns, the only place where they will live in a bloom-bearing condition with me. During the winter and early spring months they get full light and air, and as the days lengthen, and heat increases, and Ferns develop, affording just the amount of shade necessary to maintain the foliage in a fresh, healthy condition all the summer. In the spring what would be bare ground is adorned with their cheering blossoms. BYFLEET.



Burford: Daphne blagayana, two yards across, with Anemone blanda Cyril Baker in the foreground

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Begonias for summer beds

These are now ready for potting up singly or planting in boxes filled with an open mixture of good turfy loam, well-decayed leaf-soil, and sand. This should be brought to the same temperature as the house in which the tubers are growing before being used, and for the next 10 days the plants should be kept growing in the same temperature, a moist atmosphere being maintained at all times.

Seedling Begonias

Whether of the double or single kinds, these should be boxed or potted off as soon as large enough to handle, and if kept growing will furnish a bevy of bloom the first year.

Gloxinias

Tubers started as advised in a former number are also ready for potting up, and revel in the same soil and temperature as advised for Begonias.

Poinsettias

The old stock plants should be stood on a light stage in a warm house to encourage the development of cuttings.

Flowering shrubs

Those which have been forced into bloom, such as Lilacs, Prunus, Staphyleas, and Azaleas, should be pruned immediately the flowers are over and placed in a warm house to complete their growth.

Conservatory

Do not allow shabby or decaying flowers to occupy the stages, as plenty of fresh and interesting material is now available, and this department should be at its best and brightest with Golden Acacias, Genistas, Arum Lilies, bulbs in a variety of colours, Cinerarias, Primulas, Mignonettes, and Lothian Stocks.

Propagating

Keep this well in hand, maintaining a full frame by frequent additions of cuttings as these become available, as late-struck cuttings result in undersized plants.

French Beans

Sow a batch of these every fortnight where room is available, as they are much in evidence at this season and will benefit from the greater power of the sun each day.

Asparagus

Do not expose this to excessive heat, otherwise the growths will become weak and thin. Make new plantations to follow those now in use and clear away worn-out beds which have been forced.

Kitchen garden

This is a very busy and important time for this department. Onions, Spinach, Turnips, Peas, and all the winter greens must be sown without delay where the cold and continuous rains have prevented its being done earlier. The soil, however, must work freely, otherwise many failures will arise.

Carrots and Beet

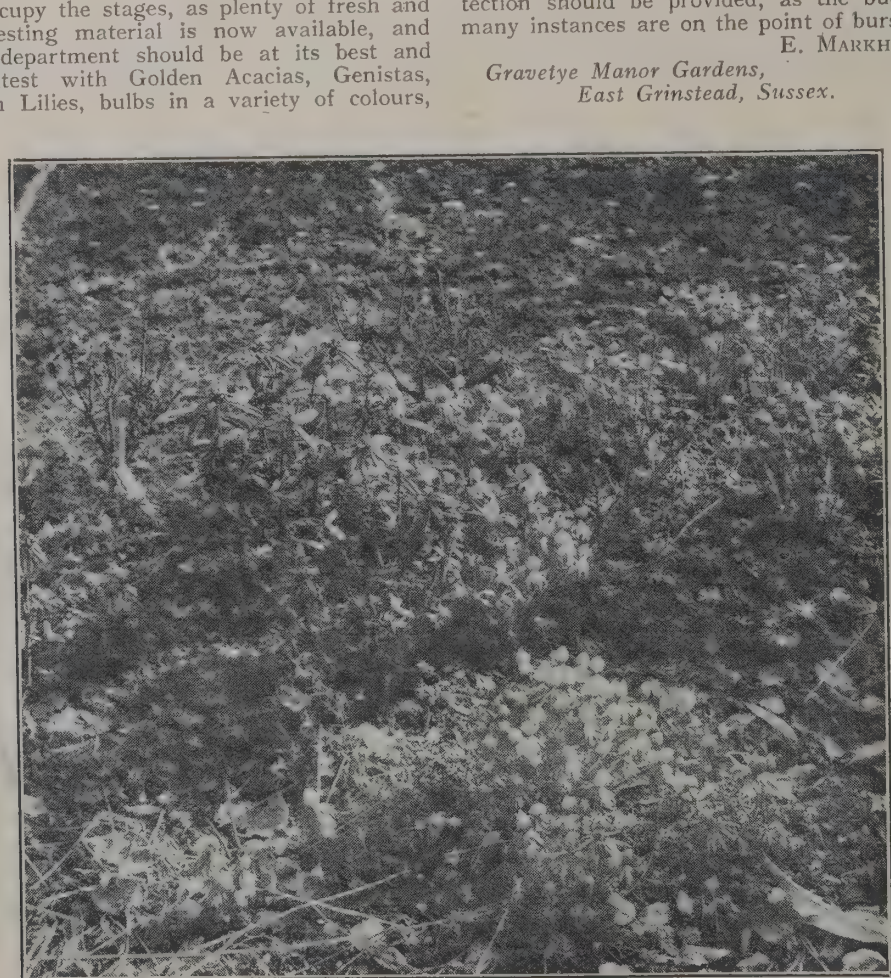
Fork over the plot intended for this crop in order that the winds may penetrate and dry the surface, and thus enable its being brought to a fine condition. I do not recommend early sowing of either, Beet particularly becoming too large and coarse if given too long a season of growth.

Pears and Plums

Where not already done, some kind of protection should be provided, as the buds in many instances are on the point of bursting.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex.



Eranthis Tubergeni, a promising Winter Aconite with bright yellow flowers

Scotland

Herbaceous Borders

Providing the weather is moderately general clean up of the hardy per borders should now be taken in hand s this not have already been overtaken. great bulk of the occupants are now ing through the soil, so it is quite s fork or lightly dig the surface; this, b giving a tidy appearance to the gard really very stimulating to the plants discouraging slugs and other vermin.

Pruning Roses

Should the weather be at all genia well to push on with this very imp work. The amateur is, as a rule, ir to leave far too much wood on his Roses, thereby producing only small b As a general rule, the weaker a Rose b the more drastic must be the pruning, really strong growers must only be lightly pruned. Always begin wit hardier sections and finish off with the

Clarkias and Schizanthus

Unless neatly and securely supporte pot-grown plants of these elegant a become an eyesore, and would be bet stroyed. Bamboo tips make ideal su for these subjects, and should be afford plants in good time.

Early Cinerarias

Where the plants are required fo blooming seed should be sown now a resulting seedlings brought on slowly, ing them as cool quarters as possil shade from all sunshine throughout th mer and autumn.

Potting on

Many plants, including F Gloxinias, Begonias, and Ferns, will growing away strongly and be in wa shift into larger pots. Provide goo compost, and, in the case of the G incorporate a good amount of swe mould with the other ingredients.

Disbudding Peaches

This important operation should be out gradually and be begun in good t to leave the whole of the work to be one day means a serious check to tl and may quite easily result in fruit-c and other evils. Remove a portion every three or four days until the lu completed.

Tomatoes

Early plants are now fit for their quarters, be that in pot, box, or bed pretty close for a few days to encou roots to take hold of the new soil. over-water or the soil may "sou disaster follow.

Globe Artichokes

Where it is necessary to lay down plantation of this highly-esteemed g a start should now be made, provi soil is in good working conditio ground must be generously manu double-dug or trenched, and the pl out 4 feet apart at least.

Main-crop Celery

It is often a cause of failure to important crop too early, but, about will usually give good results. To germination the pans or boxes may a fairly warm house or pit, but im growth appears, cooler quarters are

C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

The early flowering Viburnum fragrans at Burford

What is a Gilliflower?

illustration of the question, as to the and application of the name Gilli-, allow me to invite the attention of eaders to the following passages, which act from Mr. Leo H. Grindon's inter- little volume, the "Shakspere Flora." ge 168 Mr. Grindon says, referring to rnation and the Gilliflower:—

out the Carnation there is no doubt. uced from the Continent, probably in ne of the Normans, it took at once the of honour in English gardens, never challenged. All the old poets have ing to say in its praise, now and then ing the derivation of the name, which ply a condensed form of Coronation, a adapted for use in chaplets, and which ver been given to anything else. Gilli-, often supposed to be the same, had a wider meaning. In Lyte, 1576, it the Carnation, the Pink, the Sweet n, the Marsh Lychnis, the Soapwort, couple of Silenes, all members of the botanical family; also various Cruci- including the Hesperis, the two olas, the Dentaria, and the Wall-; and, besides these, the Hottonia and getes patula." Essentially, neverthe- illiflower was understood to mean cer- arieties of the Dianthus Caryophyllus, ical form of which is the Carnation na, as shown by the derivation sup- y Caryophyllus, the latter word re- to the Clove-like odour. Again, of nation ipsissima, the varieties in ques- ere doubtless those which to-day are called bizarres, and which the florists of the Elizabethan age thought to multiply by means of the odd and futile process described in that curious old black-letter volume, "Hyll's Art of Gardening," 1574, p. 88. "Perdita," whose character is distinguished by its love of truthfulness, will have none of these artificial things. She is no horticultural experimentalist; she takes the flowers just as they were made. In her innocent ignorance she thinks that all the "pied Gillies" have been obtained by the artificial process she detests. No botanical name ever experienced so many imitations. In the literature of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries may be found Gyroflée, Giroflée, Gilofer, Gillofer, Galofer, Gylofre, Girofle, Gelofer, Gyllofer, Gelouer, Gillyvor, Gelyfloure, Gilofloure, Gillofloure, Gelliflower, Gilloflower—no fewer than 17 different spellings, and probably others not observed.

Gunneras

While we admire these lovely-leaved plants during summer we are apt to overlook one or two little items when the frost cuts them to the ground-level. After removing the withered foliage the crowns should be covered with fresh leaves, Bracken, or even strawy litter, keeping it in place with a few forked sticks. The plant is hardy enough in itself, but this little precaution will prevent the crowns being trodden on while dormant. It also protects from late spring frosts the earliest leaves, which on account of their being usually planted on the margin of ponds or streams are quickly cut down. When you consider it safe to remove this protection, apply a thick mulch of well-decayed manure in and around the crowns to the extent of a foot or more in circumference, which will greatly benefit the plant, assisting it to mature the immense leaves. During summer strong plants push up a flower-stalk, which if left greatly reduces the size of the leaves, which alone are the beauty of the plant. Any division of the crowns should be carried out just as new growth commences, care being taken that the said crowns are not injured in the operation, endeavouring to get as much root as possible with each piece, planting quite near the water's edge and applying a mulch. Gunneras are decidedly waterside subjects, and I have never met with a fair specimen far away from it; no artificial watering equals that of a constant moist-rooting medium for these plants. Set out among Eulalias, Bamboos, water-loving Irises, Spiræas, and many other plants that do best in moist positions, the contrast is very marked. In the "English Flower Garden," Mr. Robinson advises extra large holes being taken out, well drained, and then enriched with good manure and lasting loam, and to be well supplied with water during dry weather in summer. Doubtless they can be made a success treated thus, but my advice is, whenever possible, to plant as above suggested. It will save a deal of labour, especially if we get many summers

Crocus aerius and C. aerius Céleste at their best

Yuccas and grey foliage
Iberis and Artemisias are here used with good effect

like the last, when water was at a low ebb in many places, scarcely sufficient being available for garden purposes. M.

Work in the flower garden

A start has been made with the edging of grass paths, care being taken to remove only that portion which has become bulged—by the pressure of roller and mower—in order to bring about a true line, whether this be straight or curved. I always like to see these edgings sloped from top to bottom, and not cut perfectly upright, as by this means they are able to withstand much greater pressure than when treated in the latter way. Their appearance is equally effective, and the summer clipping with shears is easy. Lawns and grass paths have been rolled and swept, as it will shortly be found necessary to make use of the mower; any bad patches hitherto overlooked will be made good without delay, as, once the present cold spell has broken, the grass in warm sheltered positions will be rapidly on the move. During the week, and following a good rolling, all the grass paths have been given a good dressing of sulphate of ammonia and sand in equal parts, and the lawns treated likewise with an approved lawn sand and Daisy killer. The paths are subject to a good deal of traffic, and, like the lawns, derive great benefit from these periodical dressings, which, in addition to stimulating the grass, destroys Moss and weeds.

A very nice lot of the large Colchicums, which occupied a border now required for more important subjects, has been lifted, and as several bulbs had been made to each plant, these—in spite of their being in full growth—were carefully divided and replanted to form one large group in the foreground of Azaleas and in full sunshine.

We continue to freshen up the soil, pointing over wherever possible between small plants, as this greatly adds to their appearance. A large quantity of Carnations from seeds sown early last month has now been pricked off into boxes, keeping them in gentle warmth for the present. Cheiranthus linifolius has also been pricked off, and the majority of seeds sown during the past month being well through the soil, a light and more airy position has been given them. A small bog has been planted with Iris aurea, and the surrounding banks furnished with the Creeping Forget-me-not (Omphalodes verna). The retying of a large number of climbing plants has been necessary owing to the renewal of pergolas. A number of plants of Rose Red Letter Day have been layered in order to get a supply of own root plants. Many Roses have been badly cut back with the recent sharp frosts. W.

Incarvillea Delavayi

Among the most select of Chinese plants which have found their way into English gardens, the Incarvilleas, or Trumpet Flowers, rank very high. From gardens where I have found these plants absent I have always discovered that the owner has not been fortunate enough to have come across any representatives of the genus, but I have never had cause to regret having recommended them. The best-known species, of course, is Incarvillea Delavayi, and it is a truly beautiful plant. The clusters of Gloxinia-like flowers, which appear in summer, are borne on strong stems ascending to a height of 2½ feet or more. They are of a rich shade of rosy-carmine, which harmonises well with the golden-yellow throat. The handsome pinnate foliage is delightful, both in form and colour.

This plant dislikes a heavy, moisture-holding soil, and thrives best in a light, sandy loam to which have been added some leaf-mould and decayed stable manure. Many gardeners advise cow manure, but this is not always easy to get, and I have seen magnificent specimens grown without it. Good drainage is essential, and the position should be sheltered and in full sunshine if possible. In very cold districts or in soils where the excessive moisture is likely to kill the plants it is advisable to lift and store the roots during the winter in a frost-proof cellar or room. Where hand-glasses or cloches are available the plants may be protected equally well by these without lifting. But even where the soil or climate will not admit of the outdoor culture of Incarvillea, it may w fair degree of success be grown in larg in the cold greenhouse or conservatory. grown in this manner it is important the roots are always kept nicely moist, e ally during the flowering period. Plan easily raised from seeds sown in pots cold greenhouse during April. The see may be planted out in nursery beds in and in their permanent quarters the f ing spring. The form known as gran is dwarfer and more compact in habit th parent, and for this reason has earned tain reputation as a plant for the roc den.

The grey foliage garden

MANY have a blue garden, a few a —an interesting example of the is at "The Rookery," Stre Common; a grey garden is, however, s seen, and yet I believe the authoress c delightful book, "Wall and Water Gar extols its quiet restfulness and strong commends its adoption. Last year I d a portion of the rockery in the wild gar this purpose, and have the following it:—Mullein, Abies pungens glauca, S Greyii, Globe Artichoke, and Sea Buck

On the rockery are Raoulia au Gypsophila repens, Thymus lanug Stachys lanata, Santolina, Cerastium, Mussini and two other kinds of Ca Pinks, Edelweiss, Antennaria tom Lavender, Anthemis aizoon, Art tomentosa, A. Hauschneckii, A. stell Horn Poppy, yellow Alyssum, blu Ruta maritima, grey-green Ros Marjoram, and Old Man.

The only others I can think of a silvery Saxifrages and Centaurea va I shall be very grateful if any of your would kindly help me with names of o

O. B. Shelsv

The grey border

No garden, large or small, can clai complete without the added beauty of t border. It has a charm and fascina its own, and should provide no diffic the amateur, providing these two es are borne in mind, viz., adequate d and the selection of suitable plants. the long winter months this type of still retains its charms, and this i should commend it to every plant lov making the border, stone chippings possible, sand should be well mixed w soil, a spade depth at the least, and the land be very retentive brick-rubble be placed at the bottom of the trench. boulders of rockstone placed here an add greatly to its charms.

The following is a comprehensive no means a complete list of suitable pl Dianthus cæsius, D. cæsius grandiflo Duchess of Fife, D. fragrans, D. Litt fraga aizoon and Cotyledon vars., A absinthum, A. Palmeri, A. ste Santolina incana, S. incana nana, Se variety, Helianthemum roseum, H. Veronica incana, Androsace sarm Acæna glauca, Stachys lanata, glauca, Holmus mollis variegata, T pyrenaicum, Alyssum saxatile, Acantl venustum, Scabiosa parnassifolia, podium alpinum, Achillea argen Clavennæ, Anthemis cupaniana, lanuginosus, Gypsophila repens Zauschneria californica, Senecio G compacta, Veronica pinquifolia, Colensoi glauca.

The following require a cold fram the winter months, and should be Leucophytum Brownii, Veronica Helichrysum diosmæfolium, and Ec S.

NDOOR PLANTS

The Devil Plant

LTHOUGH somewhat handicapped by its unattractive name, Ataccia cristata (the Devil Plant) may find favour with over of the bizarre and more uncommon s of plant life. Its decorative qualities not, perhaps, be noticeable, but there is rtain weird attraction in its greenish- inflorescences, with their long, hanging cles and wing-like bracts. Sometimes vn as Tacca cristata, it was introduced Malaya, and flowers in mid-summer. reat difficulties are presented in its culti- n, as seed is freely produced and easily d in strong heat, but germination is and three months may sometimes be red. Division of its tuberous roots may be made in spring. A normal mixture am, peat, or leaf-soil and sand is suit- and with strong heat the size of the s and inflorescence is increased, but ary greenhouse conditions may be suc- illy employed with proportionate loss of n all parts. A word of warning as to oo free use of rich stimulants if fertile are required. E. R. ASHTON.

Dielytra spectabilis

d clumps of this, lifted from open d just as they are starting into growth, otted in good rich soil, make charming ents for the conservatory. Its long d spikes of waxy-looking flowers and ful foliage have a fine effect when seen asses of some size. This plant starts growth very early, and, when out of is liable to suffer from late spring It should be planted under the shel- large evergreen shrubs or close to a as wind is more destructive to its tender h than even frost. I have frequently ts shoots lying prostrate and apparently by frost, and, with the return of a more temperature, again becoming erect; exposed to wind when in a frozen state, ves turn black and die. It is not at all ous as to soil; its large fleshy roots own a considerable depth, and even the st crowns, if left undisturbed, soon de- into large clumps. It is readily in- d by division of the roots, and for plant- the wild garden scarcely any plant can ter adapted; under large overhanging to ward off spring frosts, and near and bushes to break cold currents of winds, it is quite at home; and, when ng from mossy turf, carpeted or d with Primroses, Polyanthuses, and bulbs, there is no fear of its delicate ns being soiled or splashed by heavy as happens when they are produced by in freshly-dug beds. Those who have en the Dielytras a trial in such posi- hould do so. G.

Libonia floribunda

good old greenhouse shrubby plant is nid-March) about at its best. The is small and glossy, while the s are yellow and scarlet, tubular in and freely produced, as the varietal nplies. Beside being a valuable green- lant it is to be well recommended for the dwelling, as a plant will keep in ndition in the house for a fortnight if given a position of light and not to suffer for want of water.

propagation of Libonia floribunda is sy from cuttings, which are best put it May or June, according to the of the plants after flowering is done. nary greenhouse will suffice for the of the cuttings, after which the treat- hould be that of a cold frame until taken into the greenhouse again in autumn. One plant is enough to a pot finally, but for the first year three plants grown together will produce a big effect quicker. Propagation once achieved need not be an annual duty, as this plant will bear cutting back and growing on for several years should large specimens be desired. C. TURNER.

The Devil Plant (Ataccia cristata)

Notes on greenhouse plants

Both Gloriosa superba and G. Rothschildiana are showing signs of life, and they should be potted in a mixture of leaf-mould and loam. Afford water sparingly until the growths are well through the soil. These climbers will succeed in a warm greenhouse.

Such tubers as Begonia, Gloxinia, and Achimenes should be shaken out of their old soil and started into growth in boxes containing leaf-mould. Place them in a temperature of 55 degs. to 60 degs., and keep the soil just moist with the syringe. When the tubers begin to root freely they may be potted off, using a mixture of leaf-mould and loam in equal parts. Large Begonia tubers can be cut into several parts when the shoots are ½ inch long, but each portion must possess one or more growing points.

Cannas should be taken from their resting quarters, divided, and potted up. Arrange them in a warm house until growth is well advanced, when a cooler division will suffice.

After the flowering season remove all the old blooms and seed vessels from Azaleas, and allow the plants to develop their growth in a temperature of 60 degs. Keep the roots just moist and syringe the plants twice daily. Any that need it may be top-dressed with good quality peat, making it very firm.

Salvia patens ought now to be started into growth, with a view to obtaining cuttings. Set the roots in boxes containing leaf-mould and loam, and if they are placed in a warm pit growth will soon be apparent.

Zephyranthes Treatiæ

Though this so-called new species does not differ much from the old Z. Atamasco, it is, nevertheless, a most desirable hardy bulbous plant, as it may be had in bloom at the present time if grown in a greenhouse in pots. The flowers have long, narrow petals, which recurve gracefully, and being pure white they contrast pleasingly with the deep green grassy foliage.

FRUIT GARDEN

Strawberry culture

SOME growers apply a mulch of manure in the autumn, while others defer doing so until the present month. Those who took such action last autumn, and followed it up by a light digging or pointing of the soil between the rows, will now reap the benefit of so doing, as the influence of the frosts has had such a disintegrating effect on the soil that it will presently work down to a fine tilth at the expenditure of a minimum of labour, and completely cover the manure. The frosty weather will be an advantage from a labour point of view to those who prefer manuring their Strawberry plants in February, as the manure can be wheeled on and placed between the rows while the ground is frozen, with greater expedition than when planks have to be employed. The manure will then be in readiness for spreading, after the plants have been relieved of dead foliage, and weeds and other rubbish have been hoed and raked off. As soon as a change occurs this last-named matter has to have attention, in any case, as the plants usually lose the oldest of their leaves during the winter, some varieties being more addicted to it than others, while weeds put in an appearance and flourish, no matter what the weather or time of year it may be. When the soil is lightly pointed over in the autumn, simply hoeing it, where it becomes dry enough to stand upon, will break it down, and leave the surface in excellent order for placing the mulch of strawy litter thereon some few weeks hence. Where slugs are troublesome it is a good plan to dust the surface either with soot or lime, or the two may be combined. This is best applied before hoeing, so that either or both will become mixed with the soil.

With respect to manuring at the present time, there are several kinds of manure suitable for the purpose, foremost of which is well-rotted stable or farmyard manure in a not too wet or pasty condition. The contents of an old hotbed, if thoroughly decomposed, are also valuable, and the same with regard to spent Mushroom dung. The first-named is, of course, the most stimulating, but not always available; still, excellent results are obtainable with the aid of the two last-mentioned if the materials are well worked up round the crowns, and made firm. In this the plants soon make a multitude of new roots, and the same effect will be produced if only old potting soil, or such as has been used in the previous season for Potato-forcing, Cucumber-growing, etc., is placed round the crowns. The first-named class of manure is more suited for soils which are of a light texture, or such as dry out quickly, than the lighter materials named, while the latter are suited to soils of a heavy and tenacious character. In many cases, whatever manure may be at hand has to suffice, and the question as to which is best suited to the needs of the soil then becomes a matter of minor consideration.

When manure of any description is not to be had, then recourse must be had to artificials. These should be sprinkled on the soil, and hoed and raked in on the first favourable opportunity. As to whether the soil should be lightly pointed now or not is a moot question. Personally, I am not an advocate for it at this time of year, as it means the destruction of a great quantity of roots if the plants are healthy and vigorous, from the loss of which they have not time to recover properly before heavy demands are made upon them. If done in the autumn it is quite a different matter, as there is then a margin of several months in which the plants may recuperate should they sustain the loss of many roots.

The foregoing remarks are in reference to plants one year old and upwards. Not many growers keep Strawberry plants on the ground after they have borne their third crop nowadays, as the best results are undoubtedly obtained from such as are from one to three years old. This necessitates more frequent planting and change of ground, but it pays in the long run. A certain number of plants should always be put out during August every year, to allow of a corresponding number of the oldest being destroyed each season, which prevents the stock from decreasing, and at the same time keeps up the supp if got out early, these plants give a go turn in the form of a crop of fine fru first summer. Such as were plante autumn will need looking over, to asc whether any have been lifted by the and to make them quite firm again by ing if any are found in such a conditio the ground was, or should have manured before planting took place, n further is needed in regard to these present time beyond hoeing and cleari ground of weeds.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, cannot always be replied to in the issue i ately following their receipt. We do not r queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their pl be named should send fair examples of ea stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of and points of shoots are useless.) Not mo four plants should be sent in any one week same correspondent. Where more than on is sent they should be numbered. Of conif cones should always be sent.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

Propagating the Silver Birch

(H. L. Davies).—The seeds of the Silver Birch are borne on small catkins about an inch long, and these form the usual means of increase. These should be gathered when quite ripe, which is September or October. In some instances the catkins are so short that they resemble a fair-sized Nut, and generally stand erect on the branches, whereas the male catkins droop, besides being much longer. The seed should be sown on the surface of fine soil either in autumn or early spring and merely pressed in, not covered with soil, but protected until germination has taken place by a thin layer of brushwood from interference by birds and to give light shelter.

Planting Azaleas by the sea

Will you give me a good list of Azaleas suitable for planting at the edge of a wood facing south-west, near the sea, on a soil of clayey loam, rather stiff? COASTLINE.

[We are afraid you are ill-advised to make a planting of Azaleas at the edge of your wood facing the sea. Rhododendrons and Azaleas are not by any means ideal seaside shrubs. Salt spray and rough, buffeting winds sorely try them, and your stiff clayey loam is another adverse condition unless you have huge amounts of good leaf-mould at disposal. The Azaleas, now classed with the Rhododendrons, are in nature almost throughout peat lovers, but a good sandy loam free of lime suits them equally well, and even poor sandy soils with a free addition of leaf-mould answer well enough, especially if not too dry, but we do not recommend them for clayey soils. The Azaleas are shallow-rooting plants without strong woody roots to delve into stiff soils, and delight to spread about in light soils consisting for the greater part of decayed vegetable matter. If you do not mind the expense of providing this to a depth of at least 6 inches you may achieve success if conditions with you are otherwise favourable. (Absence of strong wind and salt spray.) Of course, we do not know the position you have in mind, and it may be more suitable than it appears from your short inquiry, but you may take it that all the successful plantations of Rhododendrons and Azaleas near the sea are in sheltered valleys and coombs, and in light peaty or purely vegetable soils. If you care to give us further information on this subject we will gladly try to help you with advising as to good ties to select, but upon the information able we can only advise you to try more suitable for seaside planting Azaleas.]

Azaleas for planting at the edge wood

(W. I.).—Possibly for this outdoor ing the hardy Ghent Azaleas would your purpose. The various shades of are quite unique, and well-flowered give the greatest pleasure during May following varieties are particularly goo may be obtained from any nurseryma specialises in Rhododendrons or Aza Coccinea speciosa (orange flame), I (best pure white, opens cream), G Triomphant (deep cherry-rose), and (reddish-saffron, shaded orange-yellow

Planting a Lavender hedge

(Constant Reader, Fife).—Thorougl pare your soil by digging a trench 18 wide and 18 inches deep, working in tity of leaf-mould or well-decayed ma you proceed. This must be well mix the soil, not merely placed in layer often done. For a quick result two plants should be used, the plants in e being 1 foot apart and the distance fr to line 8 inches, planting triangle Either two-year or three-year old would be suitable, and these shoul least a foot high. Old English L about 2½ feet, Dutch Lavender 1½ f Grappenhall 2½ feet, all with sweet flowers, make lovely hedges.

VEGETABLES

Squashes

I have received some seeds like from America to try here, but I a lutely at a loss to know how they gr am appealing to you for enlightenme instructions on seed packets, only t "Squash," in three varieties, Delicio State, and Essex Hybrids.

Laurencekirk. AND. WI

[The Squashes, of which large q and in many varieties are largely g America, and also in France, are va Pumpkins, and should be treated in t way as Vegetable Marrows, only, speaking, they require more warmth, summers are not hot enough for them to develop properly, even in t You would, we have no doubt, have them in frames, but we have had n

of them so far north. As a rule, the ber of fruits a plant will carry and re is restricted, the number usually ng from three to five.]

ving main crop Potatoes

ave taken and well dug a portion of 36 yards long by 10 yards wide, well ed, and sloping to the south. I intend ng main crop Potatoes on it, and if you l tell me how many whole sets I shall e, also what the average weight of the ought to be under ordinary conditions, uld be grateful to you. I might add the inclined to be sandy, but still seems to plenty of body in it. F. BEAN.

anting your sets at 16 inches apart, is usual for main crop Potatoes, and g your lines at 2 feet 6 inches apart, umber of sets you will require is about or by weight 70 lbs. The average t of your crop would be about 12 cwt. vould advise you to give your land a dressing of lime.]

FLOWER GARDEN

als after Tulips

all be very grateful if you can give me advice about my Tulip bed. They are lowering Tulips, and fill a round bed lawn. I want to leave them in the not take them up when they have d flowering. I think I have seen it in your paper that annuals can be amongst Tulips. Is any kind of hardy l suitable for this? Can I sow them ast, or would it be better to make little between each circle of Tulips? My bject is to have colour in the bed h the summer, and if possible to hide tidiness of the Tulip leaves when they ling. I shall be very grateful for your "MINERVA."

nediately the Tulip flowers are over eir stalks back to within six inches of ound—leaving one leaf where possible. ulbs will then mature and be satisfac- e following year. Follow this by forking over all bare surface of the a depth of about 3 inches. This done without injury to the Tulips. pply a fine sprinkling of fresh soil e surface. This will drop down be- he leaves and cause no harm. All you do now is to sow your annuals broad- ow thinly, and lightly rake the seeds e following are very desirable kinds : Phacelia campanularia, as blue as a , Rhodanthe maculata, pink, Phlox ondi, in variety, Annagalis grandi- erulea, Collinsia bicolor.]

Madonna Lily

Madonna Lily bulbs work up to the of the ground, exposing a quarter or f the bulb. Should they have a top- of soil, be replanted, or left? The is inclined to turn yellow as the develops. D. A. L.

kerne.

cannot do better than apply a of two-thirds loam and one-third well- manure or leaf-mould at the present At the end of August lift, divide, and nt, placing the bulbs not more than s below the surface and about a rt.]

for inspection

tant Reader).—The bulbs have been y examined and the following is our —One white Roman Hyacinth ap- have flowered satisfactorily, having ells to the spike; two white miniature hs having a stunted head of white between the foliage; one light blue miniature Hyacinth which has made a fair growth, but is a little drawn up, having a spike just above the foliage containing 16 bells; one miniature Hyacinth has the spike cut off; three bulbs, Early Single Tulip Primrose Queen, quite true, but flowers small and produced in between the leaves. The bulbs are of good size. The failure of the Hyacinths and Tulips is, without doubt, due to something having gone wrong in the cultivation. We note, with regard to some of the bulbs, that they made roots quite well, but when these came to the bottom of the pot they died away. This, no doubt, is the cause of failure. The end of the fibrous roots touched something which burnt or destroyed them, and the consequence would be an immediate arrest of development. Probably the ashes in which the pots were plunged were not sufficiently weathered, and, in consequence, generated a certain amount of heat and gas which got through the bottom of the pot. On the other hand, the pots might have been placed on heated pipes in the greenhouse, and this would be equally disastrous. The failure is, in our opinion, due to errors in cultivation. We shall be pleased to give full cultural directions when the planting or potting season comes round again.

Chrysanthemum Churcher's White

(F. A. R.).—The variety, really Church Brothers' White, was introduced by these market growers of Norwich. It is a free-growing and profuse-flowering variety esteemed more especially for blooms late in the season.

Iris Stylosa

(J. S., Hampton Wick).—The Algerian Iris (I. unguicularis), often called Iris stylosa, when once established should flower freely for a number of years without much special attention. As you say your plants flowered fairly well last year they should have done even better this year, and the position against a greenhouse wall seems suitable, we presume they face full south. This is the best aspect for these plants; they need a thorough ripening of their growths to enable them to flower freely. You say you planted them in a sort of rubble; this, too, is right, but it seems you did not give them a deep enough bed of this, as they appear to grow very strong in foliage. We personally favour the removal of all dead and unsightly leaves after the flowering and growing period, partly to allow the sun rays to reach down to the rootstock and help to ripen these thoroughly and partly to remove hiding places for slugs to lurk in. Slugs destroy the tender buds as fast as they are pushed up, and this may account for the paucity of flowers in your case this year. It would not be too late even now to go carefully over your plants and remove all dead leaves right down to the base, and we advise, after that, a good sprinkling of Kilogrub between the growths. This sprinkling might be repeated two or three times with a few days' interval, and especially to renew this after a heavy rain when the plants have dried again. If this does not help in bringing you a crop of belated flowers it would be best to lift your plants in early April, and, if necessary, divide them and replant after thoroughly re-making your bed at the foot of a south wall. Take out a trench a foot wide and 18 inches deep, and put in 6 inches of rough drainage material, and upon this a mixture of broken bricks and crocks, coarse sand and old potting soil, and as much old mortar-rubble as you can get hold of. Half mortar-rubble is not too much, and a quarter of broken brick and the final quarter old potting soil should make you a mixture to appeal to these plants. You would not get a heavy crop of flowers next winter and spring, but you will find the quality improved, and may confidently expect better results in the following years. Cutting the flowers as low down as possible is always better than pulling them, which, if roughly done, may injure the plants or roots.

Roman Hyacinths

I have been told that Narcissus Paper White and Roman Hyacinths are no use a second year. Mine have not had any heat. I will be much obliged if you will kindly tell me if this is true. A READER.

[The bulbs of Roman Hyacinths are of no further use, while it seldom happens that the forced bulbs of the Paper White Narcissus do much good if retained. You can, if you like, however, plant the latter in the garden and see how they behave next year.]

GREENHOUSE

Treatment of a small Japanese tree

A small Japanese tree in a green porcelain trough (from Liberty's) was given me three years ago, said to be 11 years old. It is wedged in the earth so tightly that I find it impossible to do more than scrape a little earth on the top and apply some of the "Jap. manure." This I did last year in the spring with good results. The tree has grown. I should be glad of any advice you can give me as to keeping it. Are these trees ever repotted, and when or how often?

MRS. E. RIDINGS.

[You do not say whether your tree is of a deciduous or evergreen character, but if the former and not a flowering tree you may prune the shoots back to within a few buds of their base at the present time. The trouble with these plants is that the roots, after a few years, more than fill their receptacle, and thus render it difficult to water them. In your case we would advise you to shift your tree into a slightly larger receptacle, using a nice open soil for the purpose and ramming it very firmly round the plant. This will prevent excessive growth and at the same time enable you to water it correctly. No further disturbance will be necessary for several years. The present is the best time for getting this done.]

Gentiana verna in pans

I should feel obliged if you will tell me the right treatment for growing Gentiana verna in pans. Last year, with new plants I had a most successful lot of roots and flowers. This year the plants are looking brown, and some are dying. Does Liverwort on the soil affect the growth? I have wintered the pans in a cool frame. The soil used was peat, leaf-mould, sand, and stones, and the plants were kept well watered during the summer.

MISS S. SOMERVILLE.

[After noting your success for one season with this pretty plant we conclude that your drainage became faulty and caused the soil mixture in your pans to become sour, which encouraged the growth of Liverwort (Marchantia). This pest is, no doubt, the cause of your plants turning brown and dying. Our pet mixture for growing Gentiana verna in pans and stone troughs is limestone chips two parts and one part finely-sifted leaf-mould, and a very successful friend swears by coarse Reigate sand and leaf-mould in about equal proportions. The chief thing appears to get a very porous mixture, and we attach considerable importance to getting leaf-mould about two years old and well sweetened by being turned over at intervals, thus getting the whole heap exposed to the air and free of any acidity that might encourage Liverwort to grow. Perhaps your best plan would be to wash out the roots of those of your Gentians as remain fairly sound and carefully repot in as good, sweet, and porous a mixture as you can compound. We

should advise a layer of clean crocks about an inch thick in the bottom of your pans, choosing the pans fairly deep. Those known as half-pots or Fern-pots are preferable for this purpose to the much shallower pans made for seed-raising. To ensure your soil mixture from washing into and clogging your drainage put a thin layer of Sphagnum Moss or clean peat fibre over the crocks before putting in your mixture. Gentiana verna in pans winters very well plunged into an ash-bed in the open, better than in a cold frame; it will not need any artificial watering from November to March. Free circulation of air over the plant will help to keep the soil sweet and Liverwort at bay, and frost is not likely to hurt this plant. It is, of course, important to start with well-rooted plants. Small seedling plants are much better than the collected plants, and the fine big form known as G. angulosa is more amenable to cultivation than the type; besides being larger in flower it is also more free-flowering.]

Winter flowering Begonias

(E. S., South Devon).—Your Begonias are suffering from an attack of the Begonia mite. You must be keeping the atmosphere of the house in which the plants are growing too dry. Spray them overhead twice daily with tepid water. You must also vaporise several times at intervals of two or three days with XL All. Do not use too much sand in the potting compost, as the excessive use of this material favours this little pest. The sample of shrub sent is that of a variety of the Japanese Cypress (Cupressus obtusa). Probably your Plum trees are growing too strongly, so next autumn you should lift and replant, taking care not to furnish too rich soil, but adding a good amount of lime-rubbish from an old building.

Window plants

(Cornwall).—Your plant is Fatsia Sieboldii, or, as it is often called, the Parlour Fig, and we suspect your trouble to be due to cold draughts from the open window. Unlike the well-known Aspidistra, this plant, although quite hardy in the open in the south of England, will not endure cold draughts, but when carefully watered and not subjected to the latter will keep healthy in rooms for quite a long time. There is not the slightest trace of disease upon the plant. The following are excellent window plants:—Aspidistra lurida and its variegated form, Adiantum capillus veneris, Begonia Rex var. Weltoniensis, Arum Lily, the Scarborough Lily (Valleta purpurea), Imantophyllum (or Clivia as it is often called), Ivy-leaved Pelargoniums, scented-leaved Pelargoniums, Musk, Creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia), Sedum Sieboldii, Campanula isophylla alba, C. garganica hirsuta, and Asplenium bulbiferum.

Azaleas after flowering

I am told that when indoor Azaleas go out of bloom they should be stood outside to harden the wood. How often do Azaleas require re-potting? B.

[After Azaleas have done flowering growth recommences at once, and to encourage this the plants should be given a warm house and frequently syringed. They may at this period have a dose of weak soot-water about once a fortnight. The plants should be stood out-of-doors by midsummer in order that the wood be thoroughly ripened, as a good deal of the future display of bloom depends upon this. Take great care that the plants do not suffer from want of water when out-of-doors. Remove under cover when there is any danger from autumn frosts. If the plants need re-potting it should be done when they are growing freely, but Azaleas will grow and flower well for years without being disturbed at the roots. Any straggling shoots may be cut back, but do not prune more than is necessary, as the less cutting the better will be the show of blossoms.]

Young Cyclamens

I have a nice batch of young Cyclamens. Would you advise me to keep growing them on and not allowing them any resting time? They are only as large as good-sized Peas, as I have had really no heat for them. I have one full-grown plant which does not turn up its petals, but spreads them out quite flat. It has six petals. Is this usual in Cyclamen? A READER.

[Keep your young Cyclamen plants growing on steadily until after they bloom, when they can have a rest for a little. The large flat blooms are by no means rare in this plant; are, indeed, cultivated by some under the name of "Butterfly" Cyclamens. This type has not, so far, "caught on," and all true lovers of this beautiful flowering plant sincerely hope they never may.]

LEGAL

Neighbours' trees

I rent a small plot of land for growing vegetables, and a builder has recently acquired the land adjoining it. Two ft. 6 ins. from the fence he intends to erect, he has planted a row of trees on his own ground, about 25 feet high, running from north to south on the western side of my plot. The consequence is that during the afternoon, even without leaves, the trees, when the sun is shining, cast a shadow across my garden. Can my landlord or I do anything in the matter? W. F.

[We think you can do nothing at present but keep the trees well lopped on your side. If later on you can prove that you are suffering damage by reason of the planting of your neighbour's trees you may be able to recover compensation. From the height of the newly-planted trees it is not improbable that they will die.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Moles in loose ground

(A Reader, F. W.).—Moles are very difficult to trap in loose soil, but it can be done if one is able to locate one of the main runs, which are often deep in the ground. Your best plan, however, is to place small pieces of raw meat or bacon rind which has first been smeared with rat poison (phosphorus paste is good) along the most frequented runs. This usually proves effective.

American Gooseberry Mildew

(A Reader, Co. Wicklow).—This is a difficult disease to root out. The cure should begin in autumn, when every shoot showing the disease should be cut off and immediately burned. This should really be done before the leaves fall. Then the ground under and around the bushes should be dug over. About the end of April the bushes should be thoroughly sprayed with lime-sulphur solution. (The proper strength is one part to 30 parts water.) Repeat three weeks later. Even although you did not have the affected parts removed last autumn you can still use the spray.

SHORT REPLIES

A Reader, Co. Wicklow.—You should have cut back your Rose at time of planting, but seeing you did not do so, had better do so now. It is a mistake to allow the plant to bloom the first year, it being better to encourage plenty of sturdy growth from near the base, so that a good specimen may be built up.

W. Lanyon Nickels.—Specialists in fruit-room construction are Messrs. Wm. Wood and Son, Ltd., Taplow, Bucks, and Messrs. Boulton and Paul, Norwich, either of whom would be able to furnish you with expert advice on this matter. A northerly ex is the best for a fruit-room, and as faces east it will require special treatm ensure that equitable temperature best for the keeping of fruit in good condit

F. A. R., Brighton.—You can still gate Mesembryanthemums with a fair of their blooming this season, providi plant them out at the end of May in sunny position, preferably on a r where the soil is very sandy. It is bes ever, to propagate in autumn, befor can damage the foliage.

E. Johnson.—Dianthus Spencer Bi (D. Bickhamii) is offered by John Stor of Kirkbride, Cumberland. Dentari phylla is offered by T. Smith, Dai Nursery, Newry, Ireland.

NAMES OF PLANTS

K. Benson, Ambleside.—Narcissus p præcox, native of the Basses Pyrenees

Henry Synnott, Dunsany.—It is imp to identify this plant from the tiny w scrap you send us. If you will pack sample in damp Moss and place in box and send to us we will most glad nish you with the name.

GARDENING APPOINTME

Mr. A. HUGHES, for 20 years with Mes WALLACE AND CO., to take charge nurseries of Messrs. V. N. GAUNTL Co., LTD., Chiddingfold, Surrey. ous to his duties at Tunbridge We Colchester, Mr. Hughes gained exp at Lockinge Gardens, Wantage, Royal Gardens, Windsor, and Roy dens, Kew.

Sale of seed Potatoes

The season for planting Potatoes approaching, and it may be well to all persons who intend to plant th illegal to do so, or to sell for in England and Wales, any Potatoes have not been certificated in one or the forms prescribed under the Disease of Potatoes Order of 1923 Order provides that all seed Potato have been officially certified either as been grown on land free from disease, or as having been inspect found to be free from that disease being of an approved immune true to type. When Potatoes a for planting the seller must furn buyer with the number of the certifi lating to the Potatoes sold, and eve chaser should take care to see that he plied with this information, and al the particulars as to the class, varie and dressing of the Potatoes as pr under the Seeds Act and Regulations growers who are proposing to sell any Potatoes from the 1926 crop, a not yet obtained the necessary c should make application to the Mi Agriculture without further delay. cates, of course, are not required planting of seed from the crop grow same land in the previous season. the Potatoes were grown in a di which, owing to the existence disease, inspection of the crop is n no charge is made for the certific pamphlet explaining the provisions Wart Disease Order and the Seeds Regulations, so far as these affect th seed Potatoes, may be obtained, post application to the Ministry of Ag and Fisheries, 10, Whitehall Place, S.W.1.

CATALOGUES RECEIVE

Messrs. Pym and Co., Woodston, Hardy perennials, vegetable, and her

A. H. and A. Mills, Welling, English Roses.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

2508—Vol. XLIX. APRIL 2, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 13/-

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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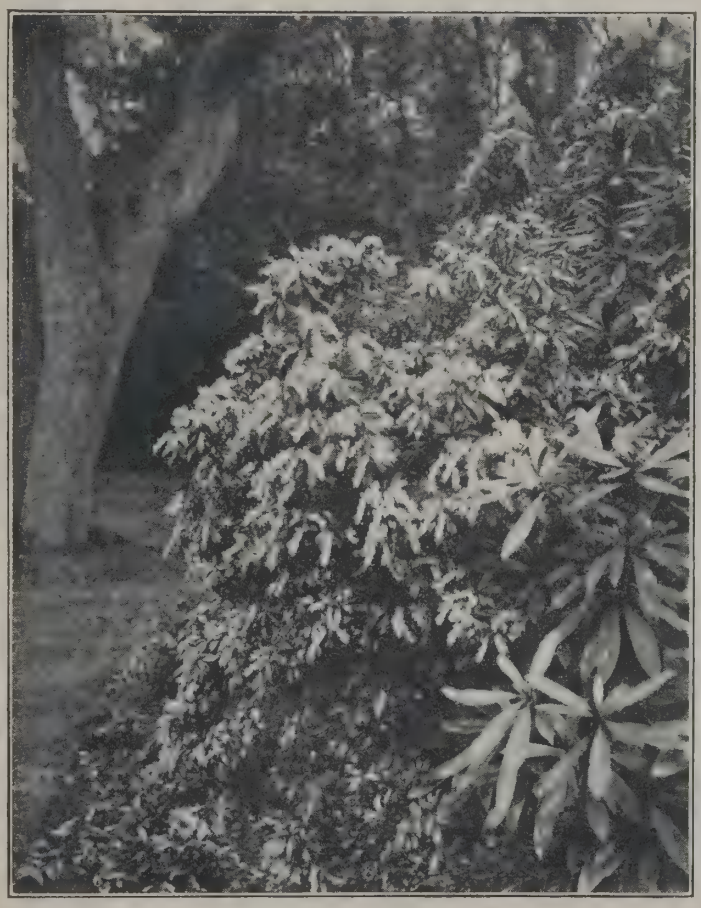
Shrubs for the Heath Garden

ERE are plants that may, with ad-ntage, be associated with Heaths, me from their habit of growth, such as enthalia spiculifolia and the Milk- (Polygala Chamæbuxus), both of which neat habit; others, like the Genista ytisus, with yellow, Pea-like flowers, g a pleasing contrast in the larger gardens in association with rple shades of the Heaths. ala Chamæbuxus is a neat-ng, creeping shrub only at-g a few inches in height and d with cream-yellow, Pea-l flowers. P. C. purpurea is wy, free-flowering plant with ed-purple and yellow flowers, ng about 4 inches high. This interesting shrub even when n flower, with its dwarf, ct habit and shining green These Polygalas succeed y well-drained sandy loam or without the addition of Bruckenthalia spiculifolia is f Heath-like plant with pink s, growing freely in a sandy Andromeda polifolia rifolia is a dwarf evergreen leathery Rosemary-like flowering during summer. lodoce empetriformis, a North American Heath-hrub, bearing clusters of n-purple flowers near the of the branches, growing 6 inches high. Myrica ceri-he Canadian Candle Berry , is worthy of a damp posi-likewise our native Sweet or Bog Myrtle. Arcto-los Uva-ursi, the Bear-closely allied to the Arbutus, ardy evergreen, procumbent with small shining green making a good covering for ng bank.

the larger Heath gardens, Genistas and Cytisus can ed with advantage, G. ca is a most useful dwarf en soon forming a green n and giving a wealth of bloom in its bearing racemes of golden-yellow flowers in May and June. G. tinctoria grows about 18 inches to 2 feet, and is a spineless shrub. The flowers are produced with the greatest freedom that the plant resembles a sheet of gold during late summer. There is also a double-flowered form which is of a creeping, prostrate habit, bearing orange-yellow flowers during July and August. Cytisus nigricans, of neat habit, bearing long, slender shoots. The pale yellow flowers are borne on erect spikes at the end of the new growths. Of C. n. Carlieri too much cannot be said in praise of this lovely Broom. It is in flower from July to October, bearing erect spikes of pale yellow flowers with its reddish seed-pods intermingled, forming neat bushes about 3 feet high. C. purpureus is of dwarf habit, bearing purple flowers, of which there are several varieties varying in colour and habit. C. Ardoini, a dwarf alpine species, useful for a group near the edge, thriving best on a dry, sunny spot, and flowering during April and May. C. austriacus axillaris, a dainty dwarf variety bearing its flowers in the axils of the leaves. C. a. leucanthus has paler flowers than the type. C. biflorus Ratisbouensis, a Hungarian species with large bright yellow flowers in early summer. C. Kewensis, a well-known cross between C. Ardoini and the white Broom, but distinct in habit from either parent. It forms a low, spreading bush covered with pale yellow flowers which are borne in great profusion. C. Beanii, a dwarf, prostrate shrub not unlike the habit of its parent, C. Ardoini, and worthy of a place near the edge of the bed. C. scoparis pallidus is of spreading habit, bearing large sulphur-yellow flowers. Spartium junceum, one of the best late summer and autumn-flowering shrubs, which, with its spikes of clear yellow flowers, is wonderfully effective if kept in shape by annual pruning.

Any or all the foregoing Genistas and Cytisus add a decided charm to the Heath garden; the effect of the various shades of purple and gold make a delightful picture.

Wisley. R. F.



Pieris japonica, a suitable subject for the larger Heath garden

. nana is a dwarf form and can, with age, be used on the lower slopes. G. , a native of southern Europe, is a branched spiny shrub bearing golden-flowers in great profusion during summer and late autumn. G. sagit-a distinct plant in habit, differing ther kinds, with peculiar winged and stems. It grows about a foot high,

Notes of the Week

Pieris japonica

THIS handsome evergreen shrub, sometimes known as Andromeda japonica, is now flowering with great freedom. Though not so hardy, it is more effective than Pieris floribunda, which is likewise flowering freely at this season. The young, growing shoots are attractive after flowering. Growing to a height, ultimately, of 9 feet or 10 feet, and clothed to the ground with dark green, leathery leaves, it is a pleasing shrub all the year round. Belonging to the Heath family, it requires the same treatment as the Rhododendron, and thrives on loam or peaty soil with the addition of leaf-mould. It is a most beautiful shrub and should be given a sheltered spot with a western exposure.

Somerset Oranges

At the last meeting of the Royal Horti-

cultural Society Mr. G. W. Blathwayte showed a bunch of ripe Oranges gathered from his garden at West Porlock House, Taunton. The fruits were grown on a tree which has been growing in his garden for the past five years without any protection whatever. Well-flowered sprays of Acacia Baileyana, A. falcata, and A. dealbata grown entirely in the open were also shown.

Kaufmann's Tulip and Grape Hyacinths

Pictures of subtle beauty by the combination of flowers can be formed in the garden which bloom about the same time. One of the most delightful of these was seen in one of our finest Scottish gardens. It was composed of a generous group of Tulipa Kaufmanniana freely interspersed with Muscari Heavenly Blue. There had been no stinting in the quantities employed, but the bulbs were wide enough apart to produce a delightful rather than a brilliant display. Had they been planted closely they would have formed a stiff group. As they were, the Tulips and Grape Hyacinths, both planted informally and creating an irregularly-formed mass, constituted a picture such as is seldom seen. The Tulip may require to be lifted occasionally and rested before replanting, but in an open, light soil fully exposed to the sun in summer this occasional lifting does not appear to be required. S. ARNOTT.

The benefit of coal ashes

The scientific chemist constantly asserts that coal ashes have no manurial value, their influence on soils being only mechanical. Many gardeners, however, refuse to be convinced, and dump all the ashes on the garden in winter. Speaking from years of experience, I think they act perfectly right, especially when the ashes come largely from the kitchen fire. Here the kitchen fire during winter receives the vegetable parings and all trimmings, and also consumes bones of fish, flesh, or fowl. These latter are considerable, and so good are the ashes that some are saved to mix with potting composts. Then, again, as logs are burnt in the rooms the ashes have a distinctly manurial value. But the coke ashes from the stoke-hole are quite different, and are only employed to lighten freshly-broken ground or placed on the paths in the kitchen garden. F. H.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Does fruit growing pay?

YOUR correspondent, "Pomona" (issue dated March 5th), inquired what the Government was doing to encourage Apple-growing, and suggested that if readers knew any members of Parliament they would communicate with them on the subject.

I wrote to the member of this Division (Newbury), Brigadier-General Howard Clifton Brown, sending him the cutting from your journal, and on receipt of my letter he wrote to the President of the Ministry of Agriculture on the matter.

With the approval of General Clifton Brown I enclose the correspondence so that your correspondent, "Pomona," may see that the Government are alive to the importance of Apple-growing, also leaflets from the Ministry in regard to Apple cultivation.

General Clifton Brown is of the opinion that the information cannot be too widely circulated.

D. M. ROBERTSON (MISS),
Hon. Sec., Cold Ash Conservative Association.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
10, Whitehall Place, S.W. 1,
March 18th, 1927.

Brigadier-General H. CLIFTON BROWN, M.P.

MY DEAR CLIFTON BROWN,

You asked me what steps the Ministry of Agriculture is taking to encourage Apple-growing in this country.

The help which is given by or through my Department to growers of Apples and other agricultural or horticultural crops may be divided under two heads. (1) Education and Research and (2) Marketing. As regards the first-named, Leaflet No. 279 issued by the Ministry gives particulars of the organisation which has been set up to provide technical advice for growers. You will see from the leaflet that any grower in need of technical assistance should first consult the county staff. In the majority of cases county staffs include one or more horticultural specialists, whose duty it is to visit and advise individual growers, to give lectures, and generally to encourage and foster the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. If the county officers meet with any problem which they are unable to solve they transfer it to the specialist advisory officers at provincial colleges, to workers at research stations, or to the Ministry's own Technical Officers. Further, most counties have established Fruit Demonstration Plots for the purpose of demonstrating to local growers the advantages of the adoption of up-to-date methods of fruit cultivation and the varieties most suitable for local conditions. A number of leaflets and other publications have been issued by the Ministry relating to Apples, their cultivation, packing and grading, and the insect and fungus pests of this fruit.

On the marketing side work is also being done in the interests of Apple growers.

An investigation into fruit marketing problems has recently been completed, and the results are about to be published in a "Report on Fruit Marketing in England and Wales" (Economic Series No. 15), a copy of which can be obtained through any bookseller. Further, the Ministry proposes to demonstrate improved marketing practices, including grading and packing, at some of the bigger agricultural shows this season.

Assistance is also offered to those Apple growers who are, or wish to be, organised co-operatively, by means of a scheme under which co-operative societies may obtain long-term loans to assist in the marketing of their produce (*vide* Leaflet A. 157/S.C.). Finally, with the aid of public funds continuous experiments are being conducted into such problems as storage methods and the practice of commercial canning.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) WALTER GUINNESS.

Brussels Sprouts

The note of "A Scottish Gardener" (page 183, March 26th issue) is of some interest to me as I was asked the reason as to the same kind of occurrence two or three years back. It is not, in my experience, a very common one, and seasons do not seem to be its cause. According to the information received from the grower I came to the conclusion that the soil was too loose, for if there is one thing militates against the formation of buttons it is loose soil.

One does not go so far as to plant them with a crowbar on undug land from w crop has been removed, such as an old berry bed as recommended by some, land has to be dug it should either be or allowed time to settle. This may the cause in all the cases referred to above writer, and it will be of use to h experiences of other writers. A

Black spot of Roses

In your issue of March 5th "Ros supplies a statement on "Black s Dangerous Disease of Roses," warrants comment from this side Atlantic which I trust may be constr helpful to our English friends, who, w desire to control this nasty and dis disease.

In 1917 the American Rose Society a scientific study of black spot, wh developed through pathologists at University and elsewhere. Dr. Massey has given more attention disease than any other American path I think, and his conclusions have bee larly reported in the American Rose A first in 1917, then much more extens 1918, while in 1922, with five years of ence, definite conclusions were arriv so definite, indeed, that one treatment mended is headed "The Conquest o Spot."

I quote very briefly from Dr. M article in the 1922 American Rose which may not be easily accessible readers:—

"Black spot of Roses is cause fungus. This parasitic plant is scopic and attacks Roses only. over the winter in dead leaves, ei the ground or clinging to the plant held that in England the fungus pa winter as mycelium in spots on th and that the winter-spore stage, w velops commonly in this country, formed.) . . . In the spring or ear mer, when the Rose plant is putt its leaves, the spores of the para matured. . . . The agents invol transferring the spores and thus lating the plants are wind and s rain. . . . The mycelium within continues to live throughout the and winter. . . . When the disease fall from the plant, prematurely mally, the fungus does not die, tinues to live throughout the wint With the arrival of warm weather winter spores, which are to init disease for another season, are mat

"Black spot control should be upon as a major operation in Rose . . . The one measure that has b cessful in the control of black spo of protecting the Rose by covering with some fungicide that would pre spore of the fungus from penetra cuticle. . . . The problem is to l fungicide present on the leaf w necessary moisture for germinatio fection is present. . . . Bordeaux fulfils these requirements (but it colours the foliage that its use is p out of the question. As a subst Bordeaux the use of ammoniaca carbonate is recommended. . .

"Other materials tested by th were liquid lime-sulphur solutio finely-ground mixture of 90 parts and 10 parts arsenate of lead. sulphur-lead dust was as effi Bordeaux and did not greatly disc foliage. A dry dust was found to to handle and apply than a liqu cide. The material tested posses fungicidal and insecticidal proper arsenate of lead powder being ef

control of chewing insects. . . . Ap-
ations of dust are best made in the
y morning or in the evening when the
is still. . . . The minute dust particles
ge among the hairs on the leaves in
icient numbers to provide protection,
n though one standing a few feet away
not detect the presence of any dust on
foliage."

this method has been extensively
in the United States in the past five
and the results warrant the statement
ne presence of black spot in an Ameri-
ose garden is an evidence of poor sani-
and carelessness. The approved
d here is to avoid all manure mulches,
are well known to harbour the winter
of black spot because of the ease with
affected leaves may be concealed in it.
stitute for this mulch inert granulated
to pick off and destroy promptly all
d leaves, and to persist in the dust
ent from earliest spring until the
are put away for the winter, some-
ven adding a winter spray of Bordeaux
e-sulphur, is an additional protection.
usting is done at least once a week,
can state from my own experience at
Hill, where a rather extensive Rose
is carefully maintained, that black
negligible, and at the same time
has ceased to be a factor. By the
n of one part of powdered Tobacco
ve take care of the aphis, so that we
ut one application for the various in-
nd diseases which are the major Rose
in American practice.
essential to know, however, that the
used must be of the fine character
as "dusting sulphur," which is a
product, and very different, indeed,
e commercial flowers of sulphur, the
eing useless.
ammoniacal copper carbonate method
v been successfully used in the way
American commercial product called
rogen," and using this every week
ul check-tests carried on several years
d reported in the American Rose
has shown equal potency with the
that its convenience and cleanliness
d it. Either method will keep off
pot and mildew if persistently fol-

ot believed here that the soil has any
whatever to these diseases. One of
t important American soil authori-
T. T. Lyon, who is a soil physio-
f Cornell University, insists that
ical conditions have no relation
to soils, or, indeed, to general Rose
So far as mildew is concerned, the
n experiments which have been
d in this country seem to con-
show that a relative excess of
n the soil tends to prevent the inci-
nd continuance of powdery mildew.
any confirmatory experiences have
orted in the American Rose Annual.
ng a further statement on the general
which "Rosarian" has treated, I
y that we have found no difficulty
oting Rose prosperity by the use of
anures during the summer, applied
e to time and poured through the
ch after a careful moistening of the
J. HORACE MCFARLAND.

Rosarian" says he applies lime
uring! Does the lime not neutralise
onia contained in the manure? Is
? I would say apply lime three
efore manuring. E. P.

Roses on sticky soil

orrespondent, B. Hewitt (page 166),
n interesting problem regarding
t soil, that if the matter were dealt with at a gardeners' meeting there would result, no doubt, many stories of varied experiences, and a lively discussion would follow on a system of drainage and methods to make such an unkindly soil more suitable.

So far as my experience goes, my method would be to cover the bottom of the Rose border with clinkers and rough coal ashes to a depth of 9 inches or 10 inches, doing this by opening trenches about 4 feet wide at a time and so on till the border was finished. A little long straw over the drainage before the soil is replaced will keep the drainage clear, and as the soil is being thrown over from the next trench such material as will help to keep it open can be incorporated, even such material as Hawthorn hedge prunings, Brassica stalks, and strawy litter, the whole being chopped and pulverised with the spade, leaving the border for the remainder of the season to become drier and to settle down. It would be an advantage to lay a row of drain-pipes from a low point in the bottom of the border to carry off surplus water.

In the autumn slow-burning rubbish fires should be kept going, skimmings of soil from the surface of the border being thrown on any fire that would glow too fiercely, thus making a goodly amount of charred material to be ultimately scattered about and dug in. The application of manures should be left till a later date or another season. All such preparatory work of the soil will delay Rose-planting till February or March, and may, indeed, be labour in vain if the Roses are planted haphazard with long roots doubled up in a little hole. It is best to make the holes to receive them large enough, trimming off some of the long roots—in some cases more than half-steady the plants in position with a spadeful of potting-shed loam round them before being finally planted. Then, I think, the only foe we could not fight for them would be the leaf-cutting bee. J. C. G.

Lonicera fragrantissima

My Lonicera fragrantissima has evidently been encouraged by the attention it has excited, as it has started flowering, though somewhat scantily. I hope L. Thibetica will follow its example later in the season.

A. M. A. H. ROGERS.

Iris reticulata

Referring to "W. McG.'s" interesting letter (issue March 19th, page 166) on Iris reticulata, he says it only increases slowly. I find it increases well if lifted in July and put in a box of dry sand and planted in October in a bed that has previously had rotten manure dug into it. Thus treated here in Co. Wicklow it is a lovely sight in February. Unless lifted it is attacked by the disease. B. E. D'OLIER.

Kilmullen.

P.S.—A group of Scilla grandiflora is in great beauty at the moment. I consider it the most effective of the family, it is such a glorious blue; but the birds love eating it, though black cotton prevents their attacks.

Fungoid disease of Anemone coronaria

Growers of St. Brigid and Caen Anemones are frequently disappointed at this season of the year to find that some of their plants are carrying no flowers, and that the foliage is rather taller, with the leaflets more recurved, than in normal plants. Careful inspection will reveal a number of spots or eruptions on the underside of the leaf, and a pocket lens will show the larger of these spots to be a tiny cup embedded in the leaf. It is the Anemone Cluster-cup fungus (Puccinia Prunispinosæ), one of the parasitic rusts. From a biological standpoint it is a most interesting fungus, sharing with many other rusts the curious habit of spending its life-cycle on two such totally different plants as the Anemone and the Plum tree. The little cups which we find in spring on Anemones do not produce similar cups, but their spores give rise to little brown pustules on the under-surface of Plum leaves, which, in turn, produce the final and more highly complex spores known as the teleutospores, also on the Plum leaves. It is from these Plum-carried teleutospores that fresh infection of the Anemones occurs, but once an Anemone plant has become infected it will always remain so. As soon as the disease is observed the Anemone should be pulled up and burnt, for it will never bloom, and is only a source of infection. Luckily the infected Plum tree does not appear to suffer appreciably from the rust, but it is certainly not advisable to risk planting Anemones in close proximity to Plum trees.

Although Anemones of the coronaria type are the most susceptible to attack, I have seen A. fulgens carrying cluster-cups, and it has been recorded on our native Wood Anemone. In other countries A. ranunculoides, Hepaticas, Winter Aconite, and species of Thalictrum are said to have been infected. In many gardens the rust may escape detection, but where Anemones are failing to flower satisfactorily search should at once be made for the cluster-cups.

West Porlock, Som. N. G. HADDEN.

Moles in loose ground

The best way I know to kill moles (F. W., p. 194) is to poison some worsted with rat poison (put some poison on a bit of paper and draw the worsted through the paper), thread through a worm, cut up the worm, and place in the runs. A. W. LEATHAM.

Smallfield Place, Horley.

Schizocodon soldanelloides

Your correspondent, Mr. S. Arnott, in his note on the above plant (page 117) mentions that he saw this in the woodland at Wisley during the time the gardens were the property of the late Mr. G. F. Wilson. I am sure he will be interested to know that, although probably not the same plant that he saw at that date, this little-known native of Japan is still growing remarkably well in the wild garden. The position it occupies is slightly under the shade of a large Camellia. The natural soil is a moist, sandy peat. This, with an annual top-dressing, seems to meet its requirements, as the plant now covers a few square feet and is in perfect health. R. FINDLAY.

Wisley.

The coreless Apple: Is it possible?

A Somersetshire-born man having written to the Minister of Agriculture with regard to the possibility of producing a coreless Apple, pointing out what a boon the production of such would be if under glass, like the Cucumber, or by some other method than that of tree growth, and inquiring what information the Ministry had on the subject, has received the following interesting letter:—

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1.
February 25th, 1927.

I am directed to refer to your letter of the 21st instant and to say that, so far as the Ministry is aware, only one instance of the production of coreless Apples is known. In Quebec a tree of the Snow variety is said to have produced some coreless Apples in 1923, though it is understood that the Apples from the same tree in the following year were quite normal. The Ministry is not aware of any research in this direction being taken.

Veronica hulkeana, a New Zealand plant that is very beautiful in early spring

It is here seen in the garden of Mr. T. Ashton Lofthouse at Linthorpe, Middlesbrough

New Zealand Plants in a Scottish Garden

I HAVE had occasion to send to Dr. Cockayne, the eminent New Zealand botanist, a list of plants from his country grown in my garden here. Thinking that, perhaps, your readers may be interested I send you the list with some notes. The abbreviations H. for hardy and V.H. for very hardy I have used more in conjunction with (as an endorsement or otherwise of) similar signs in Dr. Cockayne's most useful little volume, "The Cultivation of New Zealand Plants" (Whitcombe and Tombs, Ltd., Christchurch, N.Z.). Here H. should be taken as meaning that the plant is suitable for favoured gardens and V.H. as suitable for most gardens.

To give full information upon each plant would take up too much of your space, but I may remark that whilst many of my list will adapt themselves to and grow well in any ordinary garden, there are others which need more care, and in connection with these it is well to remember that Wellington, the capital and roughly the centre of New Zealand, is in latitude 42. The same latitude in this hemisphere is, say, at Lisbon. We are short of sun for making growth and for hardening the wood sufficiently to stand our winter. Many of these plants have to stand as much frost in New Zealand as here, but they are hardened more thoroughly by a stronger sun.

We have, therefore, to make up for our climatic shortcomings by giving care as to position and common-sense attention to soil in which we plant.

Of my list I would recommend to your readers Gaya Lyalli, a deciduous small tree, easy to grow, with beautiful pure white flowers. The Leptospermums are both graceful and beautiful, white, pink, or red; slow at first, but hardy and easy after that with me.

Phormium tenax is much handicapped by the usual instruction to place it near water; that is the place where the hardest frost is to be found. If young plants are used it may be placed in even the windiest part of one's garden. Ground should be deeply trenched, and this plant appreciates fatness of soil.

There has been some controversy in your columns as to Senecio Greyii, as "H. W. L.," writing to you on the 5th inst., says this plant is hardy anywhere here, sun or shade, it grows and flowers. The same may be said of the lesser growers, S. laxifolius and S. compactus.

C. J. CRAWFORD.

Fife.

NEW ZEALAND PLANTS.

Acæna Buchanani—V.H.
,, microphylla—H. For moraine treatment.
,, several var. unnamed—V.H. Rampers.
Aciphylla squarrosa—V.H.
Angelica rosæfolia—H.
Aristotelia racemosa (serrata)—V.H.
Arthropodium candidum—H. Slugs very severe early spring.
Arthropodium cirratus. On trial. Probably V.H. Slugs very severe early spring.
Arundo conspicua—V.H.
Carmichaelia australis. Requires wall.
,, Enysii. On trial. Probably V.H.
Carpodetus serratus. On trial.
Cassinia fulvida—V.H.
,, leptophylla—H.
Celmisia holosericea—V.H.
,, longifolia—V.H.
,, petiolata—V.H.
,, spectabilis—V.H.
Chrysobactron Hookeri—V.H.
Clematis indivisa lobata. 5 years planted out; no flowers yet.
Clianthus puniceus } Do very well on walls in 10 years; only once seriously damaged.
,, ,, var. alba. }
Coprosma acerosa—V.H.
,, Baueri—H. On house with some protection.
,, Petriei. On trial.
Cordyline australis—V.H.
,, ,, purple var.—V.H.
,, indivisa—V.H.
,, one smaller var. unnamed seedling—H.
Corokia Cotoneaster—V.H.
Corynocarpus lævigata. Killed, winter 1925-26.
Cotula squalida and two other varieties—V.H. Rampers.
Silver Tussac Grass—V.H.
Dianella intermedia. On trial.
Edwardsia microphylla—H. Say, 10-year-old p flowers yet.
Epilobium macropus. On trial.
Fuchsia Colensoi—V.H.
,, excorticata—V.H.
,, procumbens. Needs protection.
Gaya Lyallii—V.H. Very beautiful, easy.
Geranium Traversii—V.H. Flourishes, and selfsc
Griselinia littoralis—V.H.
Helichrysum bellidioides—V.H.
,, Selago minor—H.
Leptospermum ericoides—V.H. } Slow at firs
,, scoparium var. Nicholsii—V.H. } and beaut
,, prostratum—V.H. } establis
Eucopogon Fraseri—V.H., but does not seem to
Libertia grandiflora—V.H. } Most useful, and f
,, ixioides—V.H. } than the common L.
Linum monogynum—H, but not long lived.
Lobelia linæoides—V.H.
Mazus radicans—V.H.
Metrosideros diffusa } In experimental stage,
,, florida } promise well.
,, lucida }
Muehlenbeckia australis—V.H.
,, axillaris—V.H.
Myoporum lætum. Killed, winter 1925-26.
Myosotidium hortensis. Needs plenty moistur period, and some protection winter.
Myrtus bullata—H., but not satisfactory.
,, nummularia? Farrer gives this as N.Z' named by N.Z. authorities.
,, obcordata—H, but does not progress.
Nertera depressa—H.
Notospartium Carmichaeliæ. Needs wall.
Olearia chatamica. Its first winter very unhap
,, Forsteri—H.
,, Haastii—V.H.
,, ilicifolia—V.H. A good one.
,, insignis. On trial, but promises well.
,, macrodonta—V.H. and vigorous.
,, moschata—V.H.
,, nitida (arborescens)—V.H. An excellen
,, nummularifolia—V.H.
,, semidentata—V.H. A very beautiful sh a position where soil will not dry out, there is not too much frost.
,, Traversii—H.
Phormium tenax. Say, five varieties. V.H.
,, Cookianum and alpina—V.H. Coo the Mountain Flax, and suitable f anywhere in G.B.
Pimelia virgata—H.
Pittosporum eugenioides, and, say, three othe The Holly-leaved black stalked one the best or specimen. V.H.
Podocarpus nivalis—V.H. A pleasing little rockery.
Pomaderris elliptica. Seedlings on trial.
Raoulia australis—V.H.
,, glabra—V.H.
Rubus australis—V.H.
Senecio cassinioides. Seedlings on trial.
Senecio compactus—V.H. A small growing va
,, Greyii—V.H. anywhere, spreading, vig
,, Haastii, two varieties—V.H. once, a promises well
,, laxifolius—V.H. A lesser S. Greyii.
,, Monroi—H.
,, revolutus. On trial.
,, rotundifolius—H. Vigorous, bright gre
Stipa arundinacea (Apera)—V.H.
Veronica Andersonii variegated var—H. Needs position.
,, Bidwillii—V.H.
,, catarractæ—V.H.
,, chatamica. It departed, I do not kno ness.
,, Colensoi var. glauca—V.H. Good, very floriferous.
,, cupressoides—V.H.
,, decumbens—V.H.
,, diosmæfolia—V.H.
,, epacridea—V.H.
,, Hectori—V.H. One of the whipcor with a nasty habit of dying in parts.

Olearia insignis, which grows on t tain side with Veronica hulk

The young leaves are clothed with tomentum

nica Hookeriana—V.H.
, Hulkeana—H. Better on house or other sheltered position; very beautiful early spring.
Hulkeana var. Fairfieldi—V.H. A good hybrid.
Lavaudiana. New to me, but promises very well.
linifolia—V.H.
monticola—V.H.
pimeleoides—V.H. A good one, seldom seen.
salicifolia—V.H.
,, var parviflora—V.H.
speciosa. Only for a snug corner.
Traversii—V.H.
numerous hybrids. Only a few of which worth having.

H = hardy. V.H. = very hardy.

REES AND SHRUBS

Forsythias

HOSE who have a garden big enough to ultivate a few rather tall-growing owering shrubs at their best from the e of March onwards, and within easy of Hyde Park, should not miss the opnity of seeing this glorious bank of n-yellow within the next few days; it

, I feel sure, prompt them to invest in nt or two, and there is yet time to such treasures. The display is borderı the bandstand, so easily reached from Park Corner.

tall and somewhat pendent shoots are with their glorious blossoms, showing the greatest advantage when the sun around the plants.

suspensa, F. viridissima, and F. spectaare a splendid trio for the shrubbery and are sure to arrest attention when oom. The necessary thinning or ıg should be carried out as soon as the ing season is over, as the blossoms are ced on well-ripened shoots made the us summer, the amount of growth annually on a plant being a good guide the amount of pruning required.

J. MAYNE.

Diplopappus chrysophylla

attractive New Zealand evergreen is of great value for brightening the re grounds and shrubbery during the n and winter months, by reason of its yellow colouring, which is more proed in specimens exposed to full sun n those growing in a more shady or position.

a distance a well-developed example might be mistaken for a golden variegated Retinospora, but on a closer inspection this idea is at once dispelled as it is then seen that it has a closer resemblance to a Heath than to the Conifer alluded to. The leaves are very small and yellow on the under sides, and the bark of the young growths is streaked with, and is sometimes quite golden-yellow in colour. The flowers are creamy-white; they are small and produced in abundance during July and August.

I have found it make more rapid growth on a light than a heavy soil. Its habit of growth is best described as being of a close nature. The branches are thickly clothed with its very small leaves, and in some cases is somewhat pyramidal in form, reaching to a height of from 5 feet to 6 feet. During the dull months of the year the young growths and sprays are useful for mixing with cut flowers and for decorative purposes at the festive season. The above is also known and grown under the name of Cassinia fulvida.

A. WARD.

Willow blossoms

We like the delicate scent of the white Willow catkins in spring. The colour of the flowers is so soft, and very like that of the tender green of the young leaves. The Palm Willow, too, has a delicate odour, and probably a number of other kinds; but if there were only the white Willow and its forms they are worth remembering for their delicate odour when in bloom. They often occur about ponds or in moist places in woods, and are worth planting where they do not grow naturally.

Forsythias now flowering at Kew.

THE Forsythias are foremost among the flowering shrubs at this season. Forsythia suspensa is seen in the above illustration growing to a height of about 9 feet, with all its widespread branches wreathed in yellow flowers. There is a pleasing quality in the colour of the flowers, lemon yellow toned with green.

The lower illustration depicts a fine bed of Forsythia intermedia spectabilis, probably the most popular and certainly the most showy of all Forsythias. Flowers deep golden yellow and abundantly produced on rather erect growing shoots. It is the best of all for grouping on lawns.

All Forsythias are easily cultivated, and do well in London gardens. The genus fittingly commemorates William Forsyth, once Superintendent of the Royal Gardens at Kensington, 1737-1804.

In the background of both illustrations may be seen the fine old Stone Pine at Kew, Pinus Pinea—a specimen that compares favourably with the many fine examples of this species on the shores of the Mediterranean.

Cupressus Lawsoniana in bloom

Lawson's Cypress has its dark green, Fern-like branchlets so heavily laden with bright crimson male catkins as to render the branchlets more drooping than usual, and even at some little distance to impart quite a glowing red colour to the entire specimen. A closer inspection also reveals the great beauty and bright tints of the male catkins. I find they retain their colour for some time in water and are much admired.

A. G.

In April the rock garden is seen at its best
Saxifrages, Primulas, and Anemones flowering in profusion

ALPINES

Viola lutea

I WANT to put in a plea for our own mountain Daisy, Viola lutea, which is so little seen in gardens and yet so well deserves a place. In its native habitats it runs the whole gamut of blues and purples. Not a hundred yards from here it carpets a meadow with a dozen different combinations of colour; blue and white, blue and purple, white and purple, with here and there a rich royal purple self. A very tiny blue and white one grows in the rabbit-bitten turf of the Cumberland shore, hugging the ground closely as if to hide from the boisterous gales that sweep over the sandhills. Farrer, in "My Rock Garden," says "in Teesdale whole miles of meadow, rich with Globeflower and Geranium, are carpeted with millions of it in every shade from butter-white to the densest Tyrian violet." Its yellow form I have only found once, although Farrer gives Penyghent as one of its stations, and that was high up in our Yorkshire fells, where I came suddenly upon a field starred over with its tiny yellow faces.

Of Viola lutea as a garden plant I have had considerable experience, and I cannot speak too highly of it. It is such a tender-hearted little thing, so prodigal of itself, giving wonderful wealth of bloom the summer long and then scattering its seed far and wide, in the chinks of the wall, between the paving stones, among the shrubs in the border; in fact, almost everywhere.

Although it seeds itself like a veritable weed, you never know what beautiful child you may find among its numerous progeny. I discovered a perfectly black one once, but I rather think that was the result of an indiscretion with a garden Pansy. It lacked the delicate drawing of the real Viola lutea; it was rounder, plumper, and more comfortable-looking somehow.

I think this lovely little Viola is at its best in the wall. It forms a neat mass which rivals Aubrietia for colour, while it has the added advantage of a blooming season lasting from spring until late autumn. The plants are literally smothered in flowers, but it is advisable to go round with the scissors occasionally and ship off the seed capsules, thus giving the blossoms more room and improving the appearance of the plants at the same time. Viola lutea makes a splendid edging to the herbaceous border, where its long blooming season is a great advantage. It is also good for the rock garden, but it would be unwise to plant it among choice alpines on account of its seeding propensities. One requirement it has, and that is sunshine. If it is to keep its close habit and produce its maximum of bloom it must have a place in the sun. The soil need not be rich, although it responds well to a little good loam, but it loves the sun, and, granted that one condition, will bloom lustily the whole summer through.

E. H. RASPIN.

Nesfield, Yorks.

Flowering shrubs for the rock garden

DWARF flowering shrubs are usually to be seen playing their part on most rock gardens, filling up positions that lend themselves to such subjects, and often in positions that do "not" do them justice or give them their ideal aspect by any means. Together with the dwarfer Conifers, they are capable of giving a charming effect, besides breaking the probable monotony of masses of low growing plants; they also assist in giving height to parts of the garden where it may be thought necessary, and also help to dwarf in appearance other plants that really look better the dwarfer they are. In any case almost, upright shrubs offer their best appearance when growing amongst plants that are more or less carpeters, so that the taller and shorter items may be observed in their best form; then there is little possibility of one individual blotting out from view its close companion. With a little forethought in planting, many errors can be avoided, but ideal placing of plants for effect is undoubtedly a fine art, which necessitates a thorough knowledge of the nature and habits of the subjects to be dealt with.

HYPERICUM CORIS may be considered one of the choicest of the family of St. John's Worts, dainty and attractive and equally and satisfactory to grow. It is a co shrublet to be met with in the lim districts of the Maritime Alps, with wooded russet brown stems, and flimsy, branchlets carrying the numerous smal row leaves, strongly resembling some of heather. Its flowers are of a rich g yellow, and are profusely produced d the summer. Six or nine inches is a average height for this plant. There s be no difficulty about its propagation, will seed readily when established in a warm, sunny and well-drained gritty Cuttings may also be taken when the growths are soft.

ROSA ALPINA.—This alpine species considerably in height, from 1 foot to or 5 feet, but only the dwarf forms are able for the medium-sized rock ga Although these are uncommon, they a be obtained from experts who have car selected, collected, and proved them true dwarf forms. An ample sunny p of fibrous loam is all that is nec for their welfare, where the plant is at l to run about and make a mat of growt more than a foot high. Its large, bright pink flowers are borne on short during the early summer, and are late lowed by longish orange-scarlet hips, provide means of increasing one's stock

LITHOSPERMUM PETRÆUM is another u mon shrub, also known as Moltkia pe which bears a striking resemblance bush of ordinary Lavender when n bloom, with its grey-green foliage and habit, usually 12 inches to 18 inch height. It thrives well in limy soil, plenty of sunshine is available and dra is satisfactory. It comes from the Al Greece, but apparently is far from plentiful. The flowers are carrie clustered drooping heads, rather like of L. intermedium, and are of a deep purple shade. When seed is obtainab is the surest and easiest way of propag at any rate I have always had more o dissatisfaction in the success of strikin tings, which does not encourage one vise such means of increasing the pl

The lovely little Viola lutea is seen its best in the wall

HNE PETRÆA (syn. D. rupestris) is a pine gem, an exquisite shrublet of great and merit, exceptionally slow grow- nd rarely topping 6 inches, even at a age, but it continues to broaden out velop a stout, sturdy specimen, with dark green leathery leaves, which it retains. It smothers itself with dense heads of waxy pink trumpets in nd June. These are deliciously frag- nd pleasing, and are a great feature. ure it lives on the faces of hot lime- liffs, where they are almost inacces- nd secure. It is easy to cultivate, but nd is always worthy of one of the t positions in the rock garden. It rive in sunny positions on the scree ed firmly between boulders, provided inage is right. Being a real lime bundant limestone chippings should uded in the compost, together with uld, sand, and loam. Grafted plants uch happier and satisfactory than do ns on their own roots in cultivation. years a fine glorified form has made arance, with flowers twice as large of the type. This is called Daphne grandiflora. Both plants are excel- alpine house culture.

NE CNEORUM.—This plant is, no he best known and most popular of y, being extensively used throughout try. The number disposed of yearly serymen must run into many ls. The plant does not need much it sells itself. It is fine when in full earing rounded heads of densely set of a rich pink colour, further en- by its strong, sweet perfume, that mply cannot resist it. It is an ever- ow growing shrub, whose stems endency to hug the soil. These may vantage be pegged down and light m filled in amongst the growths to mote the making of new roots. It y natural European stations, where ls on limestone formations, but for son they also perfectly enjoy sandy compost. A warm, sunny aspect it it, where it is moderately cool t at root in summer. Another not- hne we have in D. Blagyana, a shrubby species, from the Eastern t produces clusters of large creamy ssoms, highly fragrant, in March.

YCARPUS SETOSUS makes a stragg- of bright green, with much divided es clothing its flopping stems. It the easiest plants to grow, requir- ng more than plenty of sun and an Its popularity is handicapped by g insignificant flowers, but never- ere are a charm and attraction in white berries that stud its stems in summer, which give the plant its name, the Pearl Berry. It makes m, too, for the wall garden. South s the native habitat of this quaint

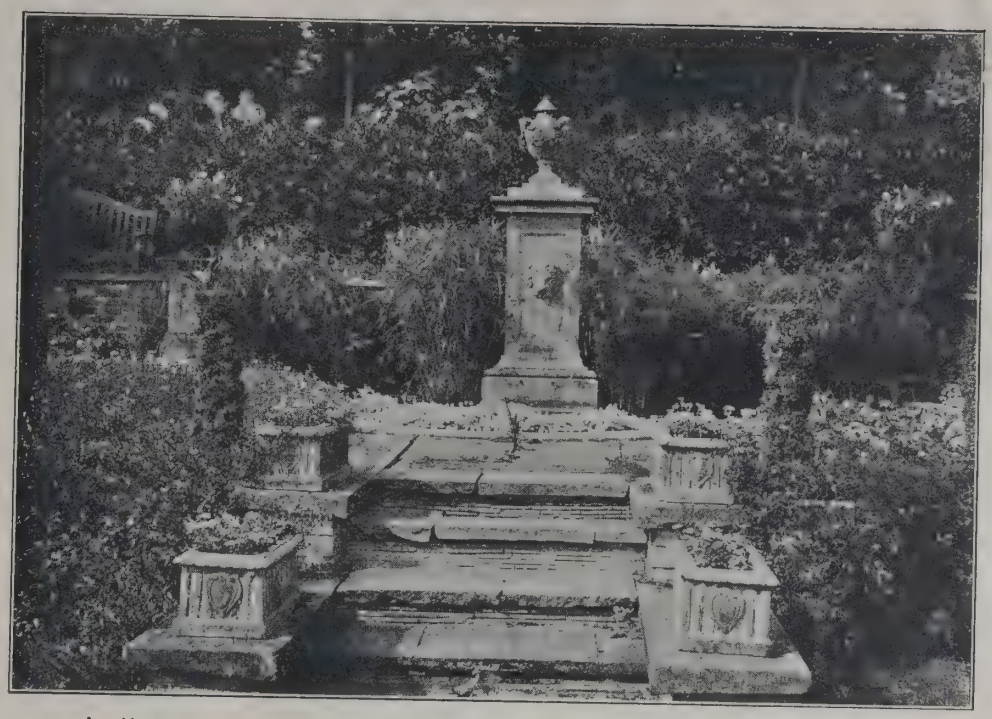
FRUTICOSA is a species of the Alps né, and is capable of developing ub 2 feet to 3 feet in height. Its trifoliate and stalkless, bearing errations on their margins. It is ous species, carrying its pink pea- ssoms, three or so on a stalk. ear during the summer, and are y hairy seed-pods that give ample increase, which is the best way, seedlings are collected. A deep ight, gritty soil in the hottest and spects should meet with its appro- species also will thrive well on a ehind which there is a liberal root

MA GRANDIFLORUM.—This, from anon, is probably the noblest of emas, making an attractive lax bush, 18 inches high, of woody unbranched stems, with long, narrow grey leaves. Its flowers in summer crowd its tall, waving spires, and present a striking and stately spectacle, as they are large and of a bright rose hue. Seed is usually plentiful on well-established specimens, and it is the only profitable and satisfactory way of raising new plants. Their culture is simple and easy, and I know of no difficulty they possess. A dry, sunny position in ordinary well-drained soil is all that is necessary for the plant to go ahead and flourish, but as the true species is not very common, beware of imitations.

VIBURNUM CARLESII is a household word in flowering shrubs, and is undoubtedly a great favourite of all who know it. It comes from Korea, and is an exquisite edition of our native Wayfaring Tree. It flowers in spring, having dense heads of waxy white trumpets, which fill the air around the plants with a strong fragrance. It takes the shape of a rounded bush, and is slow growing. The leaves are large and oval, and are covered with fine, short grey hairs, making them more or less velvety to the touch, and also making them look as if they have lived by a dusty roadside. Indeed, when its delicious flowers are gone, the plant has but a very ordinary appearance. An open sunny position in a light loamy soil will do the plant well. It may be grown equally well in an open border or any similar position.

F. BARKER.

(To be continued.)



In the gardens at Walmsgate Hall, Lincs, the seat of Capt. Dallas-Yorke

Coreopsis verticillata

Of this it may be said with every confidence that it is one of the prettiest of our border composites of low-growing habit. This plant may be increased by division in spring or by means of seeds. It flowers in summer and lasts for a long time in bloom. While the flowers are inferior in size to those of C. lanceolata or C. grandiflora, their grace and the profusion with which they are borne give C. verticillata a high claim upon growers of hardy border flowers.

Seed beds

Choosing a free and sunny piece of ground, advantage should be taken of the drying surface to get it lightly forked over, and after a light application of wood-ashes endeavour to bring the surface to a fine condition by repeated raking and the removal of all coarse particles. The bed should be firm, but not unduly so, and when completed, providing the weather is quite favourable, the shallow drills may be drawn and the seeds of the following sown:—Broccoli, Savoy, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, red and green, Borekole in several varieties, Cauliflower, Leeks, etc.

The Gardens at Walmsgate Hall

THE gardens at Walmsgate, near Louth, in Lincolnshire, are a popular resort for people from all parts of the county. They have been open to the public, on payment of a small fee, for many years, the proceeds being devoted to charitable objects.

There, beneath the shade of luxuriant Cedars, is a garden which gleams in the brilliant sunshine like a kaleidoscope, the floral adornments appearing as "stars that on earth's firmament do shine." There may be seen to perfection the beautiful Water Lilies, around which goldfish disport themselves; there, too, the clustered Hydrangeas make a goodly show, and the queen of the garden, the Rose, "sweet as English air can make her," holds her Court.

All the beauty of that charming pleasaunce we owe to the late Captain Dallas-Yorke, an old Crimean hero, the father of the Duchess of Portland.

He it was who planted the Cedars, and, notwithstanding the fact that he weathered the storm and stress of upwards of 90 years, nothing gave him greater pleasure in his declining years than to pilot the visitor around his garden, of which he was justly proud.

The photograph reproduced on this page shows the artistic lay-out of a portion of the garden as seen from the lawn. The stone steps and ornamental stone baskets filled with flowering plants give access to a fountain which fills a small pond in which Water Lilies flourish. Around is a flagged pavement in the interstices of which plants find a root-hold.

The venerable Captain had a keen artistic sense, and the planning of the garden and the selection of its ornaments were carried out with taste.

HENRY WALKER.

Gayton le Marsh, Alford, Lincs.

Magnolia salicifolia, a deciduous species from Japan, shown by Mr. Lionel de Rothschild. Award of Merit

Royal Horticultural Society

The brilliant show held at Vincent Square on March 22nd and 23rd has been appropriately described as "a fairyland of colour and fragrance"

THE fortnightly meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, held on March 22nd and 23rd, was remarkable, not so much for the magnitude of its exhibits as for their great variety and interest.

Groups of Daffodils, Alpines, Orchids, Carnations, flowering shrubs, including Rhododendrons, were well represented from all parts of the country.

There were wonderful displays of Roses, especially Fortune's Yellow, shown in the greatest possible profusion, while Dalrymple's fragrant Freesias were better than ever, and many new shades of pink, mauve, orange, and yellow were noticed.

Tulips and Daffodils

A splendid collection of Tulips in fibre was put up by R. H. Bath, Ltd. Foremost among the varieties were Pride of Haarlem, Andromache, Clara Butt, Le Notre, Gesneriana lutea, and Empress of China.

Early Dutch Tulips, including Reve d'Or, Peach Blossom, Electra, and Murillo, were admirably shown by J. Carter and Co.

Darwin Tulips and Pheasant's Eye Narcissus were shown by Mr. G. W. Miller. His best Darwin Tulips were Cramoise Brilliant, William Copland, Princess Elizabeth, and William Pitt.

A large and well-arranged group of Daffodils was staged by J. R. Pearson and Sons in their accustomed corner of the hall near the gallery. Here we observed the scarlet-eyed Firetail in exceptionally good form, the blooms being larger and of even more intense colour than usual. The chaste Evangeline, Hera, and Zillah were outstanding varieties in this group.

The largest display of Daffodils was staged by Barr and Sons. It was a very comprehensive collection, including Royal Gold (a fine trumpet), Tasse d'Or (large trumpet), Orange Glory (Cyclamineus hybrid), Aerolite, Sunrise (lovely colouring), Siegfried, Nightingale (a perfect Poet), Bardolph, and Sungold.

Very choice were the Daffodils shown by Mr. J. Richardson, of Waterford. Here were to be seen Golden Prophet, a sound trumpet, the bold orange-cupped Fortune, one of the most sensational Daffodils of recent years, and a magnificent vase of the new Grackle, a well-proportioned Incomparabilis with deep orange cup and yellow perianth. This variety, which is a good, neat garden flower, was raised by Mr. P. D. Williams, and is illustrated on the page opposite.

It was quite refreshing to see a group of Daffodils by Cartwright and Goodwin once again. This included Cleopatra, Weardale Perfection, King Alfred, and Elvira.

Daffodils were also shown by Mr. J. W. Barr, while Mr. P. D. Williams sent a number of fine seedlings, no fewer than five of which gained the Award of Merit and a recommendation for a trial at Wisley for a sixth! This is, probably, a record for one show.

Rhododendrons and other flowering shrubs

Brilliant trusses of Rhododendron Cornubia and R. H. T. Gill were shown by I and Son. A new hybrid, Rh. luti parentage Spinuliferum x lutescens shown by the same firm. The flowers newcomer are pale yellow suffused wit and with prominent anthers. As show plant, lifted from the open, was abou in height and carried several neat tru bloom, the best of which is illustrated page opposite. The rare Daphne C and the glowing pink Magnolia Car were present in this refreshing group.

From Hillier and Sons came Pyruses, Lilacs, and Azaleas, togeth Osmanthus Delavayi, Euonymus fim and the little-known Amelanchier asi low tree with snow-white flowers and downy on the underside (see illustratio opposite).

Magnolia salicifolia, a graceful from Japan with pure white flowe sent by Mr. Lionel de Rothschild, and received an Award of Merit.

Lt.-Col. L. C. R. Messel, Nymans, field (gardener, Mr. J. Comber), sent tion of beautiful flowering shrubs, in Rhododendron virgatum (K.W. 6279) gained an Award of Merit subject to It is a low-growing species. The shown were about 1 foot in height form, collected by Capt. F. Kingdon Tibet, belongs to the Rh. virgatum and first flowered in this country. The flowers are large for the size plant and of rosy-pink colour. It prove a valuable Rhododendron for garden.

The lavender-blue flowered Rhodo hippophæoides, another species sui the rock garden, was shown by La conway and the Hon. H. D. McLa received an Award of Merit.

Kurume Azalea Kirin, shown by R and Son, Exeter, also received an A Merit.

Groups containing Azaleas and R drons were also shown by J. Cheal a R. and J. Cuthbert, W. Cutbush and L. R. Russell.

Prunus (Amygdalus) nana Gessl the name given to a very delightful small tree shown by Mr. F. Wood tead. As shown, the plants were 2 feet in height, each branch wr deep pink blossom and bright crimso It is the finest form of the dwarf Almond.

Saxifraga Coombe White, a desirable seedling from S. Rocheliana. Awar Merit. Shown by Mr. F. Lloyd, Coombe House, Croydon

The new Daffodil Grackle, shown by Mr. J. Richardson

The new hybrid Rhododendron lutiferum, pale yellow suffused pink, shown by R. Gill and Son

The Chinese Service Berry (Amelanchier asiatica), shown by Hillier and Sons

Prunus (Amygdalus) nana Gessleriana, a small tree less than 2 feet in height, wreathed in deep pink blossom, shown by Mr. Frederick Wood

Border Carnation Bookham Yellow

Planting Border Carnations

APRIL is a very important month as far as the Border Carnation is concerned, as during the first week planting should be completed. The plants have little chance to give of their best if not in their permanent quarters at the time mentioned. The beds should have been prepared some weeks past and now be in a fit condition for their reception on the first opportunity when the soil is in a fit condition. Bone-meal and wood-ashes are excellent for forking lightly in the surface previous to setting out the plants, and a good dusting of each may be given with safety. Lime is also valuable for Carnations, and although it may be used in a crude state there is none better than old mortar-rubble that has been crushed. This keeps the soil open and fresh, and may be either forked in or scattered amongst the plants and hoed in. The soil should be trodden firm before planting, as Carnations are never a success if grown in that which is loose.

Plants that have been wintered in cold frames and hardened to the weather are now fit to go out, and should be planted in rows 18 inches apart, allowing 15 inches between each plant. Another way that can be recommended is to plant in pairs, allowing 6 inches between each pair of plants and 18 inches between each set of pairs. In this way a good deal of labour and time is saved in staking, as one stake will answer for each pair instead of one to each plant.

If the young plants are in small pots there will be little injury done to the roots. Tip the plant out carefully, keeping the ball of roots intact, remove any decayed leaves from the base, also the crocks, and with a trowel make a hole large and deep enough to bury the plant to the level of the first pair of leaves. Press the soil with the hands firmly around the collar of the plant and give enough water to settle the soil together. If slugs are troublesome keep the beds dusted with old soot; this will also help to keep away the Carnation fly, which puts in its appearance during April and May.

TREATMENT OF BEDS PLANTED IN AUTUMN.—In our case the plants have come through the winter well, also the Perpetual Border kinds, which are also having a trial, and one thing which is in their favour is their hardiness. I shall have more to say on this type of Carnation later.

The beds should be gone over and each plant examined, and any that appear loose in the soil should be made firm. Give a dressing of lime in some form and hoe lightly in, and where bone-meal was not given in autumn this may also be worked in now, but do not use lime and this together. Stakes should be placed to the plants before growth is far advanced, and there are none better for the purpose than the tips of Bamboo canes, and if the little metal rings which are advertised are used no tying is necessary. Keep the shoots fastened as growth proceeds, as they are easily broken by the wind, and if once the leader is broken all hopes of first-class flowers are gone. Plants that affected with spot disease should be sp with Bordeaux Mixture now, although which may appear on the best stra newly-introduced plants, usually disappe the plants are healthy otherwise, and r good growth. The worst of the leaves be picked off without injury to the plan

RAISING CARNATIONS FROM SEED.—the middle of March is the best tir sow the seeds, and these should be ob from a reliable source, as no good resul obtained from growing inferior and seeds, as even with the very best th always a certain percentage of single an less flowers from a gardening point of although good coloured singles are use cut purposes, whilst the foliage may b when staging blooms for exhibition an using shoots of named varieties requir layering. Pans are the best receptac which to sow the seeds. These should inches or 12 inches in diameter thoroughly clean. An inch of crock be placed in the bottom for drainag over these a covering of coarse compost pans should now be filled to within a of the rim with finely-sifted compost co ing a fair amount of sand. Make thi and level, and place the seeds 1 inch and cover to the depth of ¼ inch. Wate a fine rose and cover the pan with a sl glass, and place in the warmest part greenhouse or frame. In 10 to 14 da young plants should be through, ar glass should be removed and the pan well up to the light. When the secon of leaves appear prick off 4 inches ap boxes of good compost and grow on in frame until June, when they may be s in an open position in the kitchen gar rows 18 inches apart and 9 inches b the plants, planting out in beds in autumn. W. E. WRI

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Border Carnation Bookham Ye

RAISERS of border Carnations found it exceedingly difficult to yellow selfs that will stand out open border. The variety Daffodil i fine, and where it does well it is a tre but in some soils, alas, it is a failure. ham Yellow, which we illustrate o page, is unquestionably one of the yellows in cultivation, but even thi short of Mr. Douglas's standard. same time he considers it better in al than any other yellow known to Cecilia, sent out by Mr. James Dougl 20 years ago, still goes on. It is cul under glass by exhibitors, but it is use a border variety. Orpheus and t border yellow are still very sure and g the open border.

Daffodils in the grass

These are flowering well this spri flowers coming up ever so strong. seasons we get a rather dry Februa March, which hardens the turf, and I clined to think some varieties have a s to push up their foliage and flower wh occurs; but with so much rain of la cluding the week ended March 20th) to favour satisfactory growth. Th stretch of turf from Grosvenor C Marble Arch is thickly studded wit breadths of well-known varieties, labelled so that visitors may make a any or all that appeal to them. By t this note appears most of the varieties at their best, excepting the few very which may be going over; yet it is su how long these flowers last, and, grass at the base, they keep remarkab

Rhododendron virgatum (K.W. 6279), a low-growing species from Tibet with rose-pink flowers

Shown by Lt.-Col. L. C. R. Messel. Award of Merit

w to the best advantage, that lovely King Alfred looking very promising. age must not be mutilated until it is ly ripe, and if a coat of rich soil is ver the surface as soon as the mow-ine can be laid aside the bulbs eatly benefit and a marked improve-ticed in foliage and flower the fol-spring. The goodness of the top-would be washed down among the ing the autumn and winter.

J. Mayne.

ROSES

tional pruning of Roses

e time has arrived when growers pruning their Roses, I would put plea for a more rational pruning. iting from a non-exhibitor's point so there is no need for me to plants back severely in order to plants concentrate their energies e or four buds. I think some of known Rose-growers, who are ac-to cut down plants each year, would shed could they see what grand me varieties make if allowed to e naturally. I have often been in here the Rose bushes have really me as to the size they had de-nder this almost let-alone plan. readily see what a Rose is capable if certain sorts are planted out to es. Here we naturally desire the et up as quickly as possible, there-nd the first pruning, they have very little growth removed. What is the result? Instead of puny growth we have great bushes rising nearly 5 feet high. Go into any market nursery where Roses are planted out in the borders under glass for flowering early; we find there great shrubs of sorts such as Bridesmaid, Catherine Mermet, The Bride, Mme. Abel Chatenay, etc., yielding blooms of the highest quality. Of course, here they are protected from the frosts, which often do so much damage to the wood as to make it imperative to prune back hard, but where the garden is sheltered just try a more rational method this year. One may often obtain splendid examples of this moderate pruning in cemeteries. I have seen there plants, or, rather, small shrubs, of La France that have made me envious, knowing how miserably they have acted under the orthodox system of pruning. Where Roses of extra strong growth have been planted as bushes, such sorts should either be trained up poles or their growths arched over or pegged down. I saw an instance last season how a shy-blooming Rose could be made to blossom freely. The sort was Climbing Souvenir de la Malmaison. I do not think much of the variety, and would much rather plant Gerbe Rose or Lady Waterlow, but the Rose referred to was planted with the object of being layered to obtain own-root plants. The growths that were bent over to furnish the layers produced fine blossoms towards autumn all over the bent growths. Many of the lovely Climbing Tea and Noisette Roses answer well in this way. There is no need to bring the growths down to the ground. Just drive a notched peg into the ground, attach a piece of tarred twine to it, then draw down the branch so that its point is about 6 inches from the ground. If the growth is some 4 feet to 5 feet long this will make a pretty arched shoot when covered with blossom. One could often utilise so-called climbing Roses for such a purpose when all wall and fence space is occupied, only they should have a good distance between each plant—say, 5 feet or 6 feet.

Roses of the type of Gloire Lyonnaise, J. B. Clark, Avoca, Johanna Sebus, etc., should be grown as pillars. They are splendid in this form, yielding a fine show of beautiful blossoms, and such plants take the place of standards among dwarf bushes, if they are properly placed at time of planting. Gloire Lyonnaise is an exquisite Rose for the upright support of a pergola, or even against an old tree-stump.

P. R.

Rose Fortune's Yellow

Colour suffusion of yellow and rose and sweetly fragrant. Grown under glass and shown in profusion at Vincent Square on March 22nd by Mr. George Prince

Rosa Hugonis, flowers single, pale yellow, shown by Mr. E. J. Hicks

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Lawns and grass walks

These should now be cleansed by a hard and thorough sweeping, rolled, and prepared for the mower, which may be run over the surface at the first opportunity. Many delay this first mowing, with the result that the grass gets too long for the knives to deal with it satisfactorily, hence the disturbing lines and yellow appearance of the grass for some weeks following. Machines are usually overhauled, repaired, and knives sharpened during their idle months, and to preserve them in this condition it is advisable to raise the blades slightly the first time over the grass as a precaution against damage from unseen gravel or other hard substance which may lie unnoticed, and if caught between the knives do considerable damage.

Grass edgings to drives and paths

These should be lightly trimmed with the edging iron, as this will greatly facilitate future cutting with the shears, and when accomplishing this work avoid a perpendicular edge, which is so easily broken down, by cutting in a sloping manner both alongside carriage drives and flower beds; it is then possible to tread right up to the edge of the grass without the slightest damage.

Clematises

Place light supports to those pruned low, as the shoots develop rapidly and are easily broken by the wind. Hazel sticks answer quite well for a few weeks until the growths reach their permanent supports. Look over those trained to fences, pergolas, etc., every 10 days, and tie lightly in such growths as require it, but never tie nearer than 10 inches from the tips of the growths.

Tufted Pansies

Plants which have been wintered in frames and gradually hardened off may now be planted out to carpet beds of Roses or to form edgings.

Pentstemons and Snapdragons

Your plants struck and wintered in the same way may also be planted out in permanent quarters which should have been previously prepared.

Alpine plants

Clean and freshen up the soil, which has been beaten solid with the heavy rains among them, and plant out choice varieties which have been acquired during the winter and which it was thought advisable to keep in cold frames until spring.

Annuals

These are now used extensively for carpeting beds of Roses and other flowers, and occasionally as groups in the foreground of plant borders, and these, following a good preparation of the surface, may now be sown thinly by scattering the seeds broadcast. Two very desirable annuals for the alpine garden are Ionopsidium acaule and Sedum cœruleum, height 2 inches.

Bedding plants

In order to have good stocky plants for the summer beds stop the plants frequently, and as these become well established in their pots, etc., remove to cooler quarters and eventually to frost-proof frames.

Chrysanthemums

Those intended for providing exhibition blooms must not be permitted to become pot-bound at any time; such plants also should be grown as cool as possible, the earliest being quite ready for shifting into 5-inch and 6-inch pots.

Chinese Primulas and Cinerarias

Make a small sowing of these in well-drained pans, covering the seeds with the finest of sandy soil and standing the pans in a house having a temperature of 60 degs. to 65 degs., covering them with a sheet of glass, and shading from bright sunshine.

Fruit houses

Syringe the trees freely on fine days and attend to the thinning of the fruits regularly; such trees will benefit considerably from liberal applications of liquid-manure. Great care must be exercised in the matter of ventilation, and the houses should be closed early in the afternoon each day in order to enclose as much sun-heat as possible.

Strawberries

Prick over the surface of the beds and remove all weeds, admitting the sunshine and thus enhance the healthy growth of the plants.

Vegetable Marrow and Indian Corn seeds

Sow to furnish a stock of plants for putting out in May, and during unsettled weather beds of fermenting material may be made up in readiness for the former.

Spring Cabbage and autumn raised Lettuces

Use the hoe freely among the plants which are now very promising and making excellent growth, and if a light sprinkling of sulphate of ammonia can be applied a great improvement will soon be observed.

Onions and Leeks

Seedlings which have been raised and grown under glass must now be hardened off in readiness for planting in the open, the plot intended for them having been well prepared beforehand may be given a light dressing of soot before pointing over the surface.

Tomatoes

Many prefer large pots to borders for growing the Tomato, but whichever course is adopted the plants raised early in February are now ready and should be put out without further delay; also a fresh sowing should be made to supply a stock of plants for the open border later. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Globe Beet

A sowing of this may now be made if not already done. As with the ordinary long varieties, it is not desirable to sow on rich soil or the quality will be deficient.

Early Turnips

It is always risky to sow Turnips before the advent of April, and even then this crop is by no means certain to succeed. As the author of "In a Manse Garden" quaintly observes when writing on this subject, "to sow Turnips before April arrives is certain to result in their running to seed, having nothing else to do."

Broad Beans

These may now be planted freely and in accordance with requirements. As with Peas, it is well to sow small quantities at intervals rather than have them all put in at the one time, and all ready for use also at the one time. The last sowing should be made about the middle of this month.

Sow more Peas

As soon as the previous sowing through the soil another should be g this being a more reliable guide than is ing so many days between the sowings

Maincrop Celery

Within the next few days is the bes for sowing the main batch of this est vegetable. When sown too early "bo is very likely, while too late sowing d permit the plants to attain a decent si

Tomatoes

Keep the earlier batches growing freely, and when the flowers open t plants smartly every day about noon spread the pollen and so ensure a "set." In unheated greenhouses ex Tomatoes may be grown if good-sized plants can be obtained within the r days or a fortnight. The soil should readiness, and if placed in the gree now will get slightly warmed by th rays and the young plants will thu more kindly to it and suffer no check.

Disbudding Peaches

This important process must not be out all at the one time or serious har result by reason of the check the trees sustain if all growths were removed one day. Spread the business over a of weeks or so, rubbing out a propo the unnecessary growths every third o day.

Melons

With lengthening days and with th rays gathering strength growth is mu rapid, and constant attention to st training, and tying is necessary. Ke moist, warm atmosphere in the Melo While constant applications of wate roots is harmful, it is of quite as m portance to see that the roots are ne mitted to suffer through dryness of in which they are growing.

Sow Cinerarias now

The main batch of this showy should be sown about this time, a cool treatment all through their Artificial heat at any time is unneces less to keep frost at bay. Shade is a lutely necessary at all periods of gro

Half-hardy annuals

Several of our best half-hardy must not be sown too early or troub tain to result. Now is the best tim Dimorphotheca, Nemesia, and T Stocks. The two former must not a higher temperature than 55 degs. t have germinated. Many people fail Nemesia, simply because they sow much warmth.

"Pricking off"

Many seedlings are now in just t condition for being pricked off, and pays, eventually, to get this wor out in good time. Return the box same temperature to permit of plants becoming established quickl remove to cooler quarters.

Sweet Peas

Although, of course, blooming wi than in the case of plants raised un still, very fine flowers can be obt sowing, now, where they are to bloo thinly in drills 2 inches deep and, if come up at all overcrowded, thin 3 inches to 4 inches tall. C

Preston House Gardens, Linlith

The Italian garden at Olympia

Designed by J. Carter & Co. to portray a garden common to those frequently seen in Northern Italy. The garden is on three levels, on the higher of which, as a main feature, is the open stone temple, and behind this, apparently at the top of a hill, is a long stone and iron balustrade.

ardens at Olympia:

ER having visited the above-named dens and having read the notice that eared in your issue of March 12th, 1 fault was found with all, I was see "Some Further Comments" l. As a regular visitor to the vari- icultural shows I have noted many n gardens designed by Mr. G. White- l consider the circular garden shown pia one of his most successful. To of the use of the circle in a circular ppears to be as foolish as to mistake described as "complete with handle ut" for a loud-speaker cabinet, may be said in passing that music, conveyed to the ear, is a pleasant o the garden.

s, as "A Painter" writes, a sombre the exhibit from the Orpington , but I cannot agree that Erica ere reigned supreme. If I remem- y, the principal colour was provided s of deep claret Primroses. The planned and planted little rock gar- delightfully restful, and formed a contrast to several others which too many plants of different colours any sense of repose. They were hibits of beautiful plants which wers were naturally anxious to sell.

Carter's Italian garden was a fine A Painter" takes its designers to ise "it does not embody the tradi- ardening in England." It was not o do so, for it was avowedly con- to illustrate a type of garden met orthern Italy." He complains of being planted with Azaleas, and Cinerarias, and writes of them which have nothing in common." ena or Cordyline grows in many ssex gardens, and it is used ex- the gardens at Torquay and in west of England, where Azaleas lils are largely grown. As to the the blue ones are used with fine sed together among groups of Tulips in the long border at

Notes and Comments

Hampton Court. In Messrs. Carter's Italian garden the tall Dracænas were emphatically the right thing in the right place, and contributed very largely to the making of their picture. It would be a poor garden if it did not contain plants which have nothing in common.

A comment by "A Painter" which strikes one as strange is that in the exhibit of the Central Garden Supplies "the designer allowed the shape of the site to govern every thought and line." It certainly should do so in any garden, even if the first work to be done is to conceal the boundaries.

In an ordinary garden the herbaceous border contains many flowering plants of various colours, but the effect is toned down by masses of green and grey foliage, and in the rock garden, also, foliage and rock give the needed relief. In an ordinary formal garden masses of colour are sometimes provided by bedding plants in full bloom placed closely together, but here one colour usually predominates, and if two or three are used they are carefully chosen in regard to each other, and the general effect is toned down by a wide expanse of lawn or distant surroundings. At Olympia the arrangement of the flowers in too many cases still resembles that seen in a florist's shop or Victorian conservatory rather than that of the well-planted open garden. This is particularly noticeable in the closely-packed groups of Hyacinths and flowering shrubs, such as Azaleas in all their vivid tints mingled with mauve Wistaria. Had this beautiful flower been used with yellow or golden Azaleas alone the effect would have been far more pleasing, but it might not have been such a paying exhibit to the florist.

I should like to express the hope that in the future we may see a larger number of gardens more restricted in colour and much more lightly planted, such as the lovely Iris garden which Bunyard gave us at Chelsea last year, or one like we have at Wisley when the Iris Kempferi are flowering by the lakeside and the Water Lilies can be seen floating on the placid water beyond them.

One would love to see a copy of some well-known garden in Japan or a portion of it, perhaps tended by its keeper in native dress. We might be treated to a piece of Chinese woodland where Camellias grow, an Italian garden where Madonna Lilies blossom amongst the Orange trees, ancient stone columns and vases, or a more tropical scene where scarlet Hibiscus and scarlet Bougainvillæas throw their festoons against a background of tall Date Palms.

It would be quite possible for us to look at a New Zealand Fern-glen or orchard with the Apple trees all in bloom and by its side a Canadian one with ripe red "Jonathans" hanging on the boughs. We could feast our eyes on a South African vineyard or some tropical pool over which Tacsonias grew with their deep crimson lantern-like flowers and rich orange fruits hanging low over the water, while among the mossy tree boughs Cattleyas and Dendrobiums blossomed, and in the pool itself the Lotus threw up its glorious leaves and soft rose-tinted flowers with rose and violet Nymphæas floating beside them.

There are countless beauties to be found in the gardens of the British Empire, but Nature, not Covent Garden, must be the source of our inspiration. F.R.H.S.

Brighton.

INDOOR PLANTS

Two good stove climbers

ALL things considered, I find no stove climbers to surpass the beautiful scarlet Passiflora princeps and the equally well-known Allamanda Schotti—the one with long racemes of flowers that hang from the roof in graceful festoons, the other producing large trusses of bright yellow flowers for at least six months in succession. These two plants are, moreover, but little infested with any of the insect pests that are generally so troublesome to stove plants, and climbers in particular, and they do not require any great amount of root-space. We have grown them for years in medium-sized boxes by giving frequent top-dressings, and large quantities

of water during the growing season. Where, however, creepers are required for permanent roof ornaments, it is best when the house is built to make brick compartments for them under the stages, or where they can be out of sight and not occupy space that might be utilised for pot plants. The best way in which to train these plants is to run the shoots at full length on wires stretched horizontally about 1 foot from the glass. Securely fasten now all the main shoots to them, and for the rest of the season allow the growth full liberty to grow in its own way, merely cutting out exhausted pieces. These two creepers look well mingled together either in the stove or as cut flowers for indoor decoration. C. P.

Primula malacoides

This is a charming little plant for pot work, and I recently came across some 50 plants in the acme of perfection, mostly in 4½-inch pots, many carrying 12 and 14 spikes of small, star-shaped flowers varying in colour from almost pure white to a deep rose. It is a capital plant for the comparatively cold greenhouse, and amateurs having but little heat at command could not invest in a better plant easily raised from seed sown in spring, while the old plants can be pulled to pieces towards May, placed in small pots, and kept moderately close for a few weeks, repotting towards the end of June. J. MAYNE.

VEGETABLES

Outdoor Tomatoes

NO one would dream of planting outdoor Tomatoes for at least another month; why, then, should I be writing about them so early? My reply is, that it would be very little use for me to write in mid-May to tell you what you should have done a month earlier. I suppose that all who seriously intend to grow a few or many, have already made up their minds, and naturally they will be anxious to grow this most uncertain of all crops under the most favourable conditions, and thus reduce the elements of uncertainty. It is for such that this article is intended, and I say to them that it is advisable to select the site and prepare the ground for their reception right now, a full month before planting time.

The site should be in the sunniest and most sheltered part of the garden, for the Tomato is a tropical plant, and likes not our harsh, English climate, and that is why it is so often unsatisfactory. If you can give it protection, whether of a wall, building, or wooden fence, it will be all the better. The soil should not be heavy, but well worked and effectively drained. The Tomato is not one of those plants demanding unlimited supplies of nitrogenous manures. It does not need rich soils, and if it finds itself overfed it will grow rank and soft, be susceptible to disease, and not prolific. The soil should be well prepared for it, with a due regard to these facts. I suggest that the soil be dug to the full depth of 2 feet, and that a dressing of farmyard manure be worked into the second spit—not so much for its manurial properties as for its mechanical effect. It will be too deep down to feed the plant until late in the season, but it can and will act as a reservoir for holding moisture and also for retaining warmth. The top spit should be given a light dressing of farmyard manure, but it should also be dressed more heavily with old mortar-rubble, lime, chalk, crushed bones, or some other calcareous matter, together with ashes from the heap where old garden refuse has been burnt. These will provide the phosphates and potash, without which it is hopeless to attempt to grow good quality Tomatoes. Having well broken up the soil and incorporated these ingredients as directed, leave it all as loose and open as possible for the weather to play upon and sweeten it. Before planting time comes it will have settled down, and it is advisable then to dig over the surface again and tread it once over, for, in common with most fruit-bearing plants, the Tomato bears best in a firm (but not heavy) soil. You will find that your plants will do a lot better in a bed thus prepared, thoroughly and at leisure, than they will in one hastily got ready and lacking that sweetness and fitness which can only be imparted by the weather. The accompanying illustration is of one of my Tomatoes grown on these principles. As so much depends upon the weather, every precaution calculated to assist the plant should be taken, and one of the precautions I particularly wish to impress upon you is not to plant weak plants—that way lies vexation. A sixpenny plant, well grown in a pot, will give more satisfaction than six of those drawn and wilting plants we see in boxes on greengrocers' boards; and there is another thing—it is not every variety that will do well outdoors. The plants offered so cheaply from boxes are often nondescript varieties, with no names and no guarantee,

A fruiting plant of Tomato

and the only way to guard yourselves from having a useless variety is to procure your variety from a reputable nurseryman. Have its name with it, and get the raiser's guarantee that it is a suitable outdoor variety. Sunrise, Holmes' Open Air, Sutton's Winter Beauty, and Knaresboro' Wonder are good varieties for the purpose, and there are several others. F.

Cutting seed Potatoes

WE notice that some varieties of seed Potatoes are in rather short supply this season and are, therefore, being sent out larger than usual. When the sample of new seed contains a proportion of larger tubers it is more economical if the latter are cut into two or more pieces. If this is done the usual quantity of tubers will plant the area required.

If the results of experiments with cut and whole seed Potatoes are carefully examined it will be found that some experiments show that whole sets are best; others point to cut sets being the better. It seems to us that, other conditions being equal, there is not much difference between the cropping powers of whole and cut sets, and if this is a right conclusion there can be no doubt as wisdom of cutting larger tubers for se poses.

The idea that some varieties of P are bad "cutters" is deep-seated minds of many gardeners in various the country, and we are certain unde conditions there is a good deal of fou for this view, *e.g.*, if unsprouted tu the variety King Edward be taken many of the cut sets fail to grow if at once in fairly dry soil. Further, centage of failures is still higher if sets are allowed to dry out before planted. On the other hand, if uns cut sets of King Edward are planted in moist soil most of the sets grow, an same sets are kept under moist aeria tions for a day before they are put soil practically every set grows an well.

We have never known a case of when well-sprouted Potatoes have and planted, even when the variety one with the reputation of being "cutter," so that the practice of cutti sprouted Potatoes appears to be a safe one. To understand why sprouted cut Potato grows well sprouted ones do not it is neces consider exactly what happens when is cut into two pieces. A Potato tube uncut, is surrounded by a skin throug soil organisms which cause decay enter, and so a whole tuber, when the soil, can keep out all the or which, if they could enter the tubers very soon cause decay. If a rec tuber is placed in the soil the cut po for the time being, entirely unprotec a competition is set up. The Pota tries to heal up its unprotected surf the soil organisms are in a hurry to If the tuber is to be successful it m a protective new skin below the inju tion within a few hours, otherwise organisms get in and often the who tissue is killed before the sprouts of can begin to grow. It is now fairly understand why sprouted tubers grow and unsprouted sometimes di a well-sprouted tuber the young sh practically independent of the old tu no matter whether the soil organisms the old set or not, the young shoots With the unsprouted tuber, providing conditions are favourable, it can usu a protective covering in time to pre entry of the soil organisms, but if conditions are unfavourable (dry a aired) the protective covering is no quick enough and the tuber decays b shoots can commence to grow.

To cut Potato tubers under the b ble conditions they should be set up in a warm greenhouse or frame t when well sprouted they should be turned to the boxes, and aerial c kept damp. The tubers should rem these conditions for at least 24 hou greenhouse or frame is not available should be made to sprout the tu light, frost-proof shed. When well the tubers should be cut, returne boxes, and covered with damp sac hours before being planted. If it is to plant out unsprouted Potatoes should be cut, placed in a heap, an with damp sacks for the above per heaps should never be large.

Onions

The ground for this important cr been previously prepared and forked now work freely, and, choosing a the surface is dry, rake and firm th draw out the drills 1 inch deep a apart, and sow the seeds on the first

Answers to Queries

ions—Queries and answers are inserted in NG ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre- ts follow these rules: All communications e clearly written on one side of the paper nd addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. on business should be sent to the* PUB- *The name and address of the sender are in addition to any designation he may be used in the paper. When more than ry is sent each should be on a separate paper, the name and address being added As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

GREENHOUSE

ndas

pant).—The Allamanda is by no ifficult to cultivate, providing you can a temperature of 70 degs. to 75 degs. ice moist atmosphere. It is a ram- ower, so requires plenty of room. ined to wires in the roof of the house. ably blooms best when grown in a t or box, but if planted in a border ethod for confining the roots should ed, as, given unlimited root-room, it r too strong and does not bloom so Good turfy loam with a small quan- eaf-mould and sufficient coarse sand e porosity will give good results, but ion of some charcoal and bone-meal be commended. Water with care, at first. In summer copious water- cessary to keep this plant in health. permit overcrowding of the shoots, ve all the weaker growths. See also "J. S."

ion of Allamandas

.—The plants, having been well ay now be started. It is best to cut ll in, removing all the shoots that been fully ripened up. In the case examples in comparatively small should have more room at once, at the balls are thoroughly soaked beforehand, otherwise difficulty will in getting the soil moistened after- the specimens are old and the soil ts is exhausted they should be half it and potted in good loam well en- h rotten manure; at the same time ought to be cut well in, and if they grown on trellises these should be o the pots at once, and the plants them. See also "Two good stove page 207.

arvæ in Ferns

.).—The larvæ you have sent in for on are those of one of the ius Weevils, probably the Clay- Weevil. The larval stage of this ied species, the Black Vine Weevil, similar, but both are troublesome dener. The adult weevils feed at the aerial portions of many gar- , the day being spent by hiding e host plant. Favourite hiding clods of soil, behind hot-water er plant-pots, etc. During late early summer eggs are deposited near to the roots of the plants h the adults have been feeding. ief period the larvæ appear, and upon the roots of the attacked ding continues until the following n, after a brief period in the pupæ ther generation of the adult ear. If only your Ferns are at- should advise you to repot the g a compost to which you have ood soil insecticide. When re- plants try and destroy as many of grubs as you can. During the and throughout the summer you the adult weevils. Pieces of old sacking near the pots and under the staging will collect the weevils together. The traps should be examined daily and the weevils destroyed.

FRUIT

Treatment of a cordon Pear Dr. Jules Guyot

(Stellawood).—There is only one dependable method of again furnishing your cordon with spurs down to its base, and that is by re-grafting, and the present is the correct time to carry this out, although your tree should have been headed down earlier. Failing this, you could risk cutting it down to a point below where you wish the spurs to commence, and, being a young tree, it would probably break away and rejuvenate itself, but, of course, you would forego any fruit for a few years. If this does not appeal to you, then keep your leading shoots hard pruned, and by this means divert the sap into the lower and weaker spurs which remain. The trouble probably arose from the fact that the leading shoots were permitted to go unchecked. Neither ringing or budding would help you, but we have succeeded in forming additional branches on Pear trees by bringing down unpruned shoots from above and enarching them upon the main trunk. This is carried out by slicing off a portion of the bark of the shoot and also of the trunk, and binding the sliced side of the shoot to that of the trunk, causing a union to be ultimately made.

Silver leaf on Peach

(Perplexed).—Some of the Peach shoots sent in for examination are badly affected with Silver Leaf, which is caused by the fungus, Stereum purpureum, and we are of the opinion that this disease is the cause of the flowers failing to set. Without examining the tree on the spot we are unable to say whether it would be advisable for you to try and save the tree by cutting out the diseased portions or grub the tree and destroy it. There is no cure for a bad attack of Silver Leaf, but if the disease has only made small headway it is sometimes possible to cut out the diseased portions and so prevent the disease spreading. Some of the shoots sent are not at present showing the disease, and we see no reason why the flowers on the clean shoots should not set; in fact, some of the flowers on these shoots appear to us to be set. You should examine the tree carefully and determine how far the disease has gone. The shoots bearing normal green leaves are at present disease free. Those bearing the silver-grey leaves are infected and should be cut out at once. Write us again if we can help you further.

Pruning cordon trees

I am in doubt about how to prune the extension shoots on several cordon Pear trees. They were netted over during the summer, and as they grew up to the netting this bent them over, and it appears to have helped considerably in inducing fruit-buds to develop. At any rate, for 12 inches to 18 inches the extension shoots contain nothing but fruit-buds, and no wood-bud to cut down to. Is it necessary to cut down to a wood-bud, even if it means taking off such a length of shoot, and is it a bad thing for the branches of fruit trees generally to be allowed to terminate in a fruit-bud and not cut back for several seasons? Would this not stop the growth of the branch, which would be detrimental to it in the long-run?

"STELLAWOOD."

[Unless your trees have reached their full height it is advisable to prune to a wood-bud at about 9 inches beyond the pruning of the previous year. Spurs will then form evenly all along the stem. By allowing your trees to do as they have done you are encouraging the loss of the lower spurs. Prune these leaders back—and sacrifice the flowers this year—to within three or four buds of their previous pruning. When fresh growth commences this year and has reached 7 inches in length pinch the tops out above the fourth bud from the base; also treat side growths in the same way, repeating this treatment with secondary shoots about the middle of August. In this way you will equalise the flow of sap to all parts of the trees. If your trees continue to form fruit-buds to the tips and no growth is made it would be an advantage to rub out the upper buds so as to encourage growth. Yes, this lack of growth is detrimental in the long-run as it stifles the activity of the trees.]

VEGETABLES

Sowing Peas

(G. H.).—Sutton's Peerless is an excellent Pea, but The V.C. is, probably, better for competition. The latter would require, approximately, 80 to 85 days, while the former would take a little longer. That is, from date of sowing. You should, however, sow two or three times at weekly intervals, as seasons vary so much, as do also climatic conditions in different districts. Your Sweet Peas will certainly be too early for showing on August 14th. You might sow some out-of-doors, thinning down to 9 inches to 12 inches apart when 3 inches high. Those sown middle of March should be about right. It would have been wise to sow others about the same time in pots, planting out when ready. This would provide against failure with the others. You would do well to set your pots of Liliums in a cold frame until they have become well rooted and the stems beginning to grow.

ROSES

Rose pruning

Can you, please, tell me the correct way to prune standards of Rose Paul's Scarlet Climber?

H. L. W.

[As this is not a particularly robust grower it is well to shorten back the growths by about a third of their length. If there be plenty of these young shoots to properly furnish the plant then remove as much of the old wood as possible, also thinning out the young growths if at all crowded. In any case cut away all weak shoots and so concentrate all the strength on those remaining.]

Black spot on Roses

(East Downe).—The specimen Rose-wood sent in is badly affected with black spot fungus, and we do not remember ever seeing Rose-wood so badly scabbed with this disease. We have examined your specimens, and while the fungus is in the active state on last year's wood the old scabs on the two-year-old wood appear to be harmless. The scabs on last year's wood will, later in the season, produce spores, which will infect the new wood and leaves. A bad attack of black spot such as yours calls for drastic measures. If only a few of your trees are so badly

affected as the specimens sent in it would be advisable to grub and burn them. The rest of the trees should be hard pruned, cutting last year's growth to one or two eyes; all weak growth should be cut out entirely. All prunings and dead leaves should be carefully collected and burned. Diseased material might just as well stay on the trees as to lie underneath. Finally, the soil under the trees should be turned over as deeply as possible without disturbing the roots. When the new leaves appear you should spray with a weak solution of potassium sulphide, increasing the strength as the foliage hardens. You could start by using potassium sulphide 1 oz., water 5 gallons, soft-soap 6 ozs., gradually increasing the strength until you are using 1 oz. of the chemical to 2 gallons of water and 3 ozs. of soft-soap. To prevent infection of the wood and leaves, spraying once every 14 to 21 days will be necessary this year. When the disease has been got under control less drastic measures will suffice. If you are a member of the National Rose Society you should read pages 119 to 123 of "The Enemies of the Rose," which is issued to members.

FLOWER GARDEN

Chrysanthemums for the open border

(F. F. C.).—The varieties in article referred to were named for their hardiness, but some of them may have gone from modern lists. Mr. Wm. Sydenham, Melbourne, Derby, used to grow them well, and he may have them now. Mrs. A. Willis, Pride of Keston, H. H. Crane, Mme. C. Perrier, and Agnes are those likely to be scarce; the others, really, can easily be obtained from any up-to-date specialist. The late war-time played havoc with many good old kinds of these flowers through growers being forced to attend to other things; many, indeed, were lost to cultivation.

Crocus to name

(Severn Valley).—The Crocus is a form of C. vernus. It is so much withered we cannot recognise any particular variety in it. It looks as though it may be one of the wild forms from Italy. These are the best for naturalising—more graceful in outline than the Dutch seedling forms. (See note, issue March 26th, page 184.)

TREES AND SHRUBS

Ruscus and its fruits

(X.).—The flowers of Ruscus are monœcious; that is, a separate flower for each sex; but flowers of both sexes are borne on the same plant, so the failure to produce berries is not due to the absence of one of the sexes. The Ruscus does not, as a rule, fruit very freely, especially if growing in a rich garden soil, and it is possible that a less generous treatment, such as transferring the plants to stony, hungry soils might induce a condition of fruitfulness. Some forms are more inclined to fruit than others.

Hollies: Berry-bearing and sterile

I should be glad if you would kindly give me the names of the Hollies enclosed. Which variety of Holly do you consider the best to berry, and what assistance can be given to make Holly berry more freely?

J. A. L.

[If the tree from which the barren shoot comes never bears it is sterile, which means that it only produces male flowers and cannot, therefore, possibly bear fruit. The berried shoot comes either from a tree which produces female flowers or from one on which both male and female flowers are present. It will, therefore, be seen that some trees can never bear fruit. Some bear when seasons are favourable to the distribution of pollen either by wind or by insect agency, and some can be relied on to bear unless the weather is bad at flowering time. Hollies are affected in the same way as fruit trees generally. A sharp frost or a cold spell in May will prevent the flowers setting. I have a tree which in 30 years has never borne a berry, but its neighbour rarely fails yielding a more or less abundant crop of fruit. I have a large bush of the small variegated kind. It has bloomed freely for many years, but has never produced a berry. I have never thought to examine it when in bloom, but it is undoubtedly a male plant. There is no treatment that can render a sterile plant fruitful or that would increase the berry-bearing powers of fertile plants. The yellow-berried kind is simply a sport from the typical form. It is not very common. I only know of one plant in this vicinity, and that is in my garden. It is in a Holly hedge that was planted 40 years ago. It bears fruit occasionally.—J. C., *Byfleet.*]

To destroy tree stumps

About a year ago you gave a method of easily destroying tree stumps after being cut down, so far as I remember, by boring a hole or holes into them and filling with some substance and sealing up with clay. After some time the wood rotted and, being lighted, smouldered away. St. Kitt's.

[A good recipe for the destruction of large tree stumps is as follows:—During the month of October a hole 2 inches in diameter and 18 inches deep should be bored in the centre of the stump. Into the hole place 2 ozs. of potassium nitrate and then fill up the hole with water. The hole should then be plugged up as tight as possible and left for the winter. In March or April the plug should be removed and a pint of paraffin oil placed into the hole made in the autumn. Light the paraffin and the stump should burn away very slowly right down to the roots. If you do not care to do this it would, perhaps, be best for you to consult an expert, who would remove the stumps with explosives.]

Mistletoe seeds

It might interest your correspondent, "Hood-a-wink" (issue February 19th), to know that my employer has had a satisfactory reply *re* Mistletoe seed, from Messrs. Thompson and Morgan, of Ipswich.

H. L. W.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lawn sand

Can you, please, tell me the correct proportion to mix sulphate of ammonia with sand for applying to weeds on lawns and the quantity to apply per square yard? I can obtain any amount of both. H. L. W.

[A cheap formula for lawn sand is 1 lb. iron sulphate, 3 lbs. sulphate of ammonia, and 30 lbs. fine sand. Must be thoroughly mixed together and stored in a dry place. Scatter evenly and thinly over the lawn, the amount named being sufficient for 90 square yards.]

Subsoil

When digging my soil I have turned up some of the subsoil, and I am told that this is bad practice. Is this correct? B.

[The answer to the above depends upon how much subsoil has been brought up; to bring up a little each year does little or no harm to the following crop and is a way in which the garden soil can be deepened. On the other hand, subsoil in any quantity when on the surface does harm to the next two crops, at least, unless leaf-soil and manure can be added in sufficient quantities to make good soil out of the subsoil brought up. We are of the opinion that the better way to deepen a soil is to practice double-digging, *i.e.*, cultivating the soil to a deptl spits with changing the relative pc soil and subsoil. If organic matte mixed with the subsoil at the sam will be improved, and could be ma bring to the surface at some futu Leaf-soil, farmyard manure, garden and Hop manure are all good ma incorporate with subsoil for the pu improving it and to encourage plan enter it.]

SHORT REPLY

K. E. B.—Pyrus arbutifolia var. is listed by Mr. T. Smith, Da Nursery, Newry, Ireland, who sup shrubs referred to several years arbutifolia, the type, which is a beautiful in autumn, is listed by Stewart and Sons, Ferndown Dorset. You may plant with sal April 20th.

NAMES OF PLANTS

W. F. F., Stourbridge.—Di chrysophylla syn. Cassinia fulvida page 199). Cuttings may be rooted sand in frames or under handligh the summer.

TRADE NOTE

Garden pests are most active at p where ordinary insecticides do n To destroy both insects and grubs dener should use Kilogrub. It is to plant life, but its fumes penet into the ground, instantly killing a vermin at the roots of plants as wel above ground. Full particulars of will be found in our advertising colu

BOOKS

Conifers, Junipers, and Y

The title of this book, which co account of the Conifers and Taxads Columbia, appears to be somewhat nomer, for we fail to see why Ju here excluded from the Conifers, plied from the title page. Moreover that in the text of the work they correctly referred to that importa The book has been prepared for t teachers and students of botany a study, from material collected by M son when inaugurating the Botanic of the Province on behalf of the Go and is intended to be the first of a the botany of British Columbia. ing chapter contains a summary of divisions of the vegetable kingdom by a detailed account of the native and Taxads, including Pinus, Lar Picea, Tsuga, Pseudo-tsuga, Cupressus (section Chamæcyparis), and Taxus. The description of ea is followed by paragraphs on its d and economic uses, and there analytical tables, which should pr for identifying the species. The ill 18 of which are in colours, we are regard as the least satisfactory p book. We fail to see why it was to occupy four plates (two of disse Pinus contorta when one would ha to show both generic and specific The same needless waste of space all through the book by the addi extra plate of dissections for ea figured. It is suggested in the pr the completion of the work may volumes, each with 80 coloured somewhat ambitious scheme, wh hardly likely to meet with success remainder of the work is planned less extravagant lines.

* Conifers, Junipers, and Yew. By John Da trations by Ivy Abercrombie. Benn; 21s.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Ideas for Summer Bedding

NE are the days when we of the old ool of gardening had to rely princi-ly upon Zonal Geraniums (Pelar-), Calceolarias, Lobelia, and Agera-r a floral display, backed up by l foliage, such as Iresine, Coleus, ryanthemum, Pyrethrum, and a few all except the latter requiring more artificial heat and a deal of propaga-m January onwards to get the re-number necessary and duly hardened e end of May, much anxiety se responsible supply, which to run into ds when car-ling was at its

ly, things are nd have been me years, for the better, to seedlings, ings of plants much hardier y autumn or ring propaga-ntstemons and ums in par-while the ever l Viola has changed be-ognition since ood days, a t left unsaid, Consequent-ave a much ried class of t our com-and bedding we term it, siderably r the better, ppearance of rity of the ing place to nd lightness, r forefathers amt of, much less carried out. ing Geranium (Pelargonium) still rits, holding its own in many posi-it is a monotonous outlook when many beds in a design completely these, with just an edging as a such has to be used, say, in a e bed, a few "dot" plants blend-lour should be introduced. That imson Paul Crampel as an under-ith the double Marguerite Mrs. rm a good contrast, and the same aimed if a pink Geranium is used od yellow Antirrhinum towering above the groundwork. Antirrhinums are capital plants for filling either large or small beds, intermixing the taller-growing varieties with those of a dwarf habit. There is an end-less choice of colour, easily raised from seed, and come as true to character as it is well nigh possible to get them, if from a reputed seedsman. They bloom early when sown in the autumn, flowering throughout the sum-mer if prompt measures are taken in re-moving exhausted shoots and all seed-pods.

Antirrhinums are capital plants for either large or small beds, especially on poor soil

They are here seen to good effect during summer months in front of the Palm House at Kew

Beds for these should not be too heavily manured. We learn this lesson when seeing how they flourish on quite stony soil, fre-quently growing, as well as flowering, on old stone walls or even on a bed of ashes. Another bedding plant that has come to the front of late years is the Pentstemon, pro-ducing large flowers of many colours, making a good display from July onwards, it may be treated similarly to the Antir-rhinum, neither requiring much artificial heat; the cooler they are grown the better, an unheated frame or pit and the frost kept out suiting both admirably, whether cuttings or seedlings. Tuberous Begonias are showy, good wet weather plants, and look happy in small beds to themselves, or, if large beds are to be chosen, a few relief plants of the green, grassy-like foliage of Aralia or Fatsia japonica, while the fibrous-rooted varieties are useful for edgings, both requiring heat in the spring to bring them forward or their season is short. Calceolaria amplexicaulis and the ever favourite heliotrope go well to-gether, the latter as a base, the former trained neatly to stakes, and the flower-ing shoots allowed to depend. The former plant as a base and kept pegged with good-size plants of Heliotrope or Plum-bago capensis always appealed to me when responsible for the fill-ing of good-sized beds.

Reverting to the Geranium, few beds are more effective than one or two of the Ivyleafs Mme. Crousse and Galilee or Chas. Turner, each of which quickly fills their allotted space if pegged out once or twice and then allowed to run riot among a few branched twigs of Birch 18 inches in height, or the Calceo-laria as dots placed 2 feet apart. Annuals that look well in a mass are Salpiglossis and Zinnias. The rich velvety colours of the former always at-tract attention, while the latter, especially the doubles, give us a variety of colouring which is somewhat difficult to define; both should be given a warm and sheltered posi-tion and be very neatly supported; both should be raised from seed in early spring, afforded a little heat if possible, and grown on without any check. The improved type of China Aster form attractive beds during late summer, especially Comet and Ostrich Feather, while the double Clarkias and newer Godetias, when given good quarters, find a host of admirers, and very charming the many and varied colours are. Neither must the Ten-week Stock, in its greatly im-proved character, be ignored, Princess Alice

and Beauty of Nice being good examples. These extend the flowering display well into the autumn, reminding one of that excellent herbaceous Lobelia Queen Victoria, as dot plants in a big bed of early-flowering white Chrysanthemum, such as Hermine or Sanctity, all at their best during September and October. J. MAYNE.

Antirrhinums for bedding

As mentioned in the foregoing article, Antirrhinums have made great progress as bedding plants in recent years. The following varieties are recommended for bedding:—Tall: Esme, light pink; Monarch, crimson; The King, orange-scarlet; and Yellow King. Medium: Afterglow or Fire King, orange-scarlet; Empress, crimson; Fascination, light pink; Lady Roberts, primrose; and White Queen. Autumn-sown plants should be ready for bedding out from cold frames about mid-April, and spring-sown plants should be hardened off and planted out in early May.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Fertilising Peach blossoms

THE article on p. 168 is timely, for only by paying attention to fertilisation can a crop of Peaches or Nectarines, with confidence, be expected. The writer recommends the use of a camel's-hair brush, but the work can be equally effectively and more rapidly accomplished by using a rabbit's tail tied to a light stake. My principal reason for referring to the matter, however, is to draw attention to alternative methods of fertilisation, and, more especially, where there are many trees to handle. At different periods of my journeyman days I worked under three famous Scottish gardeners in places where there was a large number of fruit-houses, and in which orchard-houses figured largely. One of these gardeners was a bee expert, and it was his custom to introduce a hive of bees into one of the houses where, excited by the warmer temperature, the insects quickly got to work and very effectually pollinated the fruit trees. At first we journeymen were rather dubious about the bees, but by paying no attention to them and going about our work in a quiet way they left us alone, and I cannot recollect that ever I received a single sting. Another gardener, in order to distribute the pollen on Peach blossom, used large fans made of the feathers of turkeys and of peacocks. These fans were agitated in front of the trees at a distance of 6 inches from the blossoms. The work was done about midday, and when the sun was shining, and I am bound to admit that a better set could not be desired. The practice of the third appeared to me to be revolutionary. It was to spray the blossoms with a syringe fitted with a very fine nozzle—merely to damp them—and this was also done round about the middle of the day during sunny weather. This practice, also, appeared to effect the purpose of setting the fruit. Personally, I believe in the rabbit's tail, although, on occasion, and when time pressed, I have relied, and not in vain, in a late house, upon a sharp tap to the wires when the sun was shining. After all, it matters little how the pollen is disseminated; so long as fertilisation is accomplished the method is of secondary importance.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Autumn Onions

I am very pleased to find, on reading Mr. Markham's excellent notes on current work, in the issue of March 19th, that there are still some who, like myself, plant a bed of autumn-sown Onions. The majority of gardeners nowadays prefer, rather, to rely upon plants raised in heat, overlooking the fact that the autumn-sown Onion can be used, and profitably used, before the is fit to be planted. As Mr. Markham out, the plants left in the seed-bed progress after being thinned, and the in when the bulbs in store begin to It is alleged that autumn-sown Onio prone to bolt, and that the bulbs do n well. Both allegations are fallacious. sown at the proper date in autumn (a is a matter of locality) bolting is neg I have never had more than, at the ve side, 10 per cent. of "bolters," and have the embryo seed-pod pinched clea as soon as it is observed, the bulb, certainly splits into two halves, will c to grow, and can be used when needed cerning the keeping qualities of autum Onions, I have proved to my own s tion, and over a long series of years, t bulbs will "keep" over as long a pe those bulbs from plants raised in hea spring-sown seeds. The whole secre the harvesting. This ought to be don in August—that is to say, in the same in which (in Scotland) the seeds are s the previous year. I have seen a sown Onions still in the bed late tember; these could never be ripen dried off satisfactorily, and then the complained that the bulbs did no Harvest them at the proper time, and tain that the autumn-sown bulb is e not superior, to that from a sprin plant. Even the latter do not alwa well. I have a vivid recollection of in a large garden, nearly half a ton large spring-sown Onions laid ou Melon-house in a vain endeavour t them, after, for the sake of "that ex in circumference," having been allo remain in the ground until the broke. In brief, were I asked to de tween growing autumn-sown Onio those sown in heat in spring, my vo without hesitation, would be cast former. I am not, of course, co about the show-bench specialist in the He is not, necessarily, of superior ski culturally—circumference and weig mere matters of early sowing i manure, and chemical stimulants.

A SCOTTISH GARD

Cyclamen with 84 expanded flowers and many buds

Cyclamen Salmon Pink

I SEND you, herewith, photogra grand plant of Sutton's Salmo Cyclamen with 84 expanded bloo several to come, grown by Mr. R Lamcote House, the residence of Col Birkin, C.M.G. Large batches of t grown annually and to perfection, m ing as good as the one photograph they are the best I have seen. GEO.

Nottingham.

Brussels Sprouts

I have read, with much interest, on page 183, March 26th issue, Scottish Gardener," on unproduct well-grown, Brussels Sprouts. Sever causes for the unsatisfactory conditio crop under review have occurred While this vegetable requires a fa soil, I have seen poor results where t dressings of farmyard dung had been and there seems some probability th case referred to by "A Scottish Ga seeing the ground occupied by the this year carried Onions and Celery vious season, over-richness was prese especially if some fresh manure we when preparing the site for the This, too, would be aggravated were not made very firm before planti place. Another likely reason is a po suitable variety, for, as with most ve there are plenty of poor stocks on the

even some excellent stocks are not re- everywhere. In this connection, many ago, I secured seed of a famous prize- g strain from a reliable English house, simply ran to seed, although sown and ated in the usual way. Not being satis- tried fresh seed from the same source llowing year, and the very same thing ed. Since then I have stuck to two ies, and have never had a failure— wnards Gem (the best Sprout I have een) and Solidity (also very good). The r is sown under glass in February and her a month later, also under glass, arcely a plant ever bolts. This winter op was exceptionally fine, the sprouts of good size (we dislike very large ons"), and as firm as golf balls. The l was occupied by Peas the previous and had only a moderate dressing of during the autumn, but also a light g of Carbo-Limo forked into the sur- week or two before planting time. ntally, I may say that Carbo-Limo is in preventive of club root among the a family. C. B.

ton House Gardens, Linlithgow.

It would be difficult to arrive at a tory conclusion concerning the erratic ur of the Brussels Sprouts mentioned Scottish Gardener" in his note on 83. Part of my own crop was simi- disappointing. Two varieties of ls Sprouts seeds were sown on the late in mid-April in the open ground. germinated irregularly, one variety so ly that there seemed to be too many mong the resultant seedlings, some be- a gross growth and others very frail. er, such as were planted out on good awaiting them maintained a lack of nity the whole season, and on coming urity were mainly a mass of loose Here and there on individual plants riously-shaped clusters of "buttons," nes in threes and fours, occasionally rcle round the stem, or in semi-spiral And these buttons never opened. aching a certain stage they dwindled, heir outer leaves became brown and the plant's rampant growth went on carrying its initial big leaves at the me. Yet this variety was selected prominent seedsman's catalogue, a description against its name, which was in large type, and also, as a footnote, a testimonial from a gardener who had grown it the year previously "equal to the illustration."

The other variety, also in large type, was not so disappointing, but failed to compare favourably with older sorts I have grown in previous years, the names of which are in small type at the end of seedsmen's lists and with no recommendations.

And now I come to my third variety, a Brussels Sprout without any name—a huge bundle of plants generously given to me one evening early in July by a market gardener friend, assuring me that THEY would be all right. Although the plants were on the "big side" and the weather hot for a fortnight after they were planted, during which time they were copiously watered, syringed, shaded, and supported by Spruce branches, when cooler weather conditions prevailed they made good progress afterwards. The majority attained a height of about 3 feet, and all of the plants were well studded with solid sprouts of good flavour from bottom to top, the big initial leaves yellowing and falling off as the sprouts came near to maturity. I think it is very remarkable that market gardeners never have a bad strain. Either they grow their own seed and fix their own strain, or the seed-grower who specialises in certain kinds for market work does it for them.

On the other hand, the private gardener or amateur in quest for something new, or beyond the ordinary standard, tries collectively a greater number of varieties—perhaps by reason of popular names—than does the market grower. And, in consequence, finds, sometimes, that success does not always follow experiment. J. C. G.

owl of Hyacinth gigantea con- eix grand and uniform spikes

Bulbs in bowls

I AM sending two photographs of bulbs grown by my gardener, Mr. A. Collett, here—a bowl of Sir Watkin Daffodil, all one height, 49 blooms at one time, and a bowl of Gigantea Hyacinths, 6 blooms in the bowl at one time, all one height, 9 inches of *flower* on each stem. They were so beautiful and rather unique (all being so evenly grown) that I am wondering if you would care to reproduce the pictures. I am disappointed that the photographer could not show the six blooms, but there they were, and with enormous bells. EDITH ANDERSON.

Thornton House, Bickley, Kent.

New Zealand plants

I have been greatly interested in Mr. Crawford's account of his remarkable success with New Zealand plants in Fifeshire, many of which are usually regarded as somewhat tender even in south-western gardens. Clematis indivisa is evidently much hardier than popularly supposed. I planted one against an east wall four years ago which soon climbed above the wall and amongst the branches of an Apple tree, through Chimonanthus fragrans on the other side of the wall, and is now carrying large bunches of beautiful white flowers. I think it is a plant which likes to go its own way through neighbouring shrubs, and resents close training. The buds were unhurt by 12 degs. of frost in early February. Pomaderris elliptica will be sure to succeed with your correspondent. I have grown it from seed and have several bushes about 5 feet high which are a mass of fluffy yellow blooms every spring. It is a charming plant and altogether superior to P. apetala.

It is surprising to hear that species of Metrosideros succeed at all so far north and east as Fifeshire. M. lucida makes very slow growth here, although it is in a very sheltered position. It has never flowered with me, and I understand that even in New Zealand it is an irregular-flowering shrub, sometimes going four or five seasons with no blooms. Mr. Crawford finds the Leptospermums slow at first. In this garden they are quick-growing, and self-sown seedlings come up all over the paths. I think they appreciate hard, stony ground, and make denser bushes there than in rich soil. They vary a good deal from seed, but I have never raised any red or pink forms from seed saved from the deep red variety Nichollsii. The very beautiful pink variety Chapmannii seems to be much more tender than the ordinary form. Olearia semidentata is a delightful shrub, and although hailing from bogland in the Chathams it thrives with me in an ordinary border and has shown no signs of distress in the driest seasons. The Muehlenbeckias are both apt to become a nuisance when they are fully established. I find M. axillaris quite a pest in the rock garden, whilst M. australis has taken entire possession of half a border, an Apple tree, and a trellis fence, and is now festooning the roadside bank. Many people have taken cuttings and rooted layers from it, but they generally find it slow to become established.

Myrtus obcordata has made a neat little plant about 3 feet high here, but it has not yet flowered. It appears to be quite hardy. The remarkable M. bullata seems to be much more delicate. I have not tried it, but have seen it in other gardens looking very unhappy; but it flourishes in some favoured parts of Cornwall. N. G. HADDEN.

West Porlock, Somerset.

A bowl of Sir Watkin Daffodils with 49 blooms open at one time

Rose Paul's Scarlet Climber

In last week's issue you write, in answer to "H. L. W.," "As Paul's Scarlet Climber is not a particularly robust grower," etc.

I write to inform you that I planted a Paul's Scarlet Climber four or five years ago and it is now over 25 feet high and a glorious sight from spring to autumn. Given a position it likes, and with good attention, it appears to be an extremely strong grower and a prolific flowerer. HERBERT NASH.

Chantry Dene, Guildford.

Supporting Exhibition Sweet Peas

I wish to draw your attention to a misleading item which appears (issue March 25th, page 185), describing my method of supporting exhibition Sweet Peas, by your contributor, "East Anglian," who writes: "I would make the diameter of the cylinder

Narcissus Fortune

nearly a foot instead of 6 inches, thus giving a wider turn." Now, this is not a feasible proposition, as the top of the cylinder is only 3 feet from the top of the canes, and the top 12 inches or 15 inches of haulm is very brittle and must be kept straight; also the bloom and buds are on this portion, so a cylinder of larger dimensions will need a longer cane in proportion to the diameter of same.

Keighley. A. WALBANK.

FRUIT GARDEN

Grape Mrs. Pearson

IT is rather surprising this really first-rate Muscat-flavoured Grape is not more extensively grown than it is in private gardens, especially where late-keeping Grapes of high quality are in request during the early months of the year.

The variety is a strong grower, it is productive and sets well, and its only shortcoming is that, like Lady Downes, Gros Colmar, and Muscats in general, it requires a long season of growth in which to mature its fruit. It should be grown with other keeping varieties in the late vinery, and be started not later than the first or second week in March.

The bunches are from medium to large, tapering, and well shouldered, while the berries are large and roundish in form and amber-coloured when well finished. Mrs. Pearson was raised many years ago by the late Mr. Pearson, of Chilwell, and it was awarded a First-class Certificate by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1874. A. WARD.

Apple Annie Elizabeth

In this well-known variety we have an Apple suitable for cooking, and the dessert also when ripe, and this, coupled with the fact that it has the merit of keeping in sound condition, with all its good qualities in regard to flavour and juiciness unimpaired, constitutes it one of the best very late Apples in cultivation. It also has the additional advantage of being attractive in appearance by reason of its bright colouring as well as being regular in form and outline. It is a healthy, vigorous grower and succeeds either as a bush or pyramid on the Paradise or as a standard on the free stock. It was raised by Messrs. Harrison and Sons, of Leicester, and although it is as far back as 1868 since it gained a First-class Certificate it is not grown as generally as its merits deserve.

A. WARD.

Grease bands

The eggs of Winter Moth and allied species are now on the point of hatching. Trees that have been well grease-banded during the winter months should have the majority of the eggs of these pests on the bands and on the portion of the trunk of the tree the band and above the ground-leve complete the work of grease-bandin bands should be removed and burned. stems of the trees are well limewash eggs laid there are sealed in and hatch. Two fluid ozs. of commercial fo added to each gallon of limewash hel wash to do its work better.

Hardy fruit trees and bushe

Fork over the surface about thes depth of 2 inches, remembering that ing of lime is advantageous to all ston and wood-ashes favour surface root-ac

Narcissus Fortune

FORTUNE is a giant Incomp Narcissus that is assured of a popularity in the near future. On many virtues lies in its time of flo It is one of the first to flower, and companying illustration was taken flowers cut in my garden in East Lot March 22nd. It was then in full Thus early in the season there are pra no coloured Daffodils in flower, ar magnificent variety has a place in this peculiarly its own. Its precocity in bl is a decided acquisition to the garden a stately flower of grand substance a fect form. The broad perianth, of yellow, has a long, deep crown of blood-orange of very bold appearance, perfect proportion to the flower. Daffodil that flowers very freely, anc a grand constitution. It has alre ceived many awards, and always great attention when exhibited. Whe can be obtained at a reasonable price assuredly, find its way into every where these lovely spring flowers preciated. In the meantime the bulb few hands and are still very scarce. grown it for two seasons, and I thi one of the finest introductions we h had amongst Daffodils. The crown colour and does not fade or burn, stems are strong and stout. The too, last for a long time in fresh c when cut. Those who have gro varietv speak very highly of it, and I fully deserves all the great criticism has already received. GEORGE M. T

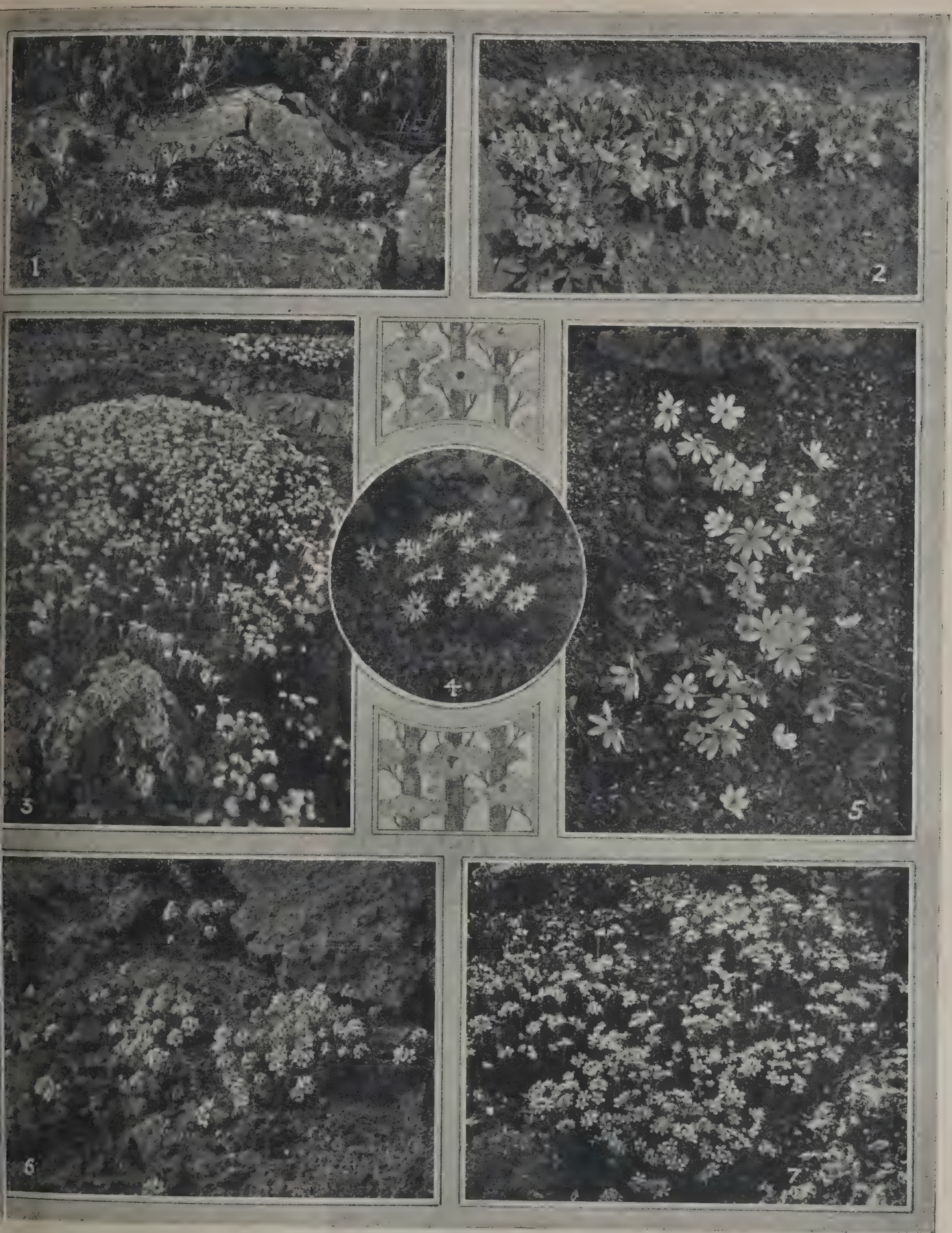
Edinburgh.

The Kew Rock Garde

THE rock garden at Kew is no best and brightest. Large pa Saxifrages, Anemones, and Prim in full flower, and visitors to the rock and alpine-house within the next fe will be amply rewarded for the t trouble they have taken in reaching

On the occasion of a recent visit to garden the following were in f Narcissus minor nanus, N. mino Primulas marginata, rosea, S Kyrillii, apiculata, apiculata alba, Mira, Grisebachii, Jenkinsæ, marg Haagei, Anemones blanda, angul alata, Leucojum vernum, and E biglandulosa, with bright yellow bracts. It is a native of Southern and on the Kew rock garden it alway early. Saxifraga apiculata is m brave show with its masses of pa flowers over a lovely carpet of green

Many of the plants here menti illustrated and described on the pa site. The illustration, prepared fro graphs taken a few days ago, giv slight idea of the variety and qui alpines now flowering freely in the garden.



Saxifrages, Anemones, and Primulas now flowering in the rock garden at Kew

1 Saxifraga Kyrillii, a distinct yellow-flowered hybrid from Bulgaria. shrubby plant showing in the background is Lavendula vera.

2 Primula marginata, flowers mauve, from the Alps of Dauphiny and nont.

3 Saxifraga apiculata, a lovely green carpet freely studded with pale w flowers.

4. Anemone blanda from Asia Minor, white, mauve on the outside.

5. Anemone angulosa, the large blue Hepatica of early spring.

6. Saxifraga marginata, a beautiful species with white flowers from the mountains of Central Italy.

7. Saxifraga Haagei, of garden origin, a dark green cushion with deep golden-yellow flowers.

EASTER AND TH

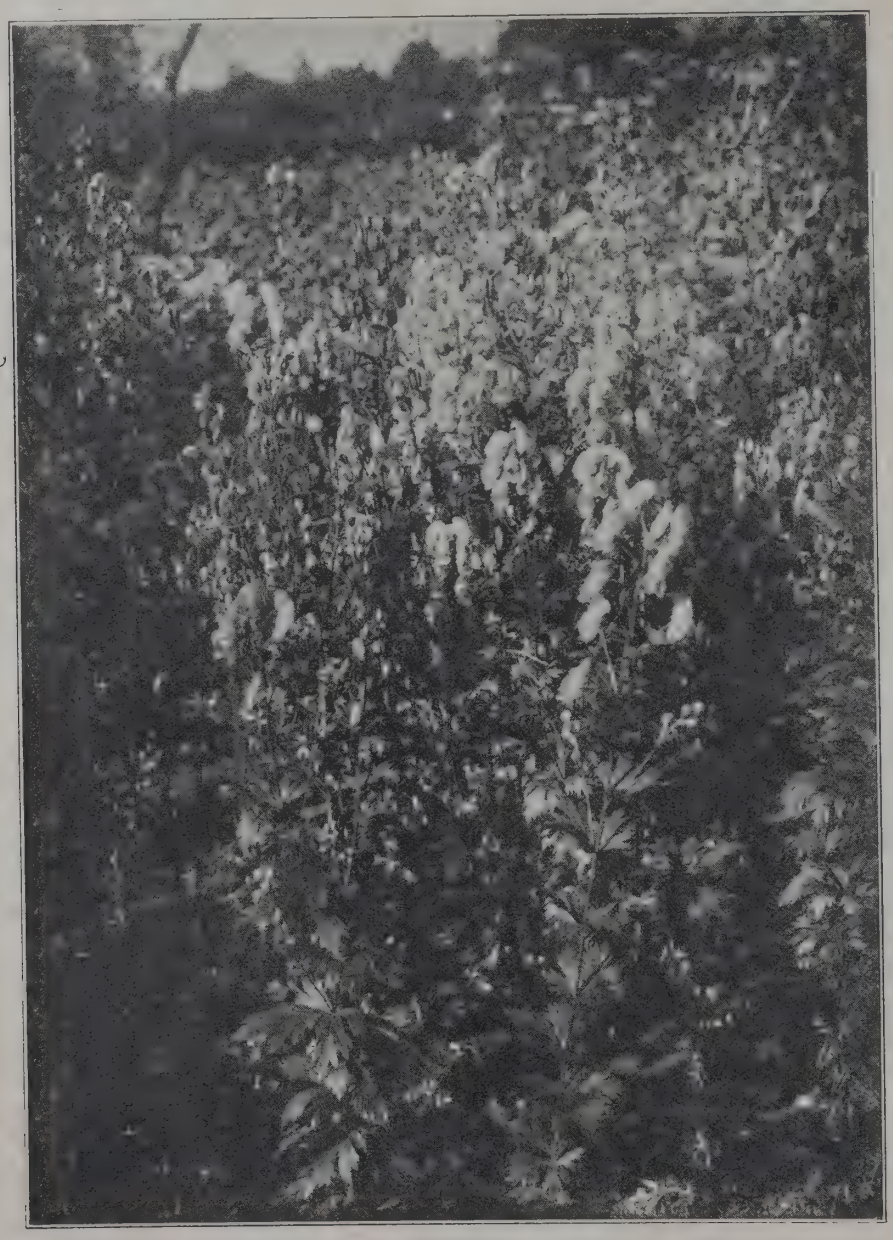
AT this season the thoughts of the gardener turn to the flowers of summer in which the glory of the garden finds its highest expression. If herbaceous plants are not already in their places no time should be lost in attending to their planting. There is time, but only just time, to plant Herbaceous Phloxes, Michaelmas Daisies, Delphiniums, Pyrethrums, and Lupins. Antirrhinums, Gladioli, and Dahlias are dealt with elsewhere in this issue. The late spring is favourable to April planting; at the same time it should be clear to all readers that no time must be lost in planting if we are to be rewarded in full with the flowers of summer and autumn.

Aconitum Wilsoni

WITH one or two exceptions the Monkshoods are unworthy of a place in the majority of gardens, for they can lay no claim to beauty or utility. There is a noteworthy exception in A. Wilsoni, a noble species introduced from W. China by Messrs. J. Veitch and Sons, Chelsea, some 20 years ago.

When well grown the plant attains a height of 6 feet or 7 feet, but the soil should be well cultivated and in good heart to produce such results. The first flowers, which are fairly large and deep violet-blue, appear early in September on the central or terminal spike, to be followed by lateral spikelets, which spring from the axils of the leaves below. These lateral spikes are a decided attribute, and thereby prolong the flowering period to the end of October. A. Wilsoni is a bold plant, and worthy of a place in the herbaceous border, where the colour of its flowers and imposing habit compel attention.

It is increased by seeds, and division during the dormant season. Two other Monkshoods are worthy of consideration, viz., A. Fischeri and A. F. acutum, the former with soft blue and the latter with deep blue flowers. The climbing Aconite, A. Hemsleyanum, is rarely met with. It is a hardy herbaceous perennial with deep blue flowers. This is a native of Central China, from whence it was introduced in 1903. B.



Aconitum Wilsoni in a semi-wild garden

Monkshood from China (Aconitu Wilsoni)

Monkshoods in the wild ga

AMONGST tall and vigorous herb plants few are more suitable fo and semi-wild places than Monks They are hardy and robust enough to anywhere in shady or half-shady Their tall spikes, loaded with blue fl are very beautiful, as we can say from seen them naturalised in shrubberies, a few tufts were thrown out by a amongst the soil in the autumn, and are rather short-lived in bloom ar plants, not quite so manageable a phiniums in the mixed border, the particularly well fitted for the wild In the semi-wild garden their beauty striking. As many of our readers some of the Aconites are very poison much so, indeed, that many people allow them a place in their gardens. reason alone, places outside the garde best for them. The larger rich blu and the blue and white one are very b grown in deep soils, in which they great height.

Chrysanthemum maximu

Little need be said in its favour, fo established itself everywhere bec knows it has only to be seen to be We refer to it because there are sever ties, and it is not always known that such an early-blooming variety as I This is small compared to some of the which are veritable giants and whic on right into late September. T known of the larger kinds are King Perfection, The Speaker, Mrs. C. In height they range from 1½ feet to

ERBACEOUS BORDER

Salvia Sclarea

s only of late years that the Clary of old b gardens has been recognised as a de- able plant for our flower borders, but can be no doubt as to its merit. The ation shows it in the end of a large border in July, where the quantity of bloom with large mauve bracts on tall abra-like stems forms cloudy masses of fect. It shows up well against a back- l of Yew and the dark, polished foliage oquat. A white Everlasting Pea is at ck and will be trained over a part of the of Clary when this has gone out of The rest of the group will be re- when its beauty is over, and some f Hydrangea will be plunged in its Clary is a biennial and is apt to sow the plants are left in place till the seed . The whole plant is viscous to the and has a very strong smell of a y aromatic character—a little too ul to be quite pleasant when handled.

G. J.

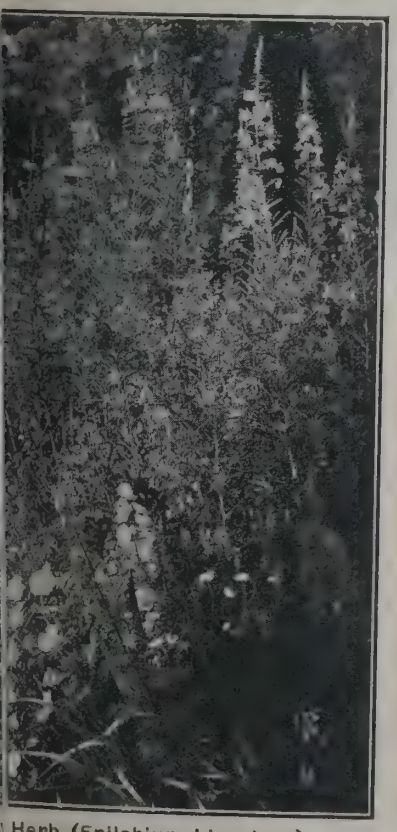
Salvia Sclarea. Clary of old herb gardens

rbaceous plants and shrubs

ardens I visited last summer I came ss several choice plants and shrubs, ng them the Marsh Mallow (Althæa lis), a plant which, when well is a distinct success. It is so full of so healthy and bright in appearance, not help but admire the plant. Once own its culture is nearly always ex- in the garden. In hot, dry, sandy , and also in heavy, tenacious loam, s and flowers profusely.

Willow Herb (Epilobium hirsutum) urish both in dry or moist soil. If e sown in light sandy soil and trans- when 3 inches or 4 inches high a easily raised.

plants quickly spread and soon cover surface of ground. The variety mentioned has purple flowers which it bears from June to September. When the seed-pods are ripe they have the appearance of so much cotton-wool.



Herb (Epilobium hirsutum) and Althæa officinalis

The Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) is a good plant for a moist place in the flower or kitchen garden. It is perfectly hardy and rapidly spreads over a large space when in a moist soil. The variety mentioned is far better than the old purple Loosestrife. For massing it is valuable and effective, and as its habit is a spreading one a colony is soon established, giving a fine display of flowers from June until September.

The Flowering Rush (Butomus umbellatus) is also a moisture-loving plant, bearing pink flowers from June until the end of August. In wet soil near ponds and streams this plant will thrive and flower well.

Rudbeckia purpurea is a hardy perennial of very great beauty. It bears reddish-purple flowers which are very effective either on the plants or in a cut state. It is easily increased by division of the clumps or by seeds.

Buddleia variabilis in a sheltered position does well. It is a sweet-scented flowering shrub and the colour of the flowers is a rosy-lilac. They are borne on spikes and vary in length from 6 inches to 1 foot or more. The individual blooms are almost ½ inch in diameter. In this part of Devon, not far from the sea, the Buddleia flourishes remarkably well.

For raising young plants peat, sand, leaf-soil, and loam should be used, and when planted out it is as well to mix some peat and leaf-mould with heavy soil.

Montbretias are glorious plants for the herbaceous border, of which grandiflora and M. solfaterre are two beautiful subjects. They do best in a warm border of light soil. Their flowers are produced in great profusion and are brightly-coloured.

In Clethra alniflora we have a delightfully fragrant flowering shrub. During August and September the white flowers are borne in profusion on the young branches. It can be propagated by layers or cuttings. The former may be rooted during autumn by pegging down the younger lower branches in sandy soil. Cuttings should be taken off with a heel attached and inserted in sandy soil in a close frame in June and early July and shaded from all bright sun.

Sidbury, Devon. F. HAYNES.

Pyrethrums

For blooming during the early months there are few plants that can surpass the beautiful hybrid Pyrethrums, of which there are many beautiful shades in both single and double form, while for cutting they are admirable for dinner-tables and other vase decorations, and the flowers will remain fresh for a considerable period.

To grow the plants well the soil must be deep and in a good state of cultivation, with ample manure, thoroughly decayed, worked well beneath the roots. Planting is best done in early spring, as growth commences early and the plants will take root quickly. They are best when set out in groups of not less than five plants. Slugs are particularly fond of the young shoots of Pyrethrums, and many plants are lost owing to their ravages. I find very fine coal cinders mixed with soot one of the best remedies, but the circles of galvanised rings can be recommended.

When the plants are three years old they should be lifted and divided, as they deteriorate if left undisturbed for a larger number of years. When lifting, the soil should be shaken from the roots and the plants separated into small tufts and replanted at 9 inches apart. A good crop of large flowers will be the result during the first season, but the year following the crop will be greater. For massing in the front of the herbaceous border they are ideal, and if the flower-stems are cut down when over and the plants fed with liquid-manure and ample supplies of water during the summer a second crop of bloom will appear in autumn. When flower-stems commence to grow they should be supported with short twiggy sticks.

SOME GOOD VARIETIES.—There are many beautiful varieties raised by Messrs. Kelway and others to choose from, amongst which the following can be recommended:—

Papaver orientalis Mrs. Perry

Singles: Hamlet, rich pink; James Kelway, crimson-scarlet; Mary Anderson, rose-pink; Dr. Parker, salmon-rose; Jubilee, rich crimson; Roseum, blush rose; Princess of Wales, soft pink; Beatrice Kelway, cherry-rose; Comet, rich red; and Agnes Mary Kelway, bright rose.

Six good doubles are:—Princess Mary, bright rose-pink, one of the best; J. N. Tweedy, brilliant red with yellow centre; White Queen, a beautiful pure white; Lord Rosebery, crimson-scarlet; Mme. Munier, blush pink; and Queen Mary, a beautiful shade of pink. W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

The Oriental Poppies

THESE great Poppies are the most gorgeous of early summer flowers. Their blooms, each from 6 inches to 10 inches in diameter, are of a brilliant scarlet colour, and the large black blotch at the base of each petal and the central mass of anthers make the scarlet petals appear still brighter when the flower is looked at closely, while a group of established plants, each plant well furnished with its flaming flowers, forms the most gorgeous spectacle in a garden, whether seen from afar or near. There are many cultivated varieties differing in size, habit, and colour of flower. Some may be called a deep orange, while in others the scarlet is softened in the direction of salmon colour, the buds, as in the variety Mrs. Perry, of a very delicate salmon-pink. This is a medium-sized flower, the plant growing to a height of 3 feet with very stout stems. A group of five or more strong clumps makes a magnificent effect in a flower border.

It is as well to cut away a good of the weaker flower-stems, as th always bear more than are needed. tunately, they require staking, t heads of flower being so heavy that unless supported, is in danger of down from the very root. It is best at only half their height; not only of the stake may be seen, but also upper half of the stalk may bend ab own will, for though some ste upright, a good number, and often t the largest flowers, twist about som the way that the singular-lookin Tulips do.

The only defect of this noble pla after flowering it becomes very ra unsightly, and for appearance sake cut away, thus leaving large empt the flower border. To cover this d a good plan to intergroup th Tritomas, whose foliage is growin by the time the Poppies are over

ering time they will have covered the e space. Plantain Lilies would answer same purpose. A group of these fine ies would have a very striking effect g dark-foliaged dwarf shrubs in a bery border, particularly if there were ther flowers near. They enjoy a deep, enriched, rather light soil in full sun, are very easy to cultivate and increase; d, in warm soils every little piece of n root grows. Interesting varieties may ised from seed.

um auratum platyphyllum in a Surrey garden

E came on these Lilies unexpectedly when walking along the woodland paths of Mr. Kenrick's garden last er. The sight and scent of them held llbound. They stood in shining groups t a background of shrubs and ever- with Pines in the distance. As we close we found they literally towered us. We took this snapshot of Mr. k (who is over 6 feet) standing beside them. Not only was their height re- ble, but also the quality and number blooms, of which there were, I believe, this plant, each flower-stalk bearing lowers. These bulbs were planted four years ago with a generous supply mould, and have been top-dressed with cayed manure. They were a sight not forgotten. V. WYNCH.
berley.

Lilium auratum platyphyllum in Mr. A. C. Kenrick's garden, Walsham House Elstead, Surrey

Decorative Dahlias

cultivation of this popular flower has dergone a change in recent years, and bably ancient practices being discon- will, at the same time, take many s that have been more or less d. I mean this. To obtain speci- f blooms as we have been accustomed them in competition hitherto spelled g of branches and concentration on a ver-buds, copious watering and stimu- with manures, and shading; all little of daily attention.

may be nothing to prevent a grower ing such things now, of course, but not assist a raiser of a new variety in awards which may be coveted for s of publicity. Each novelty is tried in these days, and any other award, e, is but preliminary. And in the the official test it is a rule that the hall be grown in a natural manner. a took effect after it was no longer to exhibit a new sort with support lower-stem. The object was to en- varieties which throw up their s well away from the leaves. So far ct has succeeded, for there is gradu- ng evolved a race of decorative Dahlias capable of considerable beauty as garden plants, if, indeed, the individual bloom does not conform to the standard of size, shape, and colour combined, so dear to the florists of old.

At any rate, the handsome Cactus style, as well as the rounded formal one, has become less in demand in this country at least, if it be favoured still abroad—the Colonies, for example, where folk carry with them from home their love of exhibition growth in respect to flowers. Dahlias, then, are regarded by the great majority as material for borders or for bedding, for bold bits of colouring.

We used to fatten the land in the olden times for highly-developed flowers; now, in cultural matters, if the idea is not poor ground for them it is that of moderate richness only so that growth shall not become gross and thus have a bearing on a quantity of bloom. About the more important detail is an open position. This is not always easy to get when the plants are placed among other growing things—trees and so on; still, it must be borne in mind.

A novice in Dahlia culture would do well to procure young plants in spring from some nursery where the subject is a speciality. Such young plants may appear small, but newly-rooted ones from cuttings will outstrip before the autumn old tubers parted. The latter, as well as pot roots, so called, may, however, be the earlier to give flowers. The end of May and early the following month is a good time to put the plants in the open ground. The owner of a cool frame should obtain such a month earlier than the period mentioned and grow them on in 5-inch pots; by so doing a capital start will be made with nice-sized specimens.

I prefer not to interfere with the points of the plants—these will branch in good time—and prefer, really, one stem only to each at the beginning, as greater strength will follow the whole as it develops. Sticks at the time of planting are advisable, then one tie will ensure that winds do no harm; a little soot around the base of each plant will also free one from the ravages of slugs.

Dahlias planted in borders with other things are obviously the more likely to require assistance in the way of moisture as compared to those grown in the open by themselves, and in ordinary seasons, in early autumn, when the growth is so rapid, with flower-buds to support, the cultivator should not stint the roots with water in addition to something stimulating in manures, liquid or otherwise.

Officially, as has been noticed, thinning of branches is not done; yet I do not know of any variety of the plant now being remarked upon which is not improved thereby. Especially is this the case at flowering time, when superfluous leafy growths near the opening buds may well be removed. In most instances early frosts will take them before they, in their turn, can produce blossoms.

Referring to varieties, there may be hundreds worth growing. Here, however, it is intended to give the names of a few notable for their merit as decorative kinds. At Wisley, since the inception of the Dahlia tests, one has taken stock of a considerable collection of all the various classes of the flower, yet each season there have been a small number only which dwell in the memory as being particularly striking.

Producing large to medium-sized blooms are:—Berengaria, orange; Border Perfection, scarlet; Johan Mensing, crimson; Menny Carlee, white; McDonald, rich orange-red; Nancy, Apple-blossom pink; Jersey Beauty, salmon-pink; Mrs. C. Salbach, lavender; Psyche, rich yellow; Rose Elegance, pretty shade; Uncle Dick, red, tipped white.

Medium to small flowers are borne by Admiral, maroon; Aglaia, orange, shaded rose; Crimson Flag, short-growing; Dazzle, scarlet; Lemur, scarlet single with very dark leaves; Norah Bell, carmine and yellow; Our Annie, pink on yellow; Pink Pearl; Tipsy, red; Rona, white on crimson; Tuscar, carmine and white; White Star.

The dividing of Dahlias into classes more or less in vogue appears to me confusing as well as useless to the ordinary grower. If a variety be useful for garden decoration it must have other claims besides shape of bloom; the growth must be pleasing and free to bloom as well. Anyway, there seems little or any improvement in respect of the Pæony, the miniature Pæony, the Collarette, the Camellia-flowered, and there has been no advance within recent years in the old formal Dahlia, whether large or small, neither has there regarding the Cactus. Decorative Dahlias, however, are much in evidence, and I would take away the first word here and refer to all as being large or small, single or double, for varieties not effective are hardly wanted.

Dahlias require one great attribute they do not possess; this is better lasting power when cut. If, indeed, we do cut the flowers when sun is not on them and put the stalks straight away in water the chances of keeping them fresh are increased, but, still, the subject has a long way to go before it becomes a rival in the virtue named to the Chrysanthemum, say. H. SHOESMITH.

aster Amellus Bessarabicus
ull-growing Michaelmas Daisy, with s of gorgeous pale lavender flowers

Anemone Pulsatilla (the Pasque Flower)

In the rock garden Anemone Pulsatilla began to bloom on March 19th, some plants, under exactly similar conditions, being decidedly earlier than others. This is not to be regretted—the period of flowering will, thereby, be prolonged. A. Pulsatilla is perfectly hardy, and it is attractive alike in foliage and in flower. It has been my good fortune to see the Pasque Flower in a wild state, but the blooms of plants under cultivation are superior in every way to those of wildings. There are variations in colouring at times, but the type with which I am most familiar is that whose blooms are of a lavender or lilac shade. W. McG.
Mabie.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Vases

Make up those intended to occupy points of vantage in the flower garden during the summer months in order that the plants may become natural in appearance and established before their actual requirement for the open air. Whenever possible use a trailing plant to soften the outline of the vases.

Seeds of Alpine plants

Many of these may now be sown and the plants raised in cold frames. Gentians, Primulas, Æthionemas, Campanulas, Auriculas, Arenarias, Alpine Pansies, and a host of other choice subjects germinate freely at the present time. It should be remembered, though, that in the case of some of the Gentians, of which G. verna is an example, that the seeds lie dormant for 12 months, following which germination is free.

The rock garden

This is now approaching its most effective and beautiful month of the year, and an endeavour should be made to rid the plants of all weeds and to freshen up the soil about them, and any vacancies still available should be filled either with plants or sown forthwith with a choice dwarf annual.

Hoeing

Keep the hoe at work in the Rose garden and among flowering shrubs, Carnations, and herbaceous plants whenever the surface permits, as this will not only stimulate growth, but destroy armies of seedling weeds now appearing on the surface.

Peaches in the open

These are flowering well this year, and must be gone over each fine day at about 12 a.m. with a rabbit's tail or camel's-hair brush to disperse the pollen, unless bees are numerous, in which case artificial fertilisation is unnecessary. Attend carefully to the protective material each night as a sudden frost may ruin the season's prospects. The same applies to Apricots and some Pears.

In the vineries

The work of pinching and tying down the shoots will be an almost daily occupation, and as the berries in the early house approach the size of Black Currants a careful survey of the bunches should be made and any misplaced berries left at the first thinning, or with damaged footstalks, should be removed. From this point liberal applications of an approved Vine manure will greatly assist the swelling fruit.

Gladioli in the foreground in the gardens at Dunrobin Castle

Tomatoes

Plants swelling their fruits should be assisted with diluted manure-water twice each week. It is essential, however, that such water should be lukewarm. Varieties intended for the open should be sown without delay.

Peas

Make fresh sowings every 10 days in order to maintain an unbroken supply. Sow thinly and evenly, and keep a careful lookout for mice and birds. Those recently planted out from pots and boxes are in need of staking, for which dwarf Hazel boughs will be used. Dust those coming through the soil with soot.

Celery

Prick out the seedlings as soon as these are large enough to handle, and encourage growth by keeping the plants in cool, closed frames for a time. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Roses in pots

Even with the utmost care mildew is certain to attack Roses grown in pots, and to check this disfiguring fungus dusting with flowers of sulphur should be resorted to, or one of the preparations sold for the purpose can be used. I have seen good results follow the use of a fairly strong solution of carbolic soap. This will also destroy green fly, and leaves the foliage clean and glossy.

Forced Daffodils

As these go out of flower, or the f are cut for decorative purposes, the p boxes should be set in a frame or in sheltered spot outside to mature the Give water when necessary until the turns yellow. By giving these little tions the bulbs, if planted out in Augus bloom quite well again next year.

Clarkia and Schizanthus

Continue to stake and tie these del annuals as occasion demands. A little liquid-manure or a small tablespoon Ichthemic guano in a gallon of rain applied about twice a week will help long the season of beauty and add de colour to flower and foliage.

Sow Cinerarias

If not yet done, the main batch showy plant may now be sown, as coo ment as possible giving the best result

Pot on Chrysanthemums

Most of the late-flowering section Autumn Queen will now be ready for into 6-inch pots. A good, substantia post should be used, say, three par fibrous loam, two parts leaf-mould, a part of coarse sand doing admirab 5½-inch potful of bone-meal may, wi vantage, be added to each barrowload other ingredients. Pot firmly and re the frame, keeping close for a few day

Persian Cyclamens

Seedlings pricked off in Februar thumb pots are now fit for a shift into of a larger size. While the 3-inch si as a rule, suit the majority, some stronger plants will require to be pl 4-inch pots. A mixture consisting o parts best fibrous loam, two parts fibrous brown peat, with enough coar to ensure porosity will suit nicely, but improved by the addition of a 4½-inch of Ichthemic guano and a 5-inch po bone-meal to each barrowload of th ingredients.

Rose pruning

Even the pure Teas may be taken i very shortly, while all the other should be finished as soon as possibl All prunings should be carefully collec burned at once, while the surface of t should be lightly forked over, but bef ing so a fair sprinkling of some go ficial manure should be applied. Thomson's most satisfactory for th Newly-planted Roses, however, must given this fertiliser, a fair dressing meal being the best stimulant unde conditions.

Sowing Spring Broccoli

Not infrequently these are sown weeks too early, with the result th get too large and soft before winter and suffer accordingly. About the m April, I find, gives excellent results. good varieties for Scottish gardens a sham Giant, Leamington, and M June. If only one variety is required the last-named, it being the hardiest known, while its heads are white and quality.

Globe Artichokes

If not already seen to, the winte must now be removed from these The soil should be given a good dre farmyard manure and be then ligh over. C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

Salvia Turkestanica

e greenhouse species of Salvia have ı such a place in the garden that, when ioning this family, Salvia patens and a fulgens are almost immediately ;ht of.

: garden borders of considerable space are two bold perennials that should be ı in conjunction; they are Salvia :a nemorosa and Salvia Turkestanica ɔa.

first has that unusual combination in ·ing, purple and crimson, a large part effect being obtained by its free-flower- ıbit. Salvia Turkestanica is more bold ›wth, the leaves are large and pointed ıave a wide base, although they still the characteristic wrinkled and veined of the Sage family and the greyish ›f green. The flower itself would be ɔut for the bracts, which are large, , and very delicately tinged with pink. gh in some gardens the plant re- s year after year, it seems a little ous and inclined to die out, which is able as the flower-spikes are very g and it happens to be one of those erennials that require no staking.

ıe specimen will be 4 feet high and as through. The soil in which it is should be rich, but on the light side ther dry; the cause of the growth fail- reappear the following year very possi- y be attributed to a too damp and cold ɔn. MISS M. BARTON.

berley.

e Prophet-flower (Arnebia echioides)

pecial value for the rock garden on of its early flowering is the Prophet- which commences to bloom towards of March if planted in sunny, shel- ecesses. It is a singularly interesting nd rarely exceeds a foot in height. plants remain in bloom for a long ıe flowers being primrose-yellow, with ck or chocolate spots, which gradu- e to a lighter shade and finally dis- A native of the Caucasus and n Persia, and happiest in a rich loamy s interesting subject need not be confined to the rock garden, as it succeeds in well-drained borders along with other and stronger-growing plants. E. M.

Gladiolus

Few bulbous plants have such a wide range of colour, or are so stately in habit, or so important for garden decoration as the Gladiolus. As cut flowers Gladioli are especially valuable for house decoration; they stand pre-eminent. The corms may be planted with impunity in almost any soil or situation, always providing there is sufficient moisture and depth of soil to admit of a good root-action. Groups of six, 12, or more (according to space) of one variety may, with advantage, be planted here and there with good effect among herbaceous plants, Roses, Rhododendrons, and other shrubs. Their bold and massive flower-spikes and handsome foliage contribute largely to the beauty of the Gladioli, or when planted in groups by lake or stream adds enchantment to the landscape. It is perfectly obvious the Gladiolus responds to good cultivation, and to do them well the ground ought to be well dug and plenty of well-rotted manure worked in during the autumn. The corms should be planted any time from end of February, and at intervals of a week or two until the end of April, when a regular succession of bloom is maintained until quite late in the autumn. When cutting flowers for table decoration always leave at least four leaves of foliage to mature the growth of the bulb for the following season. It is advisable on cold, heavy soils to lift and store annually, away from frost, so soon as the foliage has died, or when of a brown colour. W. LOGAN.

Æthionema iberideum

Blooming early in April is this little grey-leaved plant, which I was pleased to find in a friend's garden a few days ago. Its flowers are white and borne on stems each about 6 inches high. Its chief value would appear to be its earliness of blooming, as, in point of effect, it bears a poor comparison with the lovely-coloured kinds which bloom later. The Æthionemas are such choice and beautiful plants that no alpine garden could be considered complete without some of them, and, where space permits, a generous planting should be made. Many of them come readily from seed sown in warmth at the present time. E. M.

Gladiolus Halley
Lovely salmon pink, large open flowers and fine spike; still one of the best

Gladioli in the summer garden

AN odd-shaped piece of ground in a space between garden walls is given to summer flowers, and is in beauty from the end of June to October. Here are Dahlias, Pentstemons, Cannas, Geraniums, Snapdragons, French and African Marigolds, and Gladioli. A raised ridge in the middle is planted with Yuccas and Crinums, and the great Euphorbia Wulfenii, with a setting of the deep red Centranthus. The two last, being at their best in April and May, are too early for the general effect, but make something of a show on the mound meanwhile. The Dahlias are away to the left, out of the picture, which shows the end where there are clumps of Gladioli, mostly yellow and white, with yellow Cannas, white and yellow Snapdragons, and a front edging of pale Geraniums, followed by a favourite mixture of the sweet-smelling variegated Mint (Mentha rotundifolia), whose yellow-splashed leaves blend delightfully with Golden Feather Pyrethrum and the clear yellow of Calceolaria amplexicaulis. Away to the left of the picture the colour warms to reds of Dahlias and Pentstemons, with dark velvety Snapdragons and a general groundwork of a good dull red Amaranthus, and then again lightens to pink and white colourings. It is a way of using what we used to call bedding plants so as to show their best purpose in bold interlocking masses of harmonious colouring.

G. J.

Gladioli in the summer garden

The Hardy Plant Nurseries, Merstham

IT is always a real pleasure to pay a visit to Mr. W. Wells at the Hardy Plant Nurseries, Merstham, and especially so in summer or early autumn, when Delphiniums, Lupins, Pyrethrums, Gaillardias, Geums, Phloxes, Tritomas, Rudbeckias, Boltonias, Michaelmas Daisies, and a host of other good things are at their best.

Of the Asters or Michaelmas Daisies, which are grown on a large scale at Merstham, special mention should be made of the varieties Queen Mary, Amellus King George, Little Boy Blue, Little Pink Lady, Barr's Pink, Margaret Ballard, and Acme, the last two being illustrated on the page opposite.

The nursery is situated on the busy London to Brighton road. Thousands of motorists pass by on a summer's day, and, attracted by the beautiful colours of very large masses of hardy flowers, they all slow down as they pass by the nursery.

It is known that the police are very disappointed with the speed trap for motorists along this road.

Beautiful colours appeal to all, and, strange as it may seem, motoring and a love of flowers go hand in hand. Thus it came about that the speed trap proved a dismal failure to the police.

The illustrations on the page opposite are from photographs taken one afternoon in early October. The first is that of the notable Gypsophila Bristol Fairy, which carried all before it last year, including Awards of Merit at Westminster and York. The flowers are pure white and double, the graceful cut sprays being in great demand for decorative purposes.

The second illustration gives some idea of the way in which Gentiano Sino-ornata is grown in nursery rows at Merstham. These nurseries have long been famous for Gentians, especially Farreri, acaulis, verna, and verna angulosa.

Many alpine species in the nursery have been collected by Mr. W. Wells during happy excursions in other countries, including Ramondias from the Pyrenees and Montserrat in Spain, Soldanellas, Campanulas, and Primulas from the Dolomites, and Cyclamen balearicum from Majorca.

From the tallest spires of Delphinium bloom down to the lowliest Gentian collected from its mountain home, the plants at Merstham look happy because they are well grown and understood. So great is the demand for well-grown alpines and herbaceous plants that the nurseries have been considerably extended in the last two years, and a large field adjoining the old nursery is now under cultivation. H. C.

A fragrant Carnation

There were 11 entries for the *Daily Mail* Gold Cup offered at the recent exhibition of the British Carnation Society for the best-scented Carnation not in commerce prior to 1925. The cup was won by a magnificent bowl of a new and superb dark crimson variety named Mrs. A. J. Cobb, shown by Messrs. A. F. Dutton, Ltd., Iver, Buckinghamshire. It is strange how we get back to dark red flowers for perfume. There was no question about this variety winning the cup, the immense blooms of this rich velvety crimson novelty were distinctly fragrant, reminiscent of the old Clove scent, though we have visions of old varieties that were far more fragrant. Three other scented Carnations came near the winner—Messrs. Stuart Low's dark crimson, Sir Philip Sassoon, the same growers' Fragrant Rose, and Lady Mond's Melchet Beauty, a gorgeous flower of deep heliotrope flecked with cerise.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, q cannot always be replied to in the issue in ately following their receipt. We do not re queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their pla be named should send fair examples of eac stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of and points of shoots are useless.) Not mor four plants should be sent in any one week same correspondent. Where more than on is sent they should be numbered. Of conif cones should always be sent.*

VEGETABLES

Tomato trouble

(P. O'Brien).—The Tomato foliage shows no sign of fungoid disease. The scorched foliage could have been caused by the fumes from the hot-water pipes, but in view of your experience with the Arums we are doubtful. The only thing that appears certain is that the foliage has been burnt by something. Is the house built so that it is difficult to get the foliage dry before the sun gets to the house? Try giving the plants a good soaking with a solution of sulphate of potash at the rate of 4 ozs. to 25 gallons of water. If you will send us a complete plant of the seedling Tomatoes we will examine it for you. Pack it in a little tin box so that it keeps as fresh as possible.

FRUIT

Damson trees

I shall be much obliged if you can tell me what to do with *old* Damson trees which have hardly borne any fruit for the past three or four years. The trees are large and, I think, have had too many branches and too much foliage. Some of these have been pruned. ALICE WOOLSEY BUTLER.

[It is now too late to do anything to your Damson trees this spring. In late autumn, after the leaves drop, however, it would be well to thin out the overcrowded branches. In the ordinary sense this fruit requires no pruning, but the removal of whole branches where these are crowding their fellows is always advantageous as it permits sun and air to reach all parts of the trees, thus ensuring the proper ripening of the wood, a very important matter in fruit cultivation.]

Wall Plum tree

(I. E. L.).—It seems likely that your Plum tree is being forced into too rampant growth by reason of the annual manuring. As a rule, this fruit is inclined to grow too strongly even without manure, and, when this occurs, fruit is never produced. Withhold all manure and eventually the matter will adjust itself. Muriate (not nitrate) of potash and sulphate of potash are very similar. Your tree does not require this.

Peach wood for inspection

I am enclosing a growth of last year's wood of Peach Early River, and could you, please, tell me the cause of the burns in the wood and cause of gumming? The tree is in a cold house and has plenty of lime-rubble to grow in. I also have Royal George Peach and Early River Nectarine affected just the same and in the same house. SUFFOLK.

[Your Peach trees are making too gross wood, and that has been but poorly ripened. The brown patches are, probably, caused by drops of moisture settling on the parts and being frozen. This would not, usually, damage firm, well-ripened wood. "Gumming" is caused by damage to the bark, such as too tight tying, bruising, or such like.]

Vine required

Will you kindly send me the name of a Vine; black, good size, seedless or nearly so, prolific, and requiring a minimum of tion? Also particulars under which it the best? F. JELLI

[We fear you will have considerabl culty in securing a Grape Vine that wil anything near to what you specify. Hamburgh is the easiest of all to cu and is of first-class quality. Black A is also of easy culture, but the quality something to be desired. We regre want of space prevents our giving full regarding the culture of the Grape V ensure its fruiting well. Special arti the Vine will appear later.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Violettas

(H. E. P.).—We fear it will be diffi procure Violas Rock Orange and Lemon, but Violetta should be obta You might try Stormouth and Son, bride, Cumberland, and Austin McAslan, Glasgow. Failing these, write again, and we may be able to he

Treatment of Salvia Greggi

(Herbert Hardman).—Salvia Gregg native of Texas and is of a shrubby h growth. Coming from such a count necessary to give it a hot, sunny posi soil which is free and well drained. could use it, if you desire, to clothe a wall, as I have seen it reach 4 feet o in height when so grown. Its natural however, is that of a low shrub. Pr must be provided in some light form the winter months, for, whereas a pla pass safely through one winter unpr it succumbs the next.

Plants on sandstone wall

We have a deep cutting here with ol stone walls overshadowed by trees. pull out tufts of grass I find this littl Herb Robert, and a small-leaved Ivy. I should like to supplement with othe or rock plants if you can suggest an to thrive. Is it too late to plant? "N

[Your Fern is Asplenium viride. Ferns likely to succeed are:—As Ruta-muraria, A. marinum, A crispus, and Woodsia ilvensis. No flowering plants would be likely to but you might try Arenaria balearica, ruff, Periwinkles (vincas), Linari balaria, Saponaria ocymoides, and Saxifrages. If these can be planted they ought to succeed quite well.]

GREENHOUSE

Arum Lily failing

(P. O'Brien).—We can find nothin Arum leaf you have sent which w count for the foliage going yellow. be that the trouble is lower down th You should examine the roots of th and find out if they are healthy. Th ing of the pipes may have had some do with the foliage going yellow, should have expected the plants to when they were removed to anothe

(Continued on page 224)

Gypsophila Bristol Fairy

Gentiano Sino ornata

Boltonia decurrens and Pyrethrum uliginosum

Aster Margaret Ballard

Aster Acme

Mr. W. Wells and Rudbeckia Newmanni Black-eyed Susan

ws in the Hardy Plant Nurseries, Merstham, where Asters, Delphiniums, Phloxes, Gentians, Pyrethrums, and other hardy plants are grown with marked success

Answers to Queries

(*Continued from page* 222)

If you find that the roots are wrong send us along a specimen and we will try and find out the cause of the trouble.

Cyclamens failing

(W. P. Mountmellick).—It is very likely that your Cyclamens are attacked by the grub of the Vine Weevil, this destructive pest being very partial to the roots and corms of this plant. You can easily verify or disprove this by taking hold of the corm and giving a slight pull. If it comes away easily, as it probably will, you can easily discern the vermin, as they are of a whitish colour and about ½ inch long. The only other likely reason for your plants behaving in the way you describe is over-watering. The Cyclamen, although it dislikes being allowed to flag from dryness at the roots, prefers much less the soil being kept saturated. As a writer in these columns some time ago pithily remarked, "the Cyclamen will forgive being allowed to flag from dryness, but never when caused by over-watering."

Regarding an Azalea

(Londoner).—What has, in all probability, happened is that two separate varieties were potted up together when quite small to form one plant, a mistake having been made in selecting the colours. Immediately the flowering is over you could divide the plants and pot each one up separately. In doing so use a very peaty or leafy soil with a free addition of sand, and grow on for a time in a warm greenhouse, shading the plants from bright sunshine. About the middle of June the plants may be stood under a cool north wall or fence and syringed daily. These Azaleas are usually grafted, but you might be able to increase yours by layering a few of the branches in sandy soil, in which case your plants must be planted out, with one side tilted to the ground, in a border under glass.

MISCELLANEOUS

Making a brick path, and sale of old greenhouse glass

(C. Ufford).—(1) Bricks make a clean and very pretty path when laid firmly and in true line, and you need not hesitate to lay them flat for they will last for years, especially as no harrowing is done upon them. Preparation: The ground should first be made absolutely firm by ramming and levelled, and if you require a path free from weeds we would advise the use of about 2 inches of cement and fine gravel at the base of the bricks. A nice finish to such paths obtains when the two outside lines are set up on their sides, thus bringing them about an inch higher than those lying flat, and when this plan is adopted these outside lines should be set up first in order to get them true. The joints should be as neat as possible, when very little, if any, filling will be found necessary. On a solid bottom and bedded in sand alone brick paths are also satisfactory; weeds are, however, more plentiful, and must be removed by hand, as weed killer, the basis of which is generally copper sulphate, causes the bricks to scale. (2) If the glass you speak of is 21-oz., in good condition, and the panes of good size, you ought to find no difficulty in disposing of it. If there is no nurseryman in your locality who would take it, an advertisement in this journal would probably find you a customer. Not knowing the size and other particulars we could not give you any idea of its value.

Sand for garden

(N. G. B.).—We think you should use the material giving the analysis you have sent us with a good deal of care. To use it as you suggest, "in large quantities," might be dangerous, *e.g.*, the material contains a considerable quantity of magnesia, which is not looked upon as being good for plants when used in quantity. It is not generally realised that for the purpose of soil analysis the top 9 inches in an acre of soil weighs approximately 2,500,000 lbs., and therefore 0·1 per cent. of any material is equal to 2,500 lbs. of that material per acre. Again, 6·4 of lime per acre is equal to approximately 71 tons per acre. We think you will find that Rhododendrons will not do well in such material. Your Delphiniums turning brown is probably due to the magnesium in the material. If you use the material in small quantities it should lighten your soil and do no harm.

Destroying the short tailed field mouse

(Enquirer).—Since trapping has failed we recommend "Safety Vermin Killer," which is claimed by the makers to be harmless to domestic animals. It is obtainable from Messrs. Bentley and Sons, Barrow-on-Humber, Hull, and is sold in jars at 8d. and 1s. 4d. each. You will find this effective.

SHORT REPLIES

G. C. Powell.—The blue Primrose is, doubtless, a chance seedling, and is not unusual in gardens.

J. Hutchins, Honiton.—Hardy Heaths do not require to be clipped back, except for the sake of tidiness. After the flowers fade, all the dead flower-stems may be snipped off, this making for a fresh appearance when the young growths push up.

NAMES OF PLANTS

V. H., Dorset.—1, Veronica purpurea; 2, Senecio Greyii; 3, Anthemis cupaniana; 4, Megacea cordifolia.

R. Eager, Exminster.—Iris tuberosa syn. Hermodactylus tuberosus, the Snake's Head or Widow Iris. These curious-looking, bright green and purple-black flowers are, earlier in the year, sent to Covent Garden from the Channel Islands.

Alan Lapthorn.—Milla (Tritelia) uniflora (Spring Star Flower), suitable for naturalising on grassy banks and rockwork.

D. E. Hammerton.—1, Campanula Mayii; 2, Mesembryanthemum sp.; 3, Cestrum fasciculatum.

F. P., Esher.—1, Rhapis flabelliformis; 2, Chionodoxa Luciliæ var. gigantea; 3, Rhododendron fragrantissima; 4, Grevillea longifolia.

T. M.—Leptospermum scoparium (white), Leptospermum scoparium var. Nicholsii (coloured). There is reference to Leptospermums in the letter on New Zealand plants, page 213.

J. E. Wilson.—1, Rhododendron Rosa Mundi; 2, Pinus strobus (Weymouth Pine); 3, Weeping Elm (uncertain without foliage); 4, Golden Holly (probably Ilex aquifolium var. aurea marginata). Rh. Rosa Mundi is derived from R. caucasicum.

Specimens received

We have received specimens of Wallflowers from Donhead, Daffodils from L. Mount, and Cinerarias from Sandhoe. In each case we are incubating the material, and our readers should look for a reply in an early issue.

ADDRESSES REQUIRED.—Will Margaret G. Lovegrove, whose inquiry on double Nasturtiums appeared in our issue of March 5th, page 147, and "Norfolk," whose inquiry *re* Snowdrops appeared in issue March 12th, page 163, kindly send their addresses?

Obituary

R. K. TUCKER

The first time the writer had the p of meeting the late R. K. Tucker, of was at one of the fortnightly sh Vincent Square. A good-looking, complexioned man came up to the looked over it well, examined one pa plant more carefully than the rest, an in very kindly manner, pointed out writer, who was rather new to his j a plant he had fondly labelled as A baldensis was, in fact, Ranunculus noides! This chance acquaintance w up, and when, after the war, the write himself discharged from hospital, it the firm of R. K. Tucker and Sons went, not only to renew acquaintan also to form a friendship with one love for his plants, whose sense of h and whose gentle manners will long r most delightful recollection.

His knowledge of alpine plants, es of the Saxifrage family, was, as m expected, equally first-rate, gained f own acute observation over many ye from his trips to the Swiss and Itali in search of rarities. In these expedi did not break any particularly fresh nor did he ever get further afield th Europe, but nevertheless, as many there are plenty of good things to b even in those somewhat hard-worke and there was little that escaped Perhaps for him the early part of th ful year, 1914, was the most successf his wanderings. Starting in the S Tyrol with his friend, Dr. N. W. of Hindhead, another keen pla Tucker made one of his best discov the shape of Daphne petræa (syn. r grandiflora. This form, apparently a hybrid with flowers about twice the those of the type plant, is a superb sig fully out, the little shrub being cove its large blossoms to the concealme foliage. Later on, during the same tion, he found in the direction of the the Great St. Bernard another good the white form of Campanula cen which he received an Award of M same year. His familiarity with n scenery stood him in good stead came to the making of rock gardens sharing his knowledge with his alp man, who himself had considerable t was quick to learn, the result was sion of outdoor exhibits at the Chelse which made the firm's name wel household word to all alpine plan Many gold medals, together with t *Graphic* Cup in 1921, were but the wards of their ingenuity and skill.

But if 1914 was a fateful year to none was it more so than to R. K. Refused for the Army repeatedly doctors, to his uncomfortable surpris signed himself to the carrying on of ness as best as he could almos handed, adapting it as far as possib conditions required under the circur The heavy additional work and anxie ever, told seriously upon his health, end of the war saw a breakdown in h from which he was destined never to His tragic passing in only middle a bodily helplessness it is true, but all enthusiasm and expert knowle dimmed and unexhausted, leaves ye gap in the horticultural ranks which easily be filled.

S.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Dwarf Asters for Spring Planting

By R. Findlay, Keeper of the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden, Wisley

MONGST the great variety of hardy flowers available for the embellishment of the garden during late summer and autumn, none are more welcome the various forms of the Amellus section is charming group of hardy plants. It und advisable, especially on moist, re-e soils, to defer the planting of this n until early spring, otherwise there are to be losses during the winter months, ey resent root disturbance during winter. group of hardy plants is more easily ated, yet we often see clumps that have grown for many years without the least ht of lifting and replanting in rich soil, naturally have greatly deteriorated, y lowering the reputation of this hand-group of plants adapted for many pur-

n when they are not introduced into ower garden where bedding the principal feature they xcellent material for inter-ng in bold masses in newly-d shrub borders which are ally thin and bare for a or two. For the front of eous borders they are most ble subjects, and good hs should be planted in eserve garden to provide al for cutting, as the and habit and lasting ties are a great acquisition s purpose. To do Michael-aisies well (this applies to ctions), only the young is formed round the out-hould be used; the old which is becoming ex-d, should be discarded un-tra stock is wanted of a ly good variety, when the can be broken up and put ery lines for a year.

t in deeply-trenched soil has had an ample supply l-decayed manure added Early thinning of all growths is imperative if st results are to be ob-The best method of , whether the planting n done in groups or as plants, is to insert small wigs round and through This method of support more natural effect than re common practice of ith string.

gst the best varieties for garden decoration or for the reserve garden to provide cut flowers for the house will be found A. King George, one of the best of this section, having large heads of bluish-violet flowers, the individual flowers being about 3 inches across. A. Ideal is a desirable variety, growing about 2 feet high, with large mauve-coloured flowers with a yellow disc. [Mme. E. Besnard, the subject of the accompanying illustration, has flowers of a pleasing rose-pink tone of colour; in all other respects it is typical of the Amellus section, the flowers being fully 2 inches across, with broad, well-expanded, rosy florets of splendid form.—Ed.] A. Robinsonii is an ideal plant for the front of the border, with pale blue flowers produced with the greatest freedom. A. Frickartii.—This variety is taller than many of the section, growing about 3 feet high. It flowers with the greatest freedom and is an acquisition to this section. It is of Continental origin and is said to be a cross between A. Thomsonii and A. Amellus. The colour is of a pleasing lavender. Beauty of Ronsdorf is a charming, compact-growing variety with lilac-pink flowers. A. Rudolph Goethe is a very free-flowering plant of upright wiry habit, bearing large lavender-blue flowers about 3 inches in diameter. A. Thomsonii should be included as it continues in bloom for a very long period, from the end of July onwards. A. Perle Rose is a dwarf, sturdy, free-flowering plant with mauve flowers shaded pale rose-pink. Framfieldii is a good late variety of a rich purple. Superbus, growing about 2 feet high, has flowers of a rich lavender-blue, and will be found a useful variety for many purposes.

Aster Acris.—This delightful Aster, with its dense corymbs of soft mauve flowers, is a good subject to grow as a single stem plant. When planting in early spring use only small pieces of young, vigorous growth from the side of the clumps. When growth commences, thin out, leaving only the strongest shoot, which should be supported to a single cane. Under this method it is surprising the delightful effect that is attained, as the plants form charming, equally-balanced specimens.

Aster Mme. E. Besnard

Flowers of pleasing rose or pink colour tone, in all other respects typical of the Amellus section

Notes of the Week

The Iris Society's Show

THE schedule of the Iris Society's Show to be held at Vincent Square on June 2nd is now ready and may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. N. Bunyard, 25, Bower Mount, Maidstone. This is the first show that the Society has attempted, and it is hoped that all Iris enthusiasts will come forward with exhibits in good numbers. The Council of the Royal Horticultural Society has kindly offered to award a Veitch Memorial Medal for the best exhibit of Irises shown by an amateur. The American Iris Society have kindly offered their Silver Medal to be awarded to an amateur exhibit at the discretion of the judges, and the Dykes Memorial Medal will be awarded by the Society to the

best new seedling Iris, not in commerce, shown before the Iris Society or the Royal Horticultural Society during the months of May and June, 1927.

The American Iris Society

The medal of the Garden Club of America for the best seedling introduced in 1923 has been awarded to Morning Splendor, a variety raised by J. Marion Shull, of Washington, D.C. An appropriation has been voted to the New York Botanical Garden for the purpose of instituting research work in Iris breeding between species, this work to be carried out by students working under the direction of Dr. A. B. Stout. An appropriation was also made to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden to further the work in investigation of Japanese Iris begun some years ago by Dr. George M. Reed. A new Iris Test Garden is being started at the Missouri Botanical Garden, where already about 900 varieties have been assembled. It is expected that special work on colour classification will be undertaken there in the future. A special study of dwarf Iris is to be begun this year at the Cornell Test Garden under the direction of Dr. A. H. Wright.

Anemone Pulsatilla (the Pasque Flo

Your correspondent, Mr. W. McG., 219, remarks how much superior the vated form of this is to our native species. Is not this because the culti species is not A. Pulsatilla, but a cl allied species, A. Halleri? I do not the latter in its wild state, and it is parently not easily distinguished fro Pulsatilla, differing mainly in its much pubescent leaves, with broader segm with some difference in the colour and tion of the flowers. I should be glad to from someone who knows A. Halleri b cally whether I am correct in my suppos

A. H. Wolley-D

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Willow Herb and Marsh Mallow

THE Willow Herb, illustrated on page 217, is Epilobium angustifolium, the Rose-bay Willow Herb. It certainly "will flourish in dry or moist soil," and especially on peat. It is the plant which has sprung up in waste places in London (*e.g.*, Kingsway) and other towns, especially after fires, and many a plantation cut down during the war soon became inundated with it.

In the photograph Marsh Mallow looks more like the beautiful Musk Mallow (M. moschata), with its deeply-divided leaves. Althæa officinalis has undivided or three-lobed leaves, often cordate at the base, and covered with soft, velvety down. A strong plant, 2 feet to 3 feet high, it grows by ditches in alluvial marshes near the sea. I should not expect it to thrive in hot, dry, sandy borders, and also in heavy, tenacious loam, though it *might* grow in such dry places. It is less ornamental than the Musk Mallow and several other Mallows. H. S. Thompson.

Clifton.

—— The Willow Herb illustrated on page 217 of the issue of April 9th is not Epilobium hirsutum, which grows on the banks of ditches and rivers, but Epilobium angustifolium, which loves dry, poor, gravelly or sandy soil. Growing in the wild state in huge drifts, as it was to be seen after the war, where the Pine woods had been cut in Strath Tay, it was a lovely sight, especially in the evening light, but anyone who introduces it in or near his garden will bitterly regret it, especially if his soil is light or sandy; it is a desperate weed. Not only do its roots travel everywhere underground, but the silky seeds blow about and crop the whole garden the following year. There is a pretty white form which many years ago I gave to Mr. Pantia Ralli for an old gravel pit at Ashtead, where it could do no harm. While on the subject of weeds, another bad one is Hieraceum aurantiacum. This, like the Willow Herb, which was scarce in the time of Gerarde, was introduced from France, and has become naturalised. It became naturalised in my last garden in the lawn, the gravel paths, and the drive, and we hate it; and last week they sent me two plants of it from Wisley, carefully packed and labelled!! which my gardener promptly put on the bonfire. H. M. W. B.

Pierpoints, Horsted, Keynes, Sussex.

—— On p. 217 Mr. Haynes recommends several plants for the herbaceous garden. The first of these, the Marsh Mallow (Althæa officinalis), he says, will grow in hot, dry, sandy borders. I do not know the plant in cultivation, and do not find it in any of the dozen or more catalogues at my disposal, but the native species is an inhabitant of marshy spots, usually near the sea, so I very much doubt whether it would thrive in dry soil.

Epilobium hirsutum is the name of the plant usually known as "Codlins and Cream," which grows in wet ditches and by ponds. The illustration clearly shows the French Willow Herb (E. angustifolium), a much more desirable species, but let gardeners beware of getting it into their choice flower-beds, since it is a terrible weed, only suitable for shrubberies or waste ground. Its seedlings should be ruthlessly eradicated from flower-beds.

Lastly, when your correspondent says the "variety mentioned" of Loosestrife it is clear that he is using the word "variety" in its botanical, not its horticultural sense. Lythrum Salicaria *is* the purple Loosestrife, but there are several varieties of it which differ in the colour of the flowers, and which may be considered "far better than the old purple Loosestrife," but I refrain from recommending any, not because I do not admire them, but because gardeners' tastes in colour vary so greatly.

A. H. Wolley-Dod.

[In fairness to our contributor, F. Haynes, we should point out that he is in no way responsible for the illustration (issue April 9th, page 217), which, on examination, appears to represent the Rosebay Willow Herb and Musk Mallow (Epilobium angustifolium and Althæa moschata).—Ed.]

The Willow-leaved Pear

Few trees are more beautiful at the present time than the Willow-leaved Pear (Pyrus salicifolia var. pendula). It is a native of S.E. Europe and was introduced into this country nearly 150 years ago, but is seldom seen in gardens.

It is quite the most beautiful of all the true Pears. The pure white flowers, nearly 1 inch across, and long, narrow, silvery leaves open simultaneously, making a very charming picture, especially if planted against some dark evergreen background. The leaves retain their silvery appearance for some weeks after the flowers have faded. The tree produces fruit, but these are of no economic value. L. Bigg-Wither.

Wells, Somerset.

Regarding an Azalea

It appears "Londoner" (page 224) is rather perplexed owing to the production of two colours of blooms on his plant. Presuming "Londoner's" plant is of the indica variety, it is not unusual for this tribe to throw two or three coloured flowers on a plant. Amongst a batch of named varieties in bloom at the time of writing, there are several with two separate colours; one in particular, a very pale pink variety, with one branch that has three blooms of a deep crimson colour. Probably this arises owing to the seedling not being fixed, as is the case with various other kinds of flowers.

Tregarth Gardens, W. E. Wright.
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

European and American Iris introdu

The article, "European Irises prefer which was recently reprinted in Gardi Illustrated from the *Canadian Hor turist*, seems to me to give an entirely v impression of the comparative valu European and American Iris introduc as well as being an unfortunate interpre of the lists, "The Iris of yesterday an Iris of to-day," inasmuch as the writ this article did not bring to the attenti the readers the fact that these lists we given in an article written for *Horticu* but were two distinct lists (offering sto sale) in a paid advertisement written grower who specialises in growing an ing Irises, the first list giving the nan varieties which can be purchased at reasonable prices because of the numl years they have been in commerce, whi second list gave names of recent introdu which, because still very scarce, are sold at very high prices. The judgm the lady who wrote this advertisement i good indeed, and she undoubtedly has the finest Iris collections in America, hardly think that in this advertiseme had any idea of comparing the relative of European and American introducti the standing of the different growers. one reads in the foreword to her 192 logue the following sentences:—"W we could sell Peerless, Romola, Lou Mrs. Marian Cran, and William M $1.00 a rhizome and still make a reas profit upon them. But, of course, it be done. But we are trying to sell s the older, beautiful varieties at very prices so that more and more people w them and thus get interested in Iris, easy to realise that the lists were undou kept separate from the standpoint of price alone, and not because she con such varieties as Amber, Louis Bel Marian Cran, Mrs. Robert Emmet, P and William Mohr superior to An deur, Asia, Ballerine, Dominion, G Shekinah, Lent. A. Williamson, Le Seminole, and Mildred Presby. In f her catalogue she speaks of Mildred J one of the varieties which appears in e of "yesterday" as being "Farr's m piece and . . . one of the most be Irises in the world."

I feel quite sure no Iris connoisseur for a moment question the standing Iris world of such growers as Vi Yeld, Sturtevant, Williamson, and t Mr. Farr, nor do I think they woul tion the value of such varieties as Sh Dominion, Souv. de Mme. Gauc Seminole, and Prospero, all introduct "yesterday" when compared with th ductions of "to-day." Not only hav growers given us Irises in the past will hold their own with the pres introductions, but they are still pro very fine varieties. That they are not wholesale introductions each year is n

credit, as far too many seedlings are be-
ntroduced both by European and Ameri-
growers, and many of these recent
luctions will not stand the test of time
ve some of the earlier ones. That many
have been introduced which should not
been kept in the seedling beds after the
blooming we all know, and there are
lers in this respect on both sides of the
tic. Among the American Iris breeders
are producing equally as fine Irises as
ming from Europe are J. Marion Shull,
and H. P. Sass, who have added a
of fall-blooming Irises to their other
ntroductions, Prof. Mitchell, who in
ng on the work of the late Mr. Mohr
iven us such outstanding varieties as
Mohr, William Mohr, and Purissima.
Connell, J. D. Wareham, Charles
s, and Dr. W. McL. Ayres are other
rs who have as outstanding Irises in
seedling beds as any which have been
uced either in Europe or America, but
have so far refused to introduce any of
thinking too many seedlings are being
commerce.

comparing the prices of European and
can Irises it may be well to note that
American introductions are priced at
than $10.00 or $15.00 when first intro-
and that within a couple of years this
is usually lowered. The American
ercial grower pays uniformly high
for new European introductions when
re first offered, and it is several years
they can afford to lower the price.
the variety Mrs. Marian Cran, which
ar was offered in the United States for
and this year for $10.00. In 1924
listed this variety at £10 10s. By the
had reached the buyer in the United
it would have cost in the neighbour-
f $70.00, owing to carriage, duty, etc.
ction of about $40.00 within two years
about $60.00 within three years is a
good reduction indeed. My latest
h catalogue lists George Yeld at 21s.,
at $5.25. Last year it could be bought
.00 from growers in the United States,
Mary Gibson, which is listed at 30s.,
at $7.50, could be bought last year for
Mrs. Robert Emmet, which is listed
catalogue at 80s., is being offered in
nited States for $20.00, approximately
ne price. A new American introduc-
Purissima (Mohr-Mitchell), which I
en advised by growers whose opinions
is the finest white they have seen, is
ntroduced this year at $20.00. When
been in commerce the same length of
s has the variety Mrs. Robert Emmet
undoubtedly be selling for $10.00 at
ost, and probably less. Morning
or (Shull), which last year received the
of the Garden Club of America, given
best seedling of 1923, was introduced
o. The only introduction made from
rr seedlings during the past three
Apache, was offered last year for the
ne, and at a price of $10.00. The
William Mohr, which in this lady's
ue is referred to as "probably the
emarkable hybrid ever raised," will
tedly command a high price for several
because the demand far exceeds the
e supply.

926 I had the pleasure of visiting
Canadian gardens, and in each found
y of the fine American introductions
e European. It was a great pleasure
t these enthusiastic Canadian gar-
who are also Iris enthusiasts, and to
with them the outstanding varieties,
that they considered the American
tions equally as fine as the European.

MRS. J. EDGAR HIRES,
Chairman, Exhibition Committee,
The American Iris Society.

Herbaceous borders in a Scottish garden

I SEND a photograph of an herbaceous border. The border or borders, I should state, are 100 yards long, composed of blue and white flowers only, namely, Delphiniums, Aconite or Monkshood, Anchusas (varieties), Campanulas (varieties), Scabious, Iberis, Aubrietias, and numerous other blue and white flowered plants.

ROBERT N. IRVING,
Gardener to Mrs. A. Douglas, Auchlochan,
Lesmahagow.

Supporting exhibition Sweet Peas

"East Anglia" has opened up a new era by describing the ingenious method of supporting Sweet Peas, on page 185, devised by Mr. A. Wallbank, of Keighley. This certainly has its advantages if it was possible to carry out the method as described and illustrated, but I have my doubts. Plants grown well have to be handled very carefully when bringing them down and taking them 3 feet or more along the canes before training them up again without snapping, let alone twisting them around a cylinder, and I feel sure such measures would result in a check of sap and thus injury to first-class blooms. My advice is that if Bamboo canes 8 feet high, which cost from £1 to £1 10s. per 100 and which remain in good condition for a number of years, are too expensive, to try the more simple and inexpensive method which I have tried and proved myself, by using Cocoanut twine as used in the Hop yards, or even the binder twine as used for tying up sheaves of corn.

Fix a strong post at either end of the row and one in the middle if the row is long, nail three wooden strips on each post 18 inches wide and run a stout wire across either side, one at the bottom, one at the top, and one in the middle. Tie the twine at the bottom, loop it round the middle wire, and secure to the top one at the required distance apart. The bine of the plants is easily secured to this with small split rings or Bass, which I prefer, as I find galvanised rings injure the bine when blown about by the wind.

W. E. WRIGHT.
Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Roses for greenhouse

A correspondent asks, on page 178 in the issue of March 19th, for the best pink Rose with upright stems for growing in the greenhouse. If one alone was required for a bush plant I should not hesitate to give Ophelia the preference. This is an excellent grower in pots; its stalks are strong, and the blooms, which are faultless, are produced freely. The colour is salmon-flesh with yellow at the base of the petals. Another splendid Rose of more recent introduction, and one that is likely to run Ophelia close, is Mme. Butterfly. It is of American origin, a good grower, and one that can be relied on for pot culture. Pink climbers for planting outside and bringing in through the brickwork of the house I should choose Climbing Lady Ashton, Climbing Ophelia, Climbing Mrs. W. J. Grant, and Climbing Paul Lede, the latter a splendid old Rose of apricot and rose shade; and for a yellow I should advise Climbing Lady Hillingdon, a beautiful Rose that is even larger in bloom and pronounced in colour than when grown as a bush. This is one of the most distinct scented Roses that I know and is an excellent buttonhole Rose when cut in bud form, whilst the foliage is stout and of a bronze colour. W. E. WRIGHT.
Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Herbaceous borders, 100 yards long, of blue and white flowers, near Auchlochan, Lanarkshire

Iris Lævigata in the Maristen, Kyoto, Japan

Iris Lævigata

By C. W. Christie-Miller.

MEMBERS of the Iris Society have been encouraged to give their attention to the cultivation of Iris species, and I propose to write down, for the benefit of others, some notes on I. lævigata, a flower for which I had a strong affection even before I knew its name. I saw it growing for the first time when I was in Japan in the spring of 1906, and on my return to England I tried, without success, to secure plants from nurserymen in this country, and it was not until 1909, on a second visit to Japan, that I purchased my first plants of this beautiful Iris.

It seems remarkable that I. lævigata has not been better known in England. The late Mr. W. R. Dykes is my authority for saying that it was found on a journey through the Russian Empire by Pallas in 1770; a specimen collected by Pallas was placed in the Herbarium of the Linnæan Society at Burlington House; that specimen came from Lake Baikal; it was found again in 1829 and in 1837. Thousands of English residents and travellers must have seen it growing in Japan, and it does not present half as much difficulty in cultivation as Iris Kæmpferi.

Twenty years ago Kæmpferi was always described as Kæmpferi lævigata. The differences between the two plants have been made plain by the late Mr. W. R. Dykes.* The difference emphasised is that Iris Kæmpferi has a pronounced midrib on the leaf, whereas the Iris lævigata leaf is smooth.

Besides being smoother it seems to me that the leaf of Iris lævigata is wider and of a different texture. The leaves of I. lævigata are attacked by the caterpillar of a sawfly (Monophadnus Iridis), which is also found on the leaves of I. pseudacorus on the banks of the Thames. Mr. Chittenden tells me that at Wisley this caterpillar attacks I. Kæmpferi as well, but with me, though I. lævigata grows in two pools separated by a runnel containing only I. Kæmpferi, I find that while the leaves of I. lævigata are attacked, those of I. Kæmpferi are never touched. Then the colour of the flower is a less purple-blue than any variety of Iris Kæmpferi. Another difference, which is important to an Iris grower, is that Iris lævigata flowers two to three weeks earlier than Iris Kæmpferi.

Both species have been found growing side by side on the banks of the River Amur in Manchuria, and this may happen elsewhere.

I. lævigata is essentially a water Iris; no one can travel in Japan in the month of May without seeing this beautiful Iris in flower. In private gardens in Japan as well as in the gardens attached to temples flowers are used with great restraint. Garden effects are obtained chiefly by the use of rocks, stone ornaments, shrubs, and water, but some temple gardens have a few plants of I. lævigata placed in a way that the Japanese garden designer understands. Such a temple garden was the Kodaiji, at Kyoto. One diminutive temple garden—Maristen—also at Kyoto, rich in Cherry-blossom early in April, had the banks of its little pool of water thick with I. lævigata, which, in the latter part of May, was brilliant with flower.

It seems doubtful whether the plant is indigenous to Japan. I saw it growing in gardens in various parts of the country. I remember once seeing it near Matsue in the north-east, growing in the corner of a rice field, but it might have been moved from a temple garden.

Now, as to its cultivation in England plants flowered first in 1911, and only out of 24 sent from Japan survive journey; probably they were overhea the voyage. I grew them in a tub, t of which was sunk about 3 inches or 4 below the surface of the water. Tl stayed in water, summer and winter, al plants increased rapidly. The R.H.S. of Merit was granted to my flowers in

Frost seems to have no effect on th even when the crown is above the wate It grows equally well on the edge of with its roots in water. It will increas great rapidity, exactly under the sam ditions as the English water Iris pseuda but I am not quite sure that, in such tion, it will flower as freely as if the are more confined, as in a tub. Some of mine who possess no pool or pond this Iris in tubs which are kept full of during the early summer months.

The two essentials to success seem water and sunshine. I do not think th plant will flower on the shady bank stream or pond. For soil use ordinary it does not seem to object to lime in the

The plant commences to flower with the last week or 10 days of May, and less freely in October and November. and sometimes four flowers emerge sively from the large green spathes. never seen a side head of flowers as Kæmpferi.

I. lævigata sets—what appears to b cellent seed in this country. I have pla under the same conditions as I. sibiric and I have planted it in water, but so seed has germinated.

The best time for moving is betwee and September. It is possible that int growers of I. lævigata may have a dic in securing plants in England. M stock is small, and I am not certain th trade holds large stocks, probably becau little known and seldom inquired for;

* See the article on I. Laevigata in "The Iris Genus," by Mr. Dykes; also an article by him in the "Gardeners Chronicle" of 1920 (67,275), accompanied by an excellent figure in colour.

ce shows that the trade readily adapts to requirements by the public, and I ertain that before long the glorious blue of I. lævigata will be as widely in English gardens, public and private, is in Japan.—From the *Iris Society's l.*

Kew Gardens

number of visitors to the Gardens in as 1,162,547. This was a decrease of on the figures for the preceding year. gh the charge of one penny for ad- n, which was removed in 1924, was sed as from January 1st, 1926, the nce for the first four months exceeded r 21,000 that for the corresponding of 1925 when admission fees were l on Students' Days only. The de- as greatest in May and June, when ng facilities were restricted owing to ial troubles. It is during these that the largest number of visitors y attend the Gardens. In June, 1925, visitors were recorded against 144,174 June, 1926. In May also unusually nt weather was experienced, and this lversely affected the attendance of

Rhododendron House.—Owing to able delay in completing this house the of it with plants had to be deferred st autumn. The greater proportion plants used have been raised and at Kew, but several correspondents ontributed valuable species, notably C. Williams and Mr. Lionel de ild. To the former especially Kew ted for a large number of fine speci- nt from his magnificent collection at s. As stated in the previous issue, it ded to use this house for the more Chinese species. The soil with which have been filled is "top-spit" taken e Queen's Cottage Grounds at Kew. find is a much better medium for ng Rhododendrons under glass than soil, which, through lack of aeration stant watering, is very apt to turn d sour in a few years' time. The l, although lacking richness, is free e and keeps sweet for a much longer

side Avenue.—The view of the docks vay across the Thames at Brentford ays a distressing eyesore from the during the winter as long as the belt tion forming the screen between the Avenue and the ha-ha was of a de- nature. During the years 1912 and rge number of Elms and other hun- were felled and their place taken evergreens. These have grown very ed, and besides adding greatly to the f this part of the garden now con- admirable screen effective through- ear. Owing to the extension by the stern Railway of their works on the side of the river right up to the se property it has become necessary n the screen of evergreen vegetation er. This necessitated the felling of m trees and planting in their place of large specimens assembled from rts of the Gardens. As long as the se property remains in its present it is not likely that any further of this kind will be necessary.

trees.—As has been the case since the great drought in 1921, a f Beech trees have either died or decrepit that their removal be- ssary. No tree of great botanical al interest has been lost, although mb was wrenched from the fine r tree (Ginkgo biloba), near No. 2 y a fierce gust of wind during the summer. The picturesque old Horse Chestnut close to the Isleworth Gate entrance to the Queen's Cottage Grounds has died after being in failing health for some years.

Nothofagus obliqua.—Considerable interest has been aroused in this Chilean Beech as represented at Kew among those interested in economic forestry. The oldest specimens are growing near the stable yard and in the collection of Beeches near the Azaleas. They were raised from seed given to Kew in March, 1902, by the late Mr. H. J. Elwes, which had been collected by him in Chile. The largest of these is now 68 feet high, its trunk 3 feet 3 inches in girth. Apart from Poplars and Willows there must be very few hardwood trees capable of so quick a growth in a climate like that of Kew, especially considering the poverty of the soil in which they are growing. Another point in their favour is that they usually form slender trees with only comparatively small side branches, thereby approaching the forester's ideal tree even in the open ground. Mr. Elwes describes the timber as "dense, reddish, not at all resembling that of the European Beech, and apparently suitable to take the place of lower grades of Mahogany in the manufacture of furniture. It cracks, however, badly in drying, and will require very careful seasoning." On the whole, it would seem that this Beech is worth a trial under forest conditions in this country. As Mr. Elwes delivered his seeds at Kew in the month of March it would appear that they ripen naturally in February. Many seeds sent to this country have failed through being kept dry too long. The most important factor in their successful introduction is that the shortest possible period should elapse between gathering them in Chile and sowing them in this country.

—*From the Kew Bulletin.*

The Amaryllis

These are worthy plants for either the warm or cool house, and with a good stock started at different dates it is well nigh possible to have a few spikes every month of the year, although the majority are to be seen during the spring. When at Bicton I had about 200 pots, and was seldom without a few spikes, the old A. aulicum supplying during the last days of the year, and though a long way behind any of the newer hybrid strain of to-day as regards colour and contour, they filled up the blank and were very useful. These plants are easily raised from seed under glass with a little heat, and, if well attended to in potting off and keeping free of insects, red-spider, and mealy-bug, they may be quite well-flowered the third year of sowing.

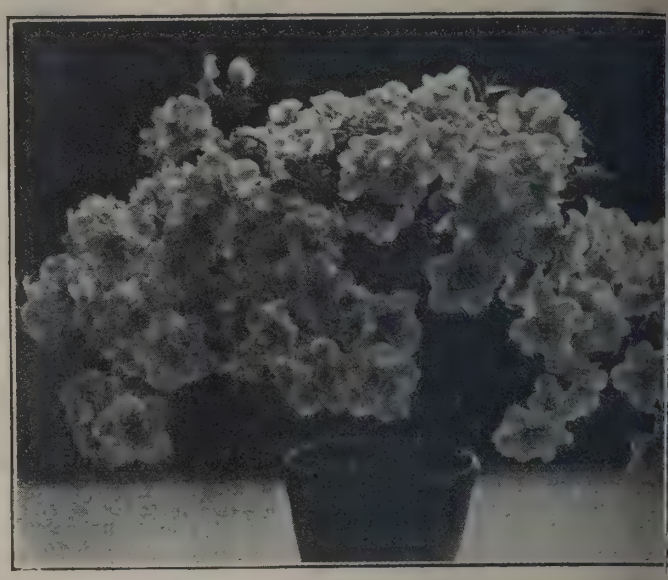
Where a mistake is frequently made is not giving the plants the necessary attention after the flowering or growing season is over. One thing, they do not occupy much head space when the foliage is neatly tied to a stake, so the pots can be placed close together, which should be in a light, airy position, reducing the water supply gradually until the foliage turns yellow, when they are best stood out-of-doors on their sides in a sunny position as we do with the Calla. Here the bulbs will get well ripened during the summer months. Some place them on the shelves in a greenhouse. In any case the bulbs must be thoroughly rested if a quick response is looked for when introduced to heat or moisture. In the early months of the year a little bottom heat accelerates root-action if plunged in tan or leaves, but the plants can be well grown and flowered without it as the season advances. With such an early batch it is best not to disturb by shaking away the old soil and repotting. Loosen the surface soil for an inch or so without damaging the fleshy roots and replace with fibrous loam and clean sand, seeing that the drainage is correct, and well soak each pot before plunging, if such is to be the order. Do not overdo the root-watering until the spike and foliage are well advancing; the syringe will keep them fairly moist, and as growth proceeds weak manure-water may be given once or twice weekly, supporting the foliage in good time, and, similar to most other plants under glass, a light shade preserves the colour in the flower and its lasting qualities. A temperature of 60 degs., with the usual rise with sun-heat, will be suitable. The bulbs need division and repotting every other year, using good loam, a little leaf-soil, sand, and charcoal, taking great care of the roots and not over-watering at any time. The bulbs need greenhouse protection during the winter.

J. Mayne.

Iris Lævigata in the Kodaiji, Kyoto, Japan

SPRING SHOW AT BRIGHTON

A wonderful specimen of Draba imbricata, over 30 years old, shown by Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons



A specimen plant of Azalea Pink Pearl, for which Mr. Stephen A. Holman gained first prize

ENCOURAGED by the success of last year's show, the Brighton, Hove, and Sussex Horticultural Society held its second spring show in the Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton, on April 6th and 7th.

It is only necessary for Brighton to make up its mind to hold a show, when it is assured of success. This is in no small measure due to the efforts of the Chairman, Councillor Richard Major, the Mayor of Brighton; the Secretary, Mr. H. J. Bingham; the Hon. Superintendent of Shows, Mr. W. G. Pelley; and to an efficient Committee of Management. It goes almost without saying that the show was a great success. There was a very large attendance, and nearly 500 new members have been enrolled this year.

Azaleas, Cinerarias, Cyclamen, Alpines, Carnations, and Orchids were all well represented, either in competition or in large groups, but we should like to have seen better competition in the Daffodil classes. After all, Sussex is a good county for Daffodils, and we hope that they will be well represented in future years. In pre-war years the Sussex Daffodil Shows aroused keen interest among leading exhibitors. We should like to see a revival of this spirit of friendly rivalry.

Competition classes

Giant white Cyclamen were splendidly shown by Mr. A. Mason, Stanmer Park Gardens, Stanmer, who gained first prize in the class for 12 pots Cyclamen.

Greenhouse Azaleas were extremely good, and Mr. H. Anscombe, Bristol Nurseries, Kemp Town, deserves special mention for his exhibit of 12 Azaleas in pots, which gained first prize. Mr. Anscombe also showed Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Tulips, Acacia armata, and Irises Imperator and Rembrandt.

A well-flowered plant of Azalea Pink Pearl, illustrated above, gained for Mr. Stephen A. Holman, 101, Lewes Road, Brighto prize in an amateur class.

As usual, the table decorations at B were of a high standard. We were attracted to a very bright and unusu of Narcissus Barri conspicuus and t mauve-blue Iris filifolia præcox with a of orange-yellow in the fall that harm with this favourite Daffodil.

Mr. W. G. Bright, Lyndhurst Nu Hove, was first for Lilium longiflorum he also put up a non-competitive colle Daffodils in which Flame and Lord K figured prominently.

Non-competitive groups

One of the first things to merit c spection was the extensive collec alpines by Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons were to be seen fine examples Primulas as rosea, frondosa, den and the hybrids Mrs. Gilavry and The last-named is claimed to be the the P. Juliæ family. This collec cluded alpine gems as Corydalis Morisia hypogæa, Hutchinsia Tanakœa radicans, with Anemon Fritillarias in variety, but the gem whole collection was the specimen Draba imbricata illustrated abov particular plant was collected about ago by the late Dr. Hillyer, of Ea stead. The specimen would have be but for the fact that it was pulled to destroy an ants' nest in the ol The specimen shown was in a ro wedged tightly in with tufa stone.

The magnificent exhibit of Sutton hybrid Cinerarias was the admir all. The plants were of intermedia covering a wide range of new colour ally good in the pink tones.

A splendid group of Carnations w by Allwood Bros., in which the Laddie and Wivelsfield White we tionally good.

A group of Orchids by Messrs Bros. in which Dendrobiums, Cypri and Cattleyas were represented centre of admiration and no little cu

Alpine Auriculas were shown John R. Crowhurst, Burgess Hi Messrs. Balchin and Sons, Ltd., end of the Corn Exchange with the group illustrated on the page oppos

The second prize table, in which the flowers of Narcissus Barri conspicuus and Iris filifera præcox were beautifully arranged

Ornamental Grasses

Dried Grasses for winter decoration, to be either used alone or for mixing with dried flowers, are much appreciated by those who have no flowering plants at that period, but are often overlooked at sowing time.

Most of the kinds can be found room for in the smallest garden if we except the Pampas Grass, and though some use them for effect in the hardy border it is better to give a small plot entirely to their cultivation.

The position should be deeply dug and a fine friable condition of the surface obtained previous to sowing, as the seeds of some are very small.

Some of the kinds that will be found useful are:—Love Grass (Eragrostis elegans), Quaking Grass (Briza maxima), Hare's-tail Grass (Lagurus ovatus), Fair Cloud Grass (Agrostis nebulosa), Squirrel Grass (Hordeum jubatum), Animated Oats (Avena sterilis), and the drooping plumes of Stipa pennata.

The seeds should be very thinly sown and the seedlings thinned to the required distance according to the habit of each kind. Rows should be, roughly, 2 feet apart, as the height of the plants ranges from $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and, sowing being finished, some protection in the way of black cotton or netting should be provided against the attacks of birds until the seedlings have made some little growth.

To preserve them for winter use cut them just before the seeds ripen and hang out of the sun in an airy shelter to dry until required. A. W.

ng Show in the Dome
and
n Exchange, Brighton

splendid group of Cineraria Inter- Hybrids, covering a wide range ur. Shown by Messrs. Sutton ns.

effective group by Messrs. Bal- d Sons, Ltd., in which specimen f Lilacs and Azaleas, overshadowed Palms, stood out above a ground- Ferns.

ection of the remarkable collection nes shown by Messrs. J. Cheal s.

Cardinal Lobelias

L. fulgens and its handsome varieties, which have been wintered in the open may now be lifted and divided according to requirements, it being more satisfactory to use healthy pieces with from three to five shoots than those with several weak ones. These Lobelias love a free, open soil consisting of one-half loam with the remaining half made up of well-rotted farmyard manure, leaf-mould or peat, and sand, and, given healthy plants to start with, no difficulty should be experienced in producing handsome groups laden with brilliant flowers, 5 feet in height. Those wintered in pots are also ready for planting in the open. These plants enjoy abundant moisture when in full growth, but resent stagnant conditions. E. M.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Bamboos

The present is about the best time of the year for planting or dividing Bamboos of all kinds. These graceful subjects revel in low, moist valleys where they are sheltered from cutting winds—their greatest enemy. Quite old plants may be lifted and divided up at the present time, and, before replanting, the site they are to occupy should be deeply dug and a good dressing of leaf-mould applied about the roots when planting takes place. There are numbers of lovely kinds, of which B. Castillonis, B. nigra, B. viridi-glaucescens, B. aurea, B. fastuosa, and B. nitida are among those which should find a place in every garden.

Rubus

Where not already done, the white-barked kinds should be pruned down to within a foot of the ground without delay to make way for the stout young shoots which are to supply next winter's beauty. Where an increase is desirable cut off the ends of the growths to about a foot in length and plant in sandy soil, where they will soon take root. Some of the evergreen kinds make admirable carpets when used to cover open spaces in the foreground of trees and shrubs, and the present is the time to establish them.

Seed vessels

Remove these from rare Snowdrops, Chionodoxas, Scillas, and Narcissus as the flowers fade, for to leave them upon the plants is to weaken them and invite overcrowding by the myriads of seedlings which spring up and cover the ground later.

Iris stylosa

Make fresh plantations of this mid-winter flower at the foot of sunny walls, and if the weather remains dry, water should be given occasionally.

Summer bedding plants

Many of these will require cooler quarters from this date, and frames must be prepared for them by removing half-hardy plants to a sheltered position in the open, where they can be protected during the night for a little longer. Keep Fuchsias, Pelargoniums, and similar plants pinched in order to obtain shapely examples.

Border Chrysanthemums

These may now be planted out on well-prepared ground, a space of 2 feet being left between the plants. This, however, will vary somewhat according to the size and variety dealt with.

Forsythias and Corylopsis

As these shrubs pass out of bloom any pruning or thinning found necessary may be carried out, and, if additional plants are desired, a few of the lower branches layered into sandy soil will furnish nice little plants the following year.

Gladioli and Montbretias

Complete the planting of these as the corms will begin to waste if kept in a dry state any longer. These summer flowers are seen at their best when grouped together in fair numbers and rising out of a living carpet.

Greenhouse climbers

Regulate the growths of these before entanglement takes place, and endeavour to spread the shoots out thinly and evenly over their allotted space. Copious waterings are now essential.

Perpetual flowering Carnations

Many of these are ready for shifting into 5-inch and 6-inch pots, but before this is done it is advisable that the plants should have become accustomed to somewhat cooler quarters. Stopping must be attended to when the plants have reached 6 inches in height, or above the fifth or sixth leaf, by pinching down to the solid stem.

Chrysanthemums

Those who desire nice and useful decorative plants in 6-inch pots should take a batch of cuttings now, as these strike freely if placed in a cold frame and shaded from bright sunshine.

Fruit trees

Attend to the disbudding of Peaches when the buds are about 1½ inches long, and fertilise the flowers daily about 12.30 unless bees are plentiful.

Gooseberries

Watch these for the presence of caterpillar, and immediately this pest appears spray the bushes with Katakilla, one dose of which will cleanse the worst-affected collection.

Celery trenches

After spacing out the ground the trenches should be thrown out to a foot or 18 inches in depth, the greater depth applying to light, sandy land and the shallow to heavy land which becomes sticky and very wet during the winter. After breaking up the bottom of the trench place a layer of well-decayed farmyard manure upon it to a depth of 5 inches, following which the sides of the trench can be cut down to provide the necessary 4 inches of soil, or fresh material may be brought in. The trench may then be left to weather until required for the plants.

Seakale

Plant out the sets in rows and on good holding land at 18 inches to 2 feet apart each way, burying the crowns a little lower than the soil-level.

Chicory

A small sowing should be made to supply the early plants for forcing about Christmas.

E. Markham.

Gravetye Manor Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Broad Beans

A final sowing of this useful vegetable should now be made, and this should carry on the supply till the middle of October. A good stock of the old Seville Longpod is very reliable for sowing at this season.

Maincrop Carrots

About this date is very suitable for the sowing of the main crop of this popular root. Unfortunately, it does not succeed everywhere, but occasionally I have had good results by giving the ground recently vacated by Leeks a good dressing of leaf-mould and sowing the Carrots there. The soil should be well trodden down both before and after sowing, a loose, open root-run seldom producing good Carrots.

Dwarf Beans

Where space can be spared in a cold frame a number of 4-inch pots should be filled with rich, light compost, and a couple of seeds planted in each. These will come on in plenty of time for planting out at the end of May on a sunny, sheltered border, and will give a few dishes some time in advance of the earliest outdoor sowing. Earlie is an excellent variety for growing way.

Peas for succession

Another sowing should be got in ately the former lot appear through t at this time of year about 15 to Glory of Devon, Superlative, an Salute are very reliable sorts for so the present time, but any of t "Marrowfat" varieties will succeed

Auriculas

These beautiful dwarf plants are into favour once more. As soon as out of flower is a suitable time fo dividing, and replanting, should this sary. As a rule, three years is the this plant occupying the same Should it be necessary to plant agai same spot the top spit should be and fresh soil from one of the quarters put in its place. In plan that the stems are placed deeply in t

Pansies and Violas

If well hardened off these popul plants can now be got into their p quarters, but this only if the weathe genial and the soil moderately d Pansy to succeed really well must ha shade, but not under trees. The Vio troublesome in this respect, for if t rich and moist it succeeds quite we sunshine.

The herbaceous borders

The majority of hardy perennial mand supports of some kind if th give of their best, and a considerabl of time, trouble, and material are to do this work well. It is al vantageous to attend to this import ness at the earliest possible mome once the stems are allowed to get it is hardly possible afterwards to neatly staked.

Herbaceous Calceolarias

This plant has quite a fascination people, and certainly a well-grov makes a most gorgeous display. be sown at any time from now middle of June, and the cooler the afforded them all through their more satisfactory will be the resu play. The seeds, being so minut very careful handling.

Cinerarias

The main batch of these showy p now be sown, and, as with the Ca cool treatment throughout is to mended. Prick off earlier sowing time, cutting-boxes filled with sw compost being suitable for the pu little plants later being transferre pots.

Primula obconica

The seedlings should now be pricking off, boxes of sweet comp used for the purpose. Return to temperature until the plants are freely, when they may be removed cold frame during the summer mon

Sow Biennials now

Not infrequently one notices that Wallflower, and Canterbury Bells tain any size, the reason, in most ing the too late sowing of the sec now will give good results. Sow flowers in the open and the other set in a frame.

C

Preston House Gardens, Linlithg

ALPINES

Chionodoxa gigantea

CTICALLY all the Chionodoxas in vation are fascinating things, well ying the grower for the little initial they entail in their acquisition, and everywhere doing well and giving to their possessor and his friends. ems absolutely no reason why the amateur should grow hardly any but iæ. Some of the others are distinct o call for a place in the garden, and hese is that called C. gigantea or ra. Botanically, it is considered rm of C. Luciliæ, but from a garden view it is quite distinct. It is it has larger flowers, and these are c than blue or purple, with a good ntre. I came across a great number of C. gigantea when visiting a good he other day. They were in the order, and the cultivation of the owers had caused many of the xas to become scattered, and the s charming indeed. Here was a big ere a few together, while now and solitary plant presented its lovely o our rejoicing eyes. They appear l in this garden, which is of rather well cultivated in every way, howose who do not own C. gigantea hould take a note of it now to re-t at planting time in autumn.

S. ARNOTT.

Daphne Blagayana

is a sturdy and dwarf little lowing shrub precious for the rock gar-or the shady margins of borders. it may be grown well on exposed s in deep sandy peat, I do not think he freedom and grace which it does y aspect.

ws in a spreading, somewhat loose manner, forming plants inches high with dark evergreen nd large, white, sweet-scented orne in clusters at the extremity of

The plant is good in habit as well as handsome in bloom. It ought to be grown in every collection of rock plants. Even in the depth of winter it is attractive, owing to the deep colour of the foliage, which is as green as our native Box, and the clusters of flowers, deliciously fragrant, are produced freely enough to make a good display.

The plant enjoys, in cultivation, a wide, deep declivity between two rocks, in which provision is made for a good depth of soil so that it may spread and root strongly between blocks of stone in a good rough mixture of loam and peat.

It should have plenty of room to spread and dispose itself in a free, graceful manner, and, if kept pegged down, will root at the joints and soon form a spreading colony around the central plant.

It may also be successfully grown on level spots and the plants placed between small blocks of stone, near which the roots ramify and are kept cool and moist, but, to my mind, never looks so well as when seen streaming down a wide fissure in a free way somewhere on a level with the eye, as its beauty is of a showy nature.

The layers may be taken off the plant when rooted, and planted straight away in fresh clumps, or they may be allowed to remain where they are to extend the site.

Constant pegging down, top-dressing with sandy peat, and plenty of water during the hot season are the passports to success with this plant.

With these essentials it will be found an easy plant to grow, and will prove a beautiful ornament to our gardens.

H. STEVENS.

Annuals

Continue to make broadcast sowings of these as the positions become available. Such choice kinds as Rhodanthe, Nemesia, Phlox Drummondi, and single Asters are quite a success in the open if sown at the present time in a sunny position, and far superior in effect to those planted out evenly from boxes.

VEGETABLES

Scarlet Runner Beans

SCARLET RUNNER BEANS are often disappointing, there being practically more failures with them than any other summer occupant of the kitchen garden. Being so much more dependent on the season than most things, good culture does not always secure the desired ends. In the first place, the seed is very difficult to harvest in indifferent seasons, and when badly ripened is very liable to rot in the ground or produce weakly, malformed growth. For this reason I always advise extra care in sowing, especially in heavy and retentive soils. In such mediums the first or even second week in May is soon enough to put in the seed, at least in average seasons, and fine soil, composed of potting-shed refuse, rough leaf-mould, and a small portion of grit, should always be used for covering it. It then has a fair chance of keeping sound till germination takes place. Too rich manuring is often responsible for failures, as the haulm, especially in seasons with only a minimum amount of sunshine, grows too grossly, and the majority of flower-trusses that form fail to set. This point should be particularly observed by amateurs who are apt to give a too rich larder. Ground which is in fairly good heart and prepared, say, a couple of months previous to sowing is best for Scarlet Runners. This, with a liberal surface mulch of manure when the first show of blossoms has set, and a couple of good soakings with farmyard liquid, should produce good results. I do not care for digging trenches and laying manure in the bottom, as, except in poor soils and dry seasons, the general result of this is abundance of leafage and only a few extra large pods. Then, again, this Bean is so tender that every season sees a good many rows ruined by frost, and it is always best to devise for early plants some protective means that can be applied when the night looks suspicious. Spruce or evergreen branches answer well as a makeshift, these being permanent till danger from frost is past. Further, this crop when allowed to

Chionodoxa or Glory of the Snow

The Kelway Cup and Medal offered annually at the British Gladiolus Society

ramble up sticks should always have a sheltered position, as I have seen excellent rows completely cut to pieces by rough wind where 5 feet or 6 feet high. In exposed gardens stopping the haulm when some 3 feet or so high, thus encouraging a dwarf, spreading growth, as practised by market growers, is the best. A capital plan is to sow two rows 15 inches or 18 inches apart, pinch as above described, and support on either side of the rows with tops cut from Pea-sticks.

As regards varieties, the old Scarlet form is still hard to beat. Painted Lady is also good, and the slightly larger strains, including Prizewinner, Best of All, Matchless, and Harkwood Park Success, are well worthy of culture. The extra large exhibition varieties are all very well as far as they go, but are less productive as a rule.

R. B.

Early Lettuces

Everyone strives after early Lettuces, and while autumn-sown varieties are principally relied upon for early cutting, these are never so crisp and good as plants raised in heat early in the year and grown on without a check. A pinch of seed sown now in a shallow box of light soil, placed in an ordinary greenhouse, and kept near the glass, will soon give plants ready for putting out on a warm, sheltered border. The heads of these will be ready for cutting quite three weeks earlier than those from the earliest sowings in the open.

Early Ulm Savoy

When Cabbages begin to pall upon the consumer and just before Brussels Sprouts come in, a breadth of Early Ulm Savoy will provide acceptable material. Small in size, but very compact, the variety is of good colour and flavour, and is relished by many to whom the stronger flavour of Drumhead Savoy is objectionable. Early Ulm may be planted almost as thickly as Lettuces, and by reason of this close planting it is equally as profitable as the larger Savoy. Sow in mid-April for the earliest cutting, and again in the last week of May for late heads.

Challenge trophy for Gladioli

IN view of the great interest taken by readers in the cultivation of Gladioli we illustrate on this page the Kelway Challenge Trophy and Medal which are offered annually at the British Gladiolus Society's Show for an exhibit of British Gladioli. The conditions for the award are as follows:—

Thirty-six spikes of Gladioli staged three in a vase. No restrictions as to number of varieties or spikes of a sort, but all must be of *British origin* and not only purchased from a British firm. British origin to mean raised, distributed, or catalogued by a British amateur, and/or professional, and/or commercial horticulturist. Any variety or species of Gladiolus is eligible (from whatever section), and the name of the section need not be given.

The "Kelway" Trophy is given in commemoration of the pioneer work of the late James Kelway amongst Gladioli.

For any further particulars application should be made to Mr. A. E. Amos, Hon. Secretary, The British Gladiolus Society, 10, Bergholt Road, Colchester.

BEES

Seasonal Bee-keeping operations

ABOUT the second week in April, in the middle of a sunny day, bee colonies should be examined, and those weak in numbers should be assisted to live by the temperature of the hive being kept up through the shutting off of any unoccupied portion of it. If the combs contain plenty of honey the rearing of brood may be encouraged by bruising the cappings of the food cells which are near the brood patches. Should there be a shortage of food, then it should be given in the form of thin sugar syrup until such time as the bees can get their own living from the flowers. They require much water in the spring, therefore it is useful if their homes are near running water, or a drinking vessel can be arranged for them; that is much better than their having to visit the poultry run, water butt, or manure heap for their liquid. It is well to add a teaspoonful of salt to each quart of water put into any vessel.

To make the syrup for feeding t the spring, put 7 pints of water into pan and place it over the fire. W water boils, pour slowly into it 1 white sugar, cane for preference, sti while, and add 1 oz. of salt. Keep t pan over the fire and stir the liquid the sugar is dissolved. For a smal tity of syrup the average amount of sugar is, roughly, ¾ pint of water pound of sugar.

The syrup must be given to the feeder of such a pattern that the sup able to them can be regulated. Th feeding in the spring is to supply c cient for their present requirements, case from flowers, and not in such that it will be stored in the cells an vent the queen from depositing egg for the rearing of the young. Speci for feeding, called stimulative fee sold by manufacturers of bee-kee pliances. If preferred, the syrup placed in a wide-necked jam jar, ov of which is tied a piece of muslin, then inverted over the feed hole in covering the bees in the hive, so that suck the syrup through. In this supply is regulated by giving a qu pint of syrup every three days. should be given to the bees in the l ing to avoid exciting them. It sh be given lukewarm so that the ter of the hive is not reduced. In order the bees to defend their home agains during the feeding period the entran be closed to ½ inch in width.

As soon as the weather is warm ar towards the end of April, weak colc be united and the work of spring-cle hives be carried out. Those colon were assisted by closing up with th board will by this time require mo this is given by adding a comb or t quired to that portion of the brood in which they live.

Expedition to Western British C

The Royal Horticultural Societ assured that the mountains of British Columbia hold a good ma desirable for our gardens, especiall is promoting an expedition into th for the purpose of collecting seed. bable district of principal operatio mountainous area near the coast, which is little known, but from whi cient number of interesting plants h to warrant the hope that many mora bable. The district is one from w plants hardy in the British Isles e expected. A Committee has been t make the necessary arrangements f pedition, and it has been decided to v cost of the expedition into a numb shares so that others besides the Sc may wish to do so may participa results of the expedition. The Sc take a number of the shares, and ap for the others are invited from the ested in plants from this district, w communicate with the Director Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surre Monday, April 25th, since arr must soon be completed. The D Wisley will be pleased to give fu formation if desired.

CATALOGUES RECEIV

Sutton and Sons, Reading.—a Year Book and Graziers' Manual.

Geo. G. Whitelegg, Chislehurs— and herbaceous plants, Roses, o a tree and shrub.

The Gooseberry

UCH has of late been written respect-ng the culture of various fruits, such as the Apple, the Peach, and the . The Gooseberry, too, which natur-vides itself into four distinct sections, varieties producing respectively red, yellow, and green fruit, is also worthy ntion. It is by no means particular as or situation, but will generally be to succeed best in moderately rich which has been drained, if found ry, trenched and properly prepared for eption of the plants. In the compara-noist and cool atmosphere of the north land and Scotland the Gooseberry is ly considered to succeed better and to etter quality than is the case with the arieties in the drier atmosphere of the nd east of England. With ordinary owever, there is hardly any locality in this fruit will not succeed. The placed in lines some 6 feet or 7 feet should be subjected to an annual sys-pruning, and in order to admit light to the fruit it is advisable to keep nts somewhat open in the centre by a thinning out of the branches. In gardens of late years this annual appears to have been discontinued, bushes are left to grow as they may, ost to have their young shoots, where ay encroach upon walks or other ad-objects, shortened by the hedge The result of this obvious neglect is, bushes soon become so crowded with ous shoots that it is next to impossi-ather the fruit, even if it should be-pe, and such fruit is generally, as e expected, inferior to that produced es which have been subjected to a s system of thinning or pruning. In ses, however, it is advisable to delay ing until the spring is somewhat ad-and the buds are about to unfold, as s of fruit very frequently fail from ng frosts; the buds are also apt to om the attacks of the bullfinch and epredators, which will strip off the d thus frustrate all hopes of a crop more particularly when this attack after the pruning has been per-and consequently fewer buds to

ooseberry is also amenable to various ethods of training, such as in the a standard, or a pyramid, or trained a wall, where such varieties as the rrington when grown upon a north vill succeed admirably, and the fruit n, and has been known to keep in ndition until as late as the middle of er. The plants may also with ad-be grown in the form of pyramids eet or 8 feet in height, or even higher d, and will in this manner furnish the finest quality. When it is in-grow the Gooseberry in this form or stakes, after the lower end, or the ntended to be fixed in the soil, has l charred, should be securely fixed in nd; a healthy young plant should placed against each stake, from hould be trained four shoots as and from these lateral branches e allowed to grow in order to form mid. Some varieties from their style of growth are better suited to ose than others, and possibly no better adapted than that which has eady mentioned, viz., the Red on, which may be regarded among ries as the Ribston Pippin among e Moorpark among Apricots, or the age among Plums, etc. At all events, it will be found that varieties whose lateral branches naturally form a curve can more readily be made to form a graceful pyramid than sorts of more upright growth. Pyramidal Gooseberry bushes, or trees such as I have endeavoured to describe, will, particularly when carrying a fine crop of fruit, be found to be objects of interest, if not of considerable beauty, and the fruit can be readily gathered.

The bullfinch has been already mentioned as a deadly foe to the Gooseberry crop, as, indeed, he is to the crops of most out-of-door fruit trees. Some of his friends have more kindly than correctly suggested that he only removes fruit buds in his search for noxious insects, which would be equally, if not more, injurious to the crops of fruit. The bullfinch is, however, by no means insectivorous. There is, however, yet another fatal enemy to the Gooseberry, and about which no scruples need prevent the waging of a war of extermination. I, of course, mean the caterpillar, and for this pest a careful watch should be kept upon all plantations during the early spring months. There is possibly no more effectual remedy for this evil than the application of Hellebore in the form of powder, which can be obtained from all chemists, or in the form of a decoction; if used as a powder, the bushes should be well dusted with the same on a still evening. If the decoction is preferred, it should be about the strength of 1 lb. to 10 gallons of rain-water, and should be allowed to stand at least 24 hours before being applied. A still evening should also be selected for the purpose, and the mixture applied with a garden syringe. Seldom more than one or two dressings will be found necessary, and by neglect of this very simple remedy the crop is often ruined, and the plants seriously, if not fatally, injured.

The fruit of the Gooseberry is useful in all stages of its development; in a green and unripe condition it is highly appreciated and much used for cooking, and when ripe some of the sorts form the most delicious conserves; while for the dessert table there are varieties in each of the four sections which some people will prefer to almost any other kind of fruit. What are known as the Lancashire varieties are celebrated for their immense size, and are highly valued for exhibition, but the quality of such fruit is generally found to be inferior to that of the small or medium-sized varieties. C. P.

Gooseberry sawfly

IT is now the season when this pest makes its appearance, and gardeners should be on the alert for the first signs of attack. The female sawfly lays her eggs on the underside of the leaves of Gooseberries and Red Currants, the eggs being always laid on the veins of the leaves. Eight or nine days later the eggs hatch and the caterpillars feed for a time on the leaf on which the eggs were laid. In feeding, they cause at first little pin-holes in the leaf, and this is generally the first sign of attack. Later, when the caterpillars are stronger, they leave their original leaf and spread themselves more or less over the whole of the bush, and at that period lie along the edge of the leaf and feed from the edge inwards. As soon as all the caterpillars are hatched, spraying the trees with a nicotine insecticide is the best method of control. Growers should use a good insecticide at the strength recommended by the makers, or if they wish to make up their own they should use 1 lb. soft-soap, ¾ oz. nicotine (98 per cent.), 10 gallons water. Dissolve the soap in a little hot water and then make up to 10 gallons, add the nicotine and stir well. Water that is used for spraying should be soft. When spraying with this wash remember that it is a contact wash and that the caterpillars must be hit with the wash before they are killed. Many of the caterpillars drop to the ground when spraying commences. Spray those on the ground as well, otherwise they will crawl up again when spraying is finished. J.

The Gooseberry sawfly at work

Fig Negro Largo

Next to Brown Turkey I consider this to be the best Fig to grow as a trellis-trained tree under glass for main crop purposes. If the roots are only confined to a limited area it bears freely; in fact, the second crop is then a heavy one. It also produces a good crop grown under similar conditions in an unheated house. It also fruits well when grown in pots. The fruits are large, long in shape, almost black in colour, and are richly flavoured. The best method of confining the roots is to excavate a hole 3½ feet square and the same in depth, either against the front

or back wall of the house. To form the base put in either a 6-inch layer of concrete or paving-stones, and cement the joints. On this build a 4½-inch brick wall round three sides of the excavation—the wall of the house answering on the fourth side—and leave an opening at each corner in the bottom large enough for water to pass freely away. A good layer of drainage material covered with thinly-cut turves should be provided before the border, consisting principally of fibrous loam with the usual additions of lime-rubbish and a little burnt soil or wood-ashes, is put in and made very firm. The latter point can hardly be too strongly emphasised, as firmness of the border is essential for the production of short-jointed fruitful wood. The omission of manure from the list of constituents of the border is an important precautionary measure, as its inclusion generally leads to a too luxuriant growth being made. The right time to apply stimulants is when the crop is swelling off. In the event of the crop being a heavy one a mulch or top-dressing of cow manure or horse droppings may be given in addition, the stimulative properties of which will be washed out on each occasion when necessary to afford water. A. WARD.

Horticultural Societies' News

Norwich Spring Flower Show

This event, held under the auspices of the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society, took place in St. Andrew's Hall, Norwich, on April 7th, 8th, and 9th.

Although the season was somewhat early for many of the choicer Narcissi, there was a very fine display. Captain Sandys Winsch (Brundall) secured the Challenge Cup and first prize for 24 varieties of Daffodils and Narcissi with a most up-to-date array. Other prominent exhibitors in this section were Captain J. H. Mander (Thorpe), who staged many most beautiful seedlings of his own hybridisation and raising. He secured the Gold Medal for the best bloom with a superb large deep yellow flower labelled "E. 3."

The Hon. Mrs. Petre (Westwick) staged a fine array of "Trumpets," many of them seedlings, the fertilisation of which we think rested with George Davison, who formerly had charge of the gardens. Mr. C. H. Walter (Drayton) also had some very good blooms.

There was a fine display of flowering shrubs, choice specimens to this section coming from J. A. Christie, Esq., M.P. (Framingham Manor), and J. E. Moxey, Esq. (Framingham Hall), with a fine display of the earlier Rhododendrons from the Hon. Mrs. Petre (Westwick). Other spring flowers well represented in the "cut" section were Polyanthus and early herbaceous flowers.

Pot plants were an outstanding feature. Especially could this be said of the Calceolarias, Schizanthus, and Cyclamen staged by Mrs. H. J. Copeman (Westwood House, Norwich). They were examples of the best cultural skill, and reflected great credit upon the gardener, Mr. Mitchell.

Fruit was not a strong feature, but some very good examples of Strawberries growing in pots and as a dish were staged by J. A. Christie, Esq., M.P., whose gardener, Mr. S. High, is noted locally for his skill as a fruit culturist.

The trade were responsible for one of the most effective and educational displays ever made in Norwich. Messrs. Daniels Bros., Ltd., had a variety of all kinds of hardy spring flowers; G. W. Miller, Wisbech, also had spring flowers of many kinds, specialising with Primroses; Allwood Bros. and Mr. C. Engelmann each put up a characteristic display of Carnations; Bakers, Wolverhampton, had a dainty display of rock plants and shrubs; R. Winder, Ltd., Lingwood, had an effective miniature rock garden; Baths, Ltd., Wisbech, had a massive display of cut Narcissi and Tulips growing in bowls; A. J. and C. Allen, Norwich, made a great feature of forced Roses, including two new seedlings which appear of great merit; A. Reeves and Co., Old Catton, also had a good display of Roses with other flowering shrubs; Mr. H. Prins, Wisbech, and the Welsh Bulb Fields both had displays of Daffodils, one in the collection of Mr. Prins with a large open trumpet, suffused white, being appropriately named "Frothblower"; Mr. Baldwin Pinney was also present with a most varied collection of Violets. The judges had a few difficult cases to make their awards, so close were the points. The secretarial duties were ably carried out by Captain Sandys Winsch.

AYTCH-PEA.

Shropshire Horticultural Society

The schedule of this well-known and long-established Society is now ready for distribution, and may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. W. G. Brazier, The Square, Shrewsbury. This will be the 53rd year of the great annual Floral Fête, and it will be held at The Quarry, Shrewsbury, on August 17th and 18th, when upwards of £1,420 are offered in cash prizes, 20 gold medals, and numerous trophies. Shrewsbury, we are glad to note, are holding their own in these days of keen rivalry in provincial flower shows.

Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society

It has been decided to hold a three-days' flower show under the auspices of the Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society at the Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, on June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd next. Cups and medals will be awarded to trade growers and prizes and certificates to amateurs. It is proposed to engage a military band, and a prominent public person will be invited to perform the opening ceremony each day. Any information will be gladly given by I. Humphreys at the above address.

The Glamorgan Daffodil and Spring Flower Show

This was held on Wednesday, the 7th inst., at The Pavilion, Cowbridge, which was a perfect blaze of colour with Daffodils, flowering shrubs, and other spring flowers, not forgetting the splendid array of alpine gems, which were certainly one of the features of the show. The President of the show for this year was the Mackintosh of Mackintosh, and the Secretary, Miss Ackland Allen, is to be congratulated on the success of the show. The judges were:—Daffodils, Rev. H. C. Bourne; and spring flowers, Mr. John Milburn, Bath, whose task was not easy, as the classes, generally, were well filled and the exhibits of a high standard according to the inclement weather of the recent month.

Amongst the first prize winners were:—Collection of 15 varieties of Daffodils, Sir Sydney Byass, Bart.; collection of 12 varieties, Sir Sydney Byass, Bart.; collection of eight varieties, W. R. Hallowes; six varieties, Sir Sydney Byass; seven single blooms, Sir Sydney Byass; collection of three varieties, C. T. Edmondes; four single blooms, C. T. Edmondes; three varieties, W. B. Hallowes; three varieties, R. M. Dilwyn; three varieties, Miss E. Broker. Collection by previous unsuccessful exhibitors, C. T. Edmondes; three varieties, ditto, Mrs. Nicholl; three single blooms, equal, Mrs. D. C. Edmondes and Mrs. Durand arranged for effect, Lady Byass; ba spring flowers, other than Daffodils Byass.

Hardy spring flowers, confined to bers.—Twelve blooms of Anemones Blythswood; four varieties of Poly Sir Sydney Byass; six varieties of Primroses, Sir Sydney Byass; collec hardy alpine flowers, Sir Sydney Bya lection of hardy spring flowers, Edmondes; six varieties of hardy Pr Sir Sydney Byass; six jars of hardy ing shrubs, Sir Sydney Byass; six v hardy spring flowers, Sir Sydney group of Rhododendrons and group door flowering shrubs, Admiral H Vivian. Amongst the most notable and third prize winners were The Mac of Mackintosh, Major Byass, J. M. F Mrs. Oliver Jones, and Miss Dulcie

Amongst the many beautiful exhi up "Not for Competition" were fine of rare shrubs and spring flowers fro and Lady Blythswood, Sir Sydney Admiral Heneage-Vivian, and Col. J Nicholls. W. E. Wr

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

International Horticultural Show Liegnitz

Arrangements are being made for international horticultural exhibition held this summer in Liegnitz, Prussia. Roses and Dahlias are to special feature of the show. A new covering 3,000 square yards is to be b the town authorities have promised a 800,000 marks towards the expen have guaranteed a further sum of marks.

Report on condition of Horticu Crops on 31st March

Beans and Peas, long pods (autumn —Plants healthy and promising.

Broccoli (Spring Hearting).—Head ful at present and crop at least avera districts.

Cabbage (autumn-planted).—Makir growth and hearting well.

Cucumbers (under glass).—Early ings cropping well; others clean, and making good growth.

French Beans (forced).—Still maki factory growth.

Lettuce (frame). — Condition good; good heads being cut in some

Lettuce (outdoor).—Have winte and look promising.

Parsley.—Condition is generally factory.

Radishes (forced).—A good average

Rhubarb (natural).—Now makin and rapid growth and looks promisin

Sea Kale (natural).—Plants star and are growing quickly.

Spinach.—Satisfactory.

Spring Onions.—A good plant.

Tomatoes (under glass).—Plant sturdy.

Anemones.—In Scilly, with better St. Brigid and De Caen have rec proved; Cornish crops are flowerin but suffered damage by storms.

Arum Lilies.—In good conditi flowering well except in Scilly, where in poorer condition than usual.

Carnations, perpetual (under glass ditions satisfactory.

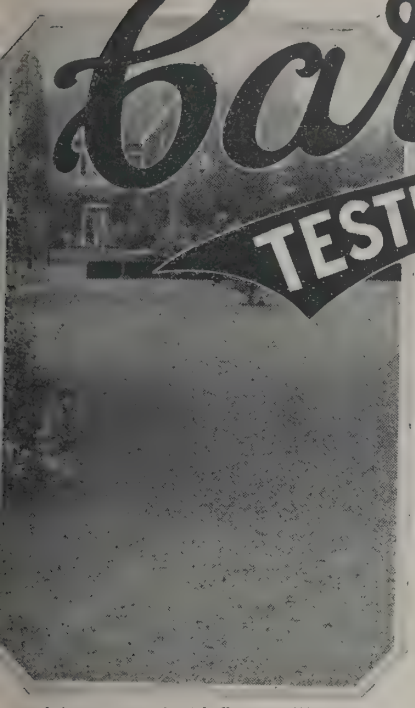
Daffodils and Narcissi (outdoor).— factory though late crop in all distric

Roses (under glass).—Satisfactory.

Wallflowers.—Healthy and larg carrying first-grade flowers.

SEEDSMEN BY APPOINTMENT

Carters TESTED SEEDS



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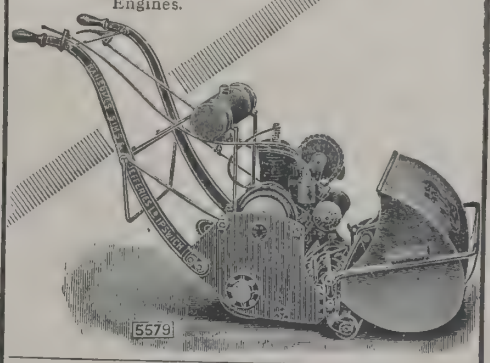

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Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

Diseased Daffodils

I shall be much obliged if you can tell me whether these Daffodil bulbs are attacked by eelworm. They are part of a mixed lot I had from a well-known grower three years ago. The soil is very poor, but Daffodils do well, on the whole, and none have ever gone off before. If it is eelworm how can it affect other bulbs and at what distance? I have a few more Daffodils about 10 yards from this lot and a great many about 30 yards to 40 yards from them, mostly planted in grass. These I send were in a border.

L. MOUNT.

[It is somewhat difficult to diagnose the cause of your Daffodils failing, because several troubles are present. There are a few eelworms, but not in sufficient numbers to cause the damage. One or two of the bulbs had been attacked by the large Narcissus-fly. Bulb mite was to be found in large numbers feeding wherever decay had been set up, and also a fungus of the Botrytis type was found to have attacked all the foliage. We are of the opinion that the fungus is the main cause of the plants failing. We should advise you to destroy all the bulbs affected like those you have sent in to us, and you should not plant bulbs on the same site until you have given at least one season's rest. Watch your other bulbs carefully, and, if the trouble appears, destroy the one or two bulbs affected, and spray the rest with a solution of potassium sulphide, using 1 oz. to 3 gallons of water. In fact, it would be wise to spray them well with such a spray at once as an insurance against this disease. At present the disease bulbs are not sporing, and if destroyed at once your other bulbs should remain clean.]

Diseased Wallflowers

(Donhead).—Your Wallflowers are attacked by a foot-rot, which appears to have been caused by a fungus of the Fusarium type. At this stage we do not think you can do much to help the plants; you might try taking out all the affected plants and giving the rest a good soaking with Cheshunt Compound (see reply to "Sandhoe"). We do not think there is any connection between the Begonias and this disease. If possible place your Wallflowers in another site next season and spraying them once or twice with potassium sulphide during the autumn. It appears to be too late to spray, with any chance of success, this year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cineraria wilt

(Sandhoe).—Wilting of Cinerarias is a common trouble to most gardeners who grow these plants. The cause is not always the same. In your case the wilting is due to a foot-rot caused by the fungus Phytophthora cryptogea. The disease attacks many kinds of plants, and is especially troublesome as causing a foot-rot of Tomatoes. There is no cure for plants that are already affected, and such plants, together with the balls of soil, should be burned. Pots in which diseased plants have been grown should be sterilised by plunging them in a 2 per cent. Formalin solution. Cheshunt Compound has been used with great success against foot-rot in Tomatoes, and we should think that it would be a wise precaution for you to water all your Cinerarias with a solution made from this compound. Plants which are already attacked by the disease will receive no help from the solution, but will die. Any spores carried from the diseased plants to the healthy plants can be killed by the solution. One oz. of Cheshunt Compound should be dissolved in a little hot water and then made up to 2 gallons with cold water. The plants should be given a thorough soaking, and also the staging underneath the plants. An occasional watering with the above compound should keep the plants free from the disease another season. You will find details of Cheshunt Compound in our advertisement columns.

Woodlice

(J. M. Mills).—At this time of the year, with your houses already planted with Tomatoes, you cannot give any drastic treatment for the control of the woodlice, and your best plan will be to trap the pests, and also to try poisoned bait. Speyer, writing in the "Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture," Vol. 30, page 1,042, states that common straw treated with boiling water, *plus* molasses, has given good results. The treated straw should be placed in flower-pots and the pots inverted and placed near to the haunts of the pest. The pots should be examined daily and the pest collected and destroyed. Red Beetroot cut into two and laid out surface downwards forms a great attraction for woodlice. Again, the pests should be collected and destroyed daily. A poisoned bait which has given good results is oatmeal, 10 parts; glucose, two parts; potassium bichromate, one part; and water, 10 parts. This bait only appears to be successful when woodlice are short of food, and in your case, with your houses already planted, you will find it difficult to attract them from the Tomatoes, and we should advise you mainly to pin your faith to the treated straw and the Beetroot. We do not reply to queries through the post.

LATE NOTE

Blackpool Flower Show

The schedule of the first annual Blackpool Flower Show to be held on July 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 1927, is now to hand, and it is quite clear from the very comprehensive nature of same that the Committee have made every effort to cater for all horticultural interests. The schedule comprises 324 different classes, including several of a new and unique character in the annals of horticultural shows. To accommodate this wonderful show, the success of which is now assured, a larger marquee than has ever before been used for a provincial horticultural exhibition in this country is to be erected. A special feature is being made outside the marquee of rock and rock and water gardens, formal gardens, and a special class for trees and shrubs specially suited for growth in Blackpool and district. The numerous and valuable trophies include one of 100 guineas, 14 of 50 guineas, 10 of 25 guineas, 20 guineas, and many of a smaller The provision of gold medals is also most generous scale.

Paper from Potato pulp

A reader in Yorkshire sends us the ing story of a remarkable discovery value of Potato haulm. If it is true, Pink should stand a good chance of bec a useful Potato:—

"What becomes of the haulms Potatoes grown on the million and a c acres devoted in Great Britain and I to this crop? The answer is 'nothing

"They are burnt, and though th some benefit to the land from the ashe not enough to figure in the accounts farmer. Yet every acre of Potato lan duces a quarter of a ton of dry h which means that at least 300,000 ton are thown away each year.

"Speaking roughly, this waste co turned into a profit for the farm £300,000, for, if all goes well, an off shortly be made to the farmers of the c of £1 per ton for dry haulms.

"At the back of the proposal is a man, Mr. Horace Walker, who ha covered that that part of the Potato ground is of use, as well as that belo his younger days on his father's fa Nottinghamshire, he was struck b toughness of the stalks of the Potatoes trudged through them when out shoot

"He was by trade a rope and twine facturer, with the firm of Joseph G Sons, Headingley, and his first thoug that he had hit upon a new fibre for his own trade. Finding that there w much interest shown in the idea linquished it, but in the leisure of t three years he has turned to it again, a time it was of its possibilities as th material for paper or artificial silk th thought.

"After a number of experiments duced a very satisfactory pulp. He h it tested by experts who have prod series of different kinds of papers which seem to be entirely satisfactory.

"The process is being protected by and it seems quite probable that w short time there may be a mill deve producing the pulp for the manufact the paper.

"At present nearly all our paper i from pulp of either wood-fibre or Grass. Most of it is pulped in the of origin, sent over in sheets to this re-pulped, and then turned into pape the re-pulping that makes the manufa some kinds of paper so expensive th almost impossible for the manufacte this country to compete with his ri has his paper mill alongside his pulpi

"The supply of pulp from the Pot the country would, of course, not be enough to meet the total demand, would be a great assistance, and claimed, would materially reduce the manufacture.

"In addition to Potatoes, it seems a haulms of the Tomato, which belong same family, can also be used for pose, and their use is covered Walker's patents."

NAMES OF PLANTS

Mrs. B. S. and Mrs. D. M. — Daffodils arrived in a withered conditi the thin cardboard boxes were battere post and the flowers damaged. If y send us some more flowers in good c and packed in a tin box we would do to name them for you. Please do n specimens to arrive during the we this office is closed on Saturdays and

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

2511—Vol. XLIX. APRIL 23, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 13/-

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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mulas of Easy Cultivation for Amateurs and Small Gardens

UGH some 150 species of Primula now known to botanists, the amateur n a small garden should limit himself which are more or less perennial in ng climate, not too exacting as to the ns under which they are grown, and relied on to add to the beauty of any

further selects those species and which will give him a sequence of om the end of February to le or end of July his choice educed to about 30.

all Primulas do best in shade, and even those atural habitat is full sun- n the boggy banks of or in water meadows will nost as well in a situation hey are protected from sun in summer and not o be dried up.

ately, many new varie- very accommodating, and r has found that an ideal for nearly all of them is a ng north or north-west, retaining wall 2 feet to gh. The bed should be g and well drained, and, is heavy, leaf-mould and andstone added to it. nted, the top should have ssing of sharp river sand rit free from tar, adding d mortar to the stations me-lovers are planted. nds specially beneficial to cies which lose their npletely in winter as it crowns from rotting and s.

ll itself can be planted rimulas, which naturally rocks, and such other suggest themselves— s, Ourisia coccinea, and Hepa- ew deciduous shrubs planted here n a bed on the top of the wall will ased shade for certain species

should, if possible, be raised from move better when quite small, and planted in bold groups of a kind e together that, when fully grown, meet. They like propinquity, and other cool. If desired, the species arated, for the sake of variety, es of Trollius, Aquilegia, Meco- lanthus species, and Narcissus and Soldanellas with P. r Pulmonaria azurea and other plants. I have found that many species seed themselves if the bed is well dressed with sharp sand as recommended above.

The writer recommends the following species and varieties given, more or less, in the order of flowering. The many varieties of Primula vulgaris are omitted :—

March and April.

P. elatior, the true Oxlip, which takes the place of our Cowslip in Switzerland and middle Europe. It is charming associated with Gentiana verna, as in Nature, or the Chionodoxas; likes lime.

P. farinosa and P. frondosa.—Very similar, but P. farinosa is the stronger doer. Both like limestone grit and much water in spring.

P. denticulata.—Various shades of bluish-lilac and a very fine pure white form. Likes plenty of leaf-soil and is very perennial.

P. rosea grandiflora.—Really a bog plant, but does well in partial shade with plenty of leaf-soil and grit.

P. Juliæ and its hybrids.

P. pubescens alba.—Between stones in wall; hates lime; very choice.

April, May, and June.

P. auricula alpina.—On wall with mortar-rubble; delicate scent.

P. marginata.—The same conditions.

P. Palinuri.—On a sunny position on top of wall will spread and make large clumps.

P. muscarioides.—Blue in spikes like a Grape Hyacinth. A new introduction.

P. sibirica.—Lilac-blue, in clusters on stems about 4 inches high. A very reliable perennial and easily increased by division.

P. Wardii.—Nearly allied to it, but taller; flowers light mauve.

P. Cockburniana.—Orange-red.

P. japonica.—Varieties crimson, rose, and white.

P. pulverulenta.—Crimson with yellow eye, and Mrs. Berkeley's strain, pink with yellow eye.

P. Bulleyana.—Apricot-yellow.

These four varieties flower in whorls with stems 2 feet to 3 feet high. They die down to crowns in winter.

P. helodoxa.—Clear yellow in whorls; stems up to 3 feet 6 inches high; evergreen and a very strong doer, especially on the banks of streams or ponds.

P. Sieboldii alb.—A well-drained situation; has creeping roots and is a first-rate perennial. The fresh green of leaves and pure white flowers are very attractive. Loses all foliage in winter.

P. Veitchii.—Deep rose flowers in umbels and very distinctive foliage.

P. Sikkimensis (the Sikkim Cowslip).—Flowers, pale yellow, mealy, sweet-scented, in large umbels on a stalk 1 foot to 2 feet high.

P. Florindæ.—A new introduction by Kingdon Ward, and has striking foliage and flower-stalks over 2 feet high of pale yellow.

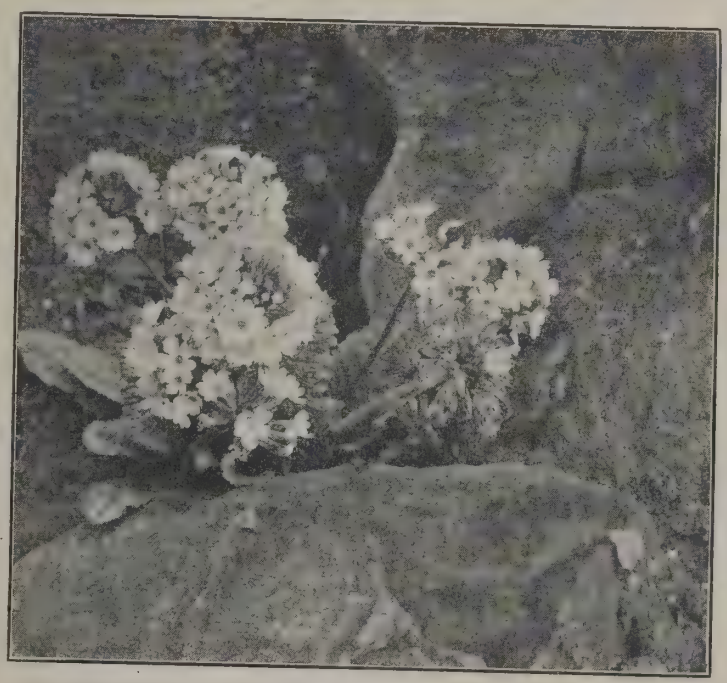
There are other forms with violet-purple flowers, almost bell-shaped, with cream eye. All varieties of Sikkimensis love moisture in spring. They lose their leaves entirely in winter, and the crowns, being small, are easily overlooked. They do not throw up leaf till early April.

P. glycosma.—Another bog species; flowers purple with yellow eye.

P. capitata.—Violet-blue on dense, round, mealy heads. Very attractive.

P. capitata Mooreana.—A very fine variety; one of the last to bloom, sometimes in July. A new introduction.

Seeds of all Primulas should be sown, if



Primula denticulata, self sown in the rock garden

This is one of the most easily grown of all hardy Primulas, and is suitable for the small garden

possible, as soon as ripe, either in pans of compost containing plenty of sharp grit and placed in a shaded cold frame, or sown around the parent plant. The chief enemies of Primulas are leatherjackets, which eat the roots, slugs, which eat the crowns, and gardeners, amateur or otherwise, who search with a fork for those whose crowns have been late in making spring growth.

H. M. W. BRIDGMAN.

Horsted Keynes, Sussex.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

The N.R.S. Spring Show

THE National Rose Society's Great Spring Rose Show will be again held in the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Sq., S.W., the date fixed for the exhibition being Friday, April 22nd. This annual exhibition is, without doubt, the most extensive, beautiful, and varied display of spring Roses to be seen in any part of the world. In the artistic classes the competition this year is likely to be very keen, and some very attractive exhibits are promised.

Judging the Chelsea Show gardens

The judging of the gardens at the Chelsea Show will take place in the following manner:—The scale of points used for formal gardens in 1926 will be used in 1927 for formal and decorative gardens other than rock gardens, *i.e.*:—

	Maximum Points.
Design	60
Execution	20
Plants	20
Total	100

In judging rock gardens and formal and decorative gardens special weight will be given to exhibits in which the design and plants are such as would be practical and permanent for ordinary gardens.

Awards to new Carnations

The Floral Committee of the British Carnation Society visited Messrs. A. F. Dutton's nursery at Iver, Bucks, on April 11th, to see the *Daily Mail* Carnation, Mrs. A. J. Cobb, growing on the raiser's nursery, and it was granted the highest possible award, a First-class Certificate, taking 88 points—three over the necessary number. Mrs. A. J. Cobb is obviously a Carnation of exceptional merit. Lady Margaret Boscawen (Messrs. Lowe and Shawyer's, of Uxbridge) was also inspected, and received a First-class Certificate, taking the maximum points, *i.e.*, 85 points. Mrs. A. J. Cobb was also given an Award of Merit by the R.H.S. and B.C.S. on April 5th, also W. H. Page, raised by Mr. W. H. Page, of Hampton, Middlesex, with 80 points and Award of Merit.

Iberis Pruitii

Iberis Pruitii is only about 4 inches high, and forms a decidedly neat little bush. From its central tuft short stems grow round and send up little stems which help to form a neat little plant of thick spoon-shaped leaves, and above these rise small heads of white flowers. It flowers in spring. It is said that seeds, if sown early, will produce plants to bloom the same year. It is obvious that in this case the flowers will not appear at the normal time, and it seems, therefore, that this early sowing is hardly worth while. Cuttings of established plants may also be struck in summer.

S. ARNOTT.

Spiræa pectinata

Forming a low, spreading mat of bright green foliage one might easily mistake this for a Mossy Saxifrage. Its Moss-like foliage is not more than 3 inches in height, above which appear numbers of dense, woolly racemes of white flowers. This distinct plant is a native of the Rocky Mountains.

M.

Transplanting evergreens

To shift or plant evergreens during winter or very early spring is asking for trouble and failure. Most authorities agree that April is the best month for the operation, with its increased temperature and frequent showers. Therefore those who intend to make alterations in the position of their evergreens I advise them to do so in the month named, but attention must not begin and end with planting. Even the most carefully-transplanted evergreen will feel the effects of dry weather afterwards, and should be assisted to establish itself by copious supplies of water. I remember planting a very large bed some years ago of choice Rhododendrons with great care, all of which perished, not one surviving, owing to a long drought in the summer afterwards, which made water so scarce that only just enough could be obtained for household needs.

F. H.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Polyanthus 2½ inches in diameter

IT was my good fortune a few days ago, in company with the representative of a well-known hardy plant firm, to spend some few hours in the delightful garden of Mr. Frank Neave, Lingwood, Norfolk. For many years Mr. Neave has made a speciality of Polyanthus, Primroses, and Primulas, and by careful selection and hybridisation he possesses such a collection as to literally make one's mouth water. His hybrids from Juliæ, the alpine Primula, with the Polyanthus in the varieties Lingwood Beauty and Mrs. Frank Neave have already brought him fame, but he has a much better variety not yet named nor distributed. The colour is a distinct magenta-crimson and the flowers are produced in masses well above the foliage. There is a great future for this plant as it blooms so early and freely.

Proceeding from patch to patch of Polyanthus we found blues of every shade carrying huge trusses easily ahead, so our friend the hardy plantsman said, of anything he had yet seen at Vincent Square or any other show. At another spot of magnificent seedlings an enormous bloom was noticed which, when the rule was applied, was found to be 2½ inches in diameter. Nor had size made it coarse. A further patch were all yellows, whites, and cream colours, large sturdy plants the offspring of seed saved in New Zealand and sent to Mr. Neave by an enthusiast who had heard of his collection through the gardening Press. One could dwell for some time on this family of flowers, suffice it only to say one further word upon a new task Mr. Neave has set himself, that is to produce a race of Primroses of art shades, delicate pinks, buffs, and yellows being blended in the same flower. I feel sure he will succeed; many seedlings are already blooming along the line of colour desired.

AYTCH-PÉA.

Brussels Sprouts failing

I am indebted to Mr. Blair and "J. for their interesting notes on this The failure of Sprouts to button is parently, so rare as I had thought it and this is an instance of the value tioning apparently trivial or obscure failures in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED. not say in this instance, however, failure has been satisfactorily ex The loose soil explanation at once to me, but inspection put that theor court at once. Nor, I think, was th question of over-manuring. The qua manured in the previous year for On Celery, and did not receive either or chemical manure when being prep the Sprouts. I could but attrib failure, as Mr. Blair suggests, to different strain, or, possibly, to son received by the plants in their earlie We do not find it necessary here to seeds (save for a limited number plants) under glass in ordinary year conceivable, therefore, that a late fr have been, at least, a contributory endorse very heartily the praise wh Blair bestows on Solidity, a rea Sprout. Has he ever tried Kin fection? I find it equally reliable.

A SCOTTISH GAR

—— I usually sow three varieties, in particular I rely on for the ha winters is "The Bullet." Like Mr. find Solidity satisfactory, and also Gem, one of Sutton's best Spro method of cultivation is to use a f of ground each season. Trenching th a good supply of manure in the bo as early as possible in autumn, leavi during winter, and in February lightly in a full dressing of lime. T not touched again until the plants a in May. The seed is sown in Febr cold frame and pricked off wh enough and grown on as steady and possible, as if once these plants ge they seldom prove satisfactory.

W. E. W

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Potato Mr. Bresee

Visiting a prominent exhibitor a ago I was, candidly, disgusted to s dozen boxes filled with well-sproutedu this well-coloured, shapely, but useless Potato. The produce of the due course, figure in collections of and in collections of vegetables at th exhibitions, and they will, as usu the premier awards, in the majority for single dishes of one variety o Potatoes. The variety, by commo is of no value when cooked. Why undesirable Potato be awarded fine appearance and shapeliness a well. "Handsome is as handso and I hold very strongly that qualit take precedence of symmetry so Potato is concerned.

A SCOTTISH GA

Stachys tuberifera

This is the so-called "Chinese Ar and a very much over-rated root may be useful, now and then, as a "s but that is all which can be said in It is in season during the winter there are, at that time, so many superior roots that only a very sma indeed ought to be grown. I, consider S. tuberifera to be neithe less than a most objectionable spreads as quickly and as rampa roots of Convolvulus, and it is ecal

Narcissus cyclamineus grown in a pan

eradicate when it gets hold. The ılem Artichoke" (by the way, what ne over the name of "Sunroot," vas given to this plant a year or two this journal?) is to be preferred in ay to the "Chinese" one, and there in my opinion, room for both in any of whatever size.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Autumn Onions

the above heading on page 212 in e April 9th "A Scottish Gardener," to autumn-sown Onions, says: ıajority of gardeners nowadays pre- ıer, to rely upon plants raised in I presume "A Scottish Gardener," states the "majority of gardeners," ing to his own district, as I can im that in this part and the various I am acquainted with a bed of sown Onions is one of the essentiali- both private and market gardens. the chief points when dealing with sown Onions is to know and grow varieties for the purpose, as it is not vill weather the storms of winter and a success in summer, laying aside ion of bolting. We find in this part of ry that the first and second weeks in r are soon enough to sow the seeds ipoli and Rocca varieties, which are reliable for autumn sowing, whilst had fair results from Ailsa Craig, f grown well, can produce that nch in circumference" which will on the show bench with any that d in heat. If "A Scottish Gar- loubts my word I shall be pleased him a few properly-harvested speci- latter part of July. I quite agree remarks on harvesting winter as, once the foliage turns yellow, ıas finished, and they should be dried off in the sun, as, if left in ıd too long, they very soon com- grow roots again when once full They are best suspended on poles or ry, and not left on the ground. By eds of Spring Onions in autumn is ıurting the bolting trouble, which, e started, there is no remedy other ull and use immediately. It may A Scottish Gardener," when talk- ow bench specialists, that we have istrict several amateurs, let alone als, who can turn out Onions any- 1 2 lbs. to 4 lbs. in weight, and not in heat.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Gardens,
eigiau, near Cardiff.

Narcissus cyclamineus

YOU may know N. cyclamineus pot-grown on the show stand or in the alpine-house. You may be familiar with the leaping grace of its six yellow petals flying back and baring the miniature trumpet, but before you can claim a close acquaintanceship with it, before you can have an intimate knowledge of its charm, you must watch it springing up in drifts by the brink of some woodland stream to lighten the drabness of February at the first sign of the sun's taking on new strength for the spring.

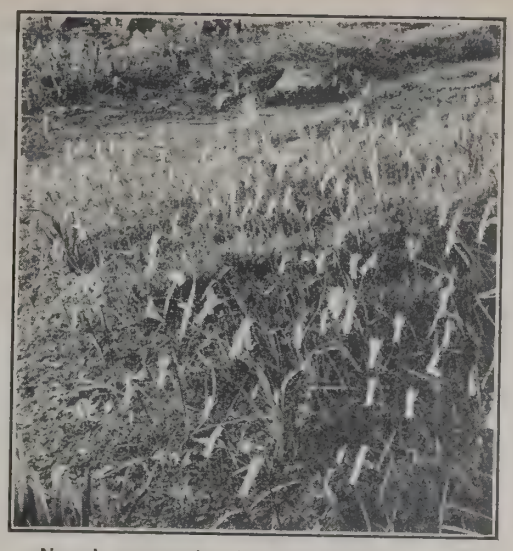
Native of river banks in Portugal, it revels in the coolness of a woodland glade or the dampness of a stream-side in this country, and in the sandy part of such a wild garden as makes a good home for Rhododendrons and Lilies it will readily become naturalised, carpeting the ground and making a golden setting for the pinks and mauves of the earliest Rhododendron species.

At Wisley, where this photograph was taken, it is thoroughly at home—has been seeding itself for years, and shoots up each spring in ever-advancing colonies, of a charm which nothing but naturalisation could have produced. Poised on their delicate stalks that sway them to the slightest breeze, the flowers might be taken for a cluster of golden-winged insects pausing in their flight to hover over the greensward of Moss or fluttering up a grassy bank to catch the first rays of the February sun. The upturned petals are, in fact, folded back from the naked trumpet, exactly as a butterfly, at rest, folds its wings back, one against the other, over the body.

The Cyclamen-Daffodil should be raised from seed, which will give you a flowering colony in three years' time; and this, in its turn, will spread by sowing its own seed if you can once make it happy, but the tiny bulbs will not divide.

If ordinary Daffodils are growing in the same garden hybrids will probably spring up in the ranks of the cyclamineus. Amongst those shown in the photograph are one or two glorious creatures—cyclamineus, obviously tainted with the blood of the full-blown trumpeters, grown taller—the little trumpets longer and distended, and the petals merely standing off instead of lying right back against the stalk. In another part of the garden is an almost exactly intermediate hybrid, a really beautiful thing on a stem full 18 inches high, the flower the size of a small Daffodil, but the trumpet far more slim and dainty, with the petals more slender, too, and winging back only far enough to form a broad, open funnel.

F. C. S. ROBINSON.



Narcissus cyclamineus naturalised in cool woodland

Grafting a seedling Orange

The letter appearing in your issue of February 19th, 1927, asking particulars *re* grafting a seedling Orange, and the reply thereto, does not, to me, appear to be a satisfactory method.

I have had considerable experience as regards both grafting and budding all classes of Citrus, and we usually cut out the grafting, particularly with small trees, and only bud.

The method practised is the usual T cut with a plump bud inserted and firmly tied with raffia. This will "take" in about six weeks, after which, should the tie pinch, same is loosened. As the bud pushes along so the top is removed accordingly. A small stick is usually put alongside the tree to tie the bud to as it grows, and also to prevent it from being broken off.

If grafting is to be done, the method practised here is whip graft, and to put the scion in under the bark after cutting the top back to about 4 inches high. The union is tied tightly with raffia and then waxed over. Both methods are done when the sap begins to rise.

If Mr. Leigh has not up to the present worked his seedling over, I would recommend him putting on two buds so that he would be certain of one taking, one on either side, an inch or two above each other. If, however, both buds failed, he would still have the opportunity of budding again or even the grafting over.

E. J. ALEXANDER.

Grahamstown, C.P., South Africa.

Yellow-berried Holly

"J. C.'s" (Byfleet) note in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, April 2nd, is very interesting, *re* the yellow-berried Holly, in which he considers this variety a sport.

In this county it must be more plentiful than in his neighbourhood, as I have easily a dozen examples in a garden 700 feet above sea-level, 6 miles from Huddersfield.

I have a note—I regret that I cannot state the authority—"that it is one of the oldest varieties of the common Holly and was discovered centuries ago in a wood near Wardour Castle in Wiltshire, and has been found in Suffolk."

The A. fructo albo (the white-berried Holly) is said to resemble the common Holly in every respect except that the fruits are white or cream-coloured.

It is evidently an old variety because it can be found mentioned in Herbals of ancient date.

This variety Dallimore ("Holly, Yew, and Box") considers to be extinct.

Is this so?

Is it possible that the white-berried variety was the origin of the yellow-berried Holly, which has lately created new interest?

YORKSHIRE TYKE.

The coreless Apple—Is it possible?

With reference to the letters in the issue of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED on April 2nd, p. 197, the following extract is from Nelson's Encyclopædia, published in 1911:—

"After numerous experiments a coreless and seedless variety has been developed in Colorado, specimens of which reached this country in 1905."

A. B. D.

Pycnostachys Dawei

INDOOR PLANTS

Pycnostachys Dawei

THIS plant, which flowers during the winter, is a very useful addition to the warm greenhouse. As its name implies —pycnos (dense) and stachys (a spike)—its flowers are borne in a dense spike at the end of a long slender shoot. The inflorescence, which is composed of a large number of deep blue flowers, is about 3 inches long and 1 inch in diameter. The long lanceolate, bright green leaves are of a beautiful transparent texture. Whether grown as large specimens or as dwarf bushes, they are equally useful for the embellishment of the greenhouse or conservatory, especially as this colour is rather scarce during the winter.

How to propagate.—To obtain large specimens it is necessary to commence propagation in January. Cuttings root remarkably easy if they are inserted in sandy soil and are plunged in a slightly heated propagator. To obtain bushy plants it is advisable to insert three cuttings around the edge of a 3-inch pot, and when they are well rooted to transfer them bodily into 5-inch. They will require a further move into 8-inch pots when they become potbound, but no additional repotting will be necessary. In these pots they will form specimens about 6 feet in height and about 2 feet in diameter. To induce a bushy habit it will be necessary to periodically remove the tips of the shoots. The first stopping should take place as soon as the cuttings are well rooted, the second when the plants are well rooted in the 5-inch pots, and the third and last time it should take place when the plants are established in their finals.

The compost.—The compost should consist of equal parts of loam, leaf-mould, and well-decayed manure, to which a small sprinkling of bone-meal and silver sand has been added. It is essential to ram the soil firmly into the pots so that the plants will be induced to produce well-ripened growth.

During the summer months these plants should be accommodated in the cold greenhouse where they will be able to obtain the maximum amount of light and air, as any attempt at coddling will only result in etiolated growth. On the approach of autumn it will be necessary to take them into the warm greenhouse, where they will soon produce their charming inflorescences.

If dwarf plants are required it will be necessary to delay the operation of propagation until June, otherwise the remainder of the treatment is the same as for the large specimens, with the exception that it will not be necessary to use pots any larger than 5-inch.

G. F. Gardiner.

Zonal Pelargoniums for winter

In the wide selection of greenhouse plants there is probably nothing comparable to the old-fashioned Zonal Pelargonium for colour when well done and grown purposely for the bloom during the dull, winter months. At that period this plant is essentially a country one—I mean, persons in or near places where fogs prevail may find flowers decay or drop quickly, particularly the single sorts, which, to my taste, are more showy and altogether choicer-looking than the doubles. Colours among the former, too, are really the more brilliant. To get satisfactory specimen plants one must think well ahead. This, indeed, should be the case in the culture of every garden subject. To start with, spring-rooted cuttings should be selected, not that those rooted the previous autumn would be useless, but on account of their size. I like winter Zonals in pots no bigger than 48's or 5-inch, and the latter would require pots a size larger to flower in. Having first procured or grown the small plants, they would at once receive the only repotting. The soil employed is loam with a 5-inch potful of bone-meal to a bushel. This compost is simple, and it is one that assists a firm rather than a gross growth, for these plants make too much leafage as a rule. Or, rather, it is easy to obtain undesirable growth by using manures or leaf-mould. Pot firmly, keep the plants under glass in a cool structure until the end of May, when they may with safety be placed in the open. A sunny position should be selected. A favoured one is along the sides of garden walks, standing the plants on boards. Against such is the great amount of time required in watering in hot weather, and therefore I prefer to pu in a batch by themselves with th plunged to the rim in ashes. Here t for water are not nearly so frequent, one does is to turn the pots on occa prevent the roots going through i ashes and growing too freely. Giv plant quite a square foot of space

Summer treatment consists, besi necessary watering, of topping ba growth which seems to be getting aw the rest, and in keeping the bloo pinched off. This last item is regular and no buds are allowed to develop about the middle of September. At of that month the plants go to a lig of a greenhouse. They are raised stages by standing them on inverted pots, and the plants have stimulatin tions to the water each time this is g a weakly state being the rule, anythi ammonia prevalent—as soot-water ar from farmyard manures—suiting ad Were one to select a powdered Peruvian guano would be favoure trusses of bloom last a long time in and early spring. At that time, too, of these are not so liable to drop as in summer. Decayed ones are pic and, as remarked, other buds whicl on the same truss keep the display For years it was the rule to purchase varieties, but in my own case a few s are raised annually. By doing this got together quite a nice collectio enough, in fact, for the expert—mos in shades of pink, cerise, scarlet, an Maybe we do not find Pelargoniums ter so prominent at exhibitions as f Trusses of bloom of the rounded or class used to be a feature at the N shows; but still a few growers in t keep their named sorts to date, raising others.

Boronia megastigma

IN these days, when, perhaps m ever, perfume in flowers is so n preciated, the Boronia megastigma flower in unheated greenhouses shou membered as one of the sweetest flowers in the floral world. One p make a full-size conservatory delici perhaps sweeter in the atmosphere the breeze than when smelt close at h

The Boronia is one of those A plants which like a sandy, peaty s like most of the Australian plan plenty of water during the growin but less and careful watering in win it is dormant.

A correspondent sends some s Boronia which have gone brown at t the growths. Without seeing the p impossible to say the actual cause, th appearances point to either too mu in winter or else that the plant is allowed to become dry since it c growth.

Nevertheless, the Boronias, the (Mimosa), and most of the Australi are not difficult to grow if one bears ditions in mind already mentioned.

The propagation is less easy. It ripened shoots root in sandy soil late mer in the propagating-house, the potted into a sandy peaty soil w rooted and kept in a comfortable pla the winter.

Another good point about these A plants is that they succeed in co houses, and many of them are hard doors in the southern and western o when provided with a Rhododendron Among these numerous varieties (wh once called "New Holland Plan the Callestemons, better known a

ɔs, or "Bottle Brush Trees," which gorgeous unheated conservatory plants ig bushes in the open in favoured spots. common mistake with amateur gar- s in dealing with these easily-grown- -understood plants is that, being in a soil, they frequently mistake the colour soil as indicating that it is moist when dry. This is fatal to the plant in the stages of its growth. The Australian , like horses and dogs, are easily ed when one is not afraid of them. g the early stages of growth bi-weekly iquid-manure water is helpful to good h. When repotted they like fairly firm g, and, if more convenient, they may nged outside for the spring and sum- p to the rims of the pots in suitable al, such as ash. An overhead syringe in growth suits them if the weather is

ɔleasing feature of these Australian is the way they lend themselves to forcing in an airy house. The Acacias, stance, by making a selection of the varieties may be had in bloom for seven or eight months in succession, the Chorizemas bloom for a like period old house without any forcing. This ɔf plant makes a good companion to ual Carnations inasmuch as both de- fresh air and plenty of it, and at the ime resent a close atmosphere.

LAURENCE J. COOK.

ROSES

Rose Alberic Barbier

accompanying illustration is that of hree-year-old Alberic Barbier supplied R. Harkness and Co., Hitchin, grown ıy southern aspect in heavy clay soil. been allowed to grow very freely, the ining being to tie it lightly to a wire d between two props. It has always uned very lightly in early April, and n fertilised with Canary guano and Fertiliser. The soil has been broken h a fork in spring and kept well in summer. It flowers in May, is in ɔm in June, has a second flowering in and loses its last bloom about as.

E. DANZIGER.

oses on their own roots

VE never been able to understand ly why the Roses distributed by rymen are always budded on Briar, e other stock, and why they and Rose growers do not grow the varieties on their own roots.

y all the older and more robust Roses t quite readily from cuttings with a n of trouble and risk of loss.

ɔlants flower more freely and live han budded Roses, and there is not ble of suckers from the Briar to con- h.

season I struck over a hundred cut- various Roses, and should have put many times this number but for space.

ethod of increasing one's stock of ıld be easier.

me during the summer or autumn— er the better—we take well-ripened bout 8 inches long (or with six or s) from the tree, with a "heel" of wood, or, if a branch with several ttings on is cut out, we leave about f the old wood on each side of the Three or four of the lower leaves ved and the cuttings are inserted in a moderately shaded and moist position in the open.

No special compost is used, but we put the cuttings in whatever rooting medium is available at the time. We do not use sand at the bottom, though I believe this is helpful to quick rooting, and no protection but a little shade, and water if necessary, and by November they are all growing well.

Last autumn we did not have a single cutting, and on some of those rooted the year previous I had as many as 15 blooms last season.

Of course, only the Roses that are fairly strong growers are selected.

Practically all the Ramblers will root very readily.

The following are the Roses that I have been most successful in striking on their own roots during the last year or two:—

Geo. Dickson, F. K. Druschki, Gen. McArthur, Caroline Testout, Mme. A. Chatenay, Laurent Carle, Mme. Ed. Herriot, Prince de Bulgarie, Ophelia, Mrs. H. Morse, Gruss an Teplitz, and one or two glorious old-fashioned crimsons whose names I do not know.

I have not found any of my "own root" Roses lacking in vigour; on the contrary, some are larger and more robust than the parent tree on Briar; nor have I noticed any difference in size or quality of the blooms; but I notice that the habit of the trees is slightly different and that there is a very desirable tendency for Roses on their own roots to throw up strong new shoots from the base instead of growing all top as so many budded Roses do.

We do not think it is advisable to move the rooted cuttings from the nursery bed until the first winter after flowering; that is to say, about 15 months after taking.

I believe this fairly long period of waiting may have deterred amateurs from using this method of propagation, but when one has tried it, what easier or more satisfactory method is there of increasing one's stock of trees?

The chief points making for success are a good, firm, well-ripened cutting, a clean vertical cut with the knife, leaving plenty of "heel." Plant very firmly and keep shaded and moist until growth has started.

If this is done and the right varieties are chosen few will fail.

FRANK N. KEELING.

Normanton, Derby.

Rose Gloire de Margottin

IT is now over 30 years since M. Margottin gave to the Rose world this splendid Rose. If it is somewhat thin, and its growths semi-climbing, we can afford to overlook this, and be satisfied we have such a Rose. It makes a grand standard, for its semi-pendulous growths may, in this way, be utilised with considerable effect. The flower possesses a pretty, pointed form, and in a cool season one may cut readily splendid flowers, which have a very fair fragrance. I believe M. Margottin raised this Rose from Gloire des Rosomanes, and also, I believe, he was for some time trying to evolve brilliant reds through this grand old variety, which is reputedly the parent of General Jacqueminot. M. Margottin raised a very brilliant Rose in 1880, and named it Gloire de Bourg la Reine. I was sorry when this brilliant variety dropped out from our catalogues, for it was of a delightful colour, and is still procurable from Continental growers. Probably Gloire de Margottin emanated from this variety and Gloire de Bourg la Reine from Gloire des Rosomanes. I also have an idea that we owe Charles J. Grahame to this latter Rose, probably by cross-fertilisation.

Rose Alberic Barbier in full bloom at Harrow

A most brilliant Rose is Duke of Edinburgh, sent out as far back as 1868. I believe General Jacqueminot has been claimed as the parent of this Rose, but I should say it is very doubtful, for there seems no affinity whatever, neither is there any fragrance. But the colour is delightful, and it makes a grand standard or pillar Rose, though rather difficult to flower well as a bush. Duke of Teck is of a more scarlet colour, with little or no shading, and Brightness of Cheshunt is also of a vivid brick-red colour, which shows up well as a pillar Rose. Messrs. Paul and Son sent out some years ago a variety named The Shah. I should like to see this Rose revived—in fact, we cannot have too many scarlets of the Hybrid Perpetual type, seeing that the Hybrid Teas are, so far, very deficient of them. A few very brilliant Hybrid Perpetuals are Duchess of Bedford, raised by Mr. Postans, of Brentwood; Bob Davison, with its strikingly pointed blossoms; Lady Helen Stewart, an abundant bloomer, and highly perfumed; Brilliant, a small-sized bloom, but very vivid; Duke of Wellington, for exhibition one of

the most reliable; and Hugh Dickson, one of the grandest of all.

Some years ago I saw a small bed at Kew of the vivid single Rose, Royal Scarlet, flowering close by a mass of that lovely hybrid Brier, Una, from the same raisers, Messrs. Paul and Son. There is a large, semi-double sort named Sarah Bernhardt, whose very gorgeous blooms must create for it a demand. It is classed with the Hybrid Teas, and its growth is semi-climbing, which is another way of saying it is vigorous and suitable for pillar or standard. No one should miss planting a very fine variety of the Irish single Roses named Irish Engineer.

Other beautiful, brilliant Roses that should be added to the collection are:—Ecarlate, Richmond, Charlotte Klemm, Fabvier, General Macarthur, and Gruss an Teplitz. I should be interested to hear if anyone has had experience of the variety Rouge Augevine. "Geranium-red" is the description of the colour. What I have seen of it did not impress me, but it is not fair to judge any Rose from examples grown under glass. R.

Iris atrofusca

This fair member of the attractive group of Cushion Irises was discovered in the spring of 1891 on the mountainous region which extends along the east side of the River Jordan. Broadly speaking, it may be described as an Iris susiana with much deeper-coloured flowers. The standards are of a dark lilac-brown with radiating veins of black, the falls are strongly recurved and of a blackish-brown colour. When seen in good condition it is a really fine and striking plant. As to culture, this species requires no more special care than the other members of this group, but it sometimes gets spoiled by late frosts, which nip the foliage and cripple the plant.

Sedum spathulifolium var purpureum

Beautiful as the typical plant undou is at all seasons, especially when in this fine form is even more attractive leaves appear to be somewhat larger a striking chocolate-purple colour with ish bloom. Even a single plant of th Sedum is quite conspicuous. G

The Gardens of Les Bruyères

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught's villa at Cap Ferrat

By Mrs. Philip Martineau

Six years ago a flat and barren plot of ground with a small villa built thereon was bought by the Duke of Connaught. It had everything against it as far as gardening goes, for it had sun only during part of the day; solid rock lay beneath a shallow skin of soil, and it was bleak and exposed. And for a year or two people were faintly amused at this struggle against Nature which H.R.H. was waging. However, the "vision" displayed by him has been amply justified, and the garden now is one most charming along the coast in formality, contrasting so well with m the artificiality seen in Riviera garden

Three years ago the garden, though flowers, was still flat. This year, ho an amazing change has been wrought content with blasting out all the roc Duke has brought large, full-grown tre 40 miles away, and, marvellous to sa all grew and flourished, even the Olive and the great, tall Cypress of the co and Wistarias hoary with age. Ow the now fertile soil, trees and shrub grown like magic, and cold winds are out.

Grassy glades with fine silver Junipe blue Cedars either side, lead to colo flowering Peaches and Cherries, a small shrubs of Acacia have grow handsome young trees blue of folia showered with gold. Wistaria and C climb into the gnarled branches of Olive trees brought so far from the Olive-yards. Huge Magnolias an trees, and the Parasol Pines, so belo Provence, look as if they had been lished for centuries.

How the Royal owner must smile w looks around and sees that his drea come true!

Daffodils and blue Anemones, tall and white Spiræas, and colour schem lavender as a basis, all set off by tho of the scarlet Anemone fulgens starr grass. Echiums of the finest blue with the mauve Wistaria, and one l Echium fastuosum is the largest eve Chinese Pæonies and radiant Elizabet near giant bushes of that fine Rose, Schablikine, while clumps of arboreum, with its massive heads of form a screen at one end of the gar gether with Brooms of every kind.

Small enclosures filled with flower repose, and a few pools of water emerald turf have a backing of grey with here and there a spreading Cot whose leaves are scarlet in the sun, low a lovely little alpine garden. B Cratægus pyracantha, well named t thorn, are alight with brilliant berrie Eremurus in April vie with ba Schizanthus. Drifts of Arum Lilies with blue Cinerarias, Cyclamer Primula in bewildering variety, and s gorgeous Iris.

Ancient wine-jars of great size give ter to the garden near the house, w been much enlarged recently, and t Carnations to be found anywhere ar in another portion of the property.

The Duke of Connaught is ably s in all his garden ventures by his Major Berkeley Levett, who is a ke dener himself.

View from the terrace at Les Bruyères, showing some of the full grown trees planted by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and his equerry on the terrace of Les Bruyères, Cap Ferrat

A quaint planting of Echium fastuosum in the garden of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Plants and shrubs

Those which have received protection during the past winter should now be fully exposed, as most of them are making growth. The Sweet Verbena, Romneya Coulteri, Verbena chamædryoides, Amicia, Cardinal Lobelias, Convolvulus mauritanicus, etc., are examples of this.

Iris sibirica and I. Kæmpferi

Large plants of these may still be divided up and transferred to fresh ground. These plants repay handsomely for generous treatment and rarely look better than when gracing the banks of lakes and streams. Surplus material may be used in wet parts of the wild garden with pleasing results.

Chicory

Any plants left over from those required for forcing should not be destroyed, but planted to form large groups alongside orchard paths or in the wild garden, where, even when merely planted in the grass, they give delightful groups of colour, resembling masses of huge pale blue Cornflowers.

Mowing and edging lawns and walks

These must now claim considerable attention each week, as nicely-kept edgings add greatly to the appearance of the garden. The cut grass will be found very useful for mulching trees and shrubs, and it assists in the keeping down of weeds.

Snapdragons and Pentstemons

Plants from autumn-struck cuttings are now ready, and may be safely planted in their permanent quarters. The same applies to autumn-sown Pansies and Flax, such as Linum narbonense, L. Lewisii, L. austriacum, and Verbena chamædryoides.

Plants in frames

Continue to harden off such as these gradually in order that the frames may be available for other subjects which must be moved out from heated houses and pits at frequent intervals.

Salsify and Scorzonera

It is now time to sow these useful vegetables on well-prepared land. The drills should be 16 inches apart.

Peas

Those planted out from pots and boxes must now be supported with Hazel boughs, and if the latter are also applied to the earliest open-air sowing growth will be greatly assisted. Continue to sow maincrop varieties every 10 days to maintain an unbroken supply. Sow further small batches of Spinach, Globe Beet, Broad Beans, Turnips, Lettuces, both Cos and Cabbage, and encourage the growth of earlier sowings by keeping the soil about the plants frequently stirred.

Runner Beans

It is yet too early for sowing these in the open, but a few may be sown in boxes and placed in a cool greenhouse or frame. Trenches may be thrown out as advised for Celery in readiness for the plants so raised and those to be sown in May. Rich soil is essential for this crop.

Sweet Corn

This delicious vegetable should be sown without delay in boxes placed in a warm greenhouse, and when about 3 inches in height the plants should be potted off singly into 3-inch pots.

Potatoes

Continue with the planting of maincrop varieties at every favourable opportunity, allowing plenty of space between the rows of the strongest-growing kinds.

Beet, Carrots, and Onions

The main sowing should be no longer delayed, shallow drills only being advisable for these and from 10 inches to a foot apart.

Vacant plots

Spaces which have been occupied with Brussels Sprouts, Savoys, etc., must now be well manured and dug in readiness for Potatoes, the planting of which is now in full swing.

Seed beds

These must be protected against small birds by fish-netting raised 3 feet above the ground.

Salads

Sow both Cos and Cabbage Lettuce at intervals of 10 days. Sow small quantities frequently rather than large sowings irregularly, with the resulting wasteful surplus.

Vines and Peaches

Trees now swelling their fruits will be greatly assisted by fortnightly applications of a reliable Vine and Peach manure, which should be sown evenly over the surface of the border and well watered in.

Melons and Cucumbers

Plants carrying heavy crops must be assisted likewise, and until ripening of the former is apparent a vigorous temperature must be maintained.

Apple and Pear trees

These should be sprayed with Orchard Spray Fluid or other approved liquid, such as lime sulphur, just as they are on the point of bursting their winter scales. This will destroy insect life and arrest the development of scab.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Roses under glass

Roses growing in pots are, usually, much subject to mildew, even when every care is taken. It is when the sun has gained considerable strength that one is forced to open the ventilators, when, perhaps, a cold easterly breeze is blowing, which, striking on the tender foliage, is certain to set up this distressing disease. Although unsightly, dusting with flowers of sulphur is still as reliable a means of checking the trouble as can be found. The plants should be systematically fed either with liquid-manure or with some reliable chemical fertiliser applied as a top-dressing.

Late Chrysanthemums

If not yet done, it would now be advisable to transfer these to 6-inch pots, or, in the event of some varieties being rather weakly, the 5-inch size would be better. Pots must be perfectly dry and clean, and have a fair amount of "crocks" arranged over the drainage holes. A compost made up of three parts rough fibrous loam, two parts each leaf-mould, and one part clean sharp sand is admirable, but the inclusion of a 6-inch potful each of bone-meal and dry wood-ashes to each barrowload of the other ingredients is excellent for these plants. Pot very firmly and return to the cold frames, keeping rather close for a few days.

Pot on young Cyclamens

Seedlings pricked off into thumb February are now fit for a shift i 4-inch size in the case of the stronge and the 3-inch size where there is any weakness. A suitable compost is n mixing thoroughly together three pa fibrous loam, two parts best brown peat, and enough clean coarse sand t porosity. "Crock" the pots with gre pot lightly, and then return to same t ture, shade from all bright sunshi spray overhead twice daily.

Sow main batch of Cinerarias

The sowing of the main batch showy subject may now be carried o as little artificial heat as possible all and the result will be clean, sturd bloomed plants.

Sow Wallflowers

One often hears the remark, "M flowers are very small and poor. I what can be the matter with them? main reason, in most cases, is late the plants not having time in which a good size. About this date will b to give good results if the other li tural details are attended to. Sow in drills 12 inches apart in an open, sur tion, scattering the seeds rather Transplant when 4 inches high Siberian Wallflower (Cheiranthus must not be sown for fully a month will bloom in autumn.

Other biennials

Myosotis, Agrostemma, Campanu midalis, Sweet William, etc., shoul sown now, but in boxes or pans frame. They will, of course, succ enough if sown in the open, but under command if the first-named m followed.

Potato planting

It will now be advisable to push this work. Even the latest varieties be planted with all safety. Heavy of farmyard manure should not be g cept in the case of Golden Wonder a worthy, these two high-class varie giving of their best when liberally t this respect.

Sowing spring Broccoli

This valuable vegetable is often being sown too early, the resulti getting far too big and soft befor with the inevitable result—a high d while any that do escape seldom g and have very small heads of poo Sown during the last half of April, are dwarfer, sturdier, and less liab cumb to the rigours of our wint mington, Evesham Giant, and June are the hardiest and best for the last-named being, probably, the

Peas for succession

An unbroken supply of Peas t the season is what all gardeners a as soon as the last sowing becom through the soil another should be as to ensure that no blanks in t occur.

Vegetable Marrows

About now is a good time to so the Vegetable Marrow. Any lig compost will do if the pots are set brisk warmth until germination t

C B

Preston House Gardens, Linlithg

REES AND SHRUBS

Pinus patula

NUS PATULA rings somewhat of a hange among Pines. We are better cquainted with the old-fashioned dignity excelsa, which for centuries has scatits crescent-shaped cones over the lawns ntry houses up and down the country, mbre gauntness of the Scot's Pine as ods in ghostly clumps over moorland er or Surrey Bracken, the ragged, wept belts of P. austriaca striving to r the fury of East Coast gales, and the are trunks of the Weymouth Pine pro- southern gardens.

Pinus patula at Wisley

Mexican species is a daintier creature more northerly products of the besides being more fragile consti- r. It gives, indeed, a refreshing the landscape, with its long ranks green needles drooping from the out elegant branches.

gh the plant has not actually at all g habit, yet it rather gives the im- that it has, owing to the drooping the leaves. In spite of this, though, ooks in the least tired or bedraggled, light greenness redeeming it and t look, on the other hand, sprightly

, as it does, from the Southern South America, it likes a warm, spot in this country, coupled with a oist soil, such as sandy loam well supported with peat or leaf-mould. Seed was originally sent over by Hartweg, who collected it in Pine and Oak forests in Central and Eastern Mexico in 1838, the first plants being raised in the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens.

The accompanying photograph was taken at Wisley near one corner of the rock garden where it is very effective, standing at the top of the grassy bank that flanks the rock garden and runs down to the wood. This specimen turns a little brown in the autumn, but probably as a result of summer drought rather than winter frost, since the soil is light and the spot must be distinctly well drained.

F. C. S. Robinson.

Pyrus prunifolia

The group of Crab Apples that includes P. prunifolia and P. baccata is composed of variable trees, and it is difficult to arrive at the exact place where one species begins and the other ends. At the two extremes these two trees are very distinct in the fruits, for in P. prunifolia the calyx lobes remain on the fruit throughout its life, whilst in P. baccata they are early deciduous. The fruits of P. prunifolia usually ripen earlier than those of P. baccata. As a rule, they ripen early in September and fall from the trees soon afterwards, whilst those of P. baccata ripen in October and often remain on the trees throughout winter. In both instances the fruits are very beautiful, being freely produced and highly coloured. P. prunifolia is doubtless a good species, although it is sometimes stated to be a native of N. China and Siberia. It may be a chance hybrid with P. baccata as one parent, but there is nothing to prove this. Whatever its origin, it has been in cultivation for a very long period. Of more erect habit than P. baccata, it forms a tree 20 feet to 30 feet high, with fragrant, Apple-like flowers which are followed by yellow and red palatable fruit up to 1½ inches long and 1 inch wide. There are several varieties, such as dulcis and edulis, with sweet, greenish-yellow fruit; lutea, with golden fruit; and pendula, with weeping branches. Then there is a very beautiful tree, P. cerasifera, bearing bright red fruits, which is regarded as being a hybrid between P. baccata and P. prunifolia. In this case the fruits are palatable, very showy, and ripen in August. In P. baccata the fruits are rounder and firmer than in P. prunifolia, and very distinct by reason of the absence of calyx lobes around the eye. They are bright red and yellow in colour and about ¾ inch in diameter, except in the variety microcarpa, where the individual fruits are the size of a garden Pea.

Fruits of both P. prunifolia and P. baccata are useful for the kitchen, as they can be turned into a very tasty jelly. Those of the latter species are well known to most cooks under the name of Siberian Crabs. There is no difficulty in the cultivation of these trees, for they thrive anywhere where garden Apples grow. They, however, are subject to the same diseases as Apple-trees, and are sometimes badly affected by American blight. Trees can usually be kept clean, however, by spraying them during winter with a caustic wash.

D.

A succession of Magnolias

Before the last blossoms of the Yulan (Magnolia conspicua) are over, those of M. Soulangeana are rapidly unfolding, so by planting these two a succession is kept up for some time, and it may be further extended by M. obovata or purpurea, as it is often called, which comes into flower still later. The Yulan is of quite tree-like habit, and M. obovata, even when large, is seldom more than a huge bush, while M. Soulangeana, which is usually regarded as a hybrid from the two, is in all particulars about midway between its reputed parents. M. Soulangeana is rather more spreading than the Yulan, while the flowers, which are not quite so large, are flushed on the outside with purple. They also do not open so fully, partaking somewhat of the closed character of those of M. obovata. Though but a little later in expanding than those of M. conspicua, the blossoms of M. Soulangeana often escape when those of the other are injured by spring frosts, though at times both suffer. In mentioning these Magnolias Messrs. Veitch's variety, known as M. Soulangeana nigra, must on no account be omitted, for the exterior of the blooms is very deeply tinged, and it is on this account a very striking Magnolia. It seems nearest to the Italian M. Lenné.

Seedling Deodars

I should advise everyone to have seedling Deodars, as they grow faster and make much more handsome trees than those produced either from grafts or cuttings. Trees from grafts or cuttings seldom make good well-branched trees. Most of the Coniferæ can be propagated in this way, but the plants are generally disfigured; and to give them a tree-like appearance they require great attention in pruning and tying their branches, and often then without effect. Therefore, if good, fast-growing, well-branched trees are the object, by all means have seedlings.

A. G.

Problems of Strawberry Cultivation

THE failure during the last few years of many of our Strawberry beds, particularly in the south, has become a serious problem, and has given rise to considerable anxiety amongst commercial growers, whose stocks appear to have lost their old-time vigour and stubbornly refuse to make headway. In many private gardens the same trouble is in existence; gardeners are continually procuring new stocks and planting new beds, only to see the plants deteriorate and gradually fade away after their first season.

Perhaps one can only speculate as to the cause of the trouble, but it appears to date from the year 1921, when the severe drought of that summer gave the Strawberries a setback from which they have never recovered. It may be that the stocks, owing to high cultivation and over-propagation, were already in a somewhat enfeebled condition, and only needed a severe check, such as the prolonged drought, to undermine their constitutions altogether. Certainly they have had no vigour in them since.

Perhaps we may be allowed to theorise a little on the subject and to wonder whether our methods of cultivation have been altogether suited to the requirements of the plant. Personally, I think not. If we look, briefly, at the Strawberry's habit of growth we find that the new roots are produced in the late summer and autumn immediately below the crowns and above the old rootstock, the crowns being lifted a little higher with each season's growth. These habits have been handed down from those species—ancestors of our present-day Strawberries—which had their natural home in the forests of Chile and other parts of South America. We can picture them there being annually half-buried, or sometimes completely covered, with falling leaves from overhanging trees, the fall being accompanied, or followed, by heavy rains and subsequent rapid decay. These annual layers of rotting leaves provided an excellent rooting medium, and were doubtless responsible for the surface-rooting and other habits of growth of the wild Strawberry.

The modern hybrid Strawberries of our gardens find themselves growing under entirely different conditions, and although, in common with most other plants, they are able, to a certain extent, to adapt themselves to circumstances, they cannot entirely change their inherited habits of growth. Imagine them, then, in an exceptionally dry summer and autumn, with their crowns high and dry and the new roots, to which they look for sustenance, unable to develop, owing to lack of moisture and anchorage, and subsequently shrivelling and dying off, or remaining in an abortive state. True, the plants, like all living creatures, carry on the struggle for life, and usually effect a partial recovery, but it is easy to see that they must often experience a time of suffering and semi-starvation just when they should be gathering strength and preparing for the following season's production.

Doubtless the worst sufferers are those grown under commercial conditions in the open fields, where careful cultural treatment is more difficult, but in the garden we are less dependent on the weather, and we can meet the rooting requirements of the plant by an annual mulch after the crop has been gathered. A mixture of loam, leaf-soil, and thoroughly spent manure from an old Mushroom bed or Cucumber frame packed round the crowns in August would provide an excellent rooting medium and prevent drying and consequent starvation of the plants at this period. Where possible an occasional watering during dry weather would be an additional advantage. Even the mere drawing up of the soil round the plants, like earthing-up Potatoes, is of great benefit, or a mulch of "Wakeley's" or even lawn mowings will prevent that drying out which is fatal to success.

Last autumn I came across an old neglected bed in a cottage garden untouched for several years, and I learned that this had borne the best crop in the village. I was struck by the healthy appearance of the foliage and the crowns, and suggested to a local gardener that he should lift some of the younger plants and try them in his garden. He did this, and planted three rows, and I hear that they are making excellent progress, far surpassing in vigour any of his own stock. Since then I have heard of similar cases. A well-known Surrey gardener, whose beds have failed, obtained stock from an old abandoned bed, and already these are far ahead of any of his other plants. It would be interesting to know if any readers have had similar experiences.

This opens up another question, and makes one wonder whether we are in the habit of taking too much from our plants, and whether the systematic removal of runners is really beneficial to the parent plant. There certainly seems to be plenty of evidence that plants left to themselves and allowed to spread and run wild for a time recuperate and benefit by the rest, regaining much of their original vigour. One or two growers in the west of England have tried planting rows 4 feet apart and leaving the runners undisturbed, and so far the method appears to be successful. After all, the runners, once established, are self-supporting, and do not rob the parent plant so much as is commonly supposed. At any rate, such experiments are interesting, and a few more on similar lines would be welcome, for our Strawberries at the present time are certainly in a bad way.

C. H. MIDDLETON.

The cultivation of Melons

Melons rank as the most delicious of our dessert fruits during their season, and where these are in demand every effort should be made to grow a batch. A good heated pit is probably the best place in which to grow them, making up a good hot-bed, treading it down very firmly. On top of this place a mixture of five parts good loam, one part old mortar rubble, or, failing this, add a good sprinkling of lime, which is essential in some form, one part wood ashes, and a 6-inch pot of bone-meal to each barrow-load of mixture. Place the compost on the hot-bed and ram it very firmly until about 1 foot thick when finished. If the seed is sown in a good bottom heat at the time the above operations are commenced, the plants will be ready for their final quarters by the time the whole bed has well settled and the soil nicely warmed through. Some idea of the number of plants required can be made by measuring the whole length of the bed, allowing 2 feet of space between each plant, which should be grown as single cordons; a few extra seeds should be sown to allow for failures.

If grown in size 60 pots (medium), the seedlings should be transferred to 48's when ready, potting firmly. In a few days they may be accommodated in their final quarters, care being taken when turning them out of the pots not to injure the delicate roots or disturb the ball of soil. Aim at keeping the soil slightly higher than the normal level of the bed around each plant, finishing off with a sprinkling of lime, which is a good preventative of canker. Melons grow r once established, and need daily attent the matter of tying, stopping the l one or two joints above the fruits, all one fruit only on each lateral, and not than three fruits to each plant. To a good setting of fruits choose a brigh preferably when a little air has been ad beforehand—about one o'clock is th time for fertilisation—and endeavour four or five fruits on each plant same time, which gives the grower a chance of meeting failures, and also uniform setting, which is well wort sidering. Stop all leaders before they the top wires; this is best done with a knife. This applies also to stopping an ning laterals. A clean cut always quicker and more effectively, obviatin ker to a great extent. When the fru swelling freely give occasional doses of manure and soot water, alternately wit water, all of which should be the sam perature as the house. Support the with nets when about the size of a ball, and when nearing the ripening which will be soon after the fruits are less water will be required, dispensin moisture entirely when they are col as there will be sufficient in the bed t plete them at this stage. When ripe th be cut with a portion of stem attach taken to the fruit room until required f

Sevenoaks. W. F. FAIR

Weeds

WHAT is a weed? It is ge easier to ask a question t answer it. If we say, of course wild flower is a weed, it would evide a great mistake; for, on the one hand wild flowers are cultivated with the g care in some gardens. The yellow T (Linaria vulgaris), which in some p the country abounds on the top of hedge, thrusting its beautiful yellow high up above brambles and gra known commonly by the name of But Eggs, will in other places be carefull vated as anything but a weed, rath treasure which brightens the summ den. On the other hand, there ar plants which are grown only in gard which deserve most distinctly the n weeds, because of their inveterate defying all your efforts to get rid o In the West Country such plants are "wrastle," that is, their long, tough, roots run underground, and the le appear in all directions just where you want them. I suppose that nasty Couch Grass, is the most flagrant ins this. But the Japanese Anemone is as bad, and once you let it gain a fo a rockery, because of its fine autuna flowers, it will give you some trouble it in order. It is like the famous which only Hercules was able to dest even he could not do it without help, as soon as one head was cut off, two ately appeared in its place. Anoth Tussilago fragrans, is even wor Anemone japonica. Many have been to plant the Tussilago on a sunny b cause of its peculiar flowers, which mild weather in the very depth of wi are, as the specific name denotes, grant. It has acquired the name o Heliotrope, and it deserves it. On count many are pleased to have it years go by they repent of havin lished an enemy which no mere h weeding will kill. In the kitchen ga Jerusalem Artichoke has the same much so, that some say you may Artichokes in autumn, and next y

ive you a crop again without any trouble.

there are weeds and weeds. "Take hat nasty weed," I heard a lady say let me see no more of it in the shrub- I went to look at the nasty weed, nd it was the very pretty Geranium e, or Meadow Crane's-bill, which has lovely blue flowers in the summer- This plant grows wild in many of our astures, and lines the railway as you the Stroud valley towards Swindon, was probably just because it thus wild that it was called a nasty weed, as ordered to be thrown away as as possible. It has a place in my and is one of the most beautiful of ny fine things in the herbaceous

beautiful many of our genuine weeds he wild single Daffodil, which has st passed away, is, I think, a weed, an hold its own with its aristocratic which get such grand names as Em- nd Empress, Her Majesty, Autocrat, Mundi, etc. This beautiful Lent Lily abundantly in orchards and wild waste places, but it looks quite at home on the gilded tables of our drawing-rooms, where it may be seen in company with Orchids and exotics which have never known the breath of our English air.

Another weed flowering in spring, and almost equally useful for gathering and decorating our rooms, is Caltha palustris (Marsh Marigold). It is often hard to get at this on account of the wet places in which it likes to grow, but its golden cups are wonderfully bright and beautiful. A weed which often makes itself troublesome in our gardens and shrubberies is the wild Garlic or Ramsons. I must confess to a certain liking for this plant, though it has such a very strong smell. On one part of the road between Saltash and Callington, in East Cornwall, the smell is so strong in June that it seems for a quarter of a mile as if Onions were being rubbed just under your nose. But the flower in itself is beautiful and even sweet. We all know how useful the near relation of this wild Garlic, Allium neapolitanum, has proved itself to be as a plant to force for winter nosegays, and Ramsons would be almost as good were it not that its leaves and stalks smell more powerfully than the neapolitanum. A. G. P.

Work on the Lawn in April

IDY and well-kept lawn is a great et during summer, and to obtain the nt in view there is a good deal to do he present month. In most gardens outhern part of the country the lawns have had their first mowing, and it is e, now onwards, to keep the grass not too closely until wanted for Rolling should be done at least once and all edgings around walks, beds, ders should be given their annual nd with the half-moon or edging-

S ON THE LAWN.—In our case we have ky to have had the time to remove all Daisies, Plantains, Dandelions, , and Crowsfoot by hand, but there plenty of the latter two to be w. A dressing of good lawn sand given during the next week or two, weather is settled and likely to keep a few days, as it is waste of time of money to apply lawn sand during periods. A good dressing of well- manure, soil, and burnt refuse was and put on the grass during the t of the winter, and as much of the t was possible was removed with the ned rake before applying this dress- ch is now beginning to show the The holes from which the weeds moved during February and early ve been filled up with sea sand, into e roots quickly take hold. The nd may either be put down with nisters sold for the purpose, which ble if used by inexperienced persons all lawns where time can be spared work thoroughly, or otherwise sown by hand at the rate of 4 ozs. per rd. When this has taken effect a of a special lawn manure will be ards the end of the month and re- several occasions during summer.

ON LAWNS.—These are most in evi- wet and muddy lawns than those of nature, and in one sense do a cer- unt of good, but on tennis lawns sports grounds they make the lawn state and unsightly. To get rid of a nber of these pests there is, on the 'Carters," "Vermol," and other ers, and if this is used during the onth will do its work well, but it is o have this thoroughly watered into the soil. During rain is the best time to put this down. The worms quickly appear on the surface in large numbers and must be swept up and cleared away.

THE SAREL ROLLER.—Some lawns are apt to become hide-bound, which means that the surface becomes very hard, giving the grass very little chance to thrive. For altering this state of affairs I advise the use of the Sarel roller. This is a wooden roller with spikes of iron studded thickly all over. When used on the lawn the spikes penetrate the hard surface and let the air and rain in. It is certainly a valuable implement for the lawn.

SOWING THE NEW LAWNS.—This should be done during the month, and the earlier the better before the summer weather sets. Where the plot was prepared during autumn and winter there is little to do other than roll and rake down to a level and fine tilth. The seed is best sown by hand carefully, both lengthways and crossways, afterwards lightly raking in and covering with some sifted soil, which should be scattered over the bed until the seed is out of sight. Roll down both ways and protect from birds. Many who intend sowing a new lawn are at a loss to know exactly the amount of seed to use. If they multiply the length by the breadth in yards and divide by 16 they will have the amount of pounds of seed to sow. W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Christmas Roses

These may now be lifted, divided up, and fresh plantations made in a partly-shaded position. The conditions prevailing on the north side of a wall or evergreen fence where the soil is of a light nature suit them admirably, but where heavy soils have to be dealt with a somewhat warmer position should be chosen.

The Christmas Rose enjoys a cool, moist bottom, and for this reason the beds should be trenched to a depth of 2 feet 6 inches, plenty of well-decayed manure and a free application of old mortar-rubble being worked well into the soil as the work of trenching proceeds. Plant firmly, and for the first season a mulch of short litter or leaf-mould will assist the plants.

Polygonum campanulatum

IT is a good thing that we have a Polygonum of moderate height which is not only a beautiful border plant, but is not a deep-rooting and overgrowing invader, such as all gardeners have suffered from in the case of P. cuspidatum and its still worse variety, P. c. compactum, a plant that, when once established, becomes an ineradicable pest. Though P. campanulatum grows freely enough in a place that suits it, it is shallow-rooting and can easily be kept within bounds. The pretty heads of warm white bloom are not only beautiful in the growing mass, but are valuable for cutting. It is not a plant for every situation; it cannot bear drought, and the young growths are apt to be crippled by late spring frosts. It enjoys a sheltered place that is cool and half-shady, and rather damp. G. J.

Polygonum campanulatum

Onions

IN "A Book About the Garden," by Dean Hole, in a chapter on "Shows and Showing" the following lines occur:—

"Different people have different opinions,
Some like horchids and some like honions."

However, taking the subject of Onions for a talk will disclose differences of opinion enough. My early experience dates back to the closing years of the last century, when gardeners of all degree vied with each other in friendly rivalry at the flower shows as to who would win the prize for the heaviest or the best Onions. A favourite date for sowing seeds of Ailsa Craig and Cranston's Excelsior in boxes placed in a warm greenhouse in those days was February 1st, and by a system of pricking off into boxes with not a few potted up singly in 5-inch pots stood on a shelf near the glass. In due time they were carefully hardened off in a cold frame and ultimately planted out early in May on a piece of ground that had been trenched nearly 4 feet deep the previous autumn and richly manured.

Applications of liquid-manure and soot-water kept them growing till by the latter days of August the bulbs weighed 3 lbs. or 3½ lbs. each; some few weighed more. Onions were grown on the same plot for years in succession; maggot and mildew were pests seldom heard of.

Since that time I have met with people who did not care for big Onions, preferring them small; others, again, who would make a wry face and exclaim, "Ugh!" at the mention of them; also not a few who preferred the so-called Spanish Onion sold in the shops. Personally, I like the home-grown varieties, Brown Globe, Bedfordshire Champion, Southampton Champion, and Ailsa Craig, all of which can be grown easily, for five bulbs to weigh 2 lbs. I regard as big enough for household purposes.

An essential point in their culture is the preparation of the ground, which should be deeply dug or trenched in the autumn. In January a liberal amount of farmyard manure should be dug in. No rough lumps of soil should be buried, but thrown on the top for the weather to break. Shallow soils should have the subsoil broken up in autumn to conserve the winter's rain, and so ensure drainage and moisture for the plants by capillary attraction during their growing period, thus providing them against drought, which, as often as not, is accountable for mildew in some form. Apart from digging in a soil fumigant there are other ways of destroying insect pests. Frequently forking over the surface is beneficial in aerating and sweetening the soil when weather conditions permit. On these occasions a few friendly robin redbreasts come to the scene, feeding on pupæ and larvæ and other luscious titbits as are exposed by the garden fork. Not every year, though, does the opportunity occur to fork over the ground as often as is desirable. A wet winter delays the work till after March has begun, and often then preparations are hastily made.

The month of March is notorious for its cold north and east winds. None but autumn-sown Onions of the Giant Rocca type have as yet been planted. The others, plants raised from seeds sown thinly or about an inch apart on a good compost in boxes early in January, are now hardening off in a cold frame. Now that the weather is settled, a start will be made to plant them out unless second thoughts prevail to defer planting for a week, which, in most seasons, is a good time even in southern districts. A dry day is chosen, when the surface is made fine by raking it over. It is then rolled lightly. I use the roller of an obsolete mowing-machine to get an even surface, not for the sake of pressing the ground hard. The plants are lifted from the boxes with a small hand-fork and all soil gently shaken from their roots.

When a sufficient number is gathered in one hand with the bulb ends all level, straggling roots are trimmed off. They are then planted in rows 14 inches asunder and 7 inches between plants. Contrary to the usual practice of preserving all the roots and planting with a trowel, I use a dibber, holding a bunch of Onions in one hand as one sometimes plants Cabbages. The smooth, even surface is a guide to plant neither too deep nor too shallow. Watering follows, care being taken not to dislodge the plants from an upright position. Subsequent culture entails keeping the plot free from weeds. In hot, dry weather watering may be necessary. An occasional dusting of soot is beneficial to growth, but should only be applied in wet weather. It also acts as a deterrent to Onion fly. Yet I have known a row of Parsley bordering the Onion plot get the credit for warding off Onion fly. It would be interesting to know the result of such an experiment after a season or two, especially from districts annually infested.

J. C. GILLIES.

Potatoes in pots

At the time when Chrysanthemums are being turned out, the pots may be utilised for Potato-growing; and this is a very good way in which to secure a few early dishes until the produce from frames is ready. The most useful pots for this purpose are those 10 inches in diameter. These ought to be clean, well crocked, and filled rather more than half full of good crumbling mould, to which has been added a little bone-meal or wood-ashes, or both. It is the general practice to put but a single tuber in each pot, but I invariably allow three—moulding up the plants when the haulm has made about 6 inches of growth. A temperature ranging about 55 degs. will be found suitable, and water ought to be withheld until the sprouts push through the soil. As growth progresses, of course, increasing supplies of moisture will be necessary, and as, in the later stages, the plants prefer less heat, they may be moved to a house which has a lower temperature about mid-February, and ultimately to an entirely unheated house early in March. The haulm, of course, will require to be supported by twiggy tips of Spruce or by Bamboo stakes and raffia. As the haulm indicates that the ripening stage is nearing, free ventilation is necessary, and the supply of water ought to be gradually decreased, or the flavour will suffer. Regarding varieties, I have tried many, but I still prefer Sharpe's Victor as being a model Potato for pots—superior, in fact, to Sharpe's Express. It may be added that it is of advantage to start the tubers before planting them in pots, although it is not absolutely necessary to do so.

G.

Hot beds for Cucumbers

Those readers who have no warm house for Cucumbers and Melons may start a hotbed now or as soon as the plants are assuming the rough-leaf stage. The beds should be at least 4 feet high and a foot longer and wider than the frames. A mixture of tree-leaves and stable manure gives a steady, genial warmth. Make the bed fairly firm by treading and beating. Place on the frame and lights and cover with mats till the heat rises, which it will do in a few days. A gardener usually thrusts in a stick, termed a watch-stick, and when the stick is comf warm, or, say, from 85 degs. to 90 2 inches or 3 inches of soil are placed the frame, with hills of good soil in the of each light. Sometimes a layer of turf is placed on the surface of the bed the hills are placed therein. If the b very warm the sods of turf will keep the heat for a time, but as soon as th of condensed moisture which hang lights inside are perfectly clean and less, the frame is quite safe for p Cucumbers, raising seedlings or striki tings therein. Warm coverings sho used at night and removed in the mor

Broad Beans

These are largely grown by the cotta he finds them a most wholesome ve and a good change from Cabbages, wh his stand-by for spring and early s supply. Doubtless, the reason why t tager grows so many Broad Beans they go well with boiled bacon or salt a staple meal with country peasants. V people also enjoy Broad Beans, bu have to be gathered while quite yo stage when the ordinary working mar most likely ignore them, partly on acc the quantity required for a good dis insufficient taste at so early a peric general, this vegetable is not a suc gardens, when once hot, dry weather towards mid-summer and onwards, plant is so subject to the attack of th aphis, and the root-waterings neces keep them productive are so great that a good supply can be given, failure is happen. They thrive best in a cool r but, as all are anxious to get them as possible, a warm border or simil tion is essential. They require rich g at least, they give much better result so treated, and, as a rule, are more o cess when given a fair amount of s develop. If the seeds are placed 6 asunder, and the rows some 3 feet t apart, light and sun will furnish e pods from the base upwards. Wher be seen that small pods are formed bottom, the point of each plant sh nipped out, which will hasten the well as remove the pest mentioned al they always attack the centre. Two seed may be planted together, an high enough, the soil should be pulled the bine so as to form a kind of b water. As the plants become laden w they are more or less inclined to tumb so that it is necessary to support with and stout string, or much of the prod fail to come to perfection.

J.

Potato planting

If weather be favourable the plan second early varieties should be n forthwith, while the late or mainer can also be gone on with if convenie not over-manure; indeed, in the i ground that was well dressed w material last season best results will l no fresh farmyard dung be applied The exceptions to this rule are the grand late sorts, Golden Wonder an worthy, both of which, to do really quire generous supplies of well-rott yard manure mixed with the soi planting is attempted.

Celery

Young plants pricked off into boxed the past month are now ready for a out into skeleton frames, over which may be placed for the first fortnight ally exposing the plants to the open later batch may be planted out on a beds in the open after having been thoro hardened off.

Asparagus beds

surface of Asparagus beds should be over lightly, and, if manure from dressing is present, the roughest of it be removed and dug into the alleys in o enrich the soil for future surface gs. As the work proceeds place a nt quantity of fine soil on the surface beds to cover the crowns to the depth nches. For the formation of new gus beds the second or third week in quite soon enough to plant on heavy The ground should be trenched and l with plenty of manure, garden re d wood-ashes, leaving the surface as s possible until the time for planting. the nature of the ground and the posi- favourable to growing Asparagus on l this is the best method. On heavy is desirable to plant on raised beds s or 1 foot above the ground-level. ds should be 4 feet in width, thus g room for three rows of plants; pro- oot alleys between the beds.

Everlasting Kale

If the value of this green vegetable were fully known it would find a place in most gardens. It is extremely hardy, having the power to withstand, without injury, those severe continuous frosts that damage the Cabbage tribe. Moreover, it does not require the culture that is necessary for other members of the Brassica family. Annual planting is not necessary; the plants can remain on the same ground for several years, and will yield sprouts in plenty at a time of year when green vegetables are scarce—just before early Cabbages are ready. Every vegetable grower knows that there is a difficulty in obtaining a good supply of green vegetables in the latter end of March and in April, and this is just when the Everlasting Kale can be relied on to furnish nice well-flavoured sprouts. This Kale, rarely producing seeds, must be increased from cuttings. The side shoots stripped off—not cut off—can be simply dibbled in where they are to remain.

BYFLEET.

Answers to Queries

ons—Queries and answers are inserted in G ILLUSTRATED free of charge if corres- s follow these rules: All communications e clearly written on one side of the paper d addressed to the EDITOR of GARDENING ED, Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. on business should be sent to the PUB- The name and address of the sender are in addition to any designation he may be used in the paper. When more than y is sent each should be on a separate paper, the name and address being added As GARDENING ILLUSTRATED has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

aponica not flowering

V. P.).—Some varieties of this fine re inclined to grow rampantly when bushes in the open, especially for a rs after planting, but as these grow e growth becomes less vigorous and very numerous. You will improve ering of your shrubs by a slight and shortening back of the past growths immediately their flowering over to about six or eight buds of se. You might also drive a spade around each plant to its full length, 2 feet 6 inches away from the centre ise of the bushes. We do not think is too rich and that it is just a ques- me and age that is required to bring its to the perfection you desire.

ind treatment of shrub

novan).—The small shoot you send, h arrived in a very dried-up state, is that of the Myrtle (Myrtus com- which enjoys an open soil with a free e of leaf-soil, or peat, and sand. A position should be chosen, especi- n planted out in the open garden, rably one facing south. This shrub very fine subject for growing on alls, flowering abundantly during nd September, reaching in this way eet to 20 feet in height.

endrons not flowering

King).—The reason your Rhodo- bloomed so well the first year was hey had been well grown and the ds made before you bought them. arking saleable specimens nursery- erally select from their stocks only ich are well set with flower-buds, a customer could record a similar e to your own. The plant not only ithstand a shift, and often to less surroundings, but also the strain ng, therefore it is nothing unusual for them to miss blooming the following season. Such plants should, however, bloom the third year. The painting of your wall would not affect them, but lime in any shape or form is deadly. Lift your plants, and, after removing any loose soil, soak the ball of roots in a tub of water for 24 hours, following which they should be either potted or planted out in a partially-shaded position and in a compost consisting of two-thirds good turfy loam and one-third of leaf-soil, peat, and sand. Plant firmly and water frequently should dry weather prevail.

FLOWER GARDEN

Stopping Chrysanthemums

Can you, please, tell me, through your paper, when to stop these Chrysanthemums (Japanese) and which bud to take? (1) Mrs. R. Luxford; (2) Helena Margerison; (3) A. S. Watts; (4) Princess Mary; (5) Mrs. Sargunt; (6) Mrs. E. A. Tickle; (7) Throp's Beauty.

F. J. S.

[If you anticipate large show blooms the points of the plants of Nos. 2 and 4 may be removed at once, although it is a trifle late, then set the first bloom-buds that come. The others need no stopping, and in each instance select the second flower-buds that show. Nos. 1 and 7 would be first-rate varieties to grow as bush specimens.]

Chrysanthemum leaves attacked by fungus

I am sending you a plant of Louisa Pockett Chrysanthemum which has signs of leaf disease. Could you, please, give me some idea of cause and a remedy? I have 60 other plants quite free from it which I have sprayed with Wood's Goth. All the plants were struck about January 11th and have had cold treatment soon after they rooted.

G. KELCEY.

[The fungus which is disfiguring your plants is usually brought about by the cuttings having been kept in too high and humid an atmosphere. In future admit air freely, but avoid cold draughts. Separate the healthy plants from those affected, and dip the latter in the insecticide known as "Veltha," which is obtainable from Messrs. Wm. Wood, horticultural sundriesmen, Taplow, Bucks, and probably from other sundriesmen. It can be obtained both in liquid and powder form, but the former, which is offered at 3s. per pint, or 5s. per quart, is the kind for your purpose. Directions for its use are sent with the tin, but dip the plants in clear water half-an-hour following their immersion in the insecticide and shade from bright sunshine for a few hours.]

Primula denticulata, blind flower heads

Can you tell me the cause and cure for my Primula denticulata only producing blind flower-heads? I enclose a sample, which shows the condition almost all my plants have got into. They flowered exceedingly well a few years ago and grew so rank that I had to divide them, since when they have gone off worse every year. Last year I marked two or three of the worst plants to see whether they would improve this year, but they have got worse and others have followed their bad example. My soil is almost too wet for the species if that is possible, and has been enriched with leaf mould, not with stable manure.

A. H. WOLLEY-DOD.

[The cause of failure in the case of Primula denticulata is, unquestionably, the excessive dampness of your soil, which has been aggravated by the addition of leaf-mould, naturally a retainer of moisture itself. Try the effect of adding a considerable amount of sharp sand or of mortar-rubble to your soil. Primulas, generally, of this type appreciate moisture, but they can have too much. Young plants, too, are always much more reliable than divisions of old plants, and P. denticulata is so easily raised from seeds that old plants ought to be dispensed with when they attain to such a size that it becomes necessary to divide them. P. denticulata is well adapted for, and succeeds remarkably well in, rockwork.]

Seeds of Gentiana sino-ornata

Last year, in placing an order for flower-seed with Sutton and Sons, Reading, England, I made inquiry of that house for seed of Gentiana sino-ornata, but received their advice, under date of February 2nd, 1926, that "seed of Gentiana sino-ornata is not produced, this variety being grown from division only." I notice, however, that your correspondent, S. Arnott, in your issue of January 1st, 1927, says that this plant "may be raised from seeds sown under glass in spring or increased by division." I shall appreciate your advice, or that of your correspondent, as to where such seed may be obtained, as I have been very much interested in the discussion of this plant in your columns and should like to attempt its cultivation under our conditions.

MERRITT H. PERKINS.
Colorado National Bank, Denver, Colo.

[I much regret that the correspondent from whom I originally received my seeds of Gentiana sino-ornata is dead, and that at present I have been unable to get into touch with anyone in this country with whom this Gentian ripens seeds, on account of its lateness of flowering. It looks as if we should have to content ourselves with seeds from some place where G. sino-ornata flowers earlier or is not exposed to the same weather as we experience in the late summer.—S. A.]

VEGETABLES

Brown Watercress

(A Convent Garden).—Try Messrs. Coe Brothers, Watercress growers, Gomshall, Surrey. They would be pleased to supply

plants of the brown winter Cress variety. We do not think the seed of it can be obtained.

MISCELLANEOUS

Plants and shrubs rabbits avoid

Will you, please, let me know the names of some plants and shrubs that rabbits will not eat? MISS A. DONOVAN.

[It is an undoubted fact that the taste of rabbits varies in different districts, but a fairly wide experience results in the following list of plants which have not been attacked by these pests:—Bulbs of most kinds, Primula denticulata, Veronicas, Alstroemerias, Pyrethrum uliginosum, Tritomas, Trilliums, Foxgloves, Saxifrages of many kinds, Pæonies, Doronicums, Anemone fulgens, Silene Schafta, and all the Polyanthus family. Among shrubs may be mentioned Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Philadelphus Delavayi, Leycesteria formosa, Ribes of varieties, many Maples, and, of course, Laurels. But, as has been said, the tastes of rabbits vary in different districts, owing, no doubt, to the available amount of the ordinary herbage, which forms the principal food of the rabbit. During hard frosts they will attack shrubs which, at other times, they leave severely alone.]

Goldfish in artificial pond

I should be very much obliged if you could give me any information about goldfish and how to keep them in an artificial pond planted with Water Lilies in the garden. I got two goldfish last October and put them into the pond in very mild weather. One of them was seen and fed every few days with ants' eggs (a packet of which I bought with the fish) during October, November, December, and January. In February we saw both fish together swimming about happily. We continued to feed them, but last week one died for no reason that we could ascertain. We also got, in October, two other goldfish, which we kept in a bowl in the room. One died in a few days, the other survived till January. The water was changed every three days and a little earth and growing Watercress put in it. The fish was also fed with ants' eggs. Can you tell me how I can keep my fish alive? A. C.

[Goldfish are, at times, and owing to changing temperatures, liable to die during the winter and early spring months. In the case of goldfish in an artificial pond the following hints may be of future service:—There ought to be at least a couple of inches of well-washed river sand on the bottom, and upon this a layer of coarse gravel or shingle. The sand ought to be thoroughly washed in order to remove impurities which may be detrimental to the health of the fish. Hard water, *i.e.*, water which contains an excess of lime, is dangerous, especially spring water; that from a river is best. In the case of the fish in the bowl the frequent changing of the water has been, we are certain, responsible. To prevent anxiety and trouble, goldfish in bowls ought to be wintered in a greenhouse in which the temperature runs about 50 degs. Shade the bowls from direct sun rays. The food most suitable for these fish is vermicelli broken rather fine, and they appreciate dried lean beef shredded very fine. L. Haig, Beam Brook, Newdigate, Surrey, sells a special fish food at very reasonable rates.]

Peat Moss for potting purposes

(Peat).—It is certainly not advisable to use this litter for potting, except in very small quantities for adding to other soils, and even then it is of very little value, good leaf-mould being far more desirable for such a purpose. Many good gardeners object to its u on kitchen garden ground, owing water-holding nature, which, if used quantities, turns, eventually, to sourn

Seaweed as manure

(A. M.).—Seaweed is an organic r and you may use it liberally. It c small proportions of nitrogen, phc acid, potash, and lime, and on hea its mechanical value is considerabl weeds of various kinds are largely e as a manure on the coast, and are g applied to the land in a fresh state a dressing, but it is preferable to dig once. Mixed with earth and a littl yard manure it forms an excellent for many purposes. You may use almost any crop, but as its good eff of short duration—seldom extending one season's crop—we would recom more substantial manure for your R

NAMES OF PLANTS

E. G. G.—1, Magnolia stella Eleagnus pungens var. aureo-varieg Epimedium sulphureum; 4, Euphorb landica.

E. W. Brown.—1, Ilex handswor 2, Ilex laurifolia.

Miss B. Whittington.—Received withered a state to be recognised. send another specimen packed in green Moss and in an airtight case.

NAME OF FRUIT

Erne.—Apple Annie Elizabeth. W till July.

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Spring in the Flower Garden

With special reference to the sowing of Annuals and Biennials

G-TIME in the garden is essen- time of preparation, and probably owing and planting will take place next few weeks than in the whole aining year. Experienced readers their garden plans, deciding well the various problems likely to pre- elves.

generally realised what a large flowers there are which are not sitely beautiful, but also quite ow. We name some which pre- ficulties even to the beginner once e needs are grasped. We also y, the condi- il and situa- suitable for ssful cultiva-

purchasing ver-seeds or should make finding out, nting them, will flower, and height, of time they bloom, and hey may be live in the

ANNUALS. — e expression nual" ap- ll sorts of emote from but most vever inex- will know licates the of plants e and com- out within the compass of 12 is group represents the "short ife in the floral world. They reenhouse or garden frame, sown right out in the open till June for summer and ring, and many of them again nd September for early spring s a general rule they revel in an situation unshaded by trees and d appreciate a well-cultivated ould be sown very thinly in the re they are to flower, from ches deep, according to the size . Make the sowing when the nice friable condition; not too wet and sticky. The main ardy annuals are not even more e to the common tendency to overcrowd them. It takes a little bit of moral courage in the beginner, but it is essential to thin the plants out when they are quite tiny, allowing each individual plant plenty of room. Very few annuals need less than 6 inches "elbow room," yet, more often than not, we see them left to grow just as they have come up, almost as thick as Mustard and Cress.

Personal taste has a very decided bearing on the uses to which hardy annuals may be put. Small beds in the lawn or elsewhere entirely given up to a single variety or colour are very charming. Most effective results are obtained by sowing an entire bed with the rich salmon or bright and glowing orange-scarlet Clarkias, the pale soft pink or bright rosy Larkspurs, and the many-hued and dainty Shirley Poppies (both double and single). Again, the beds or borders may be made up of several kinds of annuals, arranged according to their respective heights in any manner to conform to personal taste and with due regard to colour-blending. It is advisable to obtain separate varieties rather than mixtures, then one knows exactly what colour to expect from each. Avoid formal arrangements, such as symmetrical rows of each kind of flower running all along or all round a border. When in full bloom these are apt to look too much like steps on a staircase. A more natural, artistic, and pleasing effect is gained by allowing the various heights to slightly intermingle, at the same time preserving the general scheme of dwarf plants to the front and taller ones at the back. Foliage plants, too, tend to lessen formality, and we like to see a plant or two here and there of Kochia trichophila or Zea japonica. The latter is, of course, simply a variegated form of the common Maize, but it has quite a Palm-like appearance. For edgings one may use the dwarf-growing Alyssums (Carpet of Snow is excellent), Tom Thumb Nasturtiums, Virginia Stocks, or Nemophila, while clumps or little colonies of Godetia, Candytuft, Lavatera, Linaria, annual Scabious, and Viscaria will fill in the centres. If one's soil is too hot and sandy for most flowers, provided it is in a sunny position the dwarf Nasturtiums and Eschscholtzias will probably do really well. Tall Nasturtiums, Convolvulus, and the yellow Canary Creeper (or Tropæolum canariense to give it its full title) may be depended upon to effectively cover an old tree - stump, unsightly fence, or trellis-work. Mignonette and Night-scented Stock — especially the latter—have a delightful fragrance; they are nothing to look at, but sow them in a bed near a window against which you sit in the warm summer evenings and their scent will be found most enjoyable. Tall Sunflowers and Sweet Peas provide us with an excellent means of screening ugly walls, fences, or out-houses. It is now almost too late to sow seeds of Sweet Peas, but strong and sturdy plants can be purchased reasonably from some of the noted specialists. We add a special word of praise for the "Queen of Annuals," for there is no other flower capable of affording greater results in proportion to the care and attention bestowed on it. It stands alone amongst annual flowers on account of its real usefulness and beauty in garden and home.

China Asters from an April sowing

Many hardy annuals fulfil the dual purpose of making a bright show in the garden as well as indoors when cut. Sweet Peas, of course, head the list easily, but we have also the Lavatera, annual Scabious (or Pincushion

Flower), Godetias, Cornflowers, annual Lupins, Nigella, Calendula, Larkspurs, various annual Poppies, Coreopsis, and the annual Chrysanthemums and Delphiniums. Even the humble Nasturtium and some of the miniature Sunflowers make charming indoor decorations when nicely arranged. On the whole, the hardy annuals do deserve a greater measure of popularity. Of course, some of them are quickly over, but given proper treatment they are very showy and effective, and no flower-lover can entirely dispense with them, even if they are utilised solely to fill up bare spaces in the more permanent hardy perennial borders.

Now for the half-hardy annuals. This class embraces many popular and valuable bedding subjects, such as Asters, Ten-week Stocks, Zinnias, Verbenas, Schizanthus, Salpiglossis, Salvias, Phlox Drummondi, Nemesia, French and African Marigolds, Lobelia, Heliotrope, Gerbera, Balsam, Nicotiana affinis, Petunia, Cosmea, Acroclinium, and Ageratum. All these should be raised from seed in a slightly-heated greenhouse or in a cold frame facing to the south. Sow them very thinly in shallow boxes or pans in April, using a porous soil and barely covering the seeds. The soil should be kept nicely moist, but not too wet. With tiny seeds it is better to give water by partly immersing the box and allowing the moisture to permeate to the surface rather than risk washing the little seeds or seedlings right out of the soil with a water-can. Aim at strong, sturdy plants from the outset, and directly the young seedlings appear give them plenty of air and sunlight, and as hardy treatment within reason as weather conditions will allow at the time, and, when large enough to handle, prick off into other boxes. By the middle of May or, perhaps, a little later they will be ready to transplant to their outdoor quarters. As with hardy annuals, allow ample space for each individual plant to fully develop. Like these, they also succeed best in an open sunny situation on fairly rich and well-prepared soil. Those who have not the time or convenience to raise their own half-hardy bedding plants will be able to purchase them in May ready for immediate outdoor planting.

Hardy biennials are a class usually sown in the open borders during late May, June, and July for blooming the following year. The seed-bed should be well prepared and friable. The young seedlings only make strong sturdy plants when transplanted early to a nursery bed and later on again moved to their permanent positions. An alternate method is to raise them in boxes in the same manner as advised for hardy annuals. In some cases they may be sown in February and March for flowering the same year. They have a longer period of growth than annuals, but are practically useless after blooming once. First-rate bedders, such as Wallflowers, Canterbury Bells, Brompton Stocks, Cheiranthus Allionii (or Siberian Wallflower), Indian Pinks, Forget-me-nots, and Sweet Williams are among the better-known hardy biennials.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Lewis's Horticultural Shows

THE enterprising firm of Lewis's, of Manchester, Birmingham, and Liverpool, are, in conjunction with the *Daily Dispatch* and *Sunday Chronicle*, again organising big simultaneous flower, fruit, and vegetable shows in the above three cities on August 4th, 5th, and 6th. £1,500 is being offered in prizes, and the schedule, an advance copy of which we have had the opportunity of seeing, is a very comprehensive and attractive one. Copies will be ready shortly. These annual shows have proved extremely popular, attracting tens of thousands of visitors from all parts of the surrounding country, the number of entries making a very fine and representative exhibition of the popular side of gardening. Military bands will be in attendance as previously.

The Iris Society

A meeting of the Society, preceded by a dinner, will be held at the Grosvenor Victoria, S.W. 1, on Wednesday, M at 7.15 p.m. The Rhododendron show is being held at R.H.S. on t day. Other engagements permitti F. Kingdon Ward, the well-known will be the guest of the evening, and of some of his plant-hunting adventu ticularly with reference to Iris.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Crown Imperials

MY Fritillaria Imperialis (Crown Imperials) all go to green, dividing up into small tufts as a rule. One flowered once. They have been in the ground three years, some in poor, unmanured soil and some in the border, some in shade and some in sun. LADY EDWARD GLEICHEN.

Court in Holmes, Forest Row, Sussex.

[Fritillaria Imperialis does well if lifted and replanted every third year. The lifting should be done as soon as the stems collapse and begin to turn yellow—generally in June. If the clumps are crowded it may take a season for the bulbs to get strong enough to flower. They should never be kept out of the ground, but replanted at once. Full sun suits them best, and some well decayed manure dug in below, but not touching, the bulbs helps them to grow strong. The top of the bulbs should be covered by 3 inches of soil.]

Weeds

Your correspondent's notes on weeds in last week's issue reminds me of another plant which can become a terrible pest in any well ordered garden.

Senecio tanguticus. I have seen this plant absolutely ruin a herbaceous border within three years of the time of planting. This Senecio runs underground to an alarming extent, and beats the most rampant of the sunflowers hollow. Its golden yellow flowers and pretty fern-like foliage are very ornamental, and have been the cause of many after regrets on the part of the planter. It is still catalogued in many lists of herbaceous plants without any warning of its habits, hence the unwary gardener may be induced to plant it. This species of Senecio is only suitable for a wild garden of considerable extent; it makes a fine show on the borders of a lake; but it must be remembered that in any fairly moist soil it will always be easier to plant than get rid of.

The late Reginald Farrer, who saw it growing wild when on his 1914 expedition along the Thibetan border, said of it: "Senecio tanguticus is as pervasive a pest as it promises to be in the garden"—a true and far-seeing remark. So, intending planters, beware!

During the war I planted a few pieces of this species in my allotment, not realising its proclivities. The present tenant is still trying to eradicate it. L. BIGG-WITHER.

Problems of Strawberry cultivation

On page 248 of the issue dated April 23rd appears a most interesting article, by Mr. C. H. Middleton, on the above subject. Although I knew that in some parts of the country there is a considerable deterioration noticeable among Strawberries, I had no idea that the trouble was so serious and widespread, as Mr. Middleton assures it is. Up till last year (1926) no one could have had more satisfactory crops of this popular fruit, but a more miserable looking lot could hardly be imagined than the one of last season. While Mr. Middleton's theory abou normally dry season of 1921 may h bearing on the stocks in the south, i I am convinced, hold in our cas seldom, or never, really suffer from My own idea is that our stocks out, as I have propagated from for many years. What lends weig theory is the fact that some of the raised by the late Mr. Tait were qu and a new plantation of one of looking well, while alongside are Laxton's Leader and Garibaldi look able. The Duke, too, a modern quite vigorous, but it is not a S that we care for, and so I have no of this to compare with the others r I hope other readers will give us periences, and so help to discover w is the cause of the trouble. C

Preston House Gardens, Linlith

Fritillaria pluriflora

Of all the earlier-flowering Fr am prejudiced in favour of F. Vigorous in growth, it appears t year by year in strength of spike number of flowers. I prefer, h wait for the flowers rather than ing in a specially early position the plant into premature growth. F. pluriflora is planted in a sun and here the variations of temper do irreparable damage to the you In a border facing to the north-w is slower, and there is less likelih leaves suffering so severely in th a changing temperature. Ordin soil, not too rich, satisfies the n of this fine Fritillary.

Mabie.

Cyclamen with 92 flo

I am sending you a snapshot men which you may like to inst valuable paper. [Unfortunately graph is not suitable for reprodu plant is a remarkably good speci The plant, when taken, had 92 ful blooms, 11 blooms had dropp several more to open, making flowers altogether. The variety packet of Sutton's Prize, the three years old. THOS. S

The Gardens, Glendale, Bidborough, Tunbridge Well

The Camellia in the op

Where these can be grown in I strongly advise growers to try not only for the beauty of thei shining leaves at all seasons, luxuriance of their really choice flowers, precious in the garden al when cut and arranged in vase as the double kinds undoubtedl open, their flowers are so eas and their effect lacking in grace compared with the singles, w their rich stamens to such ad evoke great admiration.

A very large plantation is blo

ome of the crimsons being equal to lown crimson Rose, even capable of istaken for such.

is to the old "common Camellia," nica, that I give the preference, with single red flowers, 4 inches across, of yellow stamens. This grand old owing entirely in the open, furnishes abundant graceful sprays of bloom

E. MARKHAM.

eds wanted in South Africa

known and appreciated your paper 94, and I also contributed occasion- remember the excellent contributions Robert Jocelyn during 1896-7. Now, in need of assistance, and you may, be able to give it me. I have seen in several Home papers to a campanuloides and Zauschneria a. Neither of these are obtainable Africa, and the two seedsmen to wrote (English) cannot help me. to grow from seed as there are many to importing plants. I have also get Dicentra spectabilis and Choisya vithout success.

Mexican and Californian plants here. Some like Tagetes and a ppy and Cosmos become weeds, e so-called "Cape Gooseberry," has spread from the Cape to the The most curious thing about in South Africa is that it is very obtain native plants which every nurseryman and bulb grower plenty.

S. H. BOYLE.

ntague Street, Kensington, nesburg, Transvaal, S.A.

d of Gentiana sino-ornata

Sutton were in error when they Mr. M. H. Perkins, of Colorado April 23rd, page 251), that Gentiana a does not produce seed in this I get as much as I want, and it s in the open just like Mustard and here being few insects about at the its blossom I make sure by a little I am posting a little of last season's e address of Mr. Perkins.

ire. T. N. C.

White-berried Holly

hire Tyke's" note, on page 241, controversy of old standing. The of a white-berried variety of the been assumed from a passage in Sylva," published in 1678. In XVI., folio 13, he writes: "The is with us of two eminent kinds, y, and smoother-leav'd . . . there white-berried and a golden varie- ich proceeds from no difference in s, but accidentally and Naturæ

14 Evelyn refers thus to the berries of which there is a sort that bears w." Comparing these two pas- hink that the former should be ere is also a white and a golden " Last winter a friend told me new of a white-berried Holly near in Galloway. I asked her to con- ecollection by inspecting the tree ch she did, and wrote to tell me all the berries were yellow. I ptical about the existence, past or a white-berried Holly.

HERBERT MAXWELL.

Primula denticulata

en much interested of late in see- pidly the cultivation of Primula has increased in some districts st Scotland. Amateurs now ap- e come to the conclusion that it likes the climatic and other conditions of the south-west of Scotland, and one sees long rows of it in some gardens, with shorter lines and clumps in smaller places, and all the plants, with rare exceptions, appear to be doing well. Frequent division is practised, and this is evidently helpful to this Primula. It appears to stand the humid climate of the districts better than the form cashmeriana, and in some districts the latter rots off during a wet winter, the golden farina, which is such an ornament to the underside of the leaves, permitting the wet to remain too long about the plant. This damping off is rarely seen with P. denticulata itself, which makes it much more suitable for the moister parts of the country. By the way, the white form of P. denticulata is not much seen, probably because its beauty it not so well known, and the plants are almost invariably the typical lilac one. Its spread in the district seems largely due to the freemasonry of gardeners, who are generally willing to help one another to a piece of a plant they admire.

S. ARNOTT.

Rhododendron chryseum

This is one of the little known dwarf kinds which have come to us during recent years, and which is now in full bloom.

When raised from seed the flowers vary somewhat in colour, some being of a much deeper yellow than others; but the dwarf, compact character of the bushes is much the same, also the bronzy tints of the leaves.

I suppose as time goes on a somewhat taller bush will develop, but as far as one can judge at present the height this shrub will reach on the average will be about 1 foot.

E. M.

Rooks

Nearly all my chimneys are infested with rooks nesting. I have had fires and I have pulled down their nests several times. They persist in building. Last year the house was nearly burnt down. Rooks not only build, but peck out mortar and stones. They managed to tunnel through a stack of three chimneys, and one chimney not having been swept, the next caught fire and the whole stack was ablaze. People often wonder how houses are burnt down. The rooks may have a say in that! Could any reader give a subscriber of 35 years any hints?

Leamington. J. G. WALSH.

ALPINES

The planting of Haberleas and Ramondias

WITH the approach of milder weather many enthusiasts will be filling up blank spaces in the rock garden, and amongst other plants some will be thinking of trying Haberleas and Ramondias. These are not difficult plants to grow, though failures sometimes occur because the subjects are wrongly placed. The ideal position is an almost vertical piece of rockwork facing practically due north. If there is a higher slope of the rock garden a little distance from the site selected, then so much the better, for it will serve to protect the Haberleas and Ramondias from the full force of the northerly winds. Thus, with their backs to the south, the plants will only be subjected to direct sunshine early in the morning and again at the latter part of the day. I mentioned an almost vertical slope for the reason that to obtain the best results the plants should be set, not with their crowns uppermost, but on their sides, with the roots passing into a crevice in the rockwork and the basal leaves flat against the wall of rocks. When inserting them in the crevices make sure that the roots are in contact with soil all the way round, and a label will be found to be an extremely useful article with which to ram in the soil. The most important point to remember is that rain should never be able to settle in the crowns, and even with young pot plants, which may be plunged in a frame during winter, it is advantageous to fix the pots on a slight tilt so that water dripping from the lights cannot fall into the centre of the plants.

W. HOWELL.

Stonelands Gardens, Dawlish, S. Devon.

The ideal position for Haberleas is an almost vertical piece of rock facing north

April Roses

By HERBERT COWLEY, Editor of "Gardening Illustrated"

Princess Mary's Visit

Revival of Marechal Niel and the success of amateur growers

BASKETS of Roses, tables of Roses, boxes of Rose, and banks of Roses adorned the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, Vincent Square, on April 22nd, the occasion of the spring show of the National Rose Society.

Roselandia wins again

The First Prize Table by Mrs. Tisdall, of Woodford Green

One of the most remarkable features of the show was the revival of our old friend, Maréchal Niel, still unrivalled as the finest of all yellow Roses under glass. This time-honoured favourite was in evidence in many classes—the large golden-yellow blooms imparted luminous colour to many parts of the hall.

Princess Mary Viscount Lascelles was one of the earliest visitors, and spent a long time among the spring Roses, paying special tribute to the grand blooms of Maréchal Niel. It is known that her birthday-table has for some years been decorated with this lovely Rose.

The best blooms of Maréchal Niel were shown by Mr. A. T. Goodwin, of Maidstone. Mr. Goodwin grows this Rose on a very large scale, and at this season he is able to average 1,000 blooms a day for market. Another Rose that he specialises in is Frau Karl Druschki, which he showed successfully in boxes and baskets.

In the two classes for table decoration the variety Roselandia was used with the best effect. Mrs. Tisdall, of Woodford Green, and Mrs. Courtney Page were the winners, and Roselandia was used in both cases.

Success of the amateurs

Another remarkable feature of the show was the superiority of the amateur-grown blooms over the trade blooms. This was unmistakable, and the Roses shown by the giants, Holland, Hart, Jackson, and Oppenheimer, were the finest blooms in the hall.

Mr. E. J. Holland, Sutton, was showing in his usual good form. He was first for a group of cut Roses staged by an amateur and he won the big class for the best 12 blooms shown by an amateur. Among his best Wm. Shean, Princess Marie Mertchersky, mann, J. G. Glassford, Muriel Wilson, Earl Haig, Dame Edith Helen, Godfrey Jones, Wm. Shean, Princess Marie Mertchersky, Capt. Kilbee Stuart, and Mrs. Chas. Lamplough.

Many beautiful Roses were shown by Mr. Herbert Oppenheimer, including perfect blooms of Mrs. George Marriott, Edel, Nellie Parker, and Mrs. Charles Lamplough (see illustrations).

Mr. F. S. Jackson, Danehurst, won a silver-gilt medal with Mrs Hobbs as the best bloom shown amateur, and he also took first prize vases of cut Roses and for a b Maréchal Niel.

Mr. J. N. Hart, Potters Bar, rep last year's success with Mrs. Foley and he was also successful in Clas six blooms (not less than three showing Sunburst, Mrs. Charles Lar A. E. Coxhead, and Molly Crawford

Of the trade exhibits special should be made of the prize-winnin staged by Chaplin Bros., Elisha J Benjamin R. Cant and Sons, Georg and J. R. Pemberton.

The only gold medal for a new Rose was won by Messrs. G. Beck Son for their novelty, Charles P. K vigorous H.T. of a bright cherry-sal

Decorative Roses

TO the minds of many the ter corative Roses" seems a su appellation, arguing all Roses should be) decorative. Anyhow, better term to give the class of Ros to note than the one given in many and lists, viz., "Garden Roses," fo reasonably be said that all Roses s suitable for the garden; if not, wha they?

Of course, both terms are used divide the varieties suitable mos some solely) for exhibition purposes as specimen flowers from thos are planted with a view to general the garden and decorative when placed in the house.

There was a time, some 20 years ago, when large specimen flowers h sway, and should a new Rose pres carrying small flowers in trusses o more blooms no one would look at i small" would be the exclamatio was passed over.

Nowadays the large formal and Rose gardens throughout the co planted almost exclusively with " varieties," and the large, full, Roses are practically forgotten.

A basket of Marechal Niel, from Mr. A. T. Goodwin, Maidstone

prize-winning box of six Roses (not less than three varieties), shown by Mr. J. N. Hart, Potter's Bar

A grand bloom of the lovely Rose Mrs. George Marriott, shown by Mr. Herbert Oppenheimer

is common sense in it all, too; many ld favourites giving large specimen flower only once, in June or early pecially that fast-declining race the Perpetual. They are not adapted to lay planting and massing for colour and it is the Hybrid Tea, Pernet- ina, and Polyantha classes we must or effect and continual colour in our from mid-June to mid-October.

lybrid Tea is the foundation of our rdens of the present day, with the netiana race running it pretty close. r class lacks variety of colour to use ively, but from it we get our richest range, and copper colours to com- our schemes.

Fortunately, most of the decorative varieties of Roses are comparatively easy to grow and do well in most soils. In olden days heavy rich clay was a *sine quâ non* for the success of Roses, but Hybrid Teas and allied classes do not need very heavy ground; in fact, they flourish better in a medium loam, and even in comparatively light soil they will do quite well with help in the way of manure.

The clay soil was all very well for the Hybrid Perpetual where large over-sized specimen blooms were looked for, but on a medium soil the blooms of decorative Roses come cleaner and fresher; the sun penetrates more easily through lighter soil, and the autumn blooms consequently are quicker to respond to what warmth the soil gets in the late season. Heavy clay is very cold; the toes of the Rose plants are deep down and cold; only a hot summer will get to those roots on clay soil and warm them into activity.

One therefore never need despair of light soil, varieties chosen with discrimination will give every pleasure throughout the flowering season with ordinary care and help.

The method of planting Rose gardens, whether large or small, now is to confine each bed to one variety, "massing" as we term it, and no doubt this does give the best effect possible.

Each individual bed comes into flower exactly the same moment, giving a mass of colour, goes off for a short period, and comes on all together for the second flowering, and so on to the finish of the flowering season in the autumn before resting for the winter.

I might mention here a principle of pruning (I will call it "summer pruning") which, if carried out, will not only keep the beds tidy and clean, but much help to promote the second and future crops of blooms after the first flush is over.

This will apply mostly to those who do not cut their plants much for decorating the house, but prefer to see the blooms in perfection on the plants in the garden.

After the first flush, blooms left on the plants will, with many sorts, produce seed-pods if the weather is dry and sunny. These not only draw nourishment to maintain the seed-pods, but lessen the amount of subsequent flowering power of the plant. A good plan, therefore, is to shorten back about half-way all shoots that have flowered as soon as the blooms have really died off; the lower three or four eyes will then make a start entirely on their own and go ahead with nothing to weaken them, and the second crop of blooms will be all the better and stronger for this treatment, to say nothing of the enhanced tidiness it will give the Rose beds generally.

While on the subject of summer pruning it

Mr. E. J. Holland's successful 12 blooms in Class 16

Back row: Mrs. Charles Lamplough and William Shean (two each)
w: Capt. Kilbee Stuart, Louise Crette, Augustus Hartmann, Princess Marie Mertchersky
Front row: Mrs. Campbell Hall, Godfrey Brown, Dame Edith Helen

Roses Edel, Nellie Parker, and Mrs. Charles Lamplough, shown by Mr. Herbert Oppenheimer

may be as well to say something of pruning proper (late March) relative to decorative Roses. Even with these varieties I am a strong advocate of hard pruning. I cannot remember any particular harm ever done to Roses (bush plants I mean) by hard cutting back, but one can constantly see ill-shapen plants and a poor show of bloom in consequence of insufficient pruning.

In pruning, the one great necessity is to cut back to sound wood below any semblance of wood touched by frost during the past winter. This can easily be detected by the brown or even black appearance of the pith, which at once denotes frost. Keep on cutting back, little by little, till you come to sound white pith, then you are safe. No good growth and no good blooms ever resulted from frosted wood.

Even if no sign of frosted wood I still advocate hard cutting to within 6 inches or 8 inches of the base. It will help to keep the plants young and shapely, and does not in the least lessen their flowering propensities. If insufficiently pruned the plants get leggy and straggling, with a few blooms at the top of the shoots and naked below. No beds ever please under these conditions.

As regards varieties to plant for effect in the garden and useful for decorative purposes when cut for vases and bowls the following can be recommended with all confidence. They are not unduly tender or difficult to cultivate. The colours are distinct and attractive :—

CRIMSON AND RED.	PINK.
Crimson Emblem	Los Angeles
Etoile de Hollande	Mme. Abel Chatenay
Genl. McArthur	Mrs George Shawyer
Hortulanus Budde	Queen of Colours
Covent Garden	Mme. Segond Webber
ORANGE.	YELLOW.
Emma Wright	Christine
Lamia	Mabel Morse
Ruth	Rev. F. Page Roberts
Cambrai	Sovereign
FLESH.	WHITE.
Mme. Butterfly or Ophelia	Marcia Stanhope
Prince de Bulgarie	Mrs. Herbert Stevens
Pharisaer	
CARMINE.	COPPER.
Betty Uprichard	Mrs. Redford
Mrs. E. G. Hill	Lady Roundway
	Mme. E. Herriott
	Prince Charming

These, naturally, do not by any means exhaust the list, but they are a few of the best.

Among the China and Polyantha classes a few may be named as helping to make the Rose garden more representative. The latter class, however, is mostly used for edgi beds and borders. Both classes are p larly free and continuous flowering :—

CHINAS.

Charlotte Klemm (blood red)
Comtesse du Cayla (orange and copper)
Lourette Messimy (rosy yellow)

POLYANTHUS

Echo (blush) — La Reine Elizabeth
Anny Muller (rose colour) — George Elgà (yellow

And among single varieties—

Irish Elegance (orange blush) — Vesuvius (crims
Isobel (carmine)

The singles, however, are rather fl and a storm of rain or wind will play with a bed of these, and put them countenance very quickly, but when a best they are undeniably dainty and tive, especially for table decoration.

B. I

Daphne blagayana in S.W Scotland

Although not too plentiful, blagayana is by no means a stranger gardens of the south-west of Sc Rarely, however, does one see such plant as that in the gardens of Stewart, of Shambella, Newabbey sees larger plants of greater age, it but seldom, indeed, is there one produ flowers with the same freedom and so healthy. It is growing in the ro den and the aspect appears to be south-west. The natural rock of the is granite, while the soil has a lar portion of granite grit in it. This pl many heads of its fragrant cream blooms. It is not difficult to grow well pegged down or held down by st

S. AR

Planning a Town Garden

LOOKING at the illustrations of " a town garden " it is difficult to realise that only five months previous to the photograph being taken the subject was just a small piece of rough building land approximately 32 feet by 35 feet, surrounded by an ugly red brick wall. It may be of interest to follow the process of transformation.

I was determined that the design for my " little patch " should be something a little out of the ordinary. I bore in mind the following points :—

The design must be one that could easily be carried out. Stone paving was to be the chief feature, interspersed with flower-beds, so that even after the heaviest shower I could work in the garden on dry paths. being a hard task-master, was to part in the design.

That flat appearance, well-nigh ins to a small garden of ordinary design be counteracted by winding paths fa to create the illusion of extended wa hidden exits. The chief problem con me was that the more crazy paving duced into the design the less space have for flower-beds and the greater On the other hand, not enough pavin mean too many or too large beds. tually evolved the design as in Fig. 1 worked roughly on a scale of ⅛ inc foot. It will be noted how easily th

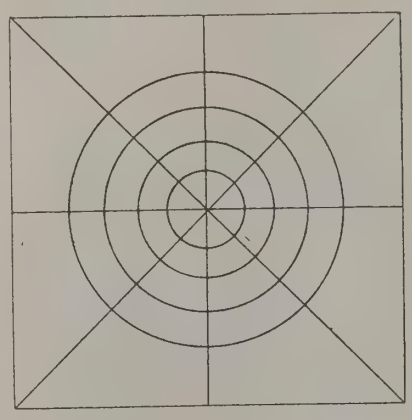


Fig 1.

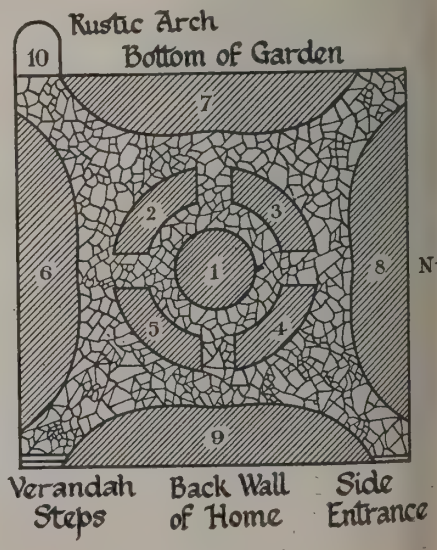


Fig 2.

Planning a town garden

little garden at Brighton was designed, d, and planted within a month of nencing the work. The outside beds in Hollyhocks, Stocks, Phloxes, Sweet ams, and Marguerites, and the walls ed with Canary Creeper, Sweet Peas, and Scarlet Runners

marked out on ground with a ng tape, string, and pegs.

g. 2 I marked off my beds round the ped. Then, in order to apportion the ft between the largest circle and the walls, as represented by the four the square, I sketched a wide space corner of the plan for paving, leaving due for my flower-beds. At this found a jobbing gardener, who con- to supply me with the particular of paving I required at so much per labour at per hour. This arrange- oved very satisfactory, and the gar- completed as per design and planted in one month of commencing the spite of the wet weather prevailing me (April to May).

aving was laid on the earth itself land had been dug over and levelled; ot cemented, and no ashes were used. nting of the garden was necessarily owing to the time of the year, and e of flowers limited. For the out- I had Hollyhocks, Stocks, Phlox, Williams, Marguerites, Daisies, etc., der of Lobelia. The walls I covered nary Creeper, Sweet Peas, Scarlet and my arch with Rambler Roses. ntre bed consisted of a group of arguerites surrounded with red ns, with a border of Lobelia and ns. The four inner beds were with Violas (all colours), two beds double line of Antirrhinums along e and the other two dwarf Mari- liotrope, and Sweet Alyssum. The against the house) was very effec- Thrift, Saxifraga, Aubrietia, Lon- , Forget-me-nots, and dwarf Mari-

al cost of laying out the garden ac- o my design (not including plants s) was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Crazy paving, 5¼ tons at £2 5s. per ton	11	16	3
Mould, 5 loads at 7s. per load	1	15	0
Clinker (for rockery), 2 loads at 12s. 6d. per load	1	5	0
Rustic arch	0	12	6
Labour, at 1s. per hour	11	3	0
Total	£26	11	9

Measurements of garden (beds and arch numbered in Fig. 2):—

Diameter of 1 and inner circle .. .. .. 8 ft.
" " second " .. .. .. 12 ft.
" " third " .. .. .. 20 ft.
" " outside " .. .. .. 24 ft.
Inner paths, width .. .. 2 ft.
Beds 2, 3, 4 5 .. .. 11 ft. by 4 ft.
" 7, length 23 ft. by 6½ ft. and 6½ ft.
" 6, " 24 ft. by 6½ ft. tapering to 2 ft.
" 8, " 29 ft. by 6½ ft. " to 3 ft.
Rockery (No. 9), length 12 ft. by 6 ft. tapered.
Total area of garden, 32 ft. long by 35 ft. wide.

It must be noted that all the above measurements are approximate, but are sufficiently accurate to assist anyone who might wish to plan out a garden on a similar basis.

L. O. P.

Hypericum nummularium

Several lovely dwarf St. John's Worts awake the desire of the alpinist to possess them, and, fortunately, most of these are not too difficult to obtain from the trade. Among those which deserve more notice is a charming dwarf plant called Hypericum nummularium, but sometimes named H. nummularioides. It is very beautiful in or out of flower. It is inclined to trail rather than to grow erect, but its branches are so short that it can hardly be called a "trailer." These branches are clad with bonny oval-shaped leaves which have a margin of dots around them and are also dotted on the surface. Above these rise the slender stems of brilliant golden flowers with all the characteristic beauty of the race. This St. John's Wort is a native of damp places in the cliffs of the Alps, and is hardy with us. It may be grown in shady or sunny places, and can be raised from seeds or increased by cuttings.

S. Arnott.

The Algerian Iris (I. stylosa)

With the return of a few mild days came numbers of buds of this delicate Iris. These are gathered while in the bud stage, otherwise they often become the victims of slugs or a sudden sharp frost which renders them useless for indoor decoration. If gathered in this way they open freely and I have had vases full of their lovely perfumed flowers, as delicate in texture as any Orchid and quite as beautiful. It is for this reason that I always plant this charming Iris near a sheltering wall, as I have known rough winds seriously damage the frail falls of the blooms, otherwise the plant itself is hardy enough to grow entirely in the open. There are several varieties, including a white one, which claim our attention, all being desirable plants and well worthy of representation in any collection of this attractive genus.

E. M.

Sweet Violets

Where cuttings have not already been taken from plants wintered in frames no time should be lost in lifting and dividing up the plants, choosing nicely-rooted side growths for planting out in close lines in nursery beds, where, after a few weeks, they should be ready for putting out at 1 foot apart on a well-prepared and shaded border. The present is also an ideal time for making fresh plantations which are to remain entirely in the open, where masses of the large single varieties are so free-flowering and beautiful.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Fruit trees in pots

These must be kept well supplied with water, and trees carrying heavy crops will derive considerable assistance from applications of liquid-manure, and, owing to their naturally confined space, a top-dressing of good turfy loam will prove beneficial.

Plant houses and conservatories

Shading will soon be necessary to the occupants of these houses, and blinds should be fixed in readiness before scalding has taken place. It is often difficult and almost impossible to shade large conservatories by means of blinds, but where this does occur one of the Summer Clouds offered by horticultural sundriesmen may be applied to the glass without delay.

Arum Lilies, Freesias, Narcissus

These and other bulbous plants which have completed their flowering may now be placed in a sunny position in the open, where water should be given as required until the foliage assumes a ripening stage, when it should be gradually withheld altogether.

Winter flowering Begonias

Pot up singly as soon as the cuttings are found to be well rooted, and grow on in brisk heat—stove temperature suits these plants admirably—with abundant moisture playing amongst them. The most remarkable lot of Gloire de Lorraine I ever saw were grown in a house to which no air was admitted, but shaded from direct sunshine. Put in more cuttings as rapidly as these become available in order that the old stock plants may be disposed of, as these are inclined to breed pests.

Bedding plants

These are choking the houses and frames at the present time, and must be moved along to cooler quarters as fast as possible with safety, the earliest and hardiest subjects being placed in the open where slight shelter can be given during the night.

Runner Beans

Sow a few boxes of these under glass for the earliest row, but do not force them as it will not be safe or even desirable to plant them in the open before the 24th of next month.

French Beans

On a warm border the first sowing of these may now be made. Broad lines should be drawn out with a 6-inch hoe and the seeds laid in in two lines, which gives them 6 inches each way.

Vegetable Marrows

Raise a batch of these in pots for planting out in the open towards the end of May, unless protection, such as frame lights or bell-glass, are available, in which case a plantation may be made by the middle of the month.

Vegetable seed beds

Run the hoe between the drills of seeds immediately it is safe to do so, as this is very beneficial, facilitates growth, and checks the tracks of slugs. Apply a light dusting of soot and lime over the plants from time to time and all will be well.

Spinach and Lettuces

Sow at frequent intervals, it being far more profitable to sow in small quantities than in large plots, following which only one-half can be used in a good state.

Herbaceous borders

With the return of better weather and a free and more robust growth of the plants it is possible to use the hoe freely, and this should be done often as its effect upon growth is well worth while.

Annuals

The sowing of these was greatly delayed, owing to the excessive rains and the sodden state of the soil, but no time must now be lost in getting the bulk of these summer flowers sown.

Wallflowers

Seed for plants required for next season should be sown at the present time on a warm border, also Campanula pyramidalis, Canterbury Bells, Brompton Stocks, Cheiranthus Allionii and C. linifolius, both of which are really Wallflowers.

May-flowering Tulips

With several of the very tall varieties it often becomes necessary to apply light stakes, otherwise the heads are liable to be broken off during storms. These should be as slender as possible, and, placed inconspicuously, the grace of the flower will then remain.

Dahlias

Place a few roots of favoured varieties in boxes of leafy and sandy soil, standing them in a warm house where cuttings will quickly develop. These should be severed from the parent with a small portion of the old tuber when about 3 inches or 4 inches long and potted up singly into small pots, plunging the latter up to their rims in bottom heat, such as hotbeds or propagating pits, where root-action quickly takes place and following which cooler quarters must be chosen for them.

Fruit trees

Those growing on sunny walls must now be mulched, as otherwise the borders dry out very fast. Any clean and seed-free material will do, such as stable litter, Bracken, or even clean straw where the latter can be obtained.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Dahlias

If the plants have attained a decent size they ought now to be placed in cold frames so as to be gradually hardened off. Few plants are so susceptible to cold, so the hardening process must be slow and cautious. Do not allow the plants to get dry at the roots or they will quickly be smothered with greenfly. Plants still in a small state may be kept in a heated greenhouse for another fortnight.

Antirrhinums

If the plants are of good size and well hardened off they may, with advantage, be set out in their flowering quarters. Too rich soil is inadvisable, but an open sunny situation will give the finest colour and induce floriferousness.

Pentstemons

These fine autumn-flowering plants should now be planted in deeply-worked and fairly rich ground, for when well cultivated they are among our most beautiful and stately decorative subjects for late display. A position is advisable for these plants, dry weather care must be taken to se they never suffer from dryness at the ro

East Lothian Stocks

This delightfully fragrant subject always a success, but, where it does su well repays any little necessary trouble cultivation. If the weather be at all in the coming week, and the plants a hardened off, it is advisable to have planted in their permanent quarters. fairly heavy soil suits this plant well. ful handling is necessary at planting and, should the weather be at all dr copious waterings until well establishe

Feeding Ferns

Ferns required for room or table ment are, as a rule, confined in sma and so to keep them in health it is ne to apply gentle feeding during the g season. Clear soot-water, liquid mad sheep-droppings, and a tablespoon Ichthemic guano, stirred into a ga rain-water, are all excellent, and sho given on alternate weeks. About weekly will give good results.

Maincrop Beet

Too early sowing is, usually, resp for failure with this crop. The first May will, ordinarily, give good While fairly rich soil is best, it must any account, have fresh manure appli for this crop.

Runner Beans

This Bean is hardier, relatively, th the dwarf or kidney kinds, and, bei productive, even a small space occupi this subject is certain to provide abu of delicious pods if given fair treatm is a mistake to plant the seeds too ea a spell of cold, damp weather, should i is certain to rot many of them, while they do germinate, slugs are very fon tender young shoots, and quickly dest numbers. If, however, the weather and the soil in nice working order, sowing may now be got in, choosing yet sheltered spot and where the soil and well worked. Plant the seeds fai together and thin later if necessary.

Spring-raised Brassicas

Seeds sown early in March have p a good lot of sturdy little plants, an courage steady growth a frequent sti the soil between the rows is most he

Spring-sown Onions

The earlier, in reason, this crop is the more likely there is to be a fi Plants raised in boxes may still be but the earlier this is done now th It will be found that the best tool wit to plant Onions is the trowel, and practice will eventually give as muc almost, as one can attain with a " Rich but very firm ground is what b the Onion.

Earliest Leeks

Where there is a demand for this v early in autumn it is advisable to p now the plants raised in heat earlie year. Richly-prepared trenches allowed for this crop, and should th at all dry give a thorough drenching the moment the planting is finished.

C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo.

Perpetual Carnations

What May Be Grown With Them?

' the recent conference of the British 'arnation Society one of the audience sked the very pertinent question as to may be grown with Perpetual Carna- nder glass.

as able to answer this with the reply lots of things may be grown with Car- s, but Carnations may not be grown ots of things." I used these words to one think and then realise that the ion-house is an excellent one for a many plants if one studies the Carna- rst. The treatment often afforded to other plants, however, will not suit ions. This, then, is plain, the proper heric condition of the Carnation- Always airy, with ventilators seldom (except during cold winds or fogs), and a somewhat warmed house in winter ut 48 degs. at night and 52 degs. the day in normal winter weather.

use in a sunny position, a light, airy vith buoyant atmosphere, is e necessary to flower Car- in winter, and this, too, is se which suits the majority popular autumn, winter, ing flowering plants, such rysanthemums, Ericas, Solanums (the Winter y), Zonal Geraniums, ens, perhaps the most and beautiful of winter- g plants that is often so ully treated. Then follow bulbs of many kinds, Roses, Acacias (Mimosa), s, Primulas, Hydrangeas, s, spring-flowering shrubs. his ample material to fur- greenhouse and conserva- h a wealth of flower from umn until the following ?

y be noticed that I have the Chrysanthemum, ill do without any warmth ll into the winter, and yet, ith is not then provided, are apt to damp. On the hand, Begonias (winter- g) have been omitted, as re better grown under conditions than is ideal ations.

nly may the plants mentioned be vith Carnations, but the majority of ll do actually better and last longer with Carnation treatment than that ey often have.

rings us to the interesting discovery ideal Carnation-house is a much eful place than it is sometimes sup- be. The Cyclamen, for instance, s it often is, lasts only for a couple hs. In the Carnation-house, how- may be a thing of beauty for over nths. Many people fond of the old eranium fail to bloom them under the s that they give them, yet might vith treatment given to Carnations.

nly conditions to avoid—one might only dangers to avoid—are over- the Carnations in any way, or of green-fly to make headway in the These are, however, matters of com- e cultivation.

wished for further variety to grow nations in winter, Australia has pro- addition, the very beautiful though vy Chorozemas, with orange and a Pea-like flowers, that bloom from until late spring; then we have that gloriously fragrant Daphne indica, the old-fashioned Epacris, and the dainty Grevillias, which latter is another of those plants which bloom from autumn until spring, and which may one day come into greater popularity in consequence.

LAURENCE J. COOK.

Bush Hill Park.

One of the plants that may be grown with Carnations
The showy Chorozema, with orange and terra-cotta Pea-like flowers borne from autumn till late spring

Fumigation of glasshouses

FUMIGATION is only one way of dealing with glasshouse pests, but it is much used on account of economy and ease of applicatio i. Different pests require different fumigants, and the well-known process of "cyaniding" is by no means a cure for all the ills with which the grower has to contend. The most important chemicals for use in such cases are cyanide, tetrachlorethane, nicotine, naphthalene, and sulphur—a formidable list. Those who have glasshouses, however, and desire to make their labour efficient should know about them.

First of all, cyanide fumigation. The active agent is really prussic acid, very dangerous to animal life, so that the greatest possible care must be taken in its application. For this reason, those who have never used it should take the best expert advice before they do so; and, if the county horticultural instructor is not available, the Ministry of Agriculture is quite prepared to give detailed instructions. It controls white fly and aphis in the greenhouse. The fumigation should be carried out after sunset and the glasshouse then locked up and opened before dawn for a period of not less than two hours. If the fumigation is done in daylight the gas is decomposed, the effects spoiled, and the plants damaged. Cool, still nights are most favourable, with the house temperature round about 60 degs. F. In the case of plants like the Cucumber and Melon, which are grown in hot, moist conditions, cyanide cannot be used. In the case of Tomatoes, or other plants which require a good deal of moisture, it can be used, but it is essential to withhold water from them for a considerable period before the fumigation; 24 hours when they are in pots and 48 hours when they are in the ground. Their soil must not be wet; moisture on the foliage does not matter. The eggs of white fly and aphis are not killed by the gas, so that a second fumigation should be made from 14 days after the first in hot weather to 25 days after in cool weather.

Tetrachlorethane is more expensive and is used for delicate plants like the Cucumber and Melon, thought it is also quite effective against white fly. It should be poured on the paths of the house at the rate of 10 fluid ozs. to every 1,000 cubic feet space. Again, this chemical is poisonous, though not nearly so deadly as cyanide. Its vapours should not be inhaled. Where Chrysanthemums or Pelargoniums are grown it must not be used or the plants will be damaged or killed outright. Again, the best time for the fumigation is the night time.

Nicotine is best for the Chrysanthemum leaf miner and green fly. It is either evaporated from special fumigating lamps at the rate of ¾ oz. to every 2,000 cubic feet space, or vaporised from small Tobacco shreds placed in ½ lb. heaps upon the paths of the house. Here no special precautions are necessary, though the fumes are somewhat poisonous and should be avoided.

The next fumigant is pure commercial white flake naphthalene, known as "Grade 16" naphthalene. It is a control against red spider in Cucumbers. Broadcast it upon the Cucumber borders at the rate of 3 lbs. to every 100-foot run and put it on in the early evening. More, if necessary, may be thrown on the paths without fear of injury to the growing plants. It is essential, however, that the atmosphere of the glasshouse should be highly charged with moisture during the whole time of fumigation, and that the temperature is not allowed to fall below 70 degs. F. All the next day the house should be kept closed, though the ventilators may be opened periodically to allow of damping without inconvenience. In from 24 to 36 hours all red spiders and their eggs will be killed. Plants with weak root-action are liable to some injury, and it must be remembered that these naphthalene vapours will not have proper effect if the temperature is below about 74 degs. F. for any length of time during the fumigation. The same method is successful against thrips, but for French fly only much smaller quantities of naphthalene will be found to be sufficient. Sulphur can also be used against red spider in vineries. Flowers of sulphur can be vaporised from special fumigators, but great care is necessary to prevent the melted material from catching fire, as the fumes of burning sulphur are intensely poisonous to plants.

Pheione humilis tricolor

This is a very pretty little Orchid, and one so neat in its habit and so floriferous when well grown that it well deserves more extended culture. That it blooms thus long after most other species of Pleione are over is an additional advantage. Its sepals and petals are of a delicate rose or rosy-lilac colour; the lip is white, elegantly fringed around the margin, and stained with yellow inside, delicately lined with brown, and sparsely spotted. Its bulbs are smooth and glossy, like those of typical P. humilis, not warted up, as in P. lagenaria and other kinds.

Double-flowered Daffodils

By W. F. M. Copeland.

WERE you to stand by one of the big exhibits in the Royal Horticultural Hall at this season, where large masses of Daffodils are shown, and listen to the comments of the general public, you would have heard, as I have done for a number of years past, such remarks as "I don't care for doubles," "I am not the least interested in doubles." But during the last two years or so there has come a change; there are quite a lot of very lovely double-flowered Daffodils now on the market and the public are beginning to get accustomed to seeing them.

I have often thought over in my own mind why is it that people have not liked or been interested in double Daffodils. Hardly any people rave about single Roses compared to those who do so over double ones. The same can be said of the Dahlia and the Chrysanthemum. But why? There must be a reason. Well, I think I can tell you. We are creatures of habit and custom, your eyes as well as your habits can get into a groove. We have seen, all our lives, the big cabbagy flower of the Daffodil Telamonius Plenus, or we have occasionally seen some very bedraggled and badly-grown specimens of "Eggs and Bacon" or "Codlins and Cream," and, having bought a bunch in the market and endeavouring to arrange them at home, have found the stems so weak and floppy, toppling over here, and the stem going into a kink there, that we have, naturally, turned from such productions of nature to the sprightly single ones with their air of lightness and variety of colour.

Then there is another fact, I think, and it is this, if you have got a good thing and you advertise it well and you lay it before the public and let them see it at every turn in life you will create a demand.

Apply this to the double Daffodils and you will see from the inverse that because there have been no pretty or attractive or good-stemmed double Daffodils people have not wanted them.

But now things have changed. There are appearing on the market double Daffodils of most gorgeous fiery-red cup segments, some with yellow perianths, some with creamy-white, others practically altogether white. The writer is by no means the only raiser of double Daffodils. Others have produced as good and possibly better, and it only remains for a year or two more for the bulbs to multiply sufficiently for everyone to grow such things. If you have grown both sorts you will have found out that a double Daffodil is a far more satisfactory flower to have in your vase if you want effect.

A bunch of doubles gives you a mass of colour which, if suitably and tastefully arranged, will catch the eye and compel a visitor to make some remark such as, "What a wonderful vase of flowers you have there, I never saw such a colour before; how lovely it looks at a distance." And I can say, also, one more thing, that when single Daffodils begin to fade you have to throw them away, whereas with your doubles they will look all right for a day longer, even though the outer perianths are beginning to droop. I will not here enumerate a list of new double Daffodils, for every up-to-date bulb merchant has them in his catalogue, and you can see the flowers for yourselves if you visit the spring flower shows.

I have been sent a Daffodil list from New Zealand, where the following Daffodils are listed:—Milk and Honey, Red and Gold, Royal Sovereign, Volcano. So you see, even in these far-off distant lands, they are up-to-date in double Daffodils.

I have just been very interested in the Award of Merit that we have given, at the Daffodil Show last week, to Narcissus Holland's Glory, from Holland. This is declared to be a sport from Emperor. Now, to be perfectly candid, I am most sceptical about Daffodils sporting, though I do not know whether I am botanically correct to say that when a flower turns from a single into a double it does really "sport." But in this individual case I can clearly see the colour is not the colour quite of Emperor, but that it has most decidedly the tinting as well as some of the shape in its perianth segments of Narcissus Inglescombe, which, to inform those less acquainted with names, is a very pretty deep sulphur double.

Now, it is perfectly easy for a bee to pollinate an Emperor bloom from the pollen from Inglescombe, and the resulting seed to fall, grow, and increase, and later to be included in a batch of Emperor as being a small offset.

I noticed also that Messrs. Bath, Ltd., were showing some very fine blooms of double Sir Watkin. These also are reputed to have been found among some single Sir Watkin. Sir Watkin is well "over" here (Southampton), and I saw some in full bloom the last week in March at Scarborough. I did not inquire as to where these double blooms were grown, but it occurred to me that these bulbs were flowering very late compared to the reputed parent.

Perhaps someone else better acquainted with these flowers' history could give more information about them than I can.

The cult of the Violet

WHY do flowers attract and, for many, become a passion? The answer must be that they satisfy some spiritual concept. Their appeal is not only to the senses, but to the soul. The Lily, in its regal magnificence, solitary and unapproachable, typifying majesty, arresting to the eye, and seeming to challenge all comers.

The Rose, with its vast variety of colour and form, adding fragrance to its beauty. Who has not been startled out of oneself on seeing a well-kept Rose garden, some bright and massive, some pale and delicate, but all expressive, in its redundance and profusion, of the exhaustlessness of Nature?

The Carnation, symmetrical and correct in form, greatly attractive in groups and in masses unique. The Sweet Pea, again, with its great range of colours, an example of Nature's superb artistry of supreme value for decoration. All these make their appeal and number their champions by the million.

But what shall we say of the Violet, the Cinderella among flowers, lacking the gay attraction of her sisters? This little flower has a tradition all its own. What romance has gathered round it? How it has figured in human history! Who can account for the attraction it had for the great Napoleon? A mind solitary and inscrutable, engaged on vast schemes of aggrandisement. How could so puny a flower find a place in that man's heart? The modest wilding of 100 years ago bears little comparison with the improved forms of to-day, yet it was this tiny flower that claimed him. His Empress Josephine wore only Violets on her wedding day, and, turning to the Emperor, said: "And you, Sire, bring me only Violets whenever this day of my greatest honour and joy comes round," a request Napoleon held ever in remembrance. In 1808, on the a versary of their marriage, there was bunch of Violets from Napoleon. He not forgotten them, but even an Emp cannot command those little heralds of spring. Napoleon's servants sent everyw in search of them returned empty-ha with the explanation that it was too e Napoleon thereupon left his work and self set out to search for the bloom, w absence he knew would be a source of to the woman who, in 1810, he divorce Maria Louisa of Austria.

So well did his soldiers know this te trait in his character that after his retre Elba he was often spoken of as Pè Violetta, and his troops, wearying of inactivity of the Bourbon régime, whisp to each other "he will return with Violets," and return he did, to his own Europe's undoing.

Before Napoleon left France, after hi feat at Waterloo, he visited the grave c first wife, always kept planted with Vi and plucked a tiny bunch. When he di St. Helena in May, 1821 (this man wh had all Europe at his feet and of whose kings and prices walked in terror), there found upon his breast a golden locket taining a lock of hair and two wit Violets. Strange to account for the Napoleon has for this tiny flower. S the explanation was that it symbolised ties the reverse of his own restless amb The drooping head, the obscurity it made its appeal, and so with all lovers Violet it never fails in its appeal.

As one engaged for years in its culti I have sometimes thought that it is w of a society of its own, as have the Carnation, and Sweet Pea, to advoca merits. But no, the Violet is both nea dear to the heart of humanity. Co speak I think it would shrink from not Its place is secure. No, it wants no s to press its claims.

On the departure recently of the Duk Duchess of York as Ambassadors of E to our Dominion of Australia every graph and film depicting the Duc vivacity and charm of manner showe dress resplendent with Violets, which a to be a favourite flower of our Royal F

Sturmer. F. E. Dillist

Sweet Peas

It is now time that the plants tha raised in autumn were planted out in flowering quarters, and the trenches r given a dusting of bone-meal and wood and forking lightly in a few days planting. If a showery day can be for the planting so much the better, plants will more quickly recover. plants are to be grown for exhibitio should be allowed 12 inches betwe plants, but if for ordinary purposes 6 to 9 inches will suffice. It is best an economical to plant a double row i trench. Whether the plants are in b pots I find it best to shake them clea soil and make a hole deep enough the roots their entire length, as, if direct with balls of twisted roots th some time before they grow downwar do not have the same chance as w down straight into the soil. When pl the soil should be made firm aroun plant, but do not bury them more little over the depth they were growin pots or boxes. Give each plant a goo ing of water, and support them with stakes, and protect from slugs by with soot. W. E. Wr

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

BOOKS

"A Garden in Wales"*

OR some years Mr. A. T. Johnson has een contributing to journalism articles nd notes from a garden in North Wales, he has now written a book in which he cts the results of work and observation account of his garden, its natural fea-, and how it has been made, and deals the grouping and cultivation of some of plants in it. As the author says, there mong present-day gardeners, "a vast ever-increasing majority who are essed of an insatiable thirst for practical mation." His method is to describe the us parts of his garden—woodland, mside, bog, dry places, and rock gar--with their occupants, and to deal in al chapters with certain families with h he has had much to do, such as the hs, Brooms, Geraniums, Rhododen-s, and Sedums. Each plant is noted in etting, and something is said about its acteristics and cultivation. In the case e more difficult plants details are given ngth. Those who have failed with Den-econ rigidum and Fremontia californica be encouraged to try again, and will re- from watering Fremontia in dry her. The plants of California have a al interest for the author, who has n them in their own country. A com- index adds much to the value of the as a manual.

e author has a fine sense of the con- of things, and is something of a purist acing them. Into a "green foliage gar- even Lilium giganteum is not admitted. e is not a purist with regard to hybrids. that are beautiful are as welcome as es, and he makes the suggestion that ork of hybridising Pernettyas should be up where the Davis hybrids left off. els the appeal of plants "deserving and oved," and of those more gentle things e modesty hides their charm from un-athetic eyes. His garden is not a ical collection, but, as was said of n Ellacombe's, "a home for flower and and tree, a place of hospitality for s." He has a keen eye for colour. In hapter "On Nothing in Particular" are d suggestions of harmonious combina- He speaks also of those other com-ons which promote the well-being and iveness of plants. He explains, for in-e, what companion Mutisia decurrens—which he has had enviable success—for, and concludes that Ceanothus s on a west wall will serve.

ere is one rather surprising omission of at genus. The lover of Lilium will turn index, only to jump from Leucothoë to ea. Surely many Lilies must find a home in the varied conditions of this n in Wales. And we venture to sug-that Mr. Johnson might well try his with Nomocharis there.

author tells us that he has set himself teer a course between the dry lands of calities on the one hand and the idle es of pleasant discourse on the other." ccasional writings have shown that he e gift of the vivid word and the telling as well as the seeing eye and the ex-ced hand. He is of the kinship of , but with less exuberance. There is style a happy ease, a humorous and e touch, which makes the book a joy reader who comes to it with the sym-of a fellow-gardener, and pleasant even not intimately of the craft. The con-g chapter, "Of Gardens of Memory,"

*Garden in Wales," by A. T. Johnson; illustrated tographs. London: Edward Arnold & Co., 1927

contains a description of the last Monterey Cypresses and of Pinus insignis on their native coast which is worthy of an anthology. It is not "fine" writing—a danger of such a style as Mr. Johnson's—but it is a piece of splendid and moving English prose.

"Sweet Peas for Amateurs"

This is one of a new series of Gardening Hand Books recently published by Messrs. Cassell and Co., Ltd. It contains 183 pages of most useful and interesting matter, and is freely illustrated with diagrams and eight full-page plates. Messrs. Norman Lambert and H. H. Thomas are to be congratulated upon their achievement.

Generally speaking, amateur gardeners have more enthusiasm than knowledge in their hobby, especially when cultivating some particular flower.

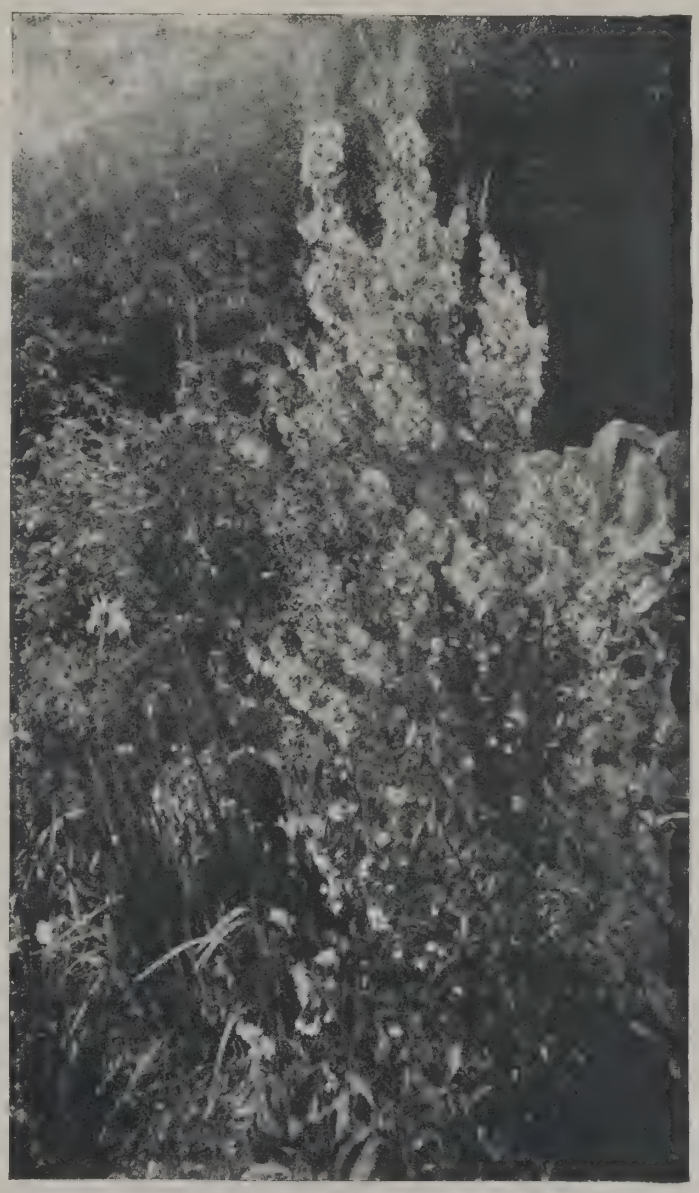
To prove, however, that success can be obtained, a friend of the writer was induced some years ago to take up the cultivation of Sweet Peas, though he had never previously touched a garden, and in a short time was winning prizes at all the principal shows in England and Scotland, simply because he was put on the right lines by a wise and experienced grower.

We cannot all have this experienced grower to guide us, but such a book as this will serve instead. Whatever it is you ought to know you will find it here. Whatever your difficulty, it is anticipated. Follow the book and you are bound to succeed. There are 37 chapters, clearly and concisely written in non-technical language. The price is 2s. 6d. cloth bound, and will more than repay the small outlay.

The Snowdrop Tree (Halesia tetraptera)

This ornamental deciduous tree is a fine subject for growing as a specimen on the lawn or in any suitable position in the pleasure grounds, providing it is sheltered from the north and east. As the flowers are pendulous it is best grown as a standard some 6 feet to 7 feet in height. The flowers can then be seen to the greatest advantage, as they droop downwards from the branches. As a standard it makes a wide, spreading head, and the flowers, being plentifully produced throughout the whole length of the branches, renders a well-grown tree a beautiful object when in bloom. Even after the flowers fade the tree is decidedly ornamental. The flowering period is either in April or May, this varying according to season and locality. The flowers are pure white and resemble Snowdrops in appearance. It succeeds well in a soil of rather light texture of good depth.

A. W.



Leptospermum scoparium Nichollsii, blooms brilliant ruby red

From "A Garden in Wales"

Profitable Leeks and Onions

LEEKS form a remunerative crop to the grower for market who has rich land and the means of supplying them with abundance of water. Large quantities of them are grown in the valley of the Thames where the soil is moist. The first sowing is made towards the end of January in a frame set on a gentle hotbed, on which has been placed a few inches of light, rich soil. The seed is sown rather thickly and afterwards slightly covered with fine soil. The sashes are then kept close until the young plants appear, when abundance of air is admitted both night and day on all favourable opportunities. If severe weather sets in the sashes are covered with litter or mats. On fine days plenty of water is supplied to the plants, and the soil is kept frequently stirred. If the seedlings are too thick they are thinned out to 1 inch or so apart, and those that remain are gradually hardened off until towards the end of March, when they are carefully lifted and planted out-of-doors in rows about 1 foot apart, the plants in the row being about 6 inches asunder. Between the rows Lettuces are planted, and these, being of quick growth, are removed long before they can in any way injure the Leeks. The next sowing, which takes place about the end of February, is made out-of-doors in beds, and when large enough the plants are put out in a similar manner to the former sowing in heavily-manured, deeply-dug soil. Another sowing is made six or eight weeks later, and the last one generally about the first week in May. In all cases drills are drawn to a depth of 4 inches or 5 inches, in which the plants are put. These in some measure protect the plants in the early stages of their growth and serve as receptacles for water. The frequent hoeing of the ground, which is considered a very important matter, fills in the drills and blanches the necks of the Leeks—one of the main things to be considered in their culture. During dry weather abundance of water is applied, and some growers, after taking a crop of Lettuce from between the rows, heavily mulch the ground with manure. The produce from the first sowing is ready for market by the beginning of August, when it is quickly removed and the vacant ground cropped with other vegetables. The latest sowing keeps up a constant supply of Leeks far into the winter when they are most in request, and when a bad Onion year occurs they pay remarkably well.

ONIONS.—For good Onions there is always a large demand, and late in the season they fetch high prices. In nearly all market gardens round London Onions are grown to a large extent both as summer and winter crops. Land intended for Onions is generally roughly trenched during winter and thrown into ridges, so as to become thoroughly pulverised and sweetened by the action of frost. During dry weather in February the ridges are levelled and the surface rendered smooth by raking and rolling, after which the seed is sown either broadcast or in drills 9 inches to 10 inches apart. If small pickling bulbs be desired, seed is sown broadcast at the rate of 20 lbs. per acre. After sowing, the seed is raked or harrowed in, and the operation is completed by rolling the surface firm and even. After the young Onions appear above the ground, weeding and thinning are proceeded with as may be required.

The profits on a good crop of spring-sown Onions are comparatively large, although the prices vary considerably in some seasons. The silver-skinned Onion, which is grown largely for pickling, is sown on good land, the plants being left as thickly as they come up, as the closer they are together the sooner they will cease growing in summer and the better they will ripen their bulbs. The autumn sowing of Onions is made on ground cleared of Cauliflowers, Cabbages, or other early crops, in the end of July for drawing in a young state from September onwards, but the main sowing is not made till about the middle of August. The autumn sowings are, as a rule, made in beds about 5 feet wide, and the seeds are covered deeper than those of the spring sowings. Autumn sowings of Onions are not often made broadcast on fields, as they must be weeded, not hoed, in the process of cleaning; the hoeing would thin them too much. As they are only required for drawing when young they do not need to be more than one-third of the distance asunder required in the case of the summer Onions. They are weeded soon after they come up, and once, or perhaps twice, during the winter time.

FRUIT GARDEN

Planting orchards

SOME seem to think that landlords ought to plant new orchards, and there is much to be said in favour of this view, but, according to my experience, if the trees were planted by the landlords, tenants in many instances would also expect them to protect them from cattle. In some few cases we see an attempt made to renovate an orchard, but such efforts are usually attended with failure. Nor is this to be wondered at, seeing that the trees are frequently planted on land that has been occupied by orchard trees probably for 50 years previously. It is useless to plant a tree in a small hole, even if filled with perfectly fresh compost, as the latter will only sustain vigour for a short time. No; this is not what is needed. A young orchard should be planted on a perfectly fresh site, the soil should be deeply worked and well manured, and it may be cropped till such time as the trees cover most of the ground, then grass may be allowed to grow. An orchard thus treated would produce Potatoes and other roots without impoverishing the trees or thereby inducing them to strike root down into an unkindly subsoil. One of the best orchards in Kent was also for many years a Hop garden, and I could point to various other instances where the ground was made more profitable than ordinary farm land up to the time the fruit trees required the space. Even after an orchard has been grassed over, the farmer finds it of great service in various ways, especially if it adjoins the homestead, as it ought to do.

Some hesitate to plant fruit trees, thinking that, in their time, they would not prove remunerative, and if this were really an indisputable fact, landlords ought to do the planting. But that is not so, unless, indeed, they purchase dried-up trees that have been to more than one market, and plant these on old orchard ground. If good trees, not necessarily the dearest that can be obtained, are purchased, and at once planted on good ground, these, if allowed to grow naturally, or with only sufficient pruning to form good heads, will soon arrive at a bearing state. Starvelings will commence to fruit at once, but it is far better for a tree to make vigorous growth before it fruits heavily. Orchard trees are very different from closely-pruned miniature specimens seen in gardens; these require root-pruning, both to check grossness and to cause them to be fruitful. It by no means follows that Apples only are suitable for orchards. Pears, Plums, Damsons, Cherries, Filberts, and bush fruits are all well adapted for culture in orchards, with plenty of variety there is much gr certainty that one or other kind will pa rent, if no more. It is when crops are that prices are best, but the time may when the facilities for distributing or produce in less favoured localities ma more equable, and then fruits will pay even in times of abundance. It is to b gretted that something could not be done the many tons of Plums that have been spoiled, or as good as given away in F growing districts, especially at Pershor Worcestershire. Damsons, I believe, ar tensively bought up for dyeing purposes we all know that surplus supplies of A can be made into good wholesome Filberts, whether grown scientifically, Kent, or roughly, that is to say, wi pruning, as in Somersetshire, Dorsets and other western counties, rarely fail profitable, and some seasons they are remunerative than any kind of fruit, y never hear of many being planted hereab Walnuts, again, used to be planted farmhouses and gentlemen's places, b very few cases do we see any young springing up to take the places of the g now decaying. Not much planting now for our heirs in the case of Walnuts, a is just the same with Mulberries. The are now to be seen only in old places, a many instances these are past their prim splitting up; yet they never fail to bear and their juicy, acid fruits are much lik some. Instead of being content to sit and wait for everything to be sent us fr distance, including foreign parts, we ou be up and doing and learn to be more dependent, as in the "good old time" railways and steamships were not suc portant factors in all undertakings as now are. C.

Storing Apples and Pears

Many complain that their Apples Pears keep badly. Well; we have a deal yet to learn in the matter of st fruit. I have seen fruit rooms built ally for storage in which the fruit ke badly that they were given up as fai and some ordinary shed or outhouse s tuted. My impression is that for st late-keeping fruit the system of open sl is about the worst that could be devise spread out in that way the fruit parts its moisture too rapidly, and when ri fruit is by no means so juicy as it ou be. Rather than store on shelves I store in bins or tubs, or even in large on the floor. In Kent many of the growers, who are also Hop growers, the Hop kilns for storing late-keeping in winter, and such sorts as Northern ing, Wellington, and others that co after Christmas are put into large hea the floor and covered with straw, which they come in spring with scarcel loss of weight, and very few decay. also mention another case—that of a co who had a much larger quantity of than he had means of storing, and, ow the low prices offered at the time, he re to try and keep them through the w He therefore purchased some empty packed them full of Apples, and th them in a shed. When severe frost set covered them over with protecting ma and he was so well repaid in spring increased price obtained for them that solved in future to store all his fru would keep for any length of time than part with it for about half its real I am, therefore, sure that many own gardens who find a difficulty in storing fruit will do well to try the barrel pl late hard Apples and Pears. One

nportant points to bear in mind is not er too soon; if left until the main bulk crop is ready to come off easily, t-eaten and specked fruits will have l prematurely, and at gathering-time vill be nothing but sound fruit, which, gathered and put in a heap for a week lays and then stored in barrels, keep Late Pears will keep well on the trees red with fish nets quite a month after jority of growers have gathered their Our Winter Nelis Pears hung on the ntil most of the leaves had dropped; them into boxes and stored them in erground cellar, in which they never keep well into the spring. C. P.

Apple scab

ughout last season we received many ns of Apple Scab from readers, and e this opportunity of reminding them this disease is to be kept under control the present season spraying should be ken at once.

ontrol of Apple Scab falls, naturally, o sections. (1) To cut out and burn n of the scabbed wood as is practical. tion, all dead leaves should be col- nd burned. In dealing with scabbed he more spore centres cut out and before active growth commences the is to keep the new wood, fruit, and free from scab. (2) Spraying with fungicides is a great help in keeping rees free from scab, especially if it the cutting out of diseased material ng time.

all gardens lime sulphur is, perhaps, fungicide to use, because it can be ready-made, and only water has to be Further, there is little risk of the foliage being burnt, providing the directions are followed. In bad Apple Scab it is necessary to spray he sulphur at least three times. The aying should be given before the buds d the spray should be used at winter . The second should be given when petals have dropped from the flowers, he fungicide at summer strength. rd spraying should be given three nter, using summer strength again.

ging amongst Strawberries

nerally happens at this season that rry beds get dug between the plants, about the very worst thing that can as the roots are destroyed wholesale he time they are wanted to enable the o send up strong bloom. Instead of ing, the way to manage Strawberries to carefully clear away the old dead and then with a hoe draw some soil ants, so as to earth them up slightly; lency with Strawberries, after they od a year or two, is to push them- ut of the ground, when they stand re stems an inch or two long. If e buried in the manner referred to ke root at once, and the roots soon the fresh soil, and greatly strengthen ts. As soon as the earthing-up is s a good plan to mulch or litter down between the rows, which may be by using fresh stable manure that is by the time the Strawberries are ripe e washed clean and become sweet, not in any way injure the fruit. advantage in littering down thus hat it may be done in half the time when the plants have made much not only that, but all rain that falls n the ground, as it cannot escape by on when the soil is closely shaded, ls on light lands were treated in this nuch better fruit would be obtained now get. S.

BEES

Spring work in the apiary

APRIL is a busy month for the bee-keeper. Work in the apiary now begins in earnest. On the first *warm* day about the middle of the month a thorough examination of each colony must be made, and at the same time a general spring-clean given to each hive. For this latter work a spare empty hive and brood chamber greatly helps matters, and means less disturbance to the bees. If these are available proceed as follows:—Give the bees a few puffs of smoke at the entrance, wait a couple of minutes, then gently move the hive a few feet to one side, and on its stand place the clean empty one. Make sure that the floor-board stands quite level from side to side, but give a ½-inch drop from back to front. Now go back to the colony, lift a corner of the quilt and give another puff or two of smoke; then gently remove the entire quilt, at the same time place another in position. Turn back this quilt so as to expose the top of the first frame, and with the hive-tool carefully scrape this free of all propolis and brace comb. For this work an ordinary painter's scraper can be used, but a proper hive-tool is much more convenient and quicker. The scrapings from the frames should be placed in a box and burnt, *not* thrown down on the ground. As it is not advisable to expose the top of more than one frame at a time when this operation is being performed a second quilt should be at hand so that as one quilt is pulled back the other can be drawn forward.

When the tops of all the frames have been scraped clean lift them out one by one and place them in the new brood chamber in the same order in which they hung in the old. During this operation the bee-keeper will be able to see the exact condition of his colony—the amount of brood and stores, also the state of the combs. A sharp look-out must be kept for any signs of that dread disease known as Foul Brood; it appears in two forms—American F.B., the causative agent being "bacillus larvæ," and European F.B. caused by "bacillus pluton." If either of these is suspected expert advice should be sought at once. The former of the two is the more serious disease, and it is generally the wisest plan to destroy the colony and burn the combs and quilts and make no attempt to "cure." The disease is a most infectious one, and can spread throughout an apiary in a few weeks.

It sometimes happens that a colony is found to be queenless, in which case, if there are sufficient bees to be worth saving, the only thing to do at this season of the year is to unite with another colony having a fertile queen.

A colony, in spite of having a fertile queen, may be weak in numbers. A weak stock in mid-April would be one which contained less than six combs covered with bees. It must be remembered that from a surplus honey point of view it seldom pays to keep weak colonies in the spring. Generally, by the time they have worked up into strong lots the honey harvest (except in Heather districts) is over.

One strong colony will give more profit to the bee-keeper than half-a-dozen weak ones. Apart from disease weak colonies in the spring are usually due to a failing queen, hence the great importance of wintering with young and vigorous queens reared the previous July or August. To this end it is always advisable to re-queen each colony (unless it happens to have reared a young queen naturally) some time during the month of August or early in September. One of the simplest ways of uniting two colonies of bees is that known as the newspaper method.

One lot is simply placed above another (they must be in similar-sized brood chambers), with a sheet of stout newspaper between the upper and lower.

In this paper about a dozen small holes are made, not larger than about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch in diameter. The bees in the course of a day or two enlarge these holes and so gain access to each other. By the time this has happened they have a common scent, and no fighting takes place. The paper should be removed after the fourth or fifth day, and the upper combs with the adhering bees placed amongst the others in the lower compartment.

When uniting this way with two weak lots of bees, each of which has a queen, the inferior queen must be removed before commencing operations. The queenless colony should always be placed *above* the one with a queen.

It occasionally happens when manipulating in early spring, especially if the bee-keeper is rough in handling them or the weather is at all cold, that the bees will "ball" their queen. Why they do this is not really known; it may be due to the protective instinct, but whatever the reason, unless the bee-keeper comes to the rescue the queen will be killed.

A small number of worker bees cluster around their queen in a tight ball and end by suffocating her.

It is well to be prepared for this occurrence by taking to the apiary a jug of warm water and a cup. Immediately you see that the bees are "balling" their queen gently take up the ball of bees and drop it into a cup of lukewarm (not hot) water. The bees will at once spread out and release the queen. Pick her out as quickly as possible, cage her on one of the combs, and close down the hive immediately. She can be liberated in 24 hours if the weather is warm enough to open the hive. The ordinary pipe-cover cage is quite suitable for this job. It should be pressed over cells containing unsealed honey.

To refer back to the spring-cleaning of the hive which has been occupied during the winter. As soon as the colony is safely packed down in its new hive its former abode can be thoroughly cleaned, and, if necessary, re-painted and made ready for the next colony. All hives in an apiary should be of one pattern and every part interchangeable. The floor-board will probably require a good deal of attention, also the inner walls of the brood chamber. Each should be well scraped and then scrubbed with hot water and soda. "Vim" is an excellent cleanser for all unpainted woodwork. If a hive has contained bees suffering from Foul Brood it must on no account be used again until it has been properly disinfected. As the spore of American Foul Brood requires to be boiled for at least 15 minutes before it is killed, disinfection must be thorough. Probably the most certain method is to scorch the inner woodwork with a painter's blow-lamp. I regret to say that Foul Brood is much on the increase in many districts, and not only for his own sake, but for the sake of his neighbours, every bee-keeper should do his utmost to stamp out this disease.

If colonies are short of stores at this time of the year—in some seasons many are often on the verge of starvation—a pint or so of warm syrup (10 lbs. of sugar to 7 pints of water) should be given. Everything must be done to encourage breeding, so that the colony will be strong in bees at the *commencement* of the honey-flow. Feeding should always be done in the evenings.

Wells. L. BIGG-WITHER.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

Wallflower mildew

I should be much obliged if you could tell me the cause of the disease in these Wallflowers, and the remedy. Is it in the soil? Last summer I had Antirrhinums in the same bed and they also withered away like these Wallflowers. Can one treat the soil with any special mixture, and what plants could you suggest to "follow on" that would be immune from this disease? I was arranging for Salvias. How would they do?

E. R. STEVENSON.

[Your Wallflowers are affected with a mildew which is caused by the fungus Peronospora parasitica. This fungus can, and does, attack all members of the natural order, cruciferæ. You can do nothing but take up the plants and burn them, and be careful not to plant Wallflowers or any other cruciferous plant for two years on the same site. If the bed is only a small one you could give it a thorough soaking with a 1 per cent. solution of formalin. Take 1 pint of commercial formalin and add it to 12 gallons of water, stir well, and apply at the rate of 4 gallons per square yard. The soil should be well broken up before application, and should be afterwards covered with clean sacks for 48 hours. The bed should not be planted again for at least a week. We do not think there can be any connection between the failure of the Antirrhinums and now the Wallflowers. Eelworm may have helped to cause both failures, but as you did not send any roots on the Wallflowers for us to examine we cannot say. In any case, if you can treat the bed with formalin you should be able to grow the Salvias. Send us the Antirrhinum trouble if it occurs again.]

Tulip buds for examination

(S. W. Hazell).—The Tulip buds have been eaten by small slugs, which have crawled up from the ground during the night. We have carefully examined the flowers and can find no trace of any insect life. Better dress the soil at foot of the plants with Vaporite.

Diseased Narcissi

I am sending a few Daffodils, and shall be grateful if you can tell me what is wrong with them and any advice as to the treatment for cure of same. They are growing in a rough grassy patch under trees, on the open banks of the lawn, and in an open dug south border. Most of them look healthy and are flowering well, and here and there in each of the three places are groups and single ones like enclosed sample. DAFFODIL.

Dorset.

[Your bulbs are affected with one of the Botrytis diseases, which often causes considerable damage to Narcissi. We cannot at present find any trace of the disease in the bulbs, and we think that the foliage of those you have sent to us has been infected by spores from an old bulb or two amongst the rest. The best plan for you to follow would be to go carefully over the whole of the collection and take up and burn those affected. If, after this treatment, the disease appears to spread, cut off the infected foliage and burn, then spray the rest with a solution of potassium sulphide, using 1 oz. to 3 gallons of water. When looking over the collection pay special attention to any bulbs that produced diseased foliage earlier in the season, because they are probably the primary cause of the trouble.]

Diseased Tulips

Could you, please, tell me, through GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, what is the matter with enclosed Tulips? I planted 100 bulbs in a little bed, and about 80 or more of them came through and showed their bloom-bud, and then gradually dwindled away and went wrong. The remainder seem all right as yet. It might be disease.

CELOGYNE.

[Your Tulips are affected with "Fine," which is caused by the fungus Botrytis tulipæ. All you can do now is to take up those diseased and burn them. Spraying the healthy specimens with a solution of liver of sulphur, using 1 oz. to 3 gallons of water, might help you to keep the disease in check. If you have only 20 clean out of 100 burning the lot would be the easiest way out. You should not use the bed for bulbs next autumn unless it is sterilised with formalin or some other chemical.]

Anemone disease

I shall be so glad if you will advise me, through the medium of your paper. I am sending you Anemone plants. Last year I had magnificent Anemones from tubers I got from Holland. I left them in the ground, and this year very few have come up, and those that have appeared are very miserable specimens. I am so afraid it may be some infectious disease. I bought more tubers this autumn, and these have done splendidly, and I do not want these to suffer in the same way, as they are planted fairly close to the sick ones.

MRS. M. BRAMSTON-NEWMAN.

[The specimens sent are affected with a disease which is common on wild and cultivated Anemones. The disease is caused by a fungus called Sclerotinia tuberosa. This fungus attacks the plants below soil-level and eventually form resting bodies called sclerotia, which serve to carry on the disease from year to year. If all the plants are infected as badly as those sent to us they should be lifted and burned, and you should not plant Anemones on the same site for several years. The new tubers you have planted should be lifted as soon as the foliage shows signs of ripening. Lift them with some soil attached and store the tubers dry until planting time. Next season plant the tubers as far away from the infected bed as you can. The soil in which the plants are growing does not appear to be ideal for this class of plant. We are arranging for an article on the cultivation of Anemones to appear in an early issue.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Abnormal foliage

Kindly tell me, through GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, what is the matter with this Rhododendron. The leaves all go curled up like this. It has been sprayed several times Abol, but it does not cure it. What c do? It is Argenteum, and the leaves s be twice the size. A.

[The foliage of Rhododendron you sent in appears to have been badly a with aphis or some other piercing-m insect. There is now no sign of the and we conclude you have killed it wi Abol you have been using. As the d to this foliage was done when the leave very young and unfolding you can do n now to alter their abnormal shape. In you should take care that aphis are not on the young leaves when they are young state. If you do this, the next leaves should develop normally.]

FRUIT

Apple scab

I am enclosing some shoots from trees, and should like to know what matter with them, and also a remedy vent a repetition in the future. As y see, the infected parts are last s shoots. "ALFN.

[The shoots are affected with Apple caused by the fungus Venturia inea You should cut out and burn as much affected wood as is practicable withou ing the shape of the trees. If the trees yet in flower they should be sprayed with, using a solution of lime sulp summer strength. As soon as all the have dropped from the flowers (if a trees should again be sprayed with th chemical. In a bad case like yours other sprayings at 21-day intervals help you to obtain control. You do n the variety of Apple, and the wood l us as though it might be that of Orange Pippin; if so, you should o the lime sulphur at half summer stren

Silver leaf

I thank you for the information re Leaf in Peach trees, in GARDENING TRATED for March 19th. Could you what causes the fungus Stereum purp which your note tells me brings disease? Is it due to any mistake management? I have three trees. trained on back wall, is free of disea has a pretty fair crop set; the other trained up the front roof. A small po one is affected; it has a good crop se other tree is badly affected with the and has a poor crop set. I do not kn age of the trees, but they look pretty large branches have had to be cut former years, why I do not know. only had the trees in my charge for 1

PERPL.

[We do not think that an outbreak Leaf can be attributed to an error of ment. It appears from your letter disease has been in the trees for som and it looks to us as though you w wise to grub and burn the one badly and to try and save the other by away at once the parts affected. purpureum is a fungus which grows a saprophyte and a parasite. It oc many kinds of forest trees, felled fruit trees, and a few other plants, Roses. The fruiting stage of the dis often be found upon tree-stumps the of which has been felled a few years When this fungus attacks living t spores gain an entrance through tissue. The progress of the fungus has gained an entrance depends to extent upon the vigour of the host. the attacked plant is young and hea disease makes little headway, but if is old or unhealthy, Silver Leaf

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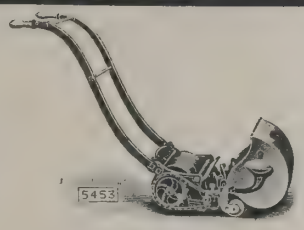

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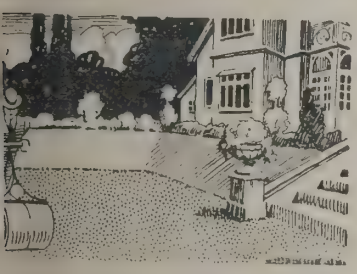

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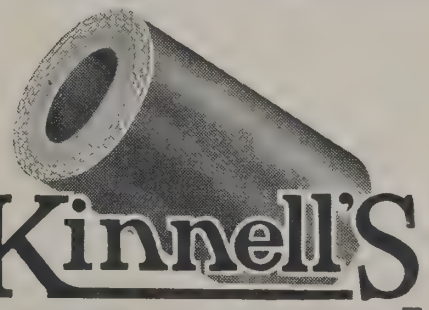

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rapidly. S. purpureum only produces its fruiting bodies upon dead wood. You should try and find out what the fruiting stage of this disease is like, so that you could destroy any that are present in your garden. You should write to the Secretary, The Ministry of Agriculture, 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1, for a copy of the leaflet No. 302, Silver Leaf in Fruit Trees. We think the cost of this leaflet is 1d. *plus* postage. Get all your silvered portions cut out at once, and your pruning of the Peaches should be done as soon as the fruits are off.]

VEGETABLES

Foot-rot of Tomatoes

(W. Jones).—Your specimens have arrived in such a dried-up condition that it is impossible to say what is the matter with them with any degree of certainty. They appear to be infected with one of the foot-rots, which can be checked by using Cheshunt Compound at the rate of 1 oz. to 2 gallons of water. This solution will not cure plants already attacked, but will prevent the spread of the disease to healthy plants. Give the plants a thorough soaking with the solution.

Tomatoes diseased

I have been greatly troubled, both last year and also this, with my young Tomato plants going off. I have forwarded two or three plants, and I should be very grateful if you can give me the cause of it, and also the remedy. H. TAYLOR.

[Your Tomato plants are affected with one of the foot-rots. You should burn all the affected plants, together with the soil in which they are growing. The healthy plants should be well watered with a solution of Cheshunt Compound and given as much air as is practicable. We hope to publish an article on damping-off diseases shortly.]

Anthracnose of Cucumber

(W. Jones).—When sending in diseased plants readers would help us greatly if the specimens were packed in tin boxes. It is often impossible to determine the cause of the trouble when specimens are packed in a letter, because they arrive perfectly dried and withered. We think your Cucumber is attacked by Anthracnose, which is caused by the fungus Colletotrichum oligochætum. You can check this disease by spraying the plants with the following mixture:—3 ozs. flour, 2½ ozs. potassium sulphide, 4 gallons of water. The plants should be sprayed during the evening, and the next morning all the spotted leaves should be removed and burned, following which the rest of the plants should be sprayed with clear water. Air should be omitted whenever possible. Repeat the spraying at weekly intervals until you have got the disease under control. To make the above spray you should take 2½ ozs. potassium sulphide and dissolve it in a little hot water and then made up to 14 quarts with cold water. The 3 ozs. of flour is mixed with a little water until it is a smooth paste, and when quite smooth and free from lumps 2 quarts of boiling water should be well stirred in. Finally, the flour paste should be added to the solution of potassium sulphide and the whole well stirred up. If the disease proves troublesome throughout the season write to us again and we will advise you with regard to winter control measures.

Growing Potatoes

I have a piece of land on which I want to grow Arran Chief and Kerr's Pink Potatoes. It grew a fair crop of Oats last year. I thought of giving it a dressing of soot at the rate of 1 ton to the acre, harrowing it in before making the rows, then giving it 10 cwts. of fish manure to the acre in the rows. The seed Potatoes are once grown from Scotland. What results might I expect from the above manuring, other conditions being favourable? Why I thought of giving the soot is because horse manure, etc., are so scarce. The analysis of the fish manure is as follows. The land is of a medium texture:—Nitrogen, 1·45 per cent. = to ammonia 1·75 per cent.; soluble phosphates 9 per cent., citric soluble 1 per cent., insoluble 2 per cent.—total 12 per cent.; pure potash, 0·50 per cent. W. A. SLIGHT.

[If your land is in fairly good heart we see no reason why you should not take a crop of Potatoes without the addition of farmyard manure. You do not state what treatment the land received before growing the crop of Oats. If this crop did not receive any farmyard manure it rather alters matters. Farmyard manure, because of its effects in the soil which help the air and water supply to the crop, is generally the basis of manuring for Potatoes. To use the soot and fish-meal as you suggest would be the best way of applying them. We should be guided by the price of the fish-meal as to the advisability of using it. A good artificial manure for the Potato crop is 4 cwts. of sulphate of ammonia 20·6 per cent., 4 cwts. of sulphate of potash 48 per cent., 12 cwts. of superphosphate 30 per cent., to be used at the rate of 5 cwts. to 10 cwts. per acre, in the drills at planting time. Such a mixture would have an analysis as follows:—Nitrogen, 4·12 per cent.; potash, 9·6 per cent.; sol. phosphate, 18 per cent. Any good manure merchant would make you this mixture, or you could buy the articles separately and mix them yourself. The results which you will get from your once-grown "seed" will depend upon the freedom of the stock from Leaf Curl. Soot cannot, of course, take the place of farmyard manure. Readers should make a note of the fact that we do not undertake to reply to queries by post.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Aphis honey-dew

(E. G. H.).—We have examined the crystallised substance on the plant you send and have concluded that it is the honey-dew which has been exuded by the aphis. We have never seen it crystallise to this extent before, but usually the moist air of a greenhouse does not lend itself to crystallisation. Honey-dew is, of course, always plentiful from certain aphides when they are in large numbers. Ants are often to be found where aphides are, because they feed upon the exuded honey-dew. Fumigation with nicotine should prevent aphides becoming such a pest as they have done in this case.

Fish for small ornamental pool

(B.).—Goldfish may be kept in the pool and will feed on the larvæ of mosquitoes. Cats and kingfishers will take goldfish from pools if they get the chance. The reply, issue April 23rd, p. 252, contains helpful information on keeping goldfish.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

J. Cheal and Sons, Ltd., Crawley.—Dahlias.

British Sulphate of Ammonia Fed., Ltd., S.W. 1.—"Fertilisers for Gardens and Allotments."

Daniels Bros., Ltd., Norwich.—Vegetable seeds, shrubs, plants, Apple trees, flower seeds.

Barr and Sons, Covent Garden.—Hardy perennials, alpines, aquatics, hardy climbers, and wall shrubs.

J. R. Pearson and Sons, Ltd., Lowdham.—Seeds, flower and vegetable, garden tools, insecticides, weed killers, chemical manure.

Vegetable trials at Wisley

The following awards have been ma the undermentioned vegetables by the cil of the Royal Horticultural Society trial at Wisley:—

SPINACH (AUTUMN-SOWN).

AWARD OF MERIT.—Schietvrees (r seeded), sent by Messrs. Nunhem; Pric Winter, sent by Messrs. Barr; Thick L Round, sent by Messrs. Burpee.

HIGHLY COMMENDED.—Dwarf Thick L Round and Broad Flanders (round-se sent by Messrs. Barr; Prickly or W sent by Messrs. Burpee.

COMMENDED.—Broad Leaved Imp (prickly), sent by Messrs. Cooper, Tabe

SAVOYS.

AWARD OF MERIT.—Belleville, se Messrs. Watkins and Simpson; Fav sent by Messrs. Harrison; New Year by Messrs. H. J. Speed; Late Drun sent by Messrs. Cullen; Ormskirk Green, sent by Messrs. Clucas.

HIGHLY COMMENDED.—Perfection, se Messrs. Finney; Yellow King, se Messrs. Zwaan and de Wiljes; Late M sent by Messrs. Finney.

COMMENDED.—Sent as Dark Green of Late Ormskirk type, sent by M Dobbie; Cartercone, sent by Messrs. C

Holland in spring

A visit to Holland in spring sho undertaken by everyone who can p spare the time. The bulb-growing dis easily reached from England—via H the journey is neither long nor difficult district is situated chiefly between the of Alkmaar and Leyden, with Haarle geographical and historical centre. Th fields form practically a long strip of g bounded on one side by the dunes, th hills that guard the coast from the en ing waves, and on the other by the (land reclaimed by draining the lak marshes). Nothing can be more de than to visit these acres of bulb field fine spring morning. Even the v with their gabled houses, with their window-panes and freshly-scrubbed work, tell a tale of spring. Whi farmhouses with their high thatched the windmills (fast disappearing) wit sails turning in the spring breeze, a giant barges seen along the waterwa the landscape that indescribable charm is the secret of the "Spell of Holland

NAMES OF PLANTS

D. V. Peyton Ward, Lt.-Command.—Polyanthus Crimson King selection unlikely that you will get precisely th colour from seed.

J. A. U. Tangier.—1, The wil (Tulipa sylvestris); 2, Fuchsia procu native trailer of New Zealand, and greenhouse treatment.

Mrs. Fell-M. Smith.—Ornith nutans.

S. Hopton.—Bilbergia nutans, na Brazil.

Miss Roche, Rochester.—Epi pinnatum.

G. G. Baker Crosswell.—1, Car sarmatica; 2, Clematis montana rube

C. W., Devon.—Teucrium frutican

Specimens received

We have received a Carnation pla "F. E. F.," and also some Peach from W. C. Smith. Please look fo in an early issue.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

2513—Vol. XLIX. MAY 7, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 13 -

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Truro Spring Show

NY visitors come to Cornwall in the mmer and comparatively few in the ring, yet the Duchy is never so de- as in the spring, and has never so interest and delight a gardener. ring show at Truro—now in its hird year—focusses the remarkable btained in Cornish gardens. It was April 26th and 27th. It is not a ow—this year there were under 300 and that number was an advance on —but its quality is unique. The tches the season of those plants n be grown nowhere in this island can in the extreme south-west and vestern seaboard, and the character xhibits surprises the judges, who m other parts. All the exhibits are ubs and other plants which are ut-of-doors, except Roses, Carnaow Auriculas, and one class for drons. It is a show from the open re are 55 classes, half the number flowering shrubs (again halved bedodendrons and other shrubs) and half for bulbs and herbaceous. which one associates with Cornpast their best and have only two

pital feature of the show is the "outdoor hardwood flowering climbers, not exceeding 12 varieto include Rhododendrons"—of rays in vases are meant. Only a e garden can provide material for There were four exhibits, which lendid spectacle along the staging. ho was first with Erica melanthera australis, Andromeda formosa, ra rotundifolia, Illicium religionys Winteri, Embothrium coccivillea sulphurea and G. Preissei, neriifolia, Rhaphithamnus cyanod Enkianthus campanulatus. The etitors, who all took prizes, were les Hext, Viscount Falmouth, and rne. Among the shrubs shown by n the next class for six, in which s Rogers took first prize and Mr. x second—were Cytisus proliferus, coccinea, Buddleia Colvillei, glauca, Genista monspessulanus, ia comptoniana, Clematis in- fine), Clianthus puniceus and Edwardsia tetraptera, Veronica , Calceolaria violacea, and the se. In these classes, and in the es for threes and singles, there erably over 60 different varieties. uth was first with Acacias. He verticillata, A. longifolia, and A. . The sprays in the flowering ses were of glorious beauty; C. Hisakura was grand. Camellia reticulata has two classes to itself, one for three sprays and one for the finest bloom. Lord Falmouth was first in both. Perhaps it was a little late for C. reticulata.

Who but an initiate shall venture to write of Rhododendrons? The Rhododendrons are at a disadvantage as compared with such shrubs as are mentioned above. The trusses shown do not give as good a notion of the effect of the shrubs from which they come. Mr. Barclay Fox was first for 12 trusses of distinct hybrids and Mr. A. M. Williams for 12 species. Mr. Magor was first with mountain species—of interest in inverse proportion to their height. In the scented type Mr. Fox was first with Lady Alice Fitzwilliam; for a single truss of a species Lord Falmouth with R. Falconeri.

To turn from the greater gardens to those classes which were possible for the less. Here there was a great deal of much attraction. No less than eight exhibits of Myosotidium nobile were staged, and Farrer, if he had been present, would have smiled once more to see the rivalry in what he called the county flower of Cornwall. Indeed, it might be worth while for the Committee to make a class for this. It is to be hoped, however, that they will not be discouraged by the absence of exhibits in the classes for double-flowered Primroses and Primula species from continuing those classes in their schedule. Cornwall ought to be stimulated to grow the Primula species; in fact, P. helodoxa was well shown as a cut flower, and stimulated also to interest in the double Primroses, one of the most charming flowers of spring. Was it not from Falmouth that Messrs. Gill sent Pompadour a few years ago to the R.H.S.? Single Primroses and Polyanthuses were shown, but a great many more than seven people in Cornwall could send a worthy basket of Polyanthuses and more than five a basket of Primroses. Particularly attractive classes were those for 12 and six hardy unforced spring flowers (not shrubs). Here were Erythronium, Freesia, Fritillaria pyrenaica, Celmisia coriacea (very nice), a green Primrose, Dicentra spectabilis, Anchusa myosotidiflora, Cyclamen repandum, Polygonum alpinum, besides Snapdragons, Wallflowers, and Tulips, and, very notable, Lysichitum camtschatcense. There were also classes for show and alpine Auriculas, and attractive trays of rock plants.

Much interest was added by nurserymen's exhibits and by collections from private gardens.

We end with a question. How is it that the Atlantic side hardly takes part? Cannot the Committee rope in all the gardening of Cornwall?

Edwardsia grandiflora (syn. Sophora tetraptera grandiflora)

It has tubular golden yellow flowers, and was one of the most pleasing flowering shrubs at the Truro Show

NOTES OF THE WEEK

A silver cup for Pæonies

THE second of three cups presented by Mrs. Edward Harding is offered for award in 1927 for the best exhibit of three flowers of each of six varieties of Pæonies shown by an amateur. Banksian Medals in silver-gilt and silver are offered by the Royal Horticultural Society as second and third prizes. The competition will take place either on June 8th or on June 21st, according to the season, at the R.H.S. Show at Vincent Square, Westminster. The decision as to the date of the competition will be made not later than May 27th, and a card will be sent to all who have written to the Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society

asking that the notification should be sent to them. Entries must reach the Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W. 1, not later than by the first post on the Wednesday preceding the competition.

Coprosma propinqua

This densely-branched and pretty shrub is at the present time of more than passing interest by reason of the great numbers of curious yellowish flowers which clothe its slender twiggy growths. The bronzy character of the wood and leaves is at all times pleasing in effect, and the bushy habit of this uncommon shrub all one could desire. In its own country it forms a shrub—or even small tree—from 6 feet to 20 feet high, with brownish-grey bark, and growing abundantly throughout swampy forests and by the side of rivers. Its flowers are followed by bluish-black drupes. The Coprosmas are a very large family, nearly 80 kinds being known, mostly natives of New Zealand, many of them exceedingly attractive, forming dense low mats of pretty growth over sunny slopes, sometimes deep green in colour and in others of a pleasing warm bronze. C. cuneata is one of these, and has woody interlaced spreading branches the bark of which is greyish-brown, sufficient showing from amongst the myriads of tiny leaves to render the shrub very attractive. E. M.

Sweet Peas

Seedlings which have been raised in pots or boxes should, after having been carefully hardened off, be planted out in their permanent quarters, for it is unwise to allow them to reach a potbound state at any time. This, however, does occur occasionally among autumn-sown plants, owing to the difficult state of the soil intended for them and the weather itself. Such plants should not be planted with a tight root-bound ball, but loosened out by immersion in a pail of water. E. M.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Iberis sempervirens Snowflake

THIS handsome Iberis is now in full bloom on the outskirts of the rock garden, producing a solid sheet of pure white flowers like a drift of snow in May. Growing to a height of 6 inches to 8 inches, it is a fine subject for large rock gardens or for the front row of a border. C. T. K.

Storing Apples.

With reference to the article, issue April 30th, page 264, I have now for many years put the late-keeping Apples, when well ripe, straight into American Apple barrels off the trees, being particular to see that none but long-keeping varieties are put in. They are taken straight into a cellar and never touched again till after Christmas. A sample barrel is occasionally turned over into another to see all is right. The Apples are left uncovered unless frost gets keen, then they are covered up with sacks. Apples on shelves do not keep well. They are worse there than anywhere else. Careful handling and pulling is essential. WILLIAM REYNARD.

Birstwith.

The porosity of flower pots

Since the exterior body surface of a flower-pot is very rarely to be observed sealed, can any reader tell me if it has, long since, been established that the porosity of a pot possesses a desirable function which should not be disturbed; if so, what that function might be? My query assumes the fulfilment of all the essentials necessary to the correct potting of a plant, that it is assumed to reasonably fulfil, or provide, a like soil environment for a plant as that which maintains in a garden border, and that it is frequently adopted by reason of its portability that growing plants may be enjoyed indoors and used for tion purposes. H. E. Iv

Iberis sempervirens Snowflake

A solid sheet of pure white flowers like a drift of snow in May

European and American Iris intr tions

I have read with interest the letter this heading (issue April 16th, page Mrs. J. Edgar Hires, Chairman Exh Committee of the American Iris Socie I fail to see what Mrs. Hires can comp in Mr. Saunders' article other than th But what does the title really mean? it would be to the interest of Canad buy direct from the English raise through an American channel, and h as his reason the difference in price Mrs. Marion Cran. The advertiseme by Mrs. Hires shows the American be 40 dollars, and Perry's list, whic fore me, gives the price as 30s.

That no two persons will be found as to which varieties should or sho be included in either list is made evi the following article by Olive Murell appears in the April number of the dian Horticulturist." S

European versus American Ir

By OLIVE MURELL, Orpington, K England.

Mr. Saunders' article, "Europea Preferred," in the January issue "Canadian Horticulturist," was tremely interesting comparison of th Bearded Irises raised and put into co in England, France, and the Unite of America. Last year it was my g tune to visit France in Iris time and of the latest French varieties growin nurseries there—not only those alr commerce, but also many of the n lings which will be sent out during few years. On my return to En visited many Iris gardens of note, i those of the late Mr. W. R. Dyk Godalming, Mr. A. J. Bliss at Mor Mr. G. P. Baker at Sevenoaks, a important of all, the Royal Hort Society's Garden at Wisley, where trials are being conducted. At Orpi have made a practice for several y of growing all the leading Fre English Irises, together with a re collection of American varieties, actually flowered about 100 distinct American origin, including such Harriett Presby, Mildred Presby, perial, San Gabriel, Morning Splen Galahad, etc., etc. I mention these by name in order that it may be rea our collection is reasonably up-to-da

A COMPARISON.—Under these circu it will, perhaps, be of interest to yo dian readers to have an English selection of two lists, "The Iris day" and "The Iris of To-day," pare with those given in Mr. article. In my revision of the "The Iris of Yesterday," I sh the following seven varieties:— Dominion, Georgia, Leverrier, Ph Prospero, and Zwanenburg. In these I should include Dream a (two American varieties raised Sturtevant), Flaming Sword (a variety), Ann Page (an English var by Sir Arthur Hort), Goldcrest (a variety raised by the late Mr. W. Moa (a Dominion seedling raise A. J. Bliss), and Sunset (syn. cœrulea), a French variety raised b Denis. My list, "The Iris of Y therefore, includes nine American six English, six French, and one

THE IRIS OF TO-DAY.—And now t the Irises of to-day. My selectio would differ considerably from the by Mr. Saunders, for, of the

, I can only include five, although I iliar with, and have carefully studied, racters of all of them excepting Mrs. d Harding and William Mohr. The rieties I should retain in my selection Aphrodite, Gabriel, Germaine Per- Mrs. Robert Emmett, and Peerless, which are quite in the first rank. ting my selection of the 18 varieties I add Evadine, Imperator, Labor, Mme. Bouscant, Morning Splendour, , Pioneer, Romola, Sir Michael, e, Valerie West, Wedgewood, and Dykes. It is remarkable to find that, e of the fact that my list differs so rably from that quoted by Mr. rs, we agree on one point, that we ly include one American variety, h the Iris selected is not the same in each case. And here I consider ice of Morning Splendour is justified, variety has just been awarded the an Iris Society's Silver Medal for the utstanding Iris in 1923, none of the troductions in the New York Trial being considered worthy of this I have read and heard much about Mohr, and have an intense desire his beautiful Iris, but judging by the ge it is probable that it could only be under glass in England and Canada. e rest my list includes 12 English s against nine quoted, and five French seven. And here, again, is another ing fact, that only one French variety, e Perthuis, appears in both lists. ssible this is explained by my having France last June many novelties s yet have not found their way into . It must be borne in mind, how- at Irises vary very considerably in sponse to climatic conditions, and it efore, impossible for the selection any one grower to be taken as final.

TERESTED TESTS NEEDED.—I feel that t urge too strongly the need for all sers and breeders to send their seed- be judged by independent authorities rials being conducted by the English iety at Wisley and the American Iris at New York. At Wisley over 800 have been planted and arranged ac- to the Royal Horticultural Society's lassification scheme, and these will ed this June by a committee of ex- who will publish their report and a ended list of the best standard varie- instance to illustrate the value of ials may be given in the case of cently-introduced varieties—Mildred the very fine Amœna Iris sent out by Farr in 1923) and Salonique (the Iris which gained a Certificate of France in 1921 and was actually put nmerce by Mons. Cayeux in 1923). giving an opinion here as to which tter Iris, I think all competent judges onsider that both are not needed, as so similar. If both had been sub- or trial before being sent out, there no doubt that many Iris enthusiasts ave been saved the disappointment of both, to realise afterwards that they ctically identical so far as garden concerned.

ABLE VARIETY.—Before concluding, I aw your readers' attention to the one ling Iris in my list of "The Irises of " I refer, of course, to the magni- ew yellow variety, W. R. Dykes, as put into commerce last year. I of the privileged few who have seen nderful Iris blooming in all its glory, my opinion, it is an amazing achieve- n even more epoch-making event in world than was the introduction of J. Bliss's Dominion 10 years ago.

Viburnum Carlesii

THIS delightful shrub is now, at the time of writing, at its best. Few people fail to fall in love with it once they have seen it in flower. Its dwarf, bushy habit makes it an ideal plant for a small garden, and in large gardens it should be grown in quantity. It is a neat, shapely bush with somewhat oval-shaped foliage, opening grey-ish-green. Its flower-buds form in the autumn, and in the spring these open into a more or less flat head of bloom faintly tinged with pink, becoming pure white and most deliciously scented. This is one of the scents that one cannot have too much of. The only drawback is that it does not last at least six weeks. Personally, I prefer growing it in slight shade, as so many of the Viburnums are woodland plants. They seem to do better when given some shade during the day. It is usually grown grafted on Viburnum lantana, and watch should be kept that the suckers of the stock do not grow at the expense of the plant. Though it can be propagated by cuttings and also from leaves, it is a slow process, and though more satisfactory to have it on its own roots, most people prefer not to wait so long to see it in flower. I think it comes easily in the first 10 best shrubs. B.

Viburnum Carlesii, one of the finest flowering shrubs of recent introduction
Inset, a close view of a truss of fragrant flowers

Seaweed as manure

A recent query concerning the value of Seaweed as manure reminds me that when in charge of a garden in close proximity to the sea I used this substance very freely and with the best results. Seaweed may be used either when green, or freshly gathered, or when rotted—preferably the latter is best. It is necessary, however, to point out to the novice that all Seaweeds are not equally valuable. Certainly all are useful humus makers; but their manurial values vary considerably. The best for garden use is Fucus digitatus, which, by actual analysis, contains almost 21 per cent. (to be exact 20·66 per cent.) of potash. On the other hand, F. serratus contains barely 4 per cent. (3·98) of the same ingredient. These are our commonest Seaweeds, and both make good nitrogenous manures. For general garden purposes, and especially as a manure for the Brassica family, the use of Seaweed can be highly recommended. A number of years ago I saw, in the neighbouring shire of Wigtown, an exceptionally large area of Onions, the ground for which had been manured solely with F. digitatus. The bulbs were large, and the leaves were remarkable for their vivid colour and for their size. It is true the majority of the plants were "thick-necked," but as they were marketed in a green state the fact was of little importance—however it may have struck an exhibitor. If it be possible to do so, the Seaweed ought to be collected in autumn—there is usually plenty to be had after the autumnal equinoctial gales—and formed into a large heap, which should be turned a time or two in order to facilitate decomposition. The weed was dug in during February and March; previously, the soil on which it was to be employed received a dressing of Basic-slag and Kainit in order that, in view of the nitrogenous properties of the weed, the potash and phosphates might not be unduly exhausted. The proportion was 2 lbs. of Kainit to 3 lbs. of Basic-slag, and this was applied in November. By the way, chemists tell us that commercial nitrate of soda, which is found in layers of various thickness in South America, is the product of Seaweed which for countless ages has gone through the process of nitrification. Burned Seaweed, known in Scotland as Kelp, also makes a most valuable manure. In these days of scarcity in respect of yard and stable manure I think ruefully of former years, and envy those who live on, or near, the seaboard. W. McG.

Mabie.

A letter from British Columbia

Mrs. Susan Stoker writes from Duncans Station, British Columbia, dated March 30th:—I am busy packing to go up to Lake Corvichan, B.C., for the summer. Just now we have our grand Erythroniums coming into flower, while the Calypso bulbosa and Crocidiums on the hills are in full glory. Sisyrinchium grandiflorum is a lovely thing, and oh! so rare now. I never hear of its being found except in and about Victoria, and the place where it grew is now covered with houses.

asking that the notification should be sent to them. Entries must reach the Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W. 1, not later than by the first post on the Wednesday preceding the competition.

Coprosma propinqua

This densely-branched and pretty shrub is at the present time of more than passing interest by reason of the great numbers of curious yellowish flowers which clothe its slender twiggy growths. The bronzy character of the wood and leaves is at all times pleasing in effect, and the bushy habit of this uncommon shrub all one could desire. In its own country it forms a shrub—or even small tree—from 6 feet to 20 feet high, with brownish-grey bark, and growing abundantly throughout swampy forests and by the side of rivers. Its flowers are followed by bluish-black drupes. The Coprosmas are a very large family, nearly 80 kinds being known, mostly natives of New Zealand, many of them exceedingly attractive, forming dense low mats of pretty growth over sunny slopes, sometimes deep green in colour and in others of a pleasing warm bronze. C. cuneata is one of these, and has woody interlaced spreading branches the bark of which is greyish-brown, sufficient showing from amongst the myriads of tiny leaves to render the shrub very attractive. E. M.

Sweet Peas

Seedlings which have been raised in pots or boxes should, after having been carefully hardened off, be planted out in their permanent quarters, for it is unwise to allow them to reach a potbound state at any time. This, however, does occur occasionally among autumn-sown plants, owing to the difficult state of the soil intended for them and the weather itself. Such plants should not be planted with a tight root-bound ball, but loosened out by immersion in a pail of water. E. M.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Iberis sempervirens Snowflake

THIS handsome Iberis is now in full bloom on the outskirts of the rock garden, producing a solid sheet of pure white flowers like a drift of snow in May. Growing to a height of 6 inches to 8 inches, it is a fine subject for large rock gardens or for the front row of a border. C. T. K.

Storing Apples.

With reference to the article, issue April 30th, page 264, I have now for many years put the late-keeping Apples, when well ripe, straight into American Apple barrels off the trees, being particular to see that none but long-keeping varieties are put in. They are taken straight into a cellar and never touched again till after Christmas. A sample barrel is occasionally turned over into another to see all is right. The Apples are left uncovered unless frost gets keen, then they are covered up with sacks. Apples on shelves do not keep well. They are worse there than anywhere else. Careful handling and pulling is essential. WILLIAM REYNARD.
Birstwith.

The porosity of flower pots

Since the exterior body surface of a flower-pot is very rarely to be observed sealed, can any reader tell me if it has, long since, been established that the porosity of a pot possesses a desirable function which should not be disturbed; if so, what that function might be? My query assumes the fulfilment of all the essentials necessary to the correct potting of a plant, that it is assumed to reasonably fulfil, or provide, a like soil environment for a plant as that which maintains in a garden border, and that it is frequently adopted by reason of its portability that growing plants

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may be enjoyed indoors and used fo
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European and American Iris in
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this heading (issue April 16th, page
Mrs. J. Edgar Hires, Chairman E
Committee of the American Iris Soc
I fail to see what Mrs. Hires can co
in Mr. Saunders' article other than
But what does the title really mea
it would be to the interest of Can
buy direct from the English rai
through an American channel, and
as his reason the difference in pric
Mrs. Marion Cran. The advertiser
by Mrs. Hires shows the American
be 40 dollars, and Perry's list, whi
fore me, gives the price as 30s.

That no two persons will be found
as to which varieties should or sh
be included in either list is made e
the following article by Olive Mure
appears in the April number of the
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European versus American
By OLIVE MURELL, Orpington,
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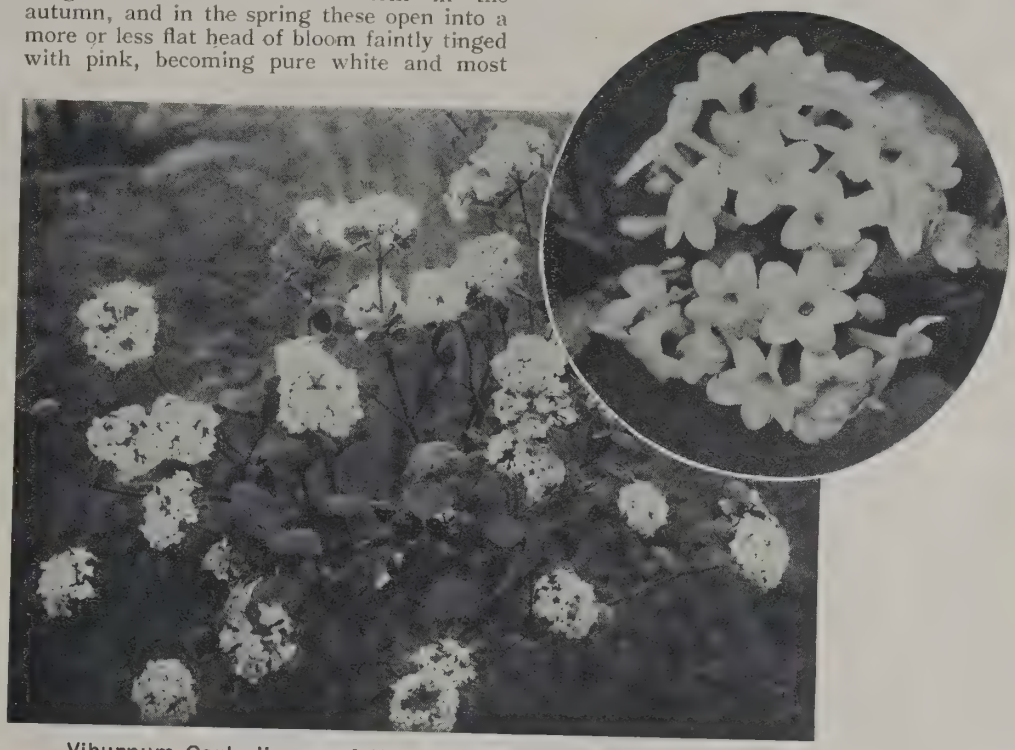

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A letter from British Columbia

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The new Freesia Wistaria, of pleasing mauve-blue colour
It has been shown at Vincent Square in grand form this spring by Mr. G. H. Dalrymple

among the few Rose-scented flowers, the sweetness comes from the petals, and another less pleasant scent from the stamens.

The compound origin of the scent in the Musk Rose and the Pæony is of rather more than botanical interest, for it has a certain bearing on the fragrance of the hybrids, and it may be noted that in the garden Pæonies the most pleasantly scented varieties are always fully double, and that the "muskiness" of the Musk Roses diminishes with their doubleness.

Royal Horticultural Society

Working up to the climax of the Chelsea Show

THE fortnightly exhibition, held at Vincent Square on April 26th and 27th, was, so far, the most brilliant exhibition of the year. Daffodils, Polyanthuses, Auriculas, Carnations, Roses, Hydrangeas, Streptocarpus, Japanese Cherries, and a host of other flowers greeted those who attended the meeting. A delightful centrepiece to the show was a large rock garden exhibited by the Hon. Vicary Gibbs. The show throughout was of a very high standard and of greatly varied character; exhibitors are obviously working up to the climax of the Chelsea Show to be held on May 25th, 26th, and 27th.

Alpines and other plants associated with the rock garden predominated, and the National Auricula and Primula Society's annual floral meeting was held in conjunction with this show.

Awards of Merit were given to Cydonia Wisley Salmon, Daphne retusa from Western China, Olearia ramulosa, the difficult Eritrichium nanum, three seedling Hydrangeas from Mr. H. J. Jones, Lysichitum camtschatcense, Primula ninguida collected in Thibet by Mr. Kingdon Ward, Rhododendrons Linley and Oliver, and Syringa Lamartine.

Anemone High Hall strain.—This was, perhaps, the most beautiful and distinct of all the novelties shown on this occasion. The flowers are large, borne on tall stems, and of a rich and pleasing range of colours. The flowers, which are single, are specially rich in shades of salmon, orange, and red, including brilliant scarlet with black centre within a distinct white zone. Shown by Mrs. Bernard, High Hall, Wimborne (gardener, Mr. Hayward).

The Perpetual-flowering Carnations Mrs. A. J. Cobb and W. H. Page, which have been granted Awards of Merit, were selected for trial at Wisley, also a good form of Iris pumila with metallic-looking purple falls. Shown by Mrs. W. R. Dykes, Woking.

The Aldenham rock garden of Westmorland stone, to which reference has already been made, contained many flowering shrubs and shapely conifers. Japanese Maples, Azaleas, and Viburnum Davidii were specially good. The Society's Gold Medal was awarded to this exhibit.

Mr. Clarence Elliott was able to demonstrate the utility of large stone sinks for the cultivation of alpines by showing a splendid sink of Gentiana verna angulosa containing about 70 floriferous plants (see illustration on the page opposite), and for which he justly received a Cultural Commendation.

Freesias in many colours were again well shown by Mr. G. H. Dalrymple, who also staged a good selection of Bartley hybrids of Primula pulverulenta and well-grown pot plants of Dodecatheon Meadia bearing both pink and white flowers on stems about 18 inches long and having a leaf like a Lettuce.

Rhododendron calastrotum was well shown in a collection of alpines in pans from Mr. C. G. Kirch, Beckenham.

A beautiful hardy hybrid Primula named Hoelscheri was shown by Mr. F. G. Wood, and Messrs. Tucker showed the quaint Saxifraga conifera, which we thought more curious than beautiful.

The double-flowered Narcissus Snowsprite (figured on page 279), shown by Messrs. Barr and Sons, is likely to prove a very useful market flower. It was selected for trial at Wisley.

Special mention should be made of the large-flowered Streptocarpus, shown by Messrs. John Peed and Son. It was a wonderful strain, noteworthy for its great range of pleasing and improved colours. The plants shown were raised from seed sown in January, 1926; the colours, pink, mauve, and red, were well represented.

Narcissus Poeticus, from Mr. F. Secrett, Japanese Cherries from Capt. Collingwood Ingram, and Hydrangeas from Mr. Jones were greatly admired, and w have occasion to refer to their exhibi later issue. H

ALPINES

Trespassers

WHEN perusing a catalogue of Plants" I am inclined to pl named therein in one of two s viz., Section "A," neat growers, and "B," untidy growers. Since I deem cluded in Section "A" beyond repr pass on to a survey of some of those to Section "B." In this section I together a group of plants which, I need to be watched particularly we the first to be dealt with are the Acæ is claimed in their favour that they ar growers, which point may be favour otherwise as the reader thinks. To seems a warning. Since they are growers they can become quick raide in addition to filling their own allotte may rapidly encroach on another's te

This same propensity is also a fea Ajuga reptans var. variegata if it is a on a part of the rock garden.

Another plant to be watched is Cal polyrhiza. It can be a terrible ramp seems to demand to be held in ch building a wall of rock on three sid and having the front an open edge after which it is yet possible, nay, p that some growths will crawl under and shoot up in forbidden territory.

Cerastium tomentosum, if it mus presented, is guilty of the same fau larger scale.

The joy of possessing Convolvulus oides may well become anything bu if the plant is not discreetly placed.

Cotula squallida I consider a most trollable trespasser. If placed in the est chink in a paved path it will p ramping to such an extent that it co signs of paving-stones, or, worse trimmed back to the limits of the ston serves to make these latter the m spicuous.

At one time I could admire the pre leaves and the delicate flowers of E Hectori, but when I discovered the roaming habit it lost my esteem.

Those who have sought to rest growths of Helxine Solierolii in the r den know how invasive this plant ca

Linaria acquitriloba is another leaved crawler of no mean ability. it well.

It must not be inferred from the f notes that I have a special dislike t the plants mentioned. On the con have been glad of their services on occasions, but I must say that whe had serious trouble with intergrowin those named have been the offender

W. H

Sedum spathulifolium

This Sedum forms a close mass of spoon-shaped leaves powdered over bluish bloom and setting off admir bright golden-yellow flowers which produces so freely. The pink sten carry these golden blooms greatly the charm of the plant. These s only 2 inches or 3 inches high. spathulifolium is quite hardy, but light soil with plenty of sun. I ha it well in a moraine besides in the r den, but it may also be cultivated in of walls. It is easily raised from se plants can be divided readily. It fl June and July.

S. A

INTERESTING PLANTS SEEN AT VINCENT SQUARE ON APRIL 26th and 27th

odecatheon Meadia (American Cowslip), shown by Mr. G. H. ıple.

arge-flowered strain of Streptocarpus, shown by John Peed & Son.

entiana verna angulosa in a stone sink, shown by Clarence Ltd.

4. Arbutus furiens (syn. Pernettya ciliaris), a white-flowered hardy shrub of good, stiff, sturdy habit, shown by Lt.-Col. L. C. R. Messel, Nymans, Handcross, Sussex.

5. Anemone High Hall strain, comprising a new range of pleasing colours, including rosy scarlet and clear salmon. Award of Merit.

What is more delightful and beautiful than an old building clothed with Wistaria in flower?

TREES AND SHRUBS

Wistaria on the Old Bell Inn

IT is surprising that the graceful and delicately-hued Wistaria is not more frequently utilised for the draping and beautifying of bare walls, for what is more delightful and beautiful than an old building profusely covered with hanging clusters of these delicate mauve spring flowers? Of course, in this instance, the age and picturesqueness of the old building—once an inn, but now tastefully and perfectly restored inside and out—added to its charm, and made, when seen in the sunshine, one of the most delightful and beautiful sights on the outskirts of Ludlow. Dainty and delicate as they hang in great masses (where it thrives), no one can deny the attractiveness and charm of this Wistaria, though, comparatively speaking, it is not so frequently made use of as it deserves, suitable as it is for cottage or mansion adornment alike. "The Old Bell" at Ludford (facing the old almshouses and church) was formerly an inn, but about 14 years ago was purchased with the adjoining old Black and White Mill on the Teme by an artist from Devonshire, who spent lavishly in restoring and appropriately furnishing and fitting up the old inn. At the same time the grounds round the old mill were tastefully and tactfully planted and laid out in terraces and gardens, which are a blaze of colour all the spring and summer with rock plants and Roses.

Berberis stenophylla coccinea

This delightful seedling of Berberis stenophylla is now in full flower. It is of quite a dwarf habit compared with Berberis stenophylla. The foliage is small and of a purplish tint in the green. The great charm of the plant is in the colour of the flower-buds, which are of a very rich scarlet, which persists until the flowers are nearly fully open, when they become orange-yellow. Raised at Daisy Hill Nursery with several other named forms this variety is still scarce.

Two other dwarf-growing Berberis have been specially good this spring—Berberis Darwinii pendula and Berberis Darwinii prostrata, the rich orange-yellow flowers being particularly showy.

Berberis Darwinii macrophylla, a large-leafed form of Berberis Darwinii, is not often seen. Its foliage is larger than the habit stiff, somewhat slow in growt larger flowers, of rich orange-ye mostly borne singly on long st flowers in April.

Olearia Gunnii

This is one of the most free-flowe green shrubs we possess for planti soil and climate is suitable, eith pleasure garden or shrubbery, or in of a hedge to separate one part of t from another, where a fine floral desired. Whether as single bushes in groups, or lines, as in a hedg duces such a profusion of its sm white Aster-like flowers that the almost completely hidden. The flo mence to open sometimes in Apr backward seasons not till May, fully open the display provided plant is grown in either of the mod to above draws forth expressions and admiration, particularly from have not seen the shrub before.

It is a quick-growing shrub, greyish leaves, a compact dense growth, and is well furnished with

white-edged show Auricula from Mr. James Douglas
hin the black circle is a white ring and a green centre. The 'ers, stems, and leaves are densely covered with white flour-like farina, dearly loved by florists of bygone days

Narcissus Fortunatus, a large Barri and the first of Fortune's progeny to appear at a London show
It was shown last year and again recently by Mr. F. Herbert Chapman

to ground-level. It is said to exceed ıt of 6 feet, but I have found it neces- ı order to preserve symmetry and also :vent the bushes from becoming gling" and falling about, to give ın occasional trimming or pruning, ıas, naturally, limited the height and anywhere between 4½ feet to 5 feet. Pruning is best done as soon as the plants pass out of flower, when the cut-back wood breaks quickly and soon puts forth an abundance of new growths.

It does well in a light sandy soil, and would no doubt succeed in that of a heavier description, providing it is not cold and is retentive of moisture. A. WARD.

Potting Chrysanthemums

Three essentials to be noted

healthy development of the Chrys- hemum depends, to a great extent, ın the compost used and the actual ın. The time has now arrived when ıt and final potting of the plants is put , and all who are not actual novices ıll well that a little extra care taken ll repay a hundred-fold later.

first essential is that the pots shall ectly clean on the inside. That is the very first things a "potter" And the second is that the drainage must be efficient. The writer has many an apprentice who is now ıg his end up" in the battle of life, ry one of them was started with vo axioms—"Clean pots; efficient ı." This, while generally applying lants, seems to apply with greater the 'mum; and why? Because it is ger grower, a greater feeder, and s a more extensive root system than ants which are of a herbaceous r and are grown in pots. That ex- root system is cramped within l limits; it almost "eats up" the h it permeates, and this necessitates copious supplies of liquid, so copious that unless the surplus quickly drains away it would stagnate and sour the soil, and thus prevent the functioning of the myriads of root-hairs. A short spell of this would rot them, the leaves would turn yellow, the whole strength and vigour of the plant would depart, and flowers and all be third-rate. Note.—All this because the crocking of the pot by the pot-boy was inefficient!

The next matter of the greatest import is the character of the compost in which they are to be potted. It is true that the same terms may describe quite varying soils in different localities, that the term loam may mean something approximating clay in one place and a runny sandy substance in another; that even sand differs. The ideal loam we require for Chrysanthemums is the fat and turfy top spit of a pasture meadow, and not that sandy stuff inclined to run to sand and called "loam" merely because it is brown. It should be lumpy, the lumps tough with fibry roots of grass, a loam that requires almost pulling to pieces like Oakum. That is good loam, and should comprise, at least, half the bulk of the compost, and those who cannot procure it must aim to get as near to it as they can, and increase the proportion used if the available loam is light.

With this should go about half the quantity of old cow manure, well rotted and chopped up with a spade. Add to this, again, an equal bulk to the cow manure made up of ashes from garden refuse, some sifted lime-rubble or crushed bones, and some coarse silver sand. Be particular about the sand being real sharp silver sand, and not that fine soft stuff from the river or the yellow sand pit. All these ingredients are put together and turned again and again till the incorporation is thorough, and then it is ready for use.

The potting must be done very firmly with a wooden rammer, say a baton 15 inches or 18 inches long and 2 inches thick. Stand the plant on a firm basis a little about the crocks, so placed that it is completely covered at the base when the pot is only two-thirds filled, and this leaves one-third of the space inside to be filled at a later period, with a substantial top-dressing. H.

Chrysanthemum Golden Sunset

This is a sport from the well-known Princess Victoria and identical in every particular except colour, which is of a shining rich yellow and very refined. It is, indeed, a well-finished flower and should prove of the greatest value to market growers and for late work generally. Like the original, it belongs to the decorative class, and being of a reflexed type of flower is among the most serviceable. The flower-heads are borne on long, erect, and stiff stems, and we have nothing but praise for so excellent a variety.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Vineries

Thinning the fruits in secondary houses will claim attention at the present time and tying out of the laterals. Close the houses early, and a light syringing of the growths will do more good than harm unless aerial roots have proved troublesome, in which case damping of the walls and floors only must be resorted to.

Melons

As the early batch commences to show signs of ripening a slight modification of treatment is desirable. Curtail the supply of moisture both in the atmosphere and at their roots or the fruits will split and probably commence to decay at the stalk. Just sufficient water at the roots to keep the foliage fresh and plump is all that will be necessary, and as fragrance appears admit a little more top air than has been customary during their growing period.

Strawberries

Plants which have been forced should be carefully hardened off and prepared for planting to form new beds in the open, a purpose for which they are most desirable, but as such plants are often attacked with red spider whilst in the houses and should be cleansed by dipping them—twice at least—in a reliable insecticide, soak them thoroughly a few hours previous to planting them out.

Stove plants

These are now growing freely, and, with the exception of Crotons (Codiæum and Pandanus), will have to be shaded and aired with great care to prevent scalding. Watch for the presence of scale, mealy bug, and thrips, which must be kept in check by dipping or sponging the plants. Trouble from these pests should not prove serious if vigorous syringing and care with airing and watering are given correctly.

Stove climbing plants

These, while requiring plenty of moisture at the roots, must not be syringed whilst in bloom, but their rapid-growing shoots must be constantly kept trained, otherwise a tangled mass, impossible to separate, will result.

Bedding plants

Remove the lights from those growing in frames daily, and tilt them on the sheltered side during the night. Many are compelled to erect temporary shelters for these, owing to lack of frame accommodation, and this is best carried out on the sheltered side of a wall or fence.

May-flowering Tulips

These must be lifted as they pass out of flower to make room for the summer flowers and enable one to prepare the beds in readiness. First cut the flower-stalks down to within 6 inches of their base, lift the bulbs with care and without allowing their roots to become dry and plant in lines in the reserve garden, where they will complete the making up of their bulbs.

Dahlias

See that the ground is in readiness for these, as the plants may shortly be put out. It is advisable, however, to get them thoroughly hardened beforehand; no check will then be felt.

Herbaceous plants

Continue to use the hoe freely amongst these, and apply stakes to Delphiniums, Pæonies, Lilies, etc., before squatting has occurred. Any recesses left for the reception of spring-raised plants or annuals should now be filled.

Roses

Watch these for the presence of green fly, and on the appearance of same spray the bushes with Abol or Quassia Extract. Climbing varieties growing on fences and pergolas will need tying in at frequent intervals.

Scarlet Runner Beans

These may now be sown in the open with safety, either on well-manured ground or in trenches, but whichever method is adopted the drills should be drawn 4 inches deep and from 6 inches to 8 inches wide, and the seeds put in double rows at 8 inches apart. Sutton's A1 and Hackwood Park are excellent kinds.

Early Potatoes

Those which are a few inches through the soil should have a little earth drawn up around them to protect the tender shoots from late frosts.

Hoeing

Apply the hoe freely among growing crops; especially does this refer to Peas, Broad Beans, Spinach, seed beds, Lettuces, Parsnips, Onions, and Carrots.

Peas

Sow maincrop varieties in quantity on well-manured land; the drills should be drawn wide, not nearer than 6 feet apart, and the seeds sown thinly.

Fruit trees

Those which have been protected may now be exposed to sun and air, and where growing on very hot walls will benefit by a mulch of some kind.

Trained Pears

Pinch the shoots at five buds from their base as soon as these are sufficiently advanced.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Dahlias

Very easily damaged by frost or cold winds, it is, of course, much too early to think about planting out the Dahlias, while, on the other hand, if left in a heated glasshouse the plants become drawn and far too big. The cold frame is, therefore, the best place for them, taking care to air well during fine days, but closing at night at first. Keep the soil moist, for dryness at the roots is certain to bring on an attack of vermin.

Hollyhocks

Although much hardier than the Dahlia, the Hollyhock must not be planted out too early, or much damage may be done by slugs and cold winds. Hardening off, however, should be begun and the ground prepared. Rich soil is imperative if really fine displays are to be looked for. The stakes, not less than 8 feet high, should be placed in position before planting takes place, and so avoid damaging the roots.

Antirrhinums

If of good size and well hardened off, these showy, popular plants may now be transferred to their permanent positions. Too rich soil causes soft growth, and this will result in but a poor display of bloom and much damage by the autumn gales, so only ground of medium fertility should be chosen, and then abundance of bloom, a coloured, will be almost certain.

East Lothian Stocks

Get these well hardened off, choo open, sunny position, and where the been well worked and liberally m This fine stock does not like disturb the roots, so due care must be take with a good ball of earth attached Water well after planting is finished the weather be dry.

Dwarf Beans

While on dry, light soils a sowing esteemed vegetable may now be mad seeds, however, are very apt to ro weather sets in. In any case sow thickly, and, in the event of the seed nating well, thin down to 9 inches apa the plants are 3 inches to 4 inch Several sowings should be made at of two to three weeks until the m July.

Runner Beans

These are somewhat hardier than dwarf type, but the seeds not infr rot if planted too early where the so retentive nature. Given rich so drained, few other crops are more re tive. A good stock of the old Runner is excellent, but, of course, some fine new sorts worth the attenti exhibitor.

Onions

There is still time to plant out b plants, but no more time must be lo ing so. Outdoor-sown crops must b at the earliest opportunity after large enough to handle. The autu batch should have the soil frequentl with the Dutch hoe.

Early Leeks

To secure early supplies the plan early under glass should now be p richly-prepared trenches after bei hardened off. A little temporary she cold winds is most helpful with t crop, for if a check is experienced " is very apt to follow.

Spring-raised Brassicas

Plants of Cabbage, Cauliflow Brussels Sprouts raised under glass the year and that have been well off should now be planted, draw drills to provide a little shelter for t plants. It is always a mistake to r out too early, as it exposes them t dangers before they get started awa are, usually, very troublesome, and frosts and cold winds are most harm the plants are tender.

Tomatoes

The earlier batch is now setting a little judicious feeding must b Light dressings of Thomson's Plan I find most satisfactory, this bein every two or three weeks. When show through the surface a light fresh rich soil is very beneficial. S is made very firm. This, of cours chiefly to plants fruited in pots or

Pelargoniums

All sections of this useful family cool treatment from now onw judiciously fed, will not only rem longer decorative, but the flower larger and more brilliant in Ichthemic Guano suits these admir

C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlith

ging the herbaceous border

ranging the herbaceous border, unless particularly desired that its principal ay should be at a given date, it is give due consideration to continuity t. Throughout the longest possible one effect should follow another, each ead over the border as a whole, so hould be complete in itself.

s (MICHAELMAS DAISIES). — Star of whatsoever kind are the most g and effective of any. Even within tion we know as Michaelmas Daisies a great diversity in size, habit, form, ur. Much as we admire a good col- of Asters, there is always the regret y betoken the approaching end of the but there is this about them—they and cheer the border up to the very e roots of all these Asters may be almost indefinitely, and those with in their garden can soon have a

KNIPHOFIA, OR TORCH LILY, very known as T. Uvaria, is too big r very large borders, but those of an iate size, like K. Tuckii, are very and effective if planted here and ng the border. "Torch Lily" is a ne for it, for it glows from scarlet to and is veritably a "red-hot poker." s August and September, and may to 2½ feet high, according to variety. ia is much taller and bigger, and s are not infrequently 4 feet to 6 feet

OLLY.—A countryman would imme- ssociate this plant with the Teazle, e prettiest and most beautiful of our Its value in the border is the steely- which it produces, which causes it out so clear and distinct no matter is planted in association with. Its from 1 foot to 1½ feet, and it blooms nd August. The finest variety is E. um.

ELENIUMS are among our best border ractically at home anywhere, ey thrive best in loam. The growth Michaelmas Daisy style, though resemblance ends. The variety Gem is undoubtedly the pick of a family, because of its freedom and Opening with an old gold tinged a-cotta effect, the blooms mature ightful and rich Wallflower red. Its rt in yellow is Riverton Beauty, may be recommended most strongly and for cutting. Both these will eight of 4 feet and are good from e of August onward. Earlier and arieties do not relinquish a single the family worth, for in Bolanderi ot), Golden Gem (July, 2 feet), and (June, 2½ feet) we have varieties long the season and are only of e because they bloom at a time of ndance. The roots of all these vide and multiply themselves. The favourite, the

INE AQUILEGIA, must not be over- The race has been so improved of that the blooms have acquired that of form which we look for in nd nowhere else, while the addi- des and colours are practically un- No longer is it the heavy-headed, ed, cramped flower of the old days, ued, long-spurred, and elegant to It attracts every eye, and there regret, and that is that its season June) is altogether too short. Its about 1½ feet. It is best raised sown in boxes in May.

—For a particularly bold and bril-

The new double-flowered white Daffodil Snowsprite, shown by Messrs. Barr and Sons

liant effect the Lupins must not be omitted. L. polyphyllus is the class I have especially in mind, and this is a true herbaceous plant, and, given a good strain "raised" from seed, various beautiful colours are produced.

A. B.

Annual Larkspurs: A plea for their wider culture

Comparisons cannot be made between the perennial and annual forms of Larkspurs, as they are both beautiful and fill a place in the garden, but I think it is a pity that those who, from lack of room, are prevented in growing the first-named should leave out of their arrangements the annual varieties.

Long since I learnt to appreciate their true worth, and to realise that only the simplest culture is needed to have a glorious display over a much longer period than some imagine. Most folks, I think, are inclined to regard annual Larkspurs as plants which must be raised in heat. As a matter of fact, they do better without artificial heat, and some of my best plants last year were raised from seed sown in a cold frame in April. As plants for a small garden, and in particular a garden near to a town, they are well worth considering. It may surprise some who have not grown them to say that even a cold frame can be dispensed with, as if seed is sown on a sunny border in light soil about the middle of April plants from such a sowing put out in deeply-dug ground later, helped with a slight addition of leaf-soil and old manure, will make splendid flowering plants by the middle of July. No annual is more accommodating, and scarcely any is more showy or useful to those who like to have flowers for cutting. Present-day forms of these annual Larkspurs are greatly improved to what they were some years since, both in colour and for the sake of convenience in planting. By that I mean, one may have them in various shades of blue and violet; in rose and pink and scarlet; in mauve and white; in tall plants growing 2½ feet to 3 feet in height; in those only reaching about a foot, and also in dwarf. Some there are whose experience in growing the old Scotch Rocket is not successful. They should try these very charming annuals, which are a good substitute. I am sure if those who have not hitherto taken Larkspurs in hand would do so on the lines suggested they would derive much pleasure from them in the coming summer, either in beds or planted out in the border.

W. F.

VEGETABLES

The sowing of maincrop Beetroot

IT is an undoubted fact that much of the trouble in connection with the cultivation of this important winter root arises from too early sowing, even some professional gardeners falling into this error. Many sow about the middle of April or earlier, and find that quite a large percentage "bolt," while the rest are much too large, as a rule.

After numerous experiments I am convinced that in the later districts the first week in May is the ideal time, while a week or two later in the more favoured localities will give best results.

Another error not infrequently made by the amateur is to dress the ground with fresh manure before sowing. This invariably causes trouble, the roots forking badly and otherwise becoming coarse and much too large. While Beet will not attain a decent size in really poor soil, it is, as I have just said, the other way about if very rich ground is selected for this crop. The site vacated by last season's Leeks, if well dug and thoroughly broken up, is just about the best spot in the garden for the purpose. No manure of any kind should be used. The site of the Celery trenches of last season is also suitable, and, of course, also without any manure being applied. There are quite a number of varieties on the market, but I find Nutting's Dwarf Red, Pragnell's Exhibition, and Galloway Purple as reliable as any. The last-named has the unique distinction of being absolutely non-bleeding, retaining its flavour and colour even when sliced before being cooked. Its flavour is excellent, and when well grown the roots are of good shape and appearance. This variety is best when grown on rather poor soil, for on rich ground it is inclined to grow very large.

Drills for Beetroot should be about 1½ inches deep and 18 inches apart. Sow thinly and evenly, thinning the seedlings to 7 inches or 8 inches apart as soon as large enough to handle. C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Red or Pickling Cabbage

Red or Pickling Cabbage is sometimes grown very indifferently, and not infrequently its inclusion in the garden is an afterthought, being put in ground that cannot be described as rich. It is a Cabbage, however, which needs well-manured soil, one which has been deeply dug. Seed should be sown out-of-doors in a bed in June or July to supply plants to stand the winter, and these can then be got into their final quarters the following spring for the production of good heads in the autumn. Too many are content to give picklers poor ground and not long enough growth, and the outcome is that the crop is poor. WOODBASTWICK.

Planting out winter greens

It is always better, if it be possible, to have some definite plan in procuring plants of winter greens if one cannot raise plants from seed. By this, I mean, a start should be made with Brussels Sprouts, which need longer time for development, and it will be more profitable in the long-run to get either autumn-sown or early plants raised in heat rather than pin one's faith to those sown out-of-doors. The latter do not stand so good a chance in "buttoning," and results are often poor. Savoys are a very useful winter vegetable, and no one should think of leaving them out. Drumhead Kale comes in in October and November, as does Couve Tronchuda, or Portugal Cabbage, a green that pays to grow, inasmuch as all the plant is edible. Curly greens, like Sutton's Ai, is a good standby, and no one should think of omitting to plant the ordinary Purple Sprouting Broccoli and the Christmas form of it. The former comes in by the end of March and is a well-known "cut and come again" vegetable, or rather pulling instead of cutting should be the rule. A little forethought exercised in getting winter greens out and a piece of ground reserved exclusively for them will more than balance the loss of any other crop. In the meantime, the soil should be prepared by trenching or deep digging, working in what manure is available.

LEAHURST.

INDOOR PLANTS

Primula malacoides

NO class of Primula has made such giant strides during the past few years than the malacoides, which is certainly amongst our most useful winter-flowering plants, whilst the newer varieties are not so liable to damp off and succumb as is the case with the older variety. For light and tasty decoration it has no equal, and is most suitable for associating with Daffodils, Tulips, and other spring flowers, either in pots or for cut purposes. Messrs. Carters give us Princess Mary, the best of the lot for freeness of bloom, while the colour is a deep rose-pink, which is very attractive and will throw stems 18 inches in length. The blooms are produced in whorls, and the single blooms are as large as a sixpence, and even larger. Princess Patricia is another striking novelty of the same colour, but the petals in this case are fimbriated. King Albert is a soft rose-pink, the outline of the petals being circular, and is one of the largest flowers in this class. Golden Eye is a pure white with a golden-yellow centre. Messrs. Suttons give us two sterling varieties in Advance and Achievement, the former being one of the richest rose-pinks. Messrs. Clibrans offer the Bartley strain, which includes several charming shades, and Courtland's Seedling, a beautiful lilac-pink, whilst their Pink Beauty is also a charming variety.

CULTURE.—The plants are very easy to grow, and only require, during winter, enough warmth to exclude frost. In fact, they will not succeed in a high temperature. The seed may be sown during April and May for winter blooming, and a few weeks later for spring work. Sow thinly in pans filled with light sandy soil, barely covering the seed, germinate in the greenhouse, and keep shaded until the seedlings appear; keep near the glass, but shade from strong sunshine. When large enough prick them off into shallow boxes 3 inches apart, and when the foliage meets put them up into 3-inch pots. Keep them growing in a cool position on a bed of ashes until these pots are full of roots, when they may be given a shift into 5-inch size, in which they will bloom. The most suitable compost, I find, is three parts turfy loam, one of leaf-mould, and one of coarse sand, adding a 5-inch potful of bone-meal and crushed moisture to each bushel. Pot moderately firm, water carefully without soaking the foliage, grow on in cold frames during summer until October, when they should be brought in and given a light, airy position in the greenhouse. Liquid-manure may be given when buds are formed, and all spent petals should be removed.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Godetias: Try a few in pots

Have you a cool greenhouse or a sunny window where you grow plants during the summer and have never made the acquaintance of Godetias as pot plants? Then let me suggest to you the desirability of doing so this year. Most folks think of th terms of border plants, and sow seed open ground in April, but as plants f ting they have come into prominence the last few years, and are worthy of tion. Some of the double form Sutton's Double Rose and Double the last with crimson-scarlet flowe very charming. There are, among singles, delicate pinks and lavende whites which make a house or wind when they bloom, and they contin quite a long time. Soil for potting sh light loam and leaf-mould, with rotted dung or bone-meal added. If n some of them can be plunged in pots borders until wanted indoors. Towns

Pelargonium Unique

This striking plant belongs "scented-leaf" section of the family, distinctly the most desirable of the While the flowers of the bulk of th either of a very uninteresting shade o or else quite inconspicuous, that of th under review are of a brilliant red, ve to scarlet. The foliage is neat moderate size, while the shoots are so slender, but free and branching. Th grows very rapidly, and, if neatly soon forms a handsome bush 2 feet t high. The flowers are very freely pr and that over a long period. The easily increased by means of cutti serted at almost any time. A cool house is best suited to its wants, for i in a warm house it, like the whol section, soon gets covered with ver owe my introduction to this fine su the courtesy of a lady in the n Ireland, who very kindly sent me a cutting a year or two ago. C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

The Scarborough Lily—afav window plant

Vallota purpurea (the Scarborough one of the best window plants for all-r round growing. It is met with eve but seldom seen to better advantage the homes of cottagers. Its populari so much due to the beautiful flowers in summer and autumn, though the be discounted, as it is to the fact of i being possessed of nice foliage which green, and so, when not in flower, nice window plant on that account cultivation is very simple. The bulb can be potted in March, one bulb to or 6-inch pot in compost made up leaf-mould, and sand, with an addi little decayed cow manure. Potting firm and the bulbs almost buried Drainage must be amply provided from April, when new growth h started, plants must have abunc water. As the blooming season ap liquid-manure weakly administered beneficial, and can be given twice The importance of keeping Vallo supplied with water ought not to looked, and the cottage gardener, saucers more so than the town dwe gone a long way in solving the pr keeping his plants vigorous throu ability to obtain plenty of moistu only when the plants have ceased that the supply of water can be less as they have scarcely any period of do not dry off like other bulbs, wat be withheld altogether.

Vallotas are increased by bulblet can be moved and potted in March, once established and doing well plants which do not call for frequent

MIDIN

rt on condition of horticultural crops on 28th April, 1927.

VEGETABLES.

agus.—Growth slow, good heads be- in a few places; crowns are breaking d, with warmer weather, promise a op.

s (Broad).—Autumn-sown are healthy mising; spring sowings have germi- ell.

els Sprouts.—Autumn-sown are and promising; spring sowings rminated well, but growth is some- w.

ge (spring-sown).—Germinated well, ving slowly.

ge (autumn-sown).—An average crop in well, though a little backward; revalent this year in all districts.

s.—Early sowings germinated well.

ower.—Autumn-sown in frames intered well and are now being ut.

—Germination good; pricking-out ss.

bers (under glass).—Plants healthy, well and fruiting freely; large cut- ng made from early plantings.

—Crop not finally cleared yet.

.—Autumn-sown making good rowth; spring sowings germination

.—Autumn-sown promise an aver- ; spring sowings have germinated l on the whole.

s.—Germination good.

Early sowings germinated well and ood progress.

b.—A good average crop.

.—Fair yields being obtained in

.—Condition only fair.

es (under glass).—Plants healthy; ng well.

.—Early sowings germinated well.

FRUIT.

—At East Malling, Kent, 13 degs. were recorded on the night of y, April 27th; at Wisley, Surrey, ng Ashton, Bristol, 14·8 degs. and respectively were recorded on the nt, and 15 degs. and 11 degs. re- on the previous night; whilst at , Worcester, and at Cambridge, rred on these two nights and also lowing night, the records showing ell 9 degs. of frost on the night of 7 degs. on the 27th, and 11 degs. th, and at Cambridge 5 degs., 8 2 degs. respectively. It is feared damage may have been done to ssoms of Plums, the open blossoms s, Pears, and soft fruits, and per- e unopened fruit-buds of Apples.

—A good show of blossom buds on rince Albert, Newton Wonder, Seedling and Beauty of Bath, and Orange Pippin, James Grieve, and Pearmain in places.

—A very promising show of erywhere.

(Black).—A good show of

(Red).—Blossom good.

ries.—Blossom good and setting

Profuse show of blossom; early tting well.

Most varieties have blossomed

ies.—Canes are healthy and pro- nost districts.

ries.—Plants have not wintered are at present backward and do ll.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

Naming and pruning Myrtles and evergreen for hedge

I enclose specimens of two Myrtles which are growing up the front of this house and require pruning to keep them within bounds. At present they are top-heavy, frequently breaking away from their fastenings and encroaching on the path. Could you kindly tell me how severe pruning they will stand and when it should be done?

Will you kindly tell me what evergreen, quick-growing, I could plant *now* to fill up gaps in an old garden hedge? S. R. C.

[The broadest leaf you send is that of the common Myrtle (Myrtus communis)) and the small one M. communis var. tarentina, which appears to be somewhat hardier than the type. You may prune them both—even severely—at the present time, cutting them down into the thicker wood to whatever height you desire them to be; they will then break away and get a full season's growth, but you will obviously sacrifice all bloom for the present year. It is not advisable to prune these shrubs in autumn or winter, as they are only just hardy, except in the most favoured parts of Britain. *Hedge.*—You could plant Holly (Ilex aquifolium), Osmanthus illicifolia, or Laurel at the present time to fill the gap in your hedge, but, should dry winds prevail, a syringing of the bushes each day may be necessary.]

GREENHOUSE

Blue Hydrangeas

(G. M. and Co.).—It is not necessary to use chemicals to produce pink Hydrangeas, as this is the natural colour of the flowers, but the colour blue is produced by using alum or iron salts as iron sulphate. It is necessary, however, to apply both the alum and the sulphate weeks before the flowers expand. There are proprietary articles used for this purpose, and these may be obtained from Mr. H. J. Jones, nurseryman, Lewisham, London, S.E.

Cineraria leaves damaged by maggot

(S. E. A.).—The leaves are attacked by the leaf-mining maggot, an effective remedy for which is that of spraying or dipping the plants in a solution of quassia extract. This should be carried out before this pest has made serious inroads upon the plants and before the latter reach the flowering stage. There is little you can do at the present time.

FLOWER GARDEN

White Arabis reverting from double to single

My ordinary white Arabis has reverted from double to single. Even the cuttings from a double plant have come single. Why? LADY EDWARD GLEICHEN.

Court in Holmes,
Forest Row, Sussex.

[We have grown many thousands of this plant, but have never met with an instance of this kind before, although, of course, plants do revert to type. We are unable to say what has caused this reversion in your case, but would advise you to obtain a fresh stock of the double kind from a garden outside the neighbourhood during the coming weeks, when hundreds of such plants will be lifted from beds and borders to make room for summer flowers, and grow them on fresh ground.]

FRUIT

Raspberry canes disfigured

(Col. R. Norton).—Your Raspberries are badly attacked by Mosaic disease, and all such canes should be cut out and destroyed. There is little you can do at the present time to check this disease, but during winter spray with lime-sulphur. A fresh stock is advisable.

Diseased Peaches

(W. C. Smith).—Your Peaches are affected by a disease which used to be called "Gummosis," but as several fungoid diseases can cause the formation of gum at the wounded surface we are submitting the specimens to an expert in this group of diseases. The spread of the disease appears to be caused by spores which are formed on the damaged bark. If you examine your trees you will find on the young wood a number of dark brown or black patches of dead wood generally near to a bud. Sometimes these patches entirely girdle the young wood, at others they only go halfway round. If the trees are old and neglected, probably the easiest thing to do would be to grub them out, burn every portion, give the house a thorough clean-out, and replant with young trees in the autumn. If the trees are young, cutting out all the diseased portions could be tried. The wood should be cut out to just below the diseased patches. After the disease has been cut out and burnt you should spray the trees at intervals of 14 days with a solution of lime-sulphur. Start with a very dilute solution, one part to 100 of water, and increase the strength to one in 60 if you find the foliage will stand it. Defective root-action will, of course, weaken the trees and so enable the disease to make more progress.

MISCELLANEOUS

Removing slime from pond

I have a large pond 100 yards by 20 yards. The water is clean, as it has recently been cleaned out, but I am much troubled by green slime. Can you give me any advice as to how to deal with this? I believe some sort of dredger is advertised for dragging the slime out, but do not know where. I have trout in the pond doing well, and do not wish to use anything which would kill them or the insect life. The pond shelves from 2 feet in depth to 10 feet. M. SPENCER-SMITH.

[The slime is known as Flannel Weed and Blanket Weed, and is very difficult to eradicate, especially where the ponds contain trout, as it prevents the use of copper-sulphate, which is the only known remedy for this trouble, and which should not destroy any fish other than trout. Another method, but more costly and less permanent, is that of using a fine-meshed sieve fixed to

a pole and worked from a boat. This makes a tolerably good job and the pond is clear for a time. A freer movement of the water also prevents the breeding of this weed. Messrs. Percy Wadham, of Newport, Isle of Wight, manufacture various weed-cutters, and one called the Dreadnought Aquatic Weed Cutter, which may be pulled through the water by a person standing on each bank, would probably assist you. A catalogue would be sent you on application. Queries are not answered by post.]

Rose aphis

What is the best treatment for green fly on Roses? I have soft-soap and quassia chips. Would you kindly tell me how many parts to use? T. L. T.

[A good control wash with quassia as its base can be made as follows:—Soft-soap, 4 ozs.; quassia, 8 ozs.; water, 5 gallons. You should take the soft-soap and dissolve in a little boiling water and then make it up to 4 gallons with cold soft water. The quassia chips should be steeped in a gallon of cold soft water for 48 hours and then strained. Add the strained quassia solution to the soft-soap mixture and stir well. The quassia chips will answer for several times because the active principle is only gradually extracted. When using the above wash you should remember that it is a contact wash, therefore if you are to kill the pest every part of the infected trees must be thoroughly wetted with the solution. If the water you are using is hard use more soft-soap; the object of the soap is to make the wash run well. Enough soap should be added to make the solution greasy to the touch.]

Control of caterpillars

Would you kindly tell me if it would be wise to use arsenate of lead on an Oak tree to kill caterpillars, as there is a rockery underneath; and also if the same could be used for Apple trees, and when, and amount to use? The compound is paste. T. L. T.

[We see no reason why you should not use arsenate of lead paste on the tree mentioned in your letter if you do not object to the appearance of the deposit left on the foliage. We take it that your Oak tree is only a small one, and you could, perhaps, protect the rock plants growing underneath by covering them with sacks. We think that there is no danger of the wash doing any damage to the plants, but the wash would not improve their appearance. The wash could be used on the Apple trees, providing there are no edible plants growing beneath them. Arsenate of lead is a poisonous substance, and should be used with care. We cannot give you a recipe for using the paste, because the commercial articles vary somewhat, but they should be used according to the maker's directions. Under the circumstances we should be inclined to use a nicotine wash instead of the arsenate of lead.]

Gardeners' wages

(T. A.).—The average wage paid to a professional gardener to-day is from £2 10s. to £3 per week with free house, coals, milk, and vegetables. A great deal, however, depends upon the size and importance of the gardens, and the number of men such a man is responsible for. For instance, £5 per week is paid in not a few places to-day where the responsibilities are great and considerable knowledge essential, and there are places where £2 per week is the wage. The wages of learners from 17 to 20 varies from 17s. to 23s. per week.

SHORT REPLY

A. R. M.—Fungtrogen, recommended issue April 2nd as a cure for Black Spot on Roses, is an American commercial product made by The Chemical Products Division, Rose Manufacturing Co., 37th and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia, U.S.A. We are not aware that it may be obtained in this country.

NAMES OF PLANTS

Geo. W. Pearce.—Prunus Padus (Bird Cherry).

R. B., Canary Islands.—Campylanthus salsoloides, Roth; N. O. Scrophulariaceæ.

A. B.—Kerria japonica flore-pleno syn. Corchorus japonicus. This double-flowered variety is much more common in gardens than the type, and is now to be seen flowering freely as a wall shrub, especially in cottage gardens, in all parts of the country.

A. M. N.—1, Iberis sempervirens Snowflake (see illustration, page 270); 2, Potentilla rupestris.

Flowers and fruit at the Royal Academy

At the one hundred and fifty-ninth exhibition of the Royal Academy, which opened on May 2nd, there is a good number of pictures relating to still life, including flowers, fruit, and landscapes. The fruit mostly chosen for this class of painting is the Apple or Orange, but there are several pictures which include black and white Grapes. With regard to the flowers, Anemones appear to be the favourite, Roses coming next; but the variety of vegetables is small, the common Onion taking precedence, Turnips, a Spring Cabbage, and Carrot not being overlooked.

A very effective picture, "The Kindly Fruits of the Earth," by Flora M. Reid, depicts Roses, Cinerarias, and small white and blue flowers in a glass vase with a Pineapple and Grapes on a plate at the side. Another combination picture of fruit and flowers is that by Denis Fildes, "Still Life." This consists of a plate of Apples with flowers in a blue vase and an Orange at the side. In "A Basket of Fruit," by Katherine E. Sargent, we have a good selection of fruit, such as black and white Grapes, Apples, Pears, Oranges, and a Melon. William T. Wood, in his "Fruit and Flowers," has gone in for quantity, and has depicted a bronze bowl containing fruit and flowers in a blue vase just behind it. The Grapes and Apples are wonderfully natural, also the Chrysanthemums and Pyrethrums are very good, but the whole picture is overloaded with good things which somewhat spoils the effect. For a collection of fruit and vegetables Mr. Henry B. Burney gives us in his "Still Life" Apples, Oranges, Melon, Cauliflower, Turnips, and Onions. The arrangement and colouring are good. H. H. La Thangue, R.A., in his "Tying Watercress," has given us landscape with the practical side. A boy is seen sitting by a stream tying Watercress into bunches; a tree in the background and a cow grazing in the meadow on the other side of the stream. The temptation of plucking fruit is seen in "Blackberries," by Harold Harvey, in which he depicts a woman picking Blackberries and another woman behind her with a basket in the act of putting a Blackberry in her mouth. For an old-fashioned country scene we have in "Cronies," by Flora M. Reid, a country market. Under trees is arranged a collection of vegetables and eggs with two old ladies chatting in the background and an old lady and a little girl talking in the foreground; evidently a place for exchanging gossip. In "The Kitchen," by Isabel Codrington, we have depicted a very homely scene. On the kitchen table there is a Spring Cabbage, Turnips, Carrots, a box of matches, a tin box, two glass jars. In the backg to be seen a string of Onions hangi wall, and close by brooms and a pa study in colour "The Copper P. Currall Pace, consists of a co with Onions at the side; very "Flower Sellers: Piccadilly Cir Herbert A. Budd, is, of course, i to all Londoners. A flower-girl is front of a huge basket containing white Roses and Carnations. Th matronly-looking woman just be and a man and another girl holdi Rose in her hand at the side. On side a pail is seen containing red C The figures are somewhat stiff a mate. Also "Hawkers Noonday," Airy, comes in for a little interes in cities. In a busy thoroughfare t be seen a flower woman with a flowers half asleep at noon, a hawkers close by are taking it e garden borders the most delightful given by Joseph Farquharson, R. "The Garden Walk," "Roses," My Garden."

A very pleasant effect is that "Roses," by Ruth Latter. There bowl of white and cream Roses on a window, and the sun shining th window throws delightful shado the blue curtains on the table. T and red Anemones by Marie B. Ja very natural and quite good, ar pretty picture is that of "Wild Flo Ila E. Schulz. This compri Marguerites, Cornflowers, and Po bronze vase. Joan Wardley "Flowers" a well-arranged jar o flowers; Roses intermixed with S and Marigolds. "A Garden in Lo James P. Beadle, shows how a town can be made beautiful by the flagged path and trim little Box tre There are trees in the backgrou house and a little plot in the cen garden in which are growing white flowers, and Forget-me-n colour to the scene. The Roses in piece," by Leslie E. Parkinson, good, and make a very effect mixed with Gladioli. Also the piece," by E. Fortescue-Brickdale pleasant combination of flower Aquilegia, Sweet William, and Pa a pretty colour scheme "The Bl by Margaret Delafield, depicts a with an Orange by the side and l falling out of the bowl. A very n of "Zinnias" is that by Jacques colouring being particularly goo are some flower pictures among colours which are worth n "Delphiniums," by David Wilson charming picture, and the blue tit ground hopping about among petals adds a finish to this painti Stannard makes a very pleasant her "June, the Gables Cottag Goldington." There are flower each side of a grass path; the Poppies, Delphiniums, and othe pink flowers. "The Dutch Gar by Dorothy Freeman, should n looked, showing as it does the de of these old-fashioned Elizabeth and which is considered to be one of its kind.

CATALOGUES RECEI

Heckmondwike Chemical C "Purity" fertilisers and weed k

Ryder and Sons, St. Albans.— of Dahlias, Gladioli, Begonias, et

Maxwell and Beale, Broadst for alpine and rock gardens and borders.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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A VISIT TO THE CITY

A New Service for Our Subscribers

len Walker,
duct readers round
ndon, describing its
ory, and antiquities

THE offices of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED at Bouverie House, Fleet Street, are situated in the main thoroughfare of the historic square mile which constitutes the City of London; they rest upon the site where Doctor Johnson laboured, they adjoin his house, and be- Law Courts on the west and the House on the east they are sur- with monuments and places teem- historic interest. It is something ture of a reflection upon us as a it while we are prepared to make journeys to Paris, or Brussels, or nd spend our time enjoying the d historic treasures in those places, bother to acquaint ourselves with reasures, which, often exceeding in l interest anything that is to be ad, should have for us the added being our own. Readers in or on probably know less about the readers from more distant parts, in their turn, know less about it reigners who day by day make it ess to study the historic treasures Mr. Allen S. Walker, a lecturer on with the London University, is ed expert on the treasures of the ndon, and a walk round London pany is an experience which those njoyed will never forget.

n Walker's "Ten-Minute Talks" don Station of the British Broad- npany have been heard by millions not only in England, but over the which can "listen-in" to London. s, therefore, familiar throughout , and his wireless talks on "Lon- ities," "English Cities," "Our edrals," and "National Monu- ve proved exceedingly popular.

ose for a couple of hours that ld throw off considerations which hem and pay a visit to the City of er the direction of Mr. Walker.

House, at almost every hour of d every day of the week, is ith visits from subscribers, and ished to find in how many cases there are wives and daughters left at some hotel to go for a walk or to go shopping while the subscriber comes to see us. There are many other reasons why we should slightly extend the activities of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED in this somewhat novel direction. It will give us an opportunity to get into closer personal touch with some of our readers whom we have never had the pleasure of seeing. Our proposition is therefore that on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, starting June 21st, readers and their friends should assemble in the Publications Hall, Bouverie House, at 2.45 p.m., to meet us and Mr. Walker, and to then take a tour of the neighbouring City under Mr. Walker's guidance, the tour ending up at Bouverie House at 5.30 p.m., where a cup of tea will be served in the Staff Canteen.

In announcing this new plan we have to make arrangements to ensure that the party shall not be more numerous than is convenient from Mr. Walker's point of view, or too big to make it possible for each of them to benefit by his explanations and descriptions, and we therefore ask our readers to apply to the Editor at least a fortnight prior to their intending visit for tickets for the party on the day which they select. We give herewith brief particulars of the tours.

Garden Court, Temple Gardens
Magnolia now flowering in the foreground

PROGRAMME OF LONDON VISITS.
JUNE – SEPT., 1927.

1. TUESDAY, June 21 .. **The Temple.**
Temple Church, XIIth-XIIIth Century.
Middle Temple Hall.
Inner Temple Hall
(Associations with Chaucer, Shakespeare, Dr. Johnson, Goldsmith, and Dickens).

2. WEDNESDAY, June 29 **St. Clement Danes** (Dr. Johnson's Church)
No. 17, Fleet Street, XIIth Century. "Old Curiosity Shop" (escaped Fire of 1666).
Dr Johnson's House, Gough Square.

3. TUESDAY, July 5 .. **St. Bride's, Fleet Street** (the Printers' Church).
"Bridewell Place" Remains.
The River Fleet.
"Daily Telegraph" or "Daily Mail" Offices also.

4. WEDNESDAY, July 13 The Royal Courts of Justice.
Record Office Museum (containing Domesday Book).
Lincoln's Inn

5. TUESDAY July 19 .. Priory Church of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield, XIIth Century.
St Bartholomew's Hospital.

6. WEDNESDAY, July 27.. **The Charterhouse.**
Ancient Carthusian Monastery.
Smithfield Market.

7. WEDNESDAY, Aug. 3 Central Criminal Courts.
Christ Church, Greyfriars.

8. TUESDAY, Aug. 9 .. St. John's Priory Church.
St. John's Gate, Headquarters of the Crusading Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.

9. WEDNESDAY, Sept. 7 St. Paul's Cathedral.

10. TUESDAY, Sept. 13 .. St. Martin's, Ludgate.
Remains of London Wall.
Stationers' Hall.

11. WEDNESDAY, Sept. 21 St. Andrew by-the-Wardrobe.
Playhouse Yard (site of Shakespeare's Blackfriars Theatre).
The Apothecaries' Hall.

12. TUESDAY, Sept. 27 .. Staple Inn.
Furnival's Inn.
"The Old Houses on Holborn."
St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill.
(Dickensland.)

No charge will be made to subscribers and friends who join these City parties.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

To the Editor of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED.

A VISIT TO THE CITY.

I should be glad to have tickets to join your Visit to the City under Mr. A. S. Walker at 2.45 p.m. on

If your party for this date is full up, please book me for one of the following dates:

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

NOTES OF THE WEEK

A Fuchsia trial

THE Royal Horticultural Society invites growers to send varieties of Fuchsia, both hardy and for growing under glass, to its Gardens at Wisley for trial during the present season. Three plants of each variety should be sent to reach the Director (from whom the necessary entry forms may be obtained), R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey (Horsley Station, Southern Railway), on or before May 31st, 1927.

Conference on labels and labelling

A conference on labels and labelling will be held in the Conference Tent at the Chelsea Show on Thursday, May 26th, at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Mark Fenwick, J.P., will preside, and Mr. H. Gilbert-Carter, M.A., the Director of the University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, will open the discussion, followed by a contribution by Mr. A. Bruce Jackson, A.L.S., and Mr. A. Grove, F.L.S. A discussion will take place, and visitors attending the Conference will be allowed to express their views within the limitation of the time at the disposal of the Chairman. A small representative exhibit of labels will be in the tent.

The disastrous frost of April 29th

Now that the effects of the frost of the night of April 29th have made themselves apparent it is a sad tale of woe that one hears from private and commercial gardeners in Norfolk. In private gardens the choice Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Magnolias, and other such subjects, which, during recent years, owners have prided themselves of standing the British climate year after year, have, alas! been sadly mauled, if not entirely killed. The commercial fruit growers have lost at least two-thirds of the Black Currant crop, whilst even Apple blossoms which were not expanded have had their pistils destroyed by the frost through the envelope of petals. The damage to fruit crops in Norfolk is estimated to reach £200,000. AYTCH PEA.

Insect pests

Aphides.—If plant-lice, green and black fly, are to be controlled it is important that spraying operations should be carried out early in the season. All aphides are easily killed when their numbers are few, but if they are left until the attacked plant is infested it is almost impossible to deal with the trouble. Plums, Roses, and Broad Beans are three plants extremely prone to aphis attack, but the presence of badly-infested plants later on in the season denotes that simple control measures have been previously neglected. On Plums the worst aphis pest is that known as the Plum leaf-curling aphis. So soon as this aphis begins to feed upon the foliage of the Plum the leaves begin to curl up, and if such leaves be examined the aphis will be found snugly inside. Spraying with a good nicotine wash before the leaves are fully curled will keep the pest in check. Roses should be carefully watched, especially the extreme growing points, and as soon as the first aphis is seen all the Roses should be sprayed with a solution made up as follows:—Soft-soap 4 ozs., quassia chips 8 ozs., water 5 gallons. The quassia chips should be steeped in cold water for 48 hours and then the solution strained off. When the quassia extract is ready take the 4 ozs. of soft-soap and dissolve in a little boiling water and then make up to 4 gallons with cold soft water. The quassia extract is now poured into the soap solution, and, after well stirring, the wash is ready for use. Later in the season the black fly will be due to arrive on the tops of the Broad Beans. A constant watch for their arrival and prompt control measures will ensure that little damage is done to the crop. Quassia chips can be steeped several times before being thrown away.

Mertensia primuloides

This choice little plant from the Himalayas is flowering now. In point of colour I always regard it as one of our most desirable alpine flowers. Its graceful arching spikes are terminated with loose clusters of bloom, each flower having a yellow centre surrounded by a ring of gentian-blue. Its height is about 6 inches, and it thrives best in a cool leafy soil. E. M.

Morisia hypogæa

This tiny gem, which comes from Corsica and Sardinia, is now in bloom. It forms compact tufts of serrated leaves, and the golden-yellow flowers, which are u large for this 2-inch to 3-inch pl deeply seated in the leaves, are mos tive, and borne in profusion. As garded by some growers a difficult keep, care should be taken to give it place on the rock garden, where it danger of drying out. Such a dist attractive little gem is worthy of spec

Polygala nayredæ

This is quite a superior form of known Milkwort, and, like that revels in very sandy soil. Its flowers are bright crimson-purple wit centre, little tufts being quite cons At present this is an uncommon pl very desirable. It is a native of S does not exceed 3 inches in height.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Two good Rhododendrons for the rock garden

ALWAYS attractive, some of the Rhododendrons are specially so in the rock garden, when they are used with judgment. Two of my especial favourites are R. intricatum and R. muliense, both of which are adapted in a special degree for the purpose Of the two, R. intricatum is the earlier, flowering in March. It is quite dwarf, blooms very freely, the flowers being of a shade rather difficult to describe, but, perhaps, pale mauve or purplish-mauve might fit them. Easily raised from seeds, the colouring of the seedlings may vary. R. intricatum can also be freely propagated by means of cuttings. R. muliense is of a neat, dwarf habit, and is one of the best of the yellows of the type. Both succeed well when given merely the assistance of a little good leaf-mould, and, it may be added, both are very effective as pot plants—in 7-inc in quite a cool greenhouse, where, their time of flowering is advanced ably. Since late March I have in perfection, as pot plants, in a cool *Mabie.* W.

Rhododendron intricatum in the rock garden

The flowers are purple-mauve

Deutzia as a shade plan

In the process of clearing out crowded shrubbery a healthy plant o was revealed wedged in between a C a Holly. Notwithstanding its unf position it has flowered well for tw As there are not many shrubs whic under the dense shade of trees, Cedars, it will be interesting to kn of your readers have similar experie

Prunus triloba

One often hears of difficulties in this plant in the open, and many commend that it should be put on have, however, had success with a plant worked on the Brompton sto is fully exposed, and it may be th suitable stock is sometimes the failure. I find it, however, necess back directly after flowering each that the strong growths may be ma A similar tree which was not so pr up after a few years and died. *Maidstone.* E. A. B

Dahlia tubers not keepi

On reading the query on p. 1 dealt with the failure of Dahlia respect of keeping qualities, I an was sufficiently unchristian to say goodness there are others!" Fo time in my experience I, too, have ous losses among Dahlia tubers winter, and, like "F. J. J.," I hav able to account for these losses, safe estimate may be put at 40 My theory (it is no more than a this. Frost came, last autumn, earlier date than usual. As not more depressing than blackened D plants were, at once, cut over, an permitted, the tubers were lifted on the same day. My idea is that not sufficiently matured—that the ripe, indeed, and that, therefore, ing qualities were impaired. In way can I account for the exten which I have suffered. The tu treated in precisely the same man gards storage, as they were in pr sons. A SCOTTISH G

Daphne odora

ONG the many scented plants grown greenhouses 50 years ago the above as a prime favourite. Not only is it, r correspondent truly says (p. 261), ously fragrant," but it is also a beauti- wer, delicately shaded in tones of and purple.

rtunately, it is too often grafted on laureola, and though on this stock s freely for a few years, it soon de- gradually but surely. There may be ons, but so far I have never seen a old grafted plant. I would advise ho wish to possess specimens to pur- lants on their own roots, or, having plants, to root cuttings from them as possible.

ripened growths 2 inches in length adily in July. Make the cuttings in al way, a heel is not necessary; in- em in 2-inch pots filled with sand, mly, and plunge the pots also in sand bellglass or handlight. Shade the ing the sun and spray several times to prevent evaporation; lessen both and shade gradually. The cuttings rooted in about three weeks.

ito 3-inch pots in equal parts of peat n, and one-eighth part of sand, keep a frame until established, watering during the winter months. In he plants can be repotted, and when oted plunged in coal-ashes, where plenty of light, but not scorching . Remove them to the greenhouse time before heavy rains occur.

l grown they will flower in the April g, a few plants being sufficient to a whole range or large conserva- such a structure they can be planted trained to a pillar or wall with ad-

ny southern counties this plant can outside if planted near or against a s I write, the air coming in at the is scented by a large plant rooted cutting 10 years ago. It covers a feet in width and 3 feet in height, ies 64 bunches of flowers. It is the riety, usually known in gardens as , having narrow green leaves and a g habit, requiring the support of a rown in the open ground it rarely

Daphne odora

generally given greenhouse treat- may be grown against an outside wall in southern counties

lifts its branches more than 6 inches above the ground-level. Two other varieties are cultivated here, one is an erect form having broad leaves edged with cream. It is fairly hardy and grows vigorously, but is disappointing, in that it produces few flowers. Another variety given me by Mr. Millais is the best of all. As I saw it in his garden at Comptons Brow it was planted near a south wall, but not against it, and had developed into a shapely bush 4 feet in height and 6 feet in width. The leaves are somewhat narrow, cream-edged, and the flowers of delicious fragrance are produced with great freedom, not only terminally, but also on short spurs at the side of the shoots. J. COOMBER.

Primula involucrata

IN the interesting article on Primulas of April 23rd I see no mention of Primula involucrata, an omission which, I think, is to be regretted, as it is one of the sweetest-scented flowers and of quite easy cultivation.

G. G. BAKER-CRESSWELL.

Late Grapes

May I suggest the following additions to the list given in reply to the query of "T. M. K." at p. 163 in the issue of March 12th? My additions fulfil, generally speaking, the requirements of the querist.

(1) Black Frontignan, a Grape which is very often rather despised on account of its small berries and comparatively small bunches. The berries are thin-skinned, with a dense bluish bloom and have a rich, rather "musky" flavour. It may be best described as a connoisseur's Grape—it is of no use whatever to the exhibitor.

(2) West's St. Peter, which, as is well known, may be kept in good condition (with care) until March. It appreciates, but does not demand, a high temperature, in which the toughness of the skins, which occasionally detracts from the undoubted value of the variety, is absent.

(3) White Lady Downes, similar to its black namesake in every respect, with, however, an improved flavour. As Lady Downes was barred by the inquirer, perhaps this objection holds good so far as the white form is concerned; if not, the variety can be recommended.

(4) Gros Guillaume, better known, perhaps, as Barbarossa; not, perhaps, of the first quality, but an excellent keeper. It succeeds best in a limited root-run, and the bunches and berries are, alike, handsome.

Opinions, of course, differ, but if there be one Grape, above all others, for which I have no admiration that variety is Lady Hutt.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Narcissus Bulbocodium

It is well to bear in mind that Narcissus Bulbocodium repays drastic thinning, and that the thinning can be done now before the leaves die away. Last year, acting on expert advice, I separated all the clustered bulbs and planted them singly all about a rockery, and the result this year has been most successful. L. J. ROGERS.

Oxford, May 3.

Ivy on evergreen trees

Just 20 yards from where I am writing stands a fine, healthy Pinus excelsa, about 40 feet high, and 20 feet in diameter through the branches. I planted it 20 years ago, and not far from an old wall covered with Ivy; the voracious climber soon formed a dense carpet under the tree, and then ascended to its very top, and about three parts up the tree it forms a fine evergreen canopy, producing an abundance of berries for the starlings, the

Primula involucrata

only birds I have ever seen eat them, and then only at breeding time. I made a tour to-day to view the trees that surround a neighbouring park, as I knew that the Ivy there had taken possession, and held its own against everything else, proving how the strong destroys the weak in the progress of development. The Ivy has taken possession of thousands of trees, to which the Pine forms no exception; great numbers of Scots Pine, and hundreds of towering Silver Fir, are clothed to their topmost branches with Ivy; and, although I carefully inspected the woods, I could find but few exceptions to its likings. Even the Beech, upon which it grows sparingly, is, in many instances, pretty well covered. I must, however, say that the Ivy has an evident dislike to it, as it is the only tree, amongst the many other kinds in these woods, on which it makes but partial progress; the cause of this is doubtless owing to the bark of the tree being so hard and smooth that very little moisture is retained upon it, hence the rootlets of the Ivy cannot get moisture enough to sustain the plant. I now come to evergreen shrubs generally. On these I find but little Ivy; on most that I have examined none. Growing in front of my window is a large bank of luxuriant Ivy, and amongst it are the following:—Cupressus Lawsoniana, Cryptomeria elegans, Euonymus japonicus, Thuja Lobbii, Thuja orientalis, and some large bushes of Aucuba; on none of these has a twig of Ivy taken hold; nor has it laid hold of the smooth bark of the Mountain Ash, or of the Lime, and upon these I never have seen it grow. The Holly, too, does not seem to be one of its favourites. I have, however, recently found that my large Wellingtonia has got into its coils; a strong plant near it has run up its trunk 5 feet or 6 feet, and seems to embrace it with a firmness that augurs a determination not to relax its hold. S. J.

Iris stylosa (unguicularis)

Following the authorities, I for many years planted this against a wall in a hot, exposed position, but it seems that this is not necessary in the south of England on the lighter soils. I have now many clumps in my garden in the open, some in rather draughty corners, and I can see no difference in the amount of flower produced, though, of course, the more sheltered plants flower a little earlier. Have we exaggerated the tenderness of this plant? E. A. BUNYARD.

THE FLOWER GARDEN

Lilium chalcedonicum

ONE of the brightest of all Lilies is L. chalcedonicum, known also as the scarlet Turk's-cap Lily, which reaches a height of 3 feet to 4 feet, the stem being very thickly clothed with pale green leaves, while the somewhat small, but symmetrically-shaped blossoms are borne in a loose cluster on the upper part of the stem. The segments of the flower are thick in texture and their colour is a bright sealing-wax red, though in this respect individuals differ. I have seen some remarkably fine examples of this Lily in old-fashioned cottage gardens. It is nowadays not very plentiful, and there is always during the dormant season a fair demand for it and exceptionally fine bulbs are difficult to obtain. This is not one of the peat-loving Lilies, for it will succeed in a stiffer loam than many other species; in fact, it does best, as a rule, in what may be spoken of as good garden soil of not too sandy a nature. It is occasionally liable to be attacked by that mysterious Lily disease which plays such havoc with the white Madonna Lily in many places, but it does not suffer to anything like the extent of this last. The bulb of L. chalcedonicum is rather loose in texture and should be handled very carefully, otherwise some of the outside scales are liable to become detached. A great deal has been written concerning the evil effects of late planting in the case of Lilies in general; still, it is well known that some are less affected by it than others. L. chalcedonicum is among those which are greatly benefited by early planting, for the new roots which are pushed out from the base of the bulbs soon after the stems die down are few in number, but very stout, so that if only one or two are broken the vigour of the bulb is influenced thereby. The leaves of this Lily are usually among the first to show above ground in the spring, for, as a rule, they follow close on those of the Nankeen Lily (L. testaceum), and about the same time as those of L. Hansoni. L. chalcedonicum, like some other members of the Martagon or Turk's-cap group, will sometimes show but little growth above ground the first season after being transplanted, but, as a rule, the next year it will have recovered from the check. It is also especially interesting as being one of the parents of the Nankeen Lily (L. testaceum), which is a great favourite with many. This last resulted from the intercrossing of L. candidum and L. chalcedonicum. Of Lilies flowering in the open ground in the middle of July we have L. elegans venustum, remarkable as being the last of the elegans group to bloom; L. longiflorum in several forms; L. auratum, or at all events some individuals of this species, for others may not bloom till summer is well advanced; L. Batemannæ, of a reddish-apricot tint; and L. Leichtlini, pale yellow dotted with red. The future display of Lily blossoms is principally furnished by L. tigrinum in several varieties, and L. speciosum, of which numerous forms are in cultivation. L. C.

The Scarlet Turk's Cap Lily (Lilium chalcedonicum)

The colour of the flowers is bright sealing-wax red

Lilium candidum

That there are two distinct diseases to which this favourite old Lily is subject is not, I think, sufficiently recognised. When a plant collapses entirely we look to the root for the cause, but when the foliage only is injured and stem and flowers remain intact, it is obviously a case of atmospheric influence. I say obviously, because I cannot call to mind the case of any plant permanently injured at the roots, tubers, or corms, as the case may be, the leaves and stem of which do not ultimately suffer. We always lose the foliage more or less, but a careful examination of the stem shows no trace of injury, whilst the flowers, averaging from 12 t per stem, are all in their turn fairly wel veloped. The flowers are not so large a could wish, but diminution in the siz flower always follows injury to foliage.

Honesty: Sow seeds now f silvery pods next year

Surely, if any blossom savoured of quity and never goes out of fashion Honesty (Lunaria biennis), the silvery of which have a value over and above flowers, as they are held in esteem in quarters for winter decoration. Co folk are specially fond of it, and they d always trouble to raise plants, as from sowings they have generally sufficient s up about the garden.

May is the month when biennials are s and I would pass on the reminder to rea when sowing other things to put in a of Honesty seed. Let it be scattered thinly in an open, sunny situation. Ord garden soil will suffice. Planting of y ones out should not be deferred indefin as they grow very quickly. Quality o is not of great importance, but they d preciate a sunny place. W. F.

Sweet Williams

One of our favourite biennials is the S William. It has been improved conside of late years, so that to-day we have a of colours that the old florists who great pride in it never dreamed of. I the introduction of Sutton's Pink Beaut Scarlet gave these old-time flowers a petus and was the means of many folk t up their culture for the first time. We them, too, in richest crimsons and whit Auricula-eyed. Seed is best sown i open ground in a place clear of trees o thing likely to cast a shade. Ordinar den soil is good enough for them. M the best time to sow. There is anothe of increasing the stock, it is by cu which come from the base of the plant they have done flowering. These soo if placed in sandy soil. It may be nec to shade them for a time to prevent fla It is hardly worth while keeping old which have a way sometimes of g through the winter to fail at the el hour in spring. Seedlings ought pricked off before they get too large bed and put in their final quarters in Oc W. F

Narcissus Johnstoni Queen Spain

This natural hybrid has been parti good this year. It is planted in grass, Heaths, and in a semi-shady border. told by a Daffodil specialist that it do like being grown in a border, but seems to do better thus than in the It is also said to be very slow in incre in many cases no increase at all. I co cannot claim much increase, but the co tion seems to improve. There ar forms, one with a straight plant trump the other—and I think I like it best— frilled mouth to the trumpet. Its soft self colour and graceful habit appeals more than any other Daffodil.

NARCISSUS CYCLAMINEUS.—Though n of flower, this little species has been joy for weeks. The first flower of a colony opened on February 16th and pass out of bloom until April 6th. C other individual flower of any othe last as long? Its long trumpet of yellow and reflexing perianth, tucke like a rabbit's ears are when frighte it seems to me, grow from 5 inche

Narcissus Mayflower, which recently gained an Award of Merit

: is a Barri variety much influenced by the Poeticus blood in it. 'he bold overlapping and rounded perianth segments are milk 'hite, with a distinct orange-red cup. A grand show flower, and ne likely to have a great future for market. Raised by Mr. G. H. ngleheart and shown by Mr. F. Secrett, Marsh Farm, Twickenham

Iris fimbriata, a synonym of I. japonica, which is now flowering well in many gardens

Generally grown under glass, there is also a hardy form that may be grown in the open. The plant here illustrated was grown in a pan in a conservatory by Mrs. Torkington, The New Hall, Maidenhead, and shown at a recent meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society

es high. I have it planted in a some- t dry spot which gets only morning sun, it thrives here, sending up many self- 1 seedlings from seed-pods overlooked 1 ripe. I have another colony in half- e in fairly heavy soil. It seems a pro- seeder, and I have many hundreds of ings coming on. I saw it at Wisley ng itself in the grass everywhere.

ARCISSUS CANALICULATUS. — This little es is like a dwarf Tazetta or Polyanthus issus. The flowers are white, with a 1t yellow cup, deliciously scented. It es from the south of France and prefers nny position.

ARCISSUS MINIMUS.—This is the smallest of Daffodils flowering in February. Its per- miniature flowers are of a rich yellow, ing about 2 inches high. It likes a peaty though mine are growing in rather a y soil at the base of an Oak tree. It is beloved of slugs, and is just a nice late supper for one of these pests, who, can catch him, gets the business end of a in through his middle pretty quickly.

ARCISSUS TRIANDUS ALBUS.—This is now ower, but I do not think it is so success- s the others I have mentioned. Possibly oil is not quite the right thing, as I think efers a hard, gritty soil. It is a de- ful little species, growing here about hes or 7 inches high with sometimes as y as five creamy-white blooms with re- ng perianth on a stem. It is a native of ugal and Spain, and was discovered by ate Mr. Peter Barr. DAFF.

nts.

ROSES

Disbudding Roses

As a means of conserving and concentrating vital force, retarding growth, and preventing pruning

THE destruction of vital force among Roses in such seasons as these is appalling. Turn where we will to wall, pyramidal, pillar, dwarf, or standard Roses, the same forests of growing shootlets are visible. Had half or three-quarters of these been disbudded before growth began, less growing power would have been drawn out of the plants, and the loss might have taken place where it would have been less missed. For example, were two shoots or so left at the summit of early Rose branches, and all the others disbudded, but from two to six or so near the base of the shoots, those base buds would be fuller fed or filled up with the chances of bursting rather diminished than otherwise, for the upper shootlets would grow faster, and hence form better safety valves for the overflowing sap than the competing shoots between. And this brings me to my second point—that such disbudding as here recommended would really retard the growth of the base buds. It is less the number than the strength of the shoots that endow them with the power of withdrawing the sap from other buds. The more they are developed and expanded the greater their power to decoy away any excess of fluid from the buds behind them or lower down on the stems. Hence, the further the few shoots on the head of the branch grew, the less danger of the base buds bursting; and it need hardly be added that it is on these only in such seasons as the present that all our hopes depend. Finally, disbudding would prevent much pruning, and pruning is emphatically one of those operations to which the old saw applies, "Prevention is better than cure." It seems a difficult thing to disbud Roses on paper, but it is really not so in practice. A sharp eye, knife, and hand will deprive not a few Rose trees of all their superfluous buds in a day, an hour even, and thus double the time spent in disbudding may be saved in pruning, so that the question of labour may be briefly settled at once in favour of disbudding.

All small, misplaced, crowded buds should be removed before breaking, and if, on looking over Roses to bud, cut, or thin the flowers, one was also to have an eye to disbudding, vital force would be greatly husbanded, and the labour of pruning Roses much lightened. The Roses would also be much benefited, the wood strengthened, the flowers enlarged, and the entire plants and their produce greatly improved. T.

Roses

Watch the tips of the young shoots for caterpillar, which must be destroyed, and thin out the newly-formed buds. Loop in strong growths of climbing varieties, and where a ground covering of Tufted Pansies or dwarf annuals has not been thought advisable apply the hoe to the soil frequently.

Hatfield and Its Tudor Garden

LORD BURLEIGH possessed a wonderful garden at Theobalds, in Hertfordshire, which was superintended by the famous John Gerard, the author of the "Herbal," published in 1597. King James I. took such a fancy to the place that he exchanged it for Hatfield in 1607 and created Lord Burleigh's son, Robert Cecil, First Earl of Salisbury. The old palace of Hatfield belonged to the Abbey of Ely before the Norman Conquest, and after Ely became a bishopric the bishops made their residence there until Henry VIII. took it from them in exchange for land elsewhere. It was in this ancient palace that Elizabeth lived as a child with her brother Edward and her sister Mary. It was here she was kept as a Royal prisoner when her half-sister was on the throne, and it was here that she held her first State Council when Queen. The West Garden, as it is named, lies immediately between this ancient palace and the superb mansion known as Hatfield House, erected in 1611 by the First Earl of Salisbury.

There is an account of this garden being laid out in 1496, but it is certain that there was one on the same site long before this. It remains to-day very much the same as when Queen Elizabeth knew it.

The West Garden, or "the Queen's Garden," as it is sometimes called, is enclosed on all four sides by a covered walk of Lime trees, which are planted some 12 feet apart and trained in arches. Within this living cloister lies a broad stretch of velvet lawn bordered by a well-clipped Yew hedge. On the inner side of it the whole garden is filled with bright, sweet-scented flowers. In the centre there is a large fountain the basin of which contains many varieties of Water Lilies. At each of the four corners of the garden there is a fine Mulberry tree said to have been planted by King James I. It is interesting to note that James I. made an attempt to promote the silk industry. Among the many MSS. in the library at Hatfield House there is a draft of a patent for the importation of Mulberry trees from France, dated 1606. To further the King's scheme Cecil bought 500 trees in France in 1608, and it is quite likely that the four standing in the ancient West Garden were among them.

This garden is such an one as Shakespeare knew and sang of, a place for strengthening the weary spirit, for youth's fond dreams and maidens' fancies, for lovers' whispers, for children's gambols, or for the telling of some story of adventure by Drake or Frobisher.

Just to the north of this garden is the Rosary, where many a blossom is to be seen close to the palace windows of the virgin Queen. This little garden lies some 10 feet below the level of the West Garden, and is sheltered from all boisterous winds by a bank of soft turf. In the centre there was, when I first saw it, a Rose temple, or bower of climbing Roses, surmounted by the Crown, while all round it the flower of England grew on many a bush and standard.

To the west of the ancient palace a gateway leads to the Sundial Garden. The old dial stands upon a broad path surrounded by beds filled with such flowers as Shakespeare knew and Bacon tells of in his famous "Essay of Gardens."

On the south front of the mansion a wide carriage-drive leads up to the house, and on each side of it there is a spacious lawn usually bright with beds filled with Pelargoniums. The last time on which the present writer visited these gardens was when an Elizabethan fête was held, and we seemed to be living again in the days of the Tudors and Stuarts. Queen Elizabeth was personated by Lady Mary Ashley, while King James was represented by Lord Howard de Walden. The historical procession, with the King and Queen and their courtiers, the numerous ladies and gentlemen in waiting, and the maids of honour seen within the garden of their period, and with the superb Jacobean mansion as a backgroud, made a scene never to be forgotten. Our ugly modern dress seemed quite out of place among such surroundings.

On the east front of the house there is a broad terrace and a fine flight of stone steps which lead to the Italian Garden. On each side of the central walk tall Irish Yews do duty for the Cypress and stand like sentinels. In the time of the late Mr. Norman, who was for many years the head gardener at Hatfield, the beds here were filled with dwarf Heliotropes, and standard Heliotropes flowering above them. Other beds were planted with standard and dwarf Fuchsias.

Below this terraced garden a maze of clipped Yews rises from the soft turf. sombre tones give relief to the eye and r the colours of the flowers appear the r brilliant. Beyond the maze a beautiful garden lies which is quite hidden from terraces above. It was known as ' Garden of Sweet Perfumes." Here the is arched over with various roses for r yards, and at either end there is a bower of Honeysuckle. It is an exqu little spot, and is, as the name denotes voted to the cultivation of sweet-sce flowers. In the centre there is a formal and a fountain which empties into a cu old-world leaden tank. At the time of Elizabethan fête dances in the classic were here performed. In yet another pa the "Princely Garden" merry children dancing round the Maypole.

To the north the great park cl approaches the mansion, and a wall about half-a-mile down one of the aver for which the park is noted, b one to the remains of the ancient and his Oak under which Elizabeth was seated the news was brought to her of the dea her cruel half-sister, Queen Mary. T are many living Oaks in the park qui ancient, and the late Mr. Gunton, the pr secretary to the late Marquis, once tol that they formed part of a 10-acre fore Oaks in the reign of Henry VIII. must, therefore, be at least six centurie if not more, "whose boughs are mossed age and high tops bald with dry antiqu ("As You Like It!")

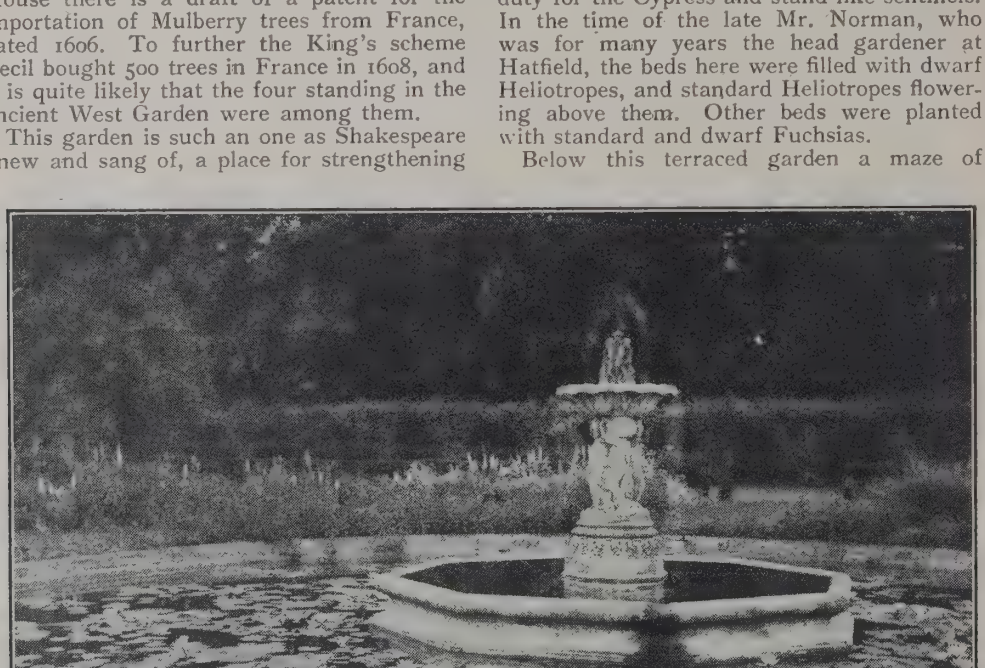
Beyond the historic Oak an avenu Lime trees leads to a secluded garden k as "The Vineyard." Here a series of avenues slopes down to the banks o river Lea, so beloved of old Sir I Walton. The Hon. Mrs. Evelyn Cecil an interesting description of it in her "tory of Gardening in England." Gunton most kindly turned up the ac for me which gave particulars conce the purchase of these Yews. It appears were bought for the Vineyard Garde 1706, and that they were trained and cl by the first Marquis in 1780 and finish the second to bear the title. They a longer clipped, but allowed to grow r ally.

The Hon. Mrs. Evelyn Cecil records the banks of the stream were beautiful flowers and sundry arbours, and walks were connected with the vineyard prop the opposite bank by ornamental bri The work was designed and carried o Mountain Jennings.

The vineyard is far older, for it planted in the lifetime of the first Earl, died in 1612.

Solomon du Caux, who died in the year as his patron, designed a fou which was made at the cost of £113, is further recorded that 310 lbs. of were used for casting a figure of Nep and the water from the statue fell i marble basin. The Vines for the vin proper were obtained from Madam Boderie, wife of the French Ambass who sent no less than 30,000 Vines to field. Mrs. Evelyn Cecil relates tha busiest collectors of foreign plants i time of James I. and Charles I. wer three generations of John Tradescant, a second John superintended the garden the first Earl of Salisbury. The Spider or Tradescantia, is named after this fa old gardener. The original bills showi purchases made by Tradescant are pres at Hatfield, and it is certainly astonishi find that "Irys Susyand" and Calsedonye were grown at Hatfield as as 1611.

It is strange that any man who lo



Hatfield: The large fountain

en should have submitted to its destruc- yet such was the case when the craze andscape gardening was at its height in the 18th century. Fortunately, the of the spoiler was not allowed to de- the precious old " pleasaunce " at Hat- The Garden of the Maiden Queen is here to speak to us of the 16th century, time of grand enterprise to which, in- the making of England may be ed. Long human associations have about it an air of classic courtliness, nce has woven a spell about it. Many narch, prince, and princess, monk and er, simple page and country maid have ed beneath these fragrant Lime trees ng, perchance, to some old glee or gal, or watching some fantastic masque singing to the lute and oboe, as we were able to do at the Elizabethan fête be- referred to, when Campion's Masque performed for the first time since eth's day. Then the spacious grounds thronged with fair ladies and gallant men all wearing the picturesque dress time, and it was difficult to believe we were, unfortunately, living in the c 20th century.

s garden was the handiwork of the s of England. It remains to-day the v fruit of their leisure. Bacon's ay of Gardens," published in 1625, is wledged to be one of the best descrip- of a princely Tudor garden, which has down to us, and it certainly seems pro- that he drew much of his inspiration his wonderful garden of his uncle's at ld, which was so near his own at St. s. Although he wrote that " men come d stately sooner than to garden finely," ce at Hatfield is sufficient to show that cils knew how to do both.

ert Cecil, when he laid out the new there, proved himself to be as keen a ulturist as his father, Lord Burleigh, cobalds. To-day his garden gives the st delight to his descendants and to others like ourselves, who, through kindness and courtesy, are allowed to .

H. H. Warner.

Hatfield House: The south front

Planting out Sweet Peas

By East Anglian.

obtain good results all Sweet Peas— en from late sowings—should be trans- nted to their flowering quarters be- e end of the second week in May.

ordinary purposes, that is, for garden me decoration, there are two ways in Sweet Peas may be planted, and it s on personal taste and requirement is chosen. The simpler method is to rows, and these are useful as screens backgrounds to borders. Apart from ows do not lend themselves to any ive scheme in the flower garden pro- t clumps can be very effective in many s, such as between the uprights of a , dotted here and there at the back of er, in the centres of beds, or along ide of a garden path. Quite a beauti- ct may be obtained by placing a few in round or oval beds with Violas or her free-blooming and fairly dwarf- g subject planted at their base, g colours in both which will blend or pleasing contrast. For example, of bright orange-cerise Sweet Peas e well with cream or yellow Violas; , rose, maroon, and carmine Sweet ith white Violas or white Alyssum; r Violas with cream or cream-pink Peas; blue, mauve, lavender, and Sweet Peas with cream or creamy- Violas.

t Peas in pots or boxes should be thoroughly hardened off before they are moved to their permanent positions, and so that there shall be no delay it is wise to map out the position of each variety before actually commencing to transplant, arranging the colours—whether in clumps or rows—so as to give a pleasing effect. Very often no attention whatever is given to this point. As a general rule, it is best to confine each clump to a separate variety, or at the most to two colours which blend. Then, again, when a dozen or more varieties are planted in one row it is not a difficult matter to make each one harmonise with its immediate neighbour.

Just to illustrate this point, suppose any dozen colours are arranged at random; quite likely when they flower it will be found that nearly every colour " kills " or " clashes " with its immediate neighbours. A glaring example will be seen in the following order of planting:—Crimson, orange-cerise, lavender, purple, rose, cerise, blue, pink, blush, cream-pink, cream, and white. If these are carefully rearranged thus, purple, cream-pink, cerise, pink, cream, crimson, blush, blue, white, rose, lavender, and orange-cerise, a much nicer effect is obtained taking the row as a whole, each variety tending to enhance, rather than detract from, the colours on either side of it.

It is a controversial point whether the roots of Sweet Pea seedlings should be shaken free of their old potting soil or planted with the ball of soil undisturbed. Provided that reasonable care is exercised in shaking off the old soil and that the roots are not exposed to sun or wind for any length of time no harmful effects will follow. In this connection I may state that I have known Sweet Pea plants to succeed after remaining a week out of the ground. The plants in question were sent by parcel post to Austria, packed in damp Moss in a cardboard box.

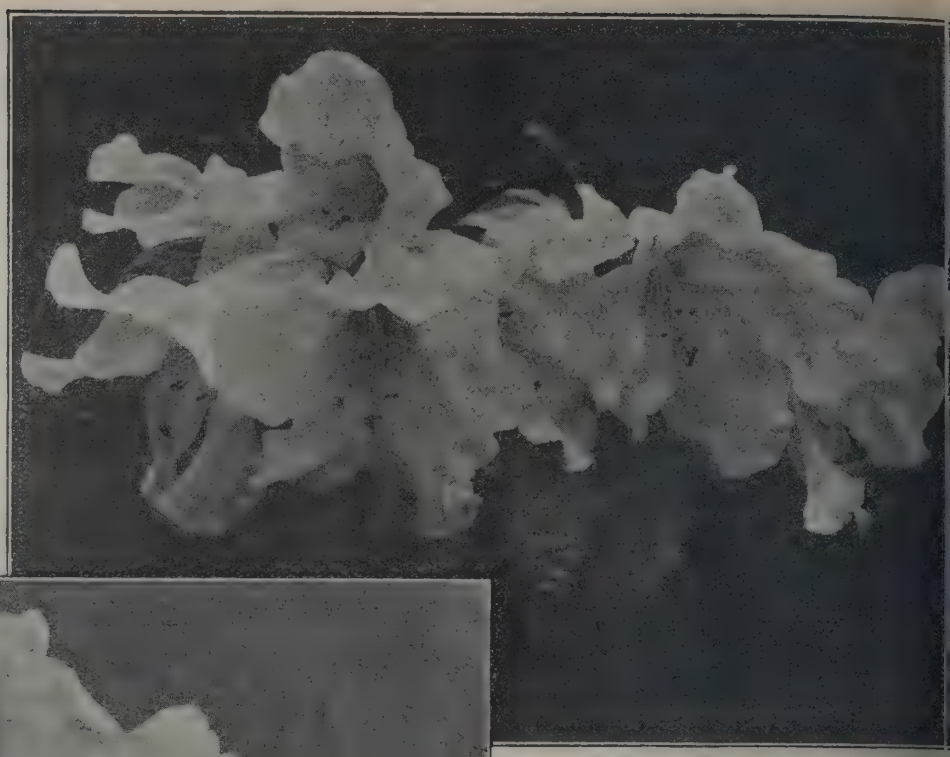
So that the potting soil shall fall easily from the roots it is advisable to water the pots or boxes the day before transplanting. Shake out only a few plants at a time and discard any which appear weakly. If growing for ordinary purposes and not on the "exhibition" or single-stem system about 6 inches between each plant will be ample, or if planting in rings or clumps of 18 inches diameter allow eight to ten plants to each clump. Make the holes with a trowel, getting the roots well down and planting firmly. Place small twigs round each little plant immediately to prevent them blowing about. Unless the soil is dry do not water; indeed, it is advisable to refrain from watering until the plants commence blooming, relying on frequent hoeings to conserve the moisture. Slugs are often a nuisance for about 10 days or a fortnight after planting out, especially if the weather be dull and showery. Unless these pests are very numerous they may be checked by sprinkling old soot, lime, or finely-sifted ashes round the seedlings, but not actually on their foliage, renewing the soot or lime frequently until the foliage is less tender and, consequently, more unpalatable to the slugs. In dealing with a few plants only the old-fashioned " slug traps " are effective. These are made by placing Cabbage leaves along each side of the row. The slugs find their way underneath the leaves and can be picked off and destroyed every morning. Birds are not often troublesome, but their attacks may be stopped if found necessary by stretching strands of thin black cotton just above the plants.

It depends entirely on circumstances what kind of permanent supports are given to the plants. Whether sticks, wire-netting, or cord-netting are used, these should be fixed in position early. The supports must be strong enough to hold the weight of the plants in the summer and autumn against the wind. Where decorative effect in the garden is a consideration the supports should be made as neat as possible—this is particularly essential in the case of clumps—and I, personally, much prefer ordinary Pea-sticks for clumps, as they seem to give a much more natural appearance than netting. After planting out, the Sweet Peas will need little attention beyond supporting and fairly frequent hoeing until they begin to flower.

Wallflowers

I have heard the plea put forward so often that " my soil is too poor to think of sowing Wallflowers " that one wonders whether the good folk who make the excuse have really tried, for, above everything in the garden, these sweet-smelling spring-flowering plants are best served when they can be given a soil that is quite free from manure; in fact, poor to use the word in its widest sense. At the time this note is written I have something like 400 plants, many showing bud, seeds

for which were sown the first week in June last on ground which had not been manured for a year or two. The seedlings were not allowed to stop in the bed long, but were pricked out and left in their quarters until October, being given 6 inches or 8 inches of room from plant to plant. It was not until they had their latest transfer that they found soil of better quality. By that time they were stiff, sturdy plants, and I attribute to their early upbringing the fact that during the winter I have not lost a dozen plants. It is nothing short of a mistake to suppose that these popular sweet-smelling flowers want rich soil from the start, as the plainer their diet the better. I may be old-fashioned in my ideas about selection of sorts, but it seems to me, though it is a little more trouble, the most satisfaction is got from them when they are planted out in colour groups, each colour to itself. Rich soil is likely to make the plants romp away, but in poor soil they grow much more steadier and sturdier. W. F.



Above: **Rhododendron Tyermannii, l large white flowers, shown by Me R. Gill and Sons**

Below: **A good truss of R. disco**

The Rhododendron Show

May 3rd and 4th

THE chief topic of conversation at the Rhododendron Society's Show held at Vincent Square was the effect of the severe spring frosts of the previous fortnight, when from 7 degs. to 17 degs. of frost were registered in widely-separated parts of the country. The frost had a marked effect upon the show. We missed the great banks of Aucklandii hybrids that were a feature of the first show last year; happily there were hardy hybrids to take their places.

In view of the damage by frost at Wisley, where fruit blossom as well as Rhododendrons and Azaleas were ruined, it would not have been surprising had there been no show this year, but the remarkable thing is that sufficient trusses of bloom escaped injury, and the show produced was one of exceptional interest.

Competition was keen in most of the classes, and the hall was filled from end to end with Rhododendrons to the exclusion of all other plants.

Amateurs

Lady Aberconway and the Hon. H. McLaren showed a magnificent group from their gardens at Bodnant, North Wales, and won the challenge cup (Class 4) for the best amateur display. This group included a new hybrid, Betty, the result of a cross between R. Fortunei and R. Thomsoni. It has bright rose-pink flowers shading to white at the base. A superb specimen of R. callimorphum formed the centre-piece to this group, supported by handsome sprays and specimens of R. Augustinii, R. yunnanense, R. calostrotum, R. orbiculare, and R. campylogynum, truly a great gathering of interesting species.

The plant from Bodnant which aroused the greatest interest was the superb specimen of R. callimorphum, with bell-shaped flowers of Apple-blossom pink.

The blood-red R. hæmatodes was well shown by Mr. J. C. Williams, Caerhays, Gorran, Cornwall, who gained an equal first in Class 5 with Col. Stephenson Clarke. One of the most interesting species in Mr. Williams' collection was the small-flowered R. sphæranthum, the branches of which were literally smothered with pale pink trusses (see illustration).

R. decorum was well shown by Mr. G. W. E. Loder, and the exquisite pink R. schlippenbachii was shown with marked success by Mr. Lionel de Rothschild. It known that the success of the Rhodod Shows is, in a large measure, due energies of Mr. Rothschild, who has a great deal of time and gone to no trouble to make these exhibitions a s Mr. Rothschild was second in the amateur class, showing large va Aucklandii crosses, Loderi, and G Millais.

Mr. J. B. Stevenson was responsible interesting exhibit designed to show th ability of the R. lapponicum series rock garden. These little Rhododen from the Chinese Alps looked happ sandstone rock garden. It was a no interesting exhibit.

R. russatum, a most remarkable r was awarded the first prize in t lapponicum series and an Award of It is a low-growing alpine form discove Forest in North-West Yunnan in 191 altitude of 12,000 feet. The small are of a deep rich purple-blue, descre Oxford blue by some admirers; certai bluest of the Rhododendron blues. shown by Mr. A. N. Williams, Wer Park, Launceston.

Nurserymen

Messrs. R. Gill and Sons, Falmou formed the feat of bringing 2 tons of dendrons from Cornwall and winning second year the challenge cup (Class the best trade group. In this group specimen plant of R. giganteum, a which has not yet flowered in this c In its native habitat it attains a he 90 feet. In the centre of this group large specimen about 9 feet high of the flowered hybrid Elspeth, and on eith were large plants of William Watson, Gill, R. sesterianum, and R. Tyer with large white flowers. The last forms the subject of an illustration page. It is an indoor Rhododendr flowering at Kew.

The second prize in Class 1 was Messrs. R. Wallace and Co. for a gu

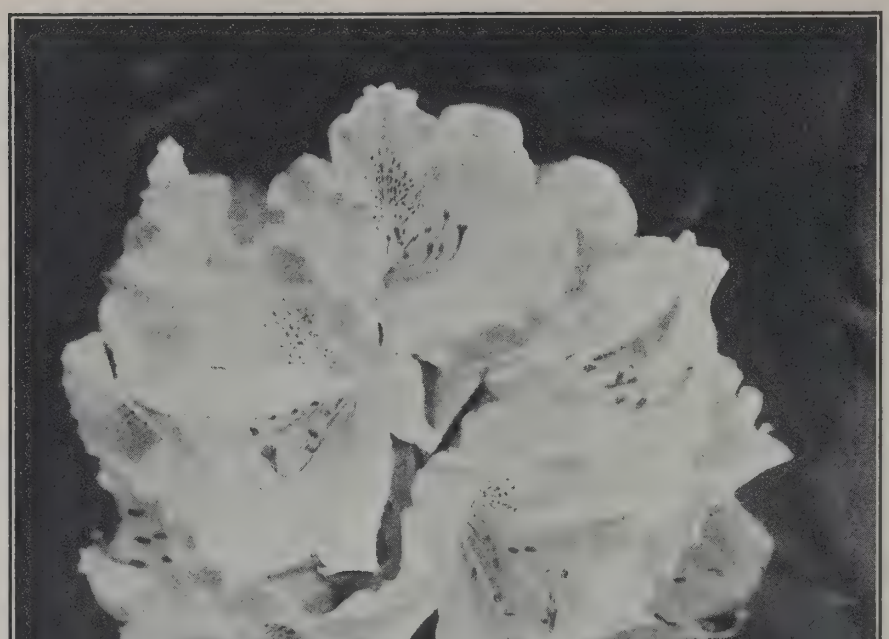
SEEN AT THE RHODODENDRON SHOW

Rhododendron sphæranthum, shown by Mr. J. C. Williams, of Caerhays, Cornwall

The branches of this species are literally smothered with small trusses of pale pink flowers

dodendron hybrid gained First Prize, nnabarinum x R. rephes, shown by erald W. E. Loder, hurst Place, Ardingly, Sussex

lowers are of light nk on a cream ground



Rhododendron Hugo de Vries, with large trusses of pink flowers

Shown by R. Wallace and Co., Ltd., at the Rhododendron Show

well-grown and well-flowered plants, chiefly hardy hybrids. The variety Hugo de Vries (illustrated above), with large trusses of pink flowers, was one of the most noteworthy varieties. Other varieties worthy of special mention in this group were Britannia, King George, W. F. Wery (crimson), Noreen Beamish, and the deep rose W. R. Dykes. Of the species shown from Tunbridge Wells two of the most interesting were the large-leaved R. basilicum and R. callimorphum.

Large groups of Rhododendrons were staged by Messrs. Waterer, Sons, and Crisp, J. Cheal and Sons, R. Veitch and Son, Hillier and Sons, Van Nes and Sons, Koster and Sons, and Mr. G. Reuthe, and Azaleas from Messrs. R. and G. Cuthbert. H. C.

A Rhododendron Association

A meeting was held in the R.H.S. Lecture Room on May 3rd for the purpose of forming a new Society. Mr. Lionel de Rothschild occupied the chair, and among those present were Mr. W. J. Bean, Sir Frederick Moore, Mr. P. C. M. Veitch, Mr. R. Cory, Mr. A. Grove, Mr. R. W. Wallace, Mr. G. Waterer, Mr. G. W. E. Loder, Mr. P. D. Williams, Mr. J. C. Williams, Mr. Eley, the Hon. H. D. McLaren, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Mr. A. D. Cotton, Dr. A. Hill, and Lord Headfort. Mr. Rothschild stated that there already existed a Rhododendron Society composed of some 25 persons interested in Rhododendrons, but that Society was more in the nature of a club. It was now considered desirable to invite a larger number to take part in the organising of Rhododendron shows. He felt sure that with a stronger association the exhibitions would be even more successful than in the past, and he hoped in the future they would be of a sufficient size to fill the new hall. Mr. Gerald Loder, in supporting Mr. Rothschild, considered the time had come to form a larger body interested in the Rhododendron, and the meeting was especially called to consider what its functions should be and how the shows should be best conducted. It might be possible, he said, to hold two shows, one in the spring and one in the summer. He recommended that a small Committee should be appointed to consider details. Other speakers included Sir Herbert Maxwell, Mr. P. C. M. Veitch, Mr. Crosfield, Mr. Gomer Waterer, Mr. R. W. Wallace, Mr. J. Cheal, and Mr. J. C. Williams. All were unanimous in supporting the proposal, and the Chairman put the following resolution to the meeting, which was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting is of opinion that an association be formed to be called the Rhododendron Association, for the purpose of promoting the cultivation of Rhododendrons, and that a Committee be formed to consider details and report to a further meeting to be held toward the end of June." On the proposition of Mr. J. C. Williams, a Committee of six was appointed, three from the existing Rhododendron Society—Messrs. Rothschild, McLaren, and Stevenson, and Messrs. Gomer Waterer, Crosfield, and Admiral Walker-Heneage-Vivian. The Committee, which was given power to co-opt others, will draw up concrete proposals and report to a further meeting to be called at the end of June.

INDOOR PLANT

Bouvardias

IT is a matter for surprise that so few have greenhouses grow Bouvardias, am unable to account for this in any way than through a misunderstanding ference to their culture. I am withi mark when I say that in the greenhou many amateurs they are never seen, an is, no doubt, owing to a lack of know as to their requirements, not a few cherishing the idea that a heat like that found in a stove is the first essential. less to say, this is not the case, for within the limits of the amateur, wit house containing a mixed collection of p to grow them satisfactorily. If Prin Cinerarias, Azaleas, and bulbs are no bloom in the house, so might Bouvardi for they need no greater care than d other subjects mentioned. I cannot co of anyone desirous of a winter or spring show of flowers trying to do wi Bouvardias, for, considering, both as when in blossom for the adornment of or as cut flowers for wearing, they a such value, it is to be regretted that the not more generally grown by the own small houses. After the plants have blooming is the time to think of propag and to this end they should be cut ba possible, kept in rather a close atmos for a few weeks to encourage new gr and then, when the new shoots have several inches, they should be cut off, in pans of loam and peat, with which been mixed silver sand, and put under a glass or in a propagator. Their subse treatment consists in potting them separately when they have made root, ing out the leader when they have at the desired height, and placing the frames during the summer, where, wi and sun, the wood may mature and so e blooming. They may be helped very by the use of stimulants when the po full of roots, and much may also be d aiding the ripening of the wood by tyin the shoots as they grow to supports. D hot weather benefit will also accrue by the syringe freely to keep down insects care should also be taken to afford wa required at the roots. As with Primula other winter-flowering plants, Sept should see the plants safely housed, and that time until March a collection provide many blossoms, according to th gress they have made and the heat the be afforded. In them we have plants owing to their compact habit and t cheery-looking blossoms are charmin the table, are acknowledged dainty fo coat, and are spoken of by some as much easier to grow than the Stepha yet quite as acceptable for dress s These are considerations that should with all who have greenhouses, and wh to make them bright at this time of the

Old plants can be cut back and re after flowering, and will bloom just as the following season, but it is from plants that the finest sprays must t pected. One point about Bouvardias always remembered, and it is one whic ticularly applies to the culture of plants, and that is, the ripening of the without which a good display of bloom not be expected. Every facility s therefore, be given plants in summer t plenty of sun, and the practice follow standing them out in the open for some in July and August in a sunny situati the same way as one does Chrysanthem is to be commended. The failures to young plants the first season may be buted to a too sappy state of the wood

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

outhern and Midland

aison Carnations

se now coming into bloom must be l during the hottest hours of the day, rise the blooms will not only lose much ir colour, but will retain their fresh- ver a much shorter period. Tie the to neatly-placed stakes and thin out ids, leaving one only to each stem. ants may be applied in diluted form twice each week and abundance of air ed both day and night. A few well- ed specimens are always a source of t and attraction when grouped in con- ories, where the conditions at the pre- me are such as Carnations enjoy.

ual flowering Carnations

main batch for winter flowering are eady for their final shift, and may be into sizes of 6 inches to 8 inches in er. Young, strong, and clean plants have bloomed during the past winter lso be cut well back, shaken out, and d into larger pots, and, like the above, be kept somewhat close for the first following, shaded from bright sun- and syringed freely each evening the weather be hot and dry. Follow- s, air must be admitted, and gradually ed until the lights are removed alto- These plants enjoy a bed of gravel -ashes to stand upon.

Carnations

erally known as Border Carnations, have been raised from seed and l off into boxes, these may now nted out in lines at a foot apart, strong plants will be formed for beds rders during the early autumn.

ng plants

rarias, Primulas, Cyclamen, Gloxinias, as, etc., which are intended for bloom- pots should on no account be per- to become potbound, therefore a shift rger pots should be given without de- d every inducement applied to obtain clean growth.

astrums

ts raised from seed during the present should be kept growing freely and the applied briskly among them, as thrip worst enemy. Keep the plants close the glass and shade from excessive e. Old plants which have bloomed grown to their ripening stage under conditions and be kept slightly on the e.

Lilies in the open

e who desire to establish a few roots fine Lily in their ponds should use plants which have bloomed during the and now hardened off in the open. should be planted at the present time r not exceeding 18 inches in depth, the bottom of lakes and ponds usually ound suitable for them, and once they established little further care is neces-

lpine garden

is now very gay, and every attempt e made to prolong its beauty by the surface soil between the plants, g weeds and dead flowers where the re not required, and by applying water e in need of same. Should vacancies rough unforeseen causes they should le good either with a choice dwarf or reserve plants which have been g in pots.

Raspberries

These absorb considerable nourishment, and should be assisted with stimulants from this date. Especially does this apply to those growing on light soils. Mulching with farm-yard manure will prove most beneficial to this crop if applied now.

Pears, Peaches, and Apricots

Attend to the stopping and training of the shoots of these, and guard against dryness at the roots, in the case of the former particularly. The stopping is most satisfactory if completed before the shoots are too hard to pinch between the thumb and finger. At present everything points to a most bountiful fruit year in these gardens.

Brussels Sprouts

Seedlings raised under glass may now be planted in the open on well-prepared ground. Where quality is important a heavy dressing of raw manure is not advisable, land which was lightly dressed, dug up, and exposed in autumn and well worked recently being preferable.

Cauliflowers

Seedlings raised in frames may also be planted out on well-prepared ground, and as they demand good cultivation the soil must be constantly stirred with the hoe and every encouragement given in the way of watering and feeding.

Turnips and Lettuces

These should be sown every fortnight in small quantities, but must on no account be permitted to suffer from drought. A sprinkling of freshly-mown grass from lawns applied to the former will ward off attack from the Turnip fly.

Rhubarb

Remove the flower-spikes from this crop and thereby prolong its usefulness and enable stronger crowns to develop for next season.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Peas

Another sowing of this indispensable vegetable should now be made, such sterling varieties as Royal Salute, Glory of Devon, and Superlative being among the most reliable of the high-class sorts for present use. Continue to ply the hoe between the rows of the earlier sowings and stake in good time, for when once the haulm is allowed to "knee" over, the plants never do much good.

Turnips

Small sowings at frequent intervals give best results, smallish fresh bulbs being so much better than large fully-matured ones. In the later districts it will now be well to sow Swedes for winter use, this being much more useful and reliable than either white or yellow varieties.

Lettuce

To ensure a steady supply of fresh well-blanched heads fortnightly sowings are advisable. While it is usually considered that the Cos sorts are more crisp and well-flavoured than the Cabbage type, I do not think this holds good if a good variety of the latter be well grown. New York Giant and Webb's Wonderful, although they grow to a large size, are never coarse, while for flavour they cannot be beaten. They should be used after the hearts are blanched.

Dwarf Beans

Experience of late years has taught me that, here in the north at least, there is no use in sowing Kidney Beans before the middle of May unless it be on very light, dry soils. In retentive ground the seeds just rot, whereas if planted during the last half of this month they do splendidly, as a rule. Small sowings every fortnight up till the middle of July are desirable.

Strawberries

To encourage these in every way keep the hoe going regularly between the rows and apply a light dressing of some approved artificial fertiliser, keeping it, as far as possible, from touching the foliage. Nip off all flower-stems as they appear from spring-planted beds. If necessary give a good soaking of water.

Outdoor Peaches

It is just as necessary to disbud the trees growing on walls in the open as it is with those under glass. Go over the trees several times, in a systematic way, at intervals of four or five days, for to disbud all at once would cause a serious check, with, in all likelihood, dropping of the fruit. If weather be dry, water copiously at the roots, and keep a sharp look-out for vermin, spraying at once when the enemy is first seen.

Peaches under glass

While in growth dryness in the soil or in the atmosphere of the house have a disastrous effect upon this fruit, so every care must be taken to avoid such conditions. Where good crops are swelling an occasional drenching of the soil with weak liquid-manure is very helpful, but trees that are inclined to be very vigorous must not be so treated or the trouble will, of course, be greatly aggravated.

Tomatoes

Especially when growing in pots dryness of the soil must be guarded against, for it is when this condition is allowed, followed by heavy watering, that causes splitting of the fruits. Strong doses of either liquid-manure or chemical fertiliser will also, of course, cause this. All feeding should be applied weak and often for best results.

Hardening off

All the more tender bedding plants should now be in cold frames so that the important business of hardening off may be begun. This must be a very gradual process if best results are to be secured. Guard against late frosts, which are not unknown even at the end of May.

Hardy annuals

I am afraid that early-sown plants of these useful subjects have had a bad time of it, and many gaps will be noticeable. I have often had excellent results by sowing about this date. Growth is now so rapid that slugs have little chance of doing serious damage, and the plants, although they may bloom a little later, are usually strong and vigorous, producing fine flowers.

Bedding out

All the hardier plants used for summer and autumn decoration may now, with safety, be got into their flowering quarters. These include Pansies, Violas (if not yet planted), Chrysanthemums, Calceolarias, Pentstemons, and Antirrhinums. If all these be got out now they not only succeed quite as well, or better, than they do when left until the end of the month, but this greatly lightens the work when the tender kinds have to be tackled.

C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

The Flower Garden and the Demand for Cut Flowers

THE SUPPLY OF CUT FLOWERS.—With many vases, big and little, to fill and the supply to come mainly from outside, it is hardly necessary to say that the planting of different things to secure a succession, and the selection to meet the several ordinary and special things for which the flowers are required, is not the least important item in flower garden work. The selection of different things turns principally on using flowers that have a comparatively short life in a cut state for purposes in which a display for the time and not the desirability of avoiding early replenishment is the main consideration. Such things as single Pæonies and the different varieties of Poppies may, for instance, be used with advantage in the decoration of the table; they stand very well for the few hours required in any work of this kind. Just on the same principle flowers that do not last long out of doors may be the first cut when required in quantity; the borders are necessarily kept rather bare, and one is anxious to preserve the flowers as long as possible. It is difficult to imagine how such a supply could have been maintained in those bygone times when the formal garden was the first consideration. A series of herbaceous beds or borders from which one can cut a plentiful supply is indeed a great boon. Next to the fact of having such borders undoubtedly comes the desirability of so planting them that a thoroughly good succession may be secured, and we have oftentimes to give up the wish to plant any special favourites too largely when the thought comes that an excess of any one thing is only produced at the expense of, perhaps, more useful subjects. One of the earliest flowers of any size is probably the Tenby Daffodil, and one of the latest is Aster grandiflorus, the one early in February, given a favourable time, the other flowering at the beginning of December if the frost holds off. In connection with many new varieties of hardy plants, an immense improvement has been effected in the substance of petal, rendering them so much more acceptable in a cut state, and the same new varieties coming in, as they do, at different times are equally as serviceable in extending the season as a whole as for the extra time they last individually. Again, there are often special demands on the flower garden at some particular season of the year, and in all cases where the time is known measures have to be taken to meet the extra demand. For the harvest festival, for instance, Star Dahlias and white Comet Aster are in great request, and as such festivals happen, as a rule, towards the end of September, a batch of the Aster should be put out later than usual in order to get the flowers at this particular time. Nothing much in the way of white, to say nothing of scarlet, is available on the herbaceous border at that time, except the late summer-flowering Chrysanthemums. So far as the special requirements of places are concerned in the way of vases, it may be noted that a taste for taller vases seems to be growing, and that flowers to fill such vases have to be provided. Good bold flowers, even if they are common, are much better than using dwarf formal flowers. Pæonies, Irises, and Delphiniums are early big flowers.

HARDY PLANTS IN POTS.—Among the hardy plants potted up last autumn for use at different times and for different purposes, some, as Daffodils, Campanulas, Pinks, as well as Carnations in variety, have either already flowered or are still out, and it is not too much to say that batches of plants of this character are a wonderful boon to gardeners where the demand both for flowers and plants is large, and yet the supply of glass is limited. True, they cannot when used in this way be pronounced perfectly hardy, but the stacking away in cold pits or improvised frames is really more a question of saving the pot than the plant, and they may be packed as tightly as possible, using Fern between, and 2 inches of cocoa fibre or rough leaf-soil to protect the surface soil. Perhaps the best things so far have been the Pinks, Carnations, the white form of Campanula persicifolia (single) and the variegated forms of Funkia ovata. The contrasts in the latter case between the really bright variegation and the very handsome spikes of the lilac-coloured flowers is very striking. Francoa ramosa—one of the most graceful of pot plants all through the summer months—can be kept very well through the winter in a cold pit from which frost is just excluded, not but that it will stand a little frost, but the damp following after only a slight visitation is apt to cause a rotting at the collar. A batch of Montbretias will soon be throwing up the flower-spikes, and as they will be earlier than those on outside borders, they are likely to be very useful. A small collection of Phloxes in variety for pot work will furnish a bright and an enduring display, especially if the selection is made respectively from the early and late-flowering sections. Some of the Starworts are very well adapted for pots. I have used A. acris, A. ptarmicoides, A. dumosus, A. linosyris, and A. ericoides, and there are doubtless others equally good. Among plants of fairly tall habit and single-stemmed that mix well with more bushy things are Galtonia candicans and the new varieties of Lobelia fulgens. In all cases where hardy plants used in this way exhaust soil rapidly as the Polyanthus, are of dense rooting habit, as Starworts, or moisture-loving, as Phloxes, they will require liberal feeding. So soon as they begin to move in the spring, mild dozes of manure water may be occasionally given, and it should be increased both in strength and frequency as the flowers are formed and developed. Cow manure is about the best and safest stimulant. C. P.

ALPINES

Cardamines

ONE of the earliest plants to bloom in the New Year, often showing a few of its white flowers in January and continuing until the end of April, Cardamine rotundifolia appeals to me as a good plant for the rock garden. It is a little on the gross side for a small one, but its rather large round leaves are evergreen and are attractive all winter.

Cardamine trifolia is a little gem for any rockery with its small, neat, evergreen foliage and its white blooms never rising more than 3 inches or 4 inches in height.

Another very good one for a rockery is Cardamine pratensis fl.-pl., the double form of our wild Milkmaid. I grow it in association with Campanula Hostii alba. It comes up, throws its spires of double purple flowers early in May, and then goes out of sight soon after the Campanula springs into life, and I have a patch of its white nodding bells. This Cardamine is rather inclined to spread, but it is easily pulled up if at all aggressive.

Cardamine latifolia is more suited for a damp corner of the border. It is rather a rampant grower with medium-sized foliage and heads of purple flowers rising to a foot or more in height.

Dentarias are now included with the Cardamines, and are charming plants for a shady border or large rockery. They a deciduous, but in April their fresh foliage and fairly large flowers are worth a place in the garden. One, how seldom sees them grown. One varie must warn readers to avoid—bulbifera-pest; at any rate, on my light, sandy so little bulbs produced on the flower-s very rapidly spread unless carefully wat Moreover, it is the least attractive of all. Digitata, from Southern Europe, about a foot high, has its leaves cut int segments, and has rich purple flowers in Pinnata, from Switzerland, is a very a tive variety, also flowering in May; has blooms slightly touched with pink. I these two together and they make a nic one to the other. Then I grow a pure one always in bloom in April. I am not of its name as it does not tally with N son's description, but it is a gem.

Some years ago Mr. S. Arnott kindly me small pieces of two yellow varieties I lost them, and have never been ab trace them again. I should esteem a from anyone who has them.

All the Cardamines prefer a damp soi a shady place, though they will do ev full sun if well watered in dry weather.

Carnforth. T. O. WALK

Three pretty Primulas

Of the Primulas now in flower ther three very attractive ones which at glance are very like each other, but whi closer inspection show quite distin features. The three are Primula Julia Juliana gloria, and P. Hellenæ. P. J the Caucasian species, is distinguished l lavish display of purple-crimson flowers, having a rich yellow eye. The flower borne singly on stems 2 inches to 3 inch length which arise from the creeping s of the plants. The leaves, as Primula are small and pretty. P. Juliana gloria hybrid from P. Juliæ, and differs in h longer leaves and larger flowers. flowers are, perhaps, a shade lighter those of P. Juliæ, but the yellow eye is very pronounced.

With P. Hellenæ I have only recentl come acquainted, but I am already he of its future popularity. Of the thre Hellenæ is the smallest, and bears flow a rich purple-violet colour. The same ditions are suitable for each of them, na a semi-shaded spot with a good leafy as the growing medium. It is an matter to increase the stock by dividir large plants after they have flowered.

W. HOWI

Stonelands Gardens, Dawlish, S. Devon.

Bellidiastrum Mitchelli

A distinct and very pretty plant met for the first time on Mr. F. Millard's garden near Felbridge, Sussex, it has deep green leaves and unusually inter white Daisy flowers 1½ inches across gracefully borne on 12-inch stalks. among this rare collection of plants it noteworthy subject. E.

The Alpine Poppy

This fairy-like Poppy is but seldom and yet, when colonised upon the rock den, it is particularly beautiful. The of somewhat hoary foliage are surmo by tiny flowers, smaller editions of P. caule (the Iceland Poppy) in shades of yo orange, pink, and pure white. Seeds m sown in a cool house or frame, but I prefer to sow the seed where the plant required to flower, choosing a sunny po and affording a well-drained gritty soil.

This little Poppy is very happy in

; better thus, for it undoubtedly objects ess of winter damp. Its flowering sea- nay be given as May-July, but, in , flowers are appearing throughout the r part of the year.

a general rule, Papaver alpinum is not a long-lived plant, and it is wise to sow a little seed at fairly frequent intervals. The plants are but a few inches in height, the species being a high alpine from the mountains of Central Europe.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Fruit in the Pleasure Garden

W will deny that a fruit tree in full ossom is a very pretty sight, and, more- er, appears at a time when bloom is ny too plentiful, and certainly before ieen of our gardens, the Rose, has put appearance. Fortunately the time has oy when the only fruit grown was on l-fashioned standard tree relegated to rn-patch somewhere at the back of the n garden, and was solely grown for its adding to the menu its fruit in due . Also the espalier type of tree was, old days, only thought worthy of being s a division line.

'adays there is a distinct evolution in re- g a row of cordon Apples as an addi- the beauty as well as the utility of a , and a good crop of glowing crimson s a sight not lightly to be overlooked. Pears also very often adorn a south or vall and always provide a good return l as clothing the wall in green. This s the very best of all Pears, as, owing short time during which a Pear is best for dessert, a large number of es covering the season from August to can be provided. Also, the protection vall ensures much more regularity in g, besides ripening to a finer state ection those sorts that do not mature l in the open. Fan-trained Plums and es delight the eye by their ornamental also crimson Peaches and golden ts enhance the general beauty of the . Few trees or flowering shrubs pro- more brilliant show of blossom than s and Nectarines, especially if those es that have large deep-pink blossoms own.

a curious thing that Apples which are colour when ripe have the deepest ossoms, and those which are red have r less white blooms. The showiest of r Apples, Worcester Pearmain, has white flowers; Lord Suffield, a green low Apple, has the deepest pink flower, has Lord Derby, a green Apple. Orange Pippin, being neither very red ite green, has pale pink blossoms of st delicate shade. Cordon Apples are y satisfactory on a wall south of the ds, and are best grown on a trellis or in the open, forming a very telling ound to a bed of Roses. Well-trained Apples are also very attractive er they are grown, and the amateur be careful to see that the vigour of ver tiers is maintained, as the upper ve a habit of usurping more sap than r proper share and growing more sly at the expense of the lower tiers. liers are planted about 12 feet or 15 art in order to allow of their natural on horizontally. From cordons, rea- crops may be expected the year after g, as at that time they are very nearly e and are furnished with fruit buds iiting wood, whereas the espalier has e its wood on which to bear the fruit re years. Cordons, however, are best in light, warm soils, as their growth, estricted to one stem, must be kept ection by soil which does not en- rampant growth. They can only lengthwise, and as they grow longer led down to a sharper angle. They course, always planted at an angle of 45 degrees, so as to slacken the flow of sap and strengthen the fruit spurs on the main stem. Certain stocks are now being used which will enable cordons to be grown in any soil, however rich, and when trees, grafted on this special stock, become more plentiful, cordons will become far more generally planted. The espalier, on the other hand, requires generous treatment in the way of manuring in order that it may fill up its allotted space in the shortest time, growth being a more important item in its earlier years than fruit. Therefore withhold manures from the cordons and give them lavishly to espaliers until the latter come to maturity.

The Loganberry is a rampant climber suitable for clothing out-of-the-way places. No berry has such a strong, pungent, and delicious flavour as the Loganberry, which flavour may be described as a very intense Raspberry with a strong dash of Mulberry. The colour, a deep crimson, carries its characteristic right into the jam or bottled fruit, and adds very materially to the attractiveness of a fruit salad or sweet confection. Its sharpness prevents cloying, and few fruits are more deservedly popular, while few soft fruits give such a prodigious and regular crop. Blackberries are also extensively used in the same way, the cut-leaved variety, laciniatus, being ornamental from the foliage aspect, as well as giving very large and regular crops of large, juicy berries.

Low walls, again, are most suitable for training Red and White Currants. They are easily netted against birds in such positions, and the season is appreciably advanced on a southerly wall and retarded on a northerly one. Gooseberries are similarly grown, and where this delicious fruit is allowed to fully ripen against a wall, those who have never tasted a thoroughly dead-ripe Gooseberry are astonished at the exquisite flavour provided. There is often a ditch or damp part not suitable for many plants, and this is the spot in which the Quince delights, and it is surprising how little known this fruit is. The blossoms are produced amongst a mass of most delicate green foliage and are large and most attractive. The peculiarly pungent fruit adds enormously to the aroma and flavour of Apple tart, and in Essex it is a rarity to make an Apple tart or pie without a Quince being put in.

Excellent jam and jelly are also made from this fruit, which is far too little known, but where it is grown is very highly appreciated.

If the garden possesses a tennis court it will charm the players after a hard, hot set in June to wander up and down a row of Strawberries. This fruit is never better than when picked straight from the plant.

Without in any way detracting from the domain of flowers and of Queen Rose—in fact, more often adding to their charm by the provision of a contrasting background—fruit trees carefully chosen will be found to add very materially to the *tout ensemble* of the modern pleasure garden. They at least have as long a blooming season as very many flowering shrubs, and have the added advantage of earning their keep in a more tangible way than plants which minister only to the eye by adding to their attractions the equally important virtues of appealing to the palate and forming an indispensable addition to the cuisine and dessert table.

Early Peaches

The stoning of the fruits having been completed, a final survey of the numbers to remain should be made and those not required removed. I usually leave a few more upon the trees than I intend them finally to carry in case a small percentage fail to stone properly. This occasionally happens, and the surplus fruits so left are then useful. From this period the fruits swell rapidly, and the trees should be liberally fed right up to the time of colouring. A temperature of 60 degs. to 65 degs. should be maintained at night, the houses closed early—and syringed freely—in the afternoon. Abundance of moisture at the roots will now be most essential.

Tying in of the shoots will need almost daily attention, and if one thing is of greater importance than another it is the necessity of tying in only sufficient wood to furnish the tree for the following year, crowding of the shoots being fatal to next year's crop. M.

VEGETABLES

A succession of Cauliflowers

NOT only to those who have a partiality for this vegetable is the subject of interest, but also to any whose work it is to maintain a continuous and considerable supply of vegetables in variety through the year.

To the latter the Cauliflower is important to fill in with other vegetables, and it requires a few years of practice to enable one to have the sufficiency they require at any period without having an excess.

The earliest supply to come in after the spring Broccoli are over is usually provided for by a sowing made in the previous August and the plants wintered in a frame to be put out in March, or by a sowing of some small variety like Snowball, made in gentle heat in February.

These should give quite good heads in late June or early July if grown on without a check by careful transplanting into a cold frame, by as careful hardening for planting out, and by the variety chosen.

Where, however, no heat is available a sowing made in a frame or under a handlight in a sheltered position is the next best plan, though they will not mature as early. This should be followed by seed of a variety such as Early London being sown in a frame in early March, which should mature during August, and to succeed these a small sowing of Eclipse or Magnum Bonum are very good varieties to cultivate.

A Cauliflower which is and has been popular for many years is Veitch's Autumn Giant, being a good mainstay in late summer and early autumn months. Two small sowings of this should be made, one at the end of March under a frame and another during April in the open, which will carry on until autumn Broccoli are available.

A great point in growing this vegetable well is not to allow the plants to receive a check at any period, and it is preferable to prick out the seedlings in a nursery bed than to plant straight from the seed bed, for the former plan produces sturdier specimens and they are easily lifted with a trowel. Only standard varieties have been mentioned as a guide as to what type to choose, but all seed specialists have their own named varieties if one prefers them.

It is needless, perhaps, to add that the land for this vegetable cannot be too well cultivated or enriched, and if the hoe can be frequently used between the plants and water supplied when necessary the grower will be rewarded with good specimens.

A. WHEELER.

TREES AND SHRUBS

The Monterey Pine (Pinus insignis)

THIS is the most ornamental of all the Pines. Unfortunately it is not hardy, and it is only in the milder parts of Britain that it will succeed. It is very sensitive to frost and cold winds, and in order to obtain the best results it requires to be planted in sheltered situations. In seaside districts it grows exceptionally well, the sea breezes having little or no effect on the foliage. Besides being the most ornamental, it is also the fastest-growing Pine we have. Nothing more majestic as a "lawn" tree could be desired, with its irregular branches and dense mass of grass-green foliage, its splendid symmetrical habit of growth, and massive trunk covered with deeply-furrowed bark. Another feature of beauty and interest is its cones, which are retained on the tree for a great number of years. These, each from 4 inches to 5 inches long, with a diameter at base of 2½ inches to 3 inches, grow usually in clusters of three. The scales are more fully developed on the exposed side near the base. They are held very securely to the branches by means of a small peg of a woody substance protruding from the cone's base, and are difficult to remove. This no doubt accounts for the great length of time the cones remain on the tree.

Seed takes three years to mature. The best seed is obtained from the third, fourth, and fifth year cones. These are of a yellowish-brown colour, while the immature cones are glossy green. A few years ago I experimented with the seed of a second-year cone, and although it appeared good—dark in colour and well filled—I got no results. From about 50 seeds I had not a single plant.

The seedlings require protection from frost for two years at least, but the chief difficulty with this species is the problem of transplanting it. Even when transplanted into lines in the nursery there is always a big percentage of failures. I find the best time to plant is after the growing season has commenced, and then it should be done with as little root disturbance as possible. Like Cupressus macrocarpa, a tree which, by the way, it is associated with in its native habitat (California), it receives a severe check when removed from its original position. A better way is to sow the seed, and protect it, on the ground that the tree is to occupy. This, of course, would not answer if the tree is to be planted in large numbers, but where a few specimen trees are required it will be found the most satisfactory. While its quick growth might induce one to plant it closely for pit-wood timber, it is doubtful whether it would be suitable for this purpose, as it is inclined to be "carroty" or brittle, and would be unsatisfactory on that account. This tree will withstand the wind fairly well if it has been allowed to develop its branches freely, but when planted in admixture with other species, in close forest formation, it invariably gets blown down. In the south-west of Scotland splendid specimens are growing within 20 feet of high-water mark.

This Pine was named insignis by Douglas, by whom it was introduced into this country in 1833. P.

The May Flower (Epigea repens)

A little trailing evergreen common in many parts of North America, where it is often found growing in sandy or rocky soil, is the above, which has baffled many of our good growers. It has sweet-smelling soft pink flowers, which are borne in loose clusters. The best examples I have met with in this country have been growing in open positions exposed to all sunshine and air, but with their roots in cool leafy soil. I was able, when gardening in Surrey, to grow this little gem easily, and in a well-known nursery near Sunningdale once saw great mats of it, but it has not responded to me here as I would desire; another attempt, however, will now be made after such a satisfactory result as was seen during the past week in a friend's garden near by. E. M.

Actinidia arguta

In the race after the more recent introductions of these graceful summer-leafing climbing plants the merits of some of the older kinds are often overlooked, and the above is no exception to this rule. This climber is not only one of the most vigorous, but also one of the hardiest of this interesting genus, and is, in many respects, preferable to some of the newer kinds, decidedly so when laden with flowers. Planted in good loamy soil at the foot of a sunny wall, this plant develops very strong growths for the first few seasons. These, however, become less vigorous with successive years, and the wall surface g ally becomes clothed with spurry wood during June and July this is wreathed fragrant, waxy-white flowers, which rendered most attractive by the clust dark purple anthers, the whole shrub a time being an object of surpassing be These flowery sprays are lovely, too, f door decoration.

It is a valuable climber and well wort a choice wall. Not that a wall is abso necessary, except that it looks remar well in such a position, for we have growing on open fences where they have quite happy for several years. The fr this shrub is said to be an oblong gree yellow berry nearly 1 inch long and po ing an insipid flavour, but eaten by Japanese.

A. arguta is also a very handsome shr autumn, when its lustrous green leaves, from 3 inches to 6 inches long and upon pink stalks, change to a bea golden-yellow. A fence or wall clothed it at that time is charming. It belon the Camellia Order and is native of and Japan.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, q cannot always be replied to in the issue im ately following their receipt. We do not rep queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plan be named should send fair examples of each stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of l and points of shoots are useless.) Not more four plants should be sent in any one week b same correspondent. Where more than one is sent they should be numbered. Of conifer cones should always be sent.*

Diseased Carnations

(F. C. F.).—Your Carnation plant is affected with a wilt disease, which appears to have been caused by the fungus Verticillium sp. We should advise you to burn all the plants badly affected, together with the soil in which the plants have been growing. The pots might be dipped into boiling water or sterilised in some other convenient way. If you have cold frame accommodation you should have all the plants removed from the house to the frames. The frames should first be given a thorough clean down, limewashed, and then lined with a layer of new coal-ashes. Admit air freely to the plants as soon as they have become used to their new quarters. After the house has been cleared of plants it should be given a scrub down with hot water and carbolic soap. All loose material should be scraped from floor and stage, and removed. New materials should be brought in for standing the plants on, walls should be limewashed, and wood repainted. Finally, the stages and floor should be well soaked with a solution of formalin made by adding 1 pint of commercial formalin to 6 gallons of water and the house closed for 48 hours. Only plants free from the disease should be brought back to the house. The disease may have been caused by infected potting soil, and in future such soil should be sterilised.

Birds taking Sweet Pea buds

I shall be much obliged if you will inform me of some method to prevent tits, blackcaps, and other small birds removing the buds of Sweet Peas when they first appear on the plants. In previous seasons I have tried to preserve them by tying pieces of coloured paper and material to the Pea-sticks, but it has no effect after the first day. Also will you kindly tell me from what nurserymen I can obtain some of the rarer seeds of the various Primulas mentioned for growi small gardens, which appears in GARD ILLUSTRATED dated April 23rd, 1927? K.

[The most effective method of prote your Peas from small birds is to net with a very fine mesh fish-net, but if t not possible we advise you to spray plants about every 10 days with quassi tract until the trouble ceases. The qu renders all parts of the plants so bitter both shoots and buds become repulsive t birds, causing them to seek other qu for their activities. *Re* seeds of Prim Messrs. Thompson and Morgan, seeds Ipswich, offer a very large variet Primula seeds, their list containing mo those you refer to, and a very large colle of rare and interesting kinds is offered as seeds, but as plants—by J. Stormoutl Sons, Kirkbride, Cumberland.]

Improving a clayey soil

At one end of a border I have got heavy clayey soil. Would you be so go to tell me if it would be wrong to frequ dose it with basic slag or other ma during the time it is planted, so as to br quickly up to the condition of the other of the border? "ORCHAR

[A small dressing of basic slag will the surface of the soil if worked into it a fork, but we would strongly advise y apply a good dressing of fresh lime, di it deeply into the border and following again with a surface dressing, working also well into the top 4 inches of soil. will not only have the effect of sweet and enriching the soil, but will rende latter porous and more easily worked the soil will be warmer and more attr to plant life. Chopped straw, Bracken leaf-mould are very opening in characte are used extensively for opening heavy where farmyard manure is unobtainabl

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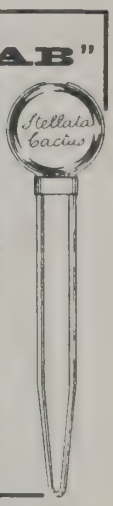

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The Iris Society

A GENERAL MEETING of the Iris Society preceded by a dinner was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, on Wednesday, May 4th, attended by upwards of 40 members and guests.

Mr. F. Kingdon Ward gave a short but very interesting account of his recent visit to China, illustrated by lantern slides. He described the conditions under which he found various Iris species, but said that few, if any of them, were likely to prove distinct from species with which we are already acquainted. The districts he had traversed had been too wet to expect to find any but the moisture-loving species, and even of these he could relate no important finds.

After extending the thanks of the Society to Mr. Kingdon Ward for his entertaining lecture, the President, Mr. Geoffrey Pilkington, announced that the Committee had decided, subject to the approval of the meeting, to ask Mr. George Yeld to become the first English recipient of the "Foster Memorial Plaque." This is reserved "for special and personal award to anyone contributing to the advance of the genus." The spontaneous enthusiasm with which this announcement was received was sufficient evidence of its popularity. In accepting this tribute to his life's work, Mr. Yeld spoke feelingly of his association with Sir Michael Foster and of the epoch-making influence by him (Foster) on the development of Iris culture in Europe and America. Proud as he was of the honour the Society had conferred upon him, it could have come in no better form than in the excellent portrait in silver of the man upon whom he looked as a master, and of whom he was a humble disciple. "None of us would have done anything had not Sir Michael shown us the way."

Mr. Pilkington then sought the approval of the meeting for two further awards recommended by the Committee. The influence of Sir Michael, he said, had been world wide, and his name was honoured in America and France quite as much as in his own land. It was therefore hoped the meeting would approve the making of one award in America and another in France. The names suggested were Mr. J. C. Wister, the President of the American Iris Society, through whom the English Society wished to pay a tribute to the excellent work done by the American organisation, and also to many individual workers in the United States, but, above all, it was desired to recognise Mr. Wister's own indefatigable and enthusiastic work that had made him an outstanding personality amongst American Iris growers. With reference to Mons. Mottett, with whom many members of the Society were familiar, he need only point to his achievements in association with the firm to which he had been for so many years attached—Messrs. Vilmorin, Andreux, et Cie.—to justify any honour it was within the power of the Society to bestow. The meeting signified its unanimous approval.

After expressing the gratitude of the Society to Mrs. Phillip Runciman for the handsome challenge cup she had presented for use at the forthcoming Iris Show, the President called upon Mr. R. W. Wallace to introduce the subject of awards of the Dykes Memorial Medal. With the easy eloquence for which he is so well known, where the subject is one he has at heart, Mr. Wallace proceeded to draw a vivid and inspiring picture of the bonds that were being forged between England, France, and America by Iris intercourse. Dykes' name was a household word amongst Iris lovers in all countries. He therefore proposed that a Dykes Medal in silver-gilt should be offered each year in England, America, and France for the purpose for which it was instituted, *i.e.*, "the best new Iris of the year not hitherto in commerce." He pointed out that the result of this would be that in a few years, when these new Irises had been distributed, they would eventually come into competition with e other in all three countries, with the res that it would ultimately be possible to sel not only the best of each country, but a the best Iris in the world. He looked f ward to the day when it would be possib say, 10 years hence, of having 20 "Dy Medal" Irises for adjudication and the po bility of making a super award of the me in gold to one of them.

The meeting having agreed, it was deci to offer one medal each year to the Ameri Iris Society and the Société Natio Horticole de France respectively.

After discussing various arrangements the show to be held in the R.H.S. H Vincent Square, on June 2nd, the meet closed.

The new Shoulder Cultivator

We have received the following from John Hampson, Managing Director of Shoulder Hoe Company, Ltd., 3, Hills Pl Oxford Circus, London, W. 1.:—"May 1927. Will you kindly pass on to y readers our sincere apologies for any d they may have experienced in obtaining new Shoulder Cultivator? Since we be to advertise the popular cultivator (at 12s. we have hardly been able to cope with rush of orders for this handy, labour-sa tool. We have made a big extension of and production facilities to catch up with orders and ensure much larger output, we shall be very grateful if you will let readers know that prompt delivery of Popular Shoulder Cultivator and other me is now guaranteed."

NAMES OF PLANTS

V. P. Esher.—1, This plant does not g in a lake, it is an epiphytic Orchid— drobium species; 2, Phaius or Th another Orchid; 3, Corydalis bulbosa possibly C. cava; material very poor Ophiopogon jaburam variegatum.

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Plans for Chelsea Show

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Gardening ILLUSTRATED

FLOWERS · FRUIT · VEGETABLES · BEES · GARDEN DESIGN
TREES & SHRUBS · THIS WEEK'S WORK IN THE GARDEN

.. XLIX.—No. 2515 | Saturday, May 21, 1927 | TWOPENCE

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The Garden of Reflections

A Back Garden in Holland Park

Roses
Rhododendrons
Lavender
Cistus
Lilies
Primulas
Alpines and Wall Plants

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Silver-Gilt Medal, Chelsea, 1923
Gold Medal, R.H.S., 1924
Silver Cup, Chelsea, 1924
Gold Medal, Chelsea, 1925
Gold Medal, Chelsea, 1926

Looking back, we find that we were receiving Awards for Iris so long ago as 1895, but the above are some of those recently made for our famous Iris, and give an idea of the high standard of our collection. However, a far better way of appreciating this is to ***visit our Nurseries during May,*** when the Iris may be seen in full bloom and the great variety and vigour of our plants will be its own recommendation. We should be glad if intending visitors would advise us so that we can arrange for an Iris expert to be present. Our Catalogue containing all the best vars. will be sent post free.

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GARDENING Illustrated

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

2515—Vol. XLIX. MAY 21, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 13 -

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Why Is Chelsea Show So Popular?

absurd question! Yes, perhaps it is, t think of it for a moment. For eeks material of all descriptions has epared and is now pouring into the Hospital Grounds. For months the rticultural brains in the country have ercised by the question, "What shall at Chelsea?" In many cases it retself into "What shall we *have* for ?" for although the exhibitor pro- t would seem that Satan also takes in the game and disposes effectually xhibitor's original intentions. Chelsea s a fine show, and always will be, but e often thought how much better it e if all the exhibitors' original intenere capable of being carried out. But ver are. The Space Committee cuts he area ed for ruthless d of t that rticular r makhe aption e could better anyone in the Then akes a d gives much little , and grateful Space ee he curs- en the de- his Lon- s later anticind he finds the work of eight hours compressed into two. However, by the appointed time the show is swept and garnished, and the curtain is rung up on a scene usually described as "better than last year," which in the sequence of events means better than ever.

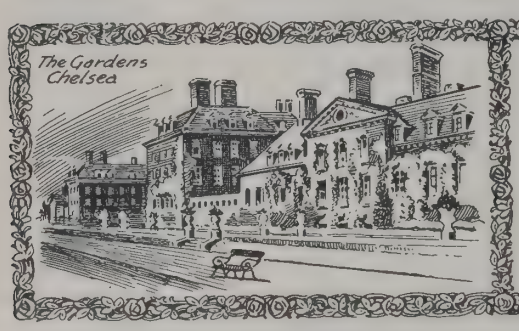
But why all this turmoil, this ceaseless effort, this impassable barrier of vans, lorries, and vehicles of all descriptions, these acres of canvas, the splashing through mud and water, or, alternatively, labouring on in breathless heat and dust to produce this, the greatest show in the world?

It is because England is the greatest gardening nation the world has yet produced. The forces that have produced Chelsea Show were liberated in the dim dawn of history, when mankind first realised the meaning of beauty. All art, all science began in the garden. The first application of science was when man first realised that he could produce better things by cultivation than he could pluck from the wild fruits of the field and woodland. The first realisation of beauty came when man first appreciated colour and form in the flower and leaf, and gathered them unto himself and called the place he so consecrated a "garden," and with the realisation of beauty came the beginnings of art. As civilisation advanced, all sorts of ingenious devices were resorted to for the purpose of producing better gardens of utility or enjoyment. Throughout history all nations have turned to gardening as they attained the apex of their standard of national and social existence. In the earlier empires potentialities were limited by restricted boundaries. Thus Persia, Egypt, Rome, could never know all that we know to-day, because to them one-half the world remained unexplored. *Their* gardens were thus things of the period, perfect, possibly, in the adoption and adapting of all they knew, but lacking in the completeness of the garden of to-day. Now we have all their efforts to draw upon for our experience,

A popular corner at Chelsea

and with the wider knowledge of the world and its vegetation we have the whole earth to draw upon for our vegetation. Means of transport also have been developed that render possible the distribution of plants that were never practicable in even the Roman Empire. Nor has any other earlier empire ever possessed the climatic conditions that render it possible to cultivate the vegetation of the greater half of the world within the confines of a few thousand square miles. Thus the English garden of to-day has become by far the finest thing of its sort the world has ever seen, and we have become more than any race either of now or the past a garden-loving people, and flock in our thousands to Chelsea.

But why Chelsea? Because in the process of time the R.H.S. spring show has come to be looked upon as the "Derby" of the gardening world, the Royal Academy of horticulture. Because to it there comes the cream of the productions of the nation's cultivation. In the gardening world nothing is too good, nothing is quite good enough for Chelsea. So far as is humanly possible all garden achievement finds its way there. The lofty mountains, alpine meadows, open prairie, and dense jungle all over the all contribute their quota, the gard spirit of all the ages is an ever-present f and all that art, science, and ingenuit achieve act in concert to produce this r kaleidoscopic colour, this immense vari superb form, this organised beauty, triumph of mind over matter—one had a said natural law—this congregation of beauties of Nature, selected, organised even improved by science and art, th call Chelsea Show. That is why it is lar.



THE CHELSEA SHOW

MAY 25–27

The Romance of a Flower Show

Preparations for Chelsea—A proposed Amateur Section

OF the many thousands who attend the Chelsea Show, which is the finest horticultural exhibition in the world, perhaps only a small percentage contemplate what it all means.

The majority see an immense display of flowers, gorgeous, interesting, and instructive, but few even of the minority can have a hazy idea of the immense forethought and million cares of preparation which the assembling of such a huge display involves.

To take one of the smaller groups which compared with the whole show are but a drop in the ocean, and occupy, say, but 10 feet or 12 feet run of tabling. The probability is that the exhibitor has been thinking, planning, and preparing his exhibit for some 12 months beforehand. There are many growers in this country who only exhibit once a year, and then at the Chelsea Flower Show. He plans his display for the following year ere the present is past.

The veterans who remember the Royal Horticultural Society's shows which used to be held in the Temple Gardens can recollect that this show depended to a great extent on the season. An early season found the Darwin Tulips past in those days, and so many exhibitors of them were ruled out. To-day, however, the area at Chelsea, many times more in extent to that at Temple Gardens, is in no way dependent on the limited variety available in the days of the Temple Show. To mention only a few of the items now seen at Chelsea one naturally thinks of the flowers which are out of season, such as Dahlias, of which we have several exhibits. These have to be forced long in advance, being started in heat during February. great advance in the Dahlia family them welcome even in May.

King George, who is now almost a r visitor to Chelsea, congratulated a ga on the excellent colour in his Peach tained so early in the season. His Maj a keener horticulturist than he is som believed to be, and understands the dif of getting Peaches ripe so early as This gardener has to begin his prepar to secure them at this date over one advance. Then we have Apples which been carefully stored in an ordinary th fruit-room without any artificial ass looking quite crisp and firm from la son's harvest.

It takes no mean skill to produce the of annuals in flower which we are accu

The mass attack on Chelsea

CHELSEA SHO

MAY 25th, 26th, and

There are important in the arrangements at this year. The Show o Wednesday, not Tuesday previous years.

PROGRAMM

Tuesday, May 24th

3.45 p.m. Staging to plete. Everyone the Tents. Judg at the Enquiry T

4.0 p.m. Judging com

6.0 p.m. The Fruit tee and the N and Tulip Con meet in the Cor Tent. The Flor mittees meet in t mittee Tent. Th Committee meet Orchid Tent.

Wednesday, May 25th

9.0 a.m. Gates open vate view for and holders of tickets.

12 noon. Show opens public. Show c 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 26th

Show opens at 9 a. closes at 8 p.m.

Friday, May 27th

Show opens at 9 a. closes at 6 p.m.

Visitors to Chelsea are to study the plan on the page with more than us The area for the exhibi been enlarged to the s Monument Road. This contains the Orchid Ten tific and Conference T the Art Tent.

PLAN OF
CHELSEA SHOW
HORTICULTURAL INFORMATION BUREAU
IN THE SCIENTIFIC TENT
EMBANKMENT
ROCK GARDENS
ENTRANCE
MAIN AVENUE
GARDENS
AVENUE
LADIES
TENT Nº1
TENT Nº2
MONUMENT
ROAD
SCIENTIFIC & CONFERENCE TENT
REFRESHMENTS
THE LAWN
BAND STAND
ORCHID TENT
ART TENT
SUNDRIES
ENQUIRIES
COMMITTEE TENT
SUNDRIES
BAND STAND
NO.1. GARDENING ILLUSTRATED STAND
REFRESHMENTS
ENTRANCE
ROYAL HOSPITAL ROAD
2ND CLASS REFRESHMENT TENT
GENTLEMEN
N

to see, for the annual is generally a plant which resents forcing.

Just now, while many of us are thinking of Chelsea as a coming pleasant event, the Rose specialists are having an anxious time as to whether their plants will be open just at this date. It is such an easy thing to be just two weeks too early or too late, as the season varies more than this (the present one is a normal year), and this means that the grower who cannot take the point into consideration when he commences to force his plants has to correct the earliness of his plants by a careful manipulation of heat. It is as difficult to retard a plant when in the process of being forced as to hasten it on, and timing a variety of Roses, such as Teas, Hybrid Teas, Polyanthus, and Wichuraianas, all developing at different rates, requires considerable skill and experience. The Teas, Hybrid Teas, and similar Roses grow somewhat at the same rate, but, as will be remembered, in our own gardens the Wichuraianas, such as the Dorothy Perkins or the gorgeous Excelsa, open some three weeks later than many other climbing Roses.

We are so used to seeing Perpetual Carnations at all the shows during every month of the year that it might be computed that it is a simple matter to make a big display with this ubiquitous flower, but it is not always so, for plants which have been flowering since September last may quite easily be a little "off crop" just when an extra lot of flowers are required.

When we come to greenhouse plants, such plants as Acacias (also known as "Mimosa" and "Wattle"), which were seen at Chelsea last year, will be past flower for the occasion this year, and the same will probably apply to many of the Tulips, of which we had such fine displays. People who specialise in these flowers view such a disappointment with no little concern.

Of all flowers most easily retained for a big event the Orchid is probably the flower which causes least worry, as it lasts so long in flower. Many plants already open are being kept for the big event in mid-May. Six weeks is not too long for several kinds of Orchids to remain in flower.

A great flower show has, however, its pleasant surprises and unexpected joys as well as its disappointments. We remember the thrills of pleasure when a new plant opened just in time for the Temple Show, and the delight is scarcely less to-day.

A rock garden at Chelsea

Of the scores of items necessary to form a proper exhibit, one overlooked may spoil a group. Drapery for the stage, Moss to cover pots, stands for plants, vases for flowers are but a few of the paraphernalia required to be thought of well in advance in order that they may be ready in time for the event.

In consequence of the expense of exhibiting, it is a regrettable feature of the Royal Horticultural Society's shows to see so few exhibits from private gardeners and amateurs. A private gardener has considerable expense in coming to a show which a medal does not defray. One day we may see the Society offering inducements for them to come forward as at other shows in the provinces.

Exhibiting has a fine "tuning up" effect on growers. If more private gardeners exhibited we should have keener growers the same applies to amateurs. Ama naturally prefer to compete only amateurs, and we venture to make the gestion that there should be such a s at the Chelsea Show. It would make bigger and more representative show th now is, and take away its chief reproach

A beautiful Crab of bushy habit: Pyrus Sargenti

NOTES OF THE WE

Pyrus Sargenti

FLOWERING here at the present t this pretty species, and althoug bushes are not more than 5 feet in the large white flowers, each an inch a with a central cluster of yellow stamen borne in amazing profusion, especially the older wood. This attractive specie mises to become more of a shrub than and when its charming character an tinctiveness get better known it will important place in gardens. E.

Sussex.

The gardens of England

Two meetings of garden lovers hav arranged on behalf of the National Me to Queen Alexandra to take place Portman Square, London, W. 1, by co of the Marchioness of Titchfield on Tu May 24th, at 3.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. subject will be introduced by Mr. Dillistone in a short lecture, illustra lantern slides in colour and mor Synopsis: (1) The evolution of garc (2) Its growth and development in E (3) The modern garden and its variety, the formal flower garden, water, and wild gardens. After th ture a discussion of garden success failures is invited. Tickets 5s. each, able at 16, Portman Square, W. 1, fo an-hour previous to each lecture on Ma

Blackpool Flower Show

Excellent progress is being made arrangements for the new National Show which is being organised to be the New Stanley Park, Blackpo Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 1927. Upwards valuable trophies and a total of £3 value of these, with the many gold, and bronze medals and cash prizes, that the Committee are determined to

st entries for the show, whilst the scope d by the 324 classes further emphasises ideavour to meet the need of every class ibitor. There is no doubt that Blackpool's first annual flower show will help to maintain the reputation which the resort has justly earned for carrying out its many projects on a big and successful scale.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Magnolia salicifolia

NCLOSE a photograph of Magnolia cifolia. It is just about 18 feet high l made a very pretty picture this spring to the colour of the flowers against a background and the graceful growth of ee. The tree came to me as a present Mr. Walpole in 1914 from his glorious at Mt. Ussher.

A. C. BARTHOLOMEW.

Tilehurst Road, Reading.

Camellias in the open

your issue of April 30th your correent, E. Markham, advises growers to mellias in the open. Can you tell me er they would grow here in Berkshire? garden is almost entirely surrounded lls, and the Camellia could be planted heltered place. At what time of year they be planted, and do they require g? Will Magnolia grandiflora grow all with an east aspect? K. G.

Camellia should flourish in your gar- A wall is not absolutely necessary; inhot south walls are not recommended, well-drained soil and a position shelfrom biting north and easterly winds, s the foreground of a group of Cedars, s, or even large deciduous shrubs, serve to break the wind. They enjoy artial shade obtaining near tall des trees, but this is not essential to s. Plant at the present time or early mn, working in a fair quantity of old ould or peat and sand around the roots ourage a free start and keep the plants d with moisture until established. No g is necessary unless specimens get their allotted space, when shortening hould be carried out immediately after ng. Magnolia grandiflora will grow east wall, and, indeed, in the open, like many other supposed tender , it is often a greater success than on thern walls.]

Primula involucrata

glad to observe the note by G. G. Cresswell in your issue of May 14th. olucrata is too good to be omitted there are suitable conditions. It is one moisture lovers, and is happiest by the a pond or stream, where it will grow as rapidly as P. Juliæ under similar ons. It is remarkably fragrant, and y failing, in the estimation of the is that the stems are rather long for e of the flowers when growing in a place. S. A.

t frosts in the West of England

uld like to know how other readers in st of England fared through the recent We had 8 degs., 10 degs., and 12 ere. It has done a lot of damage to um trees, especially on the wall facing where the sun strikes in the early g. It has badly cut a Wistaria in a arm, sheltered corner, and Weigelas, me-nots, and Orange Wallflowers ry badly shaken. I had Sweet Peas hard in a cold frame all the winter been standing out in the frame yard en for six weeks or more. They had been planted more than a week with plenty of twiggy sticks round them, and they now look a sorry sight, though I think the hearts of them are all right. Even Green Peas were cut, and a good many things I have never seen cut at this time of year before. Gooseberries suffered badly, too. This garden is rather low-lying, and we always get 2 degs. of frost more than the neighbouring village on a hill. J. CLARKE.

Magnolia salicifolia in Mr. A. C. Bartholomew's garden at 75, Tilehurst Road, Reading

Eastcourt Gardens,
Hankerton, Swindon.

Lonicera nitida as a hedging plant

The attractive Lonicera nitida has been coming into favour of late as a plant for garden hedges. It makes certainly an exceedingly pretty hedge, and from the point of view of attractiveness is without anything to suggest depreciative criticism. But it has its limitations for hedging purposes. The principal one is that it is not stiff enough to form a hedge for turning cattle or other large animals. It is too slender and weak for this. Such a fault renders it unsuitable for outside garden fencing. On the other hand, it is so graceful and pleasing that it should be largely employed for divisions in gardens. It can be clipped to almost any shape required, and after an examination of several good divisional hedges of L. nitida one feels inclined to think that it will make rapid headway for this purpose. It is easily propagated by cuttings, and a stock can soon be raised in this way. It is now being offered by the trade for hedging, and as it will probably be rapidly reduced in price through extensive propagation, should a demand for it arise, it may well be kept in mind. S. A.

Prunus triloba and Iris Stylosa

Mr. E. A. Bunyard on page 284 makes some interesting comments on these two plants which I would like to remark upon.

Having in the past grown this Prunus, which is one of the most beautiful of our spring-flowering shrubs, I was under the impression that it was quite hardy, as it went through some of the coldest winters in the open. It was used in front of the shrubbery and at the back of a wide herbaceous border, where it was most effective, its form being dwarf.

As it produces its blooms on the growth of the previous year it is necessary, as "E. A. B." finds, to cut it hard back immediately after flowering so as to get as many long, well-ripened shoots as possible.

I am inclined to think that the cause of failure is due to the stock very often, for it has the very tiresome habit of throwing up suckers, which, if not removed, exhaust the whole plant. It would be interesting if Mr. E. A. Bunyard would try the dwarf stock.

IRIS STYLOSA.—Many have difficulty in getting this beautiful early Iris to flower, and one finds that it is not on account of its tenderness so much as in getting its growth sufficiently ripened in full sunshine why a position at the foot of a south wall is recommended. Originating, as is said, from Corfu, on the coast of Greece, it requires a sunny position here to develop its flowering qualities, and one finds that in a light soil sloping south it will flower as well after an ordinary summer as at the foot of a wall.

Herts. A. WHEELER.

Euonymus and Helxine

Can you tell me what plant the late Mr. Farrer, in "Alpines and Bog Plants," was alluding to? Thus: "Two priceless rockwork plants, the first Euonymus radicans, frailer version of Helxine Soleirolii," etc., etc. I know Euonymus radicans and its variegated form well, but anything less like Helxine I cannot imagine. Is there another radicans form I know not of? MERRION.

[Euonymus radicans kewensis (minimus) is undoubtedly the plant Farrer had in mind when comparing the Euonymus to the Helxine.—ED.]

Daphne odora

For many years I grew plants of this under Fir trees, but was under the impression it was D. Dauphinii. They were at length destroyed by rabbits. D. Fioniana made a fine bush in the same place. The scent of this is good, but not so delicious as the other.

A. M. M.

Double-flowered Daffodils

I was most interested in the article on the above subject written by W. F. M. Copeland in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED for April 30th. I am delighted to hear that double-flowered Daffodils are becoming more popular again, as I entirely agree with the writer in regard to the longer lasting power of double blooms, also as to their wonderful colour effect in a mass. But I cannot agree as to the weak nature of the stems of double blooms of Daffodils, as here in our orchard we have a large quantity of entirely double flowers. They make a magnificent display each year, an enormous quantity are cut for vase work, and I have never heard complaints of straggly or overweighted stems, neither have I personally noticed such a failing. On the contrary, they always appear to be particularly bold and upright. Since the writer refers to market flowers this alters the case entirely, as I have always thought that cut flowers off market stalls, however lovely they look arranged for public attraction, are not worth the cheapest price after being carried home. One does not know what amount of travelling these flowers have undergone previously or how long they have been cut.

To refer again to my collection of bulbs, I would seek information as I have two distinct different varieties of the double-flowered Daffodils. One is, I think, the common old-fashioned species, but the other is slightly later, with shorter trumpet, but of a spreading habit. One might almost liken it to a Carnation bloom; both kinds are strongly scented and truly gorgeous when flowering.

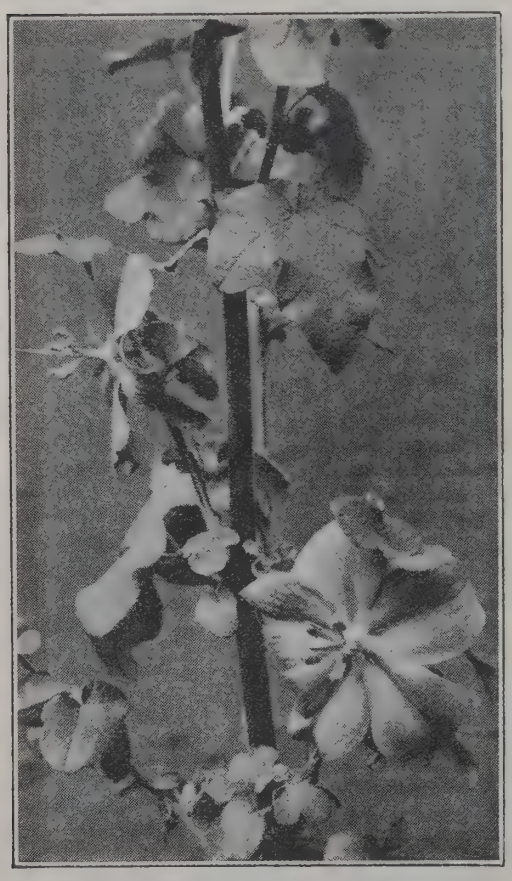
I would now refer to Mr. Copeland's remarks on "sports." He professes to be sceptical on the idea of Daffodils sporting. I would ask him if he can give any reasons for the doubling of flowers of any kind? I am interested in the possible cause, and of the many theories put forward all appear to me to point to some kind of a check to a plant's vital activities during the growing period. This said check may be caused by severe frosts, excessive wet, drought, bitter cold winds, or even, it is said, to have been caused by a certain fungus disease. Thus it will be understood that the sap of the plant is suddenly arrested, naturally the power of growth ceases temporarily, and no doubt where frost is the evil then the organic structure of the plant is partially paralysed, so to speak, and when the sap flow is once more regained the organic structures are not as strong as beforehand. The result is a deformed or abnormal bloom, such as a double one, where usually a single bloom has been thrown, but this is not a sport, it is purely the result of stunted growth, or, on the other hand, excessive growth, for double blooms will arise from both lack of, and excess of, nourishment. Another year all may become normal once again; such a state is not bound to be maintained.

I once had a seedling Foxglove with the summit bloom quite a different shape to those below it. It expanded to saucer shape, more like a St. Brigid Anemone flower, but single. This I consider to be a true sport due to cross-fertilisation of its parents. [It may not have been a sport, for such a variety is in cultivation and may be raised from seed. In any case, sports are not usually due to cross-fertilisation.—ED.]

Lastly, in reference to Narcissus Hollands Glory, mentioned by Mr. Copeland. He states the colouring and shape of perianth reminded him of Narcissus Inglescombe. Does he, by this, think N. Inglescombe is its parent?

It appears false for any firm to include a seedling of note in a batch of Emperor and term it an offset, as Mr. Copeland thinks may be the true case. Surely it would be of greater advantage to grow on and increase the same? Neither do I consider the truth was given when calling it a sport from Emperor. It appears to me more likely to be a hybrid with characteristics of its grandparents rather than its parents. As a note of interest I wonder if Mr. Copeland was lucky enough to see a bulb of a Daffodil shown recently in London, I was told, by Messrs. Barr, that a single as well as a double bloom issued from one bulb. I would ask Mr. Copeland to be a "sport" and see my argument of checked structural activities to growth was not here at full power.

W. WOODWARD.



Fremontia californica, shown by Mr. R. C. Notcutt

A handsome shrub with large clear yellow flowers and foliage like that of a Fig tree

Fruit growing for profit

Will you be kind enough to correct the statement in my article on Fruit-growing for Profit, which I did not make quite clear? I should have said that the acres of Black Currants and Apples in the third year showed £500 gross receipts, which, even so, is a remarkable achievement. There are one or two minor points that I was also a little vague about. Should these come up I shall be glad to answer any queries.

A. M. MARTINEAU.

Viburnum Carlesii

I was interested in reading the letter which appeared in your issue of May 7th on the above-named charming shrub, and which, as your correspondent remarks, is so deliciously scented. In this plant it is, I think, true that "the perfume is one we cannot have too much of," but I wonder if the writer realises that the same scent can be, when more powerful, almost unbearable, and even disagreeable. It flowered with me this spring, and I at once recognised the perfume as one that was quite familiar, but it was some time before I could place it and recall where smelled it before. When I mention it sure "B." will agree with me that the of Viburnum Carlesii is identical wit Lilium auratum when not placed too n

H. H.

Grevillea acanthifolia

A very distinct plant from the Nymar collection

Gaultheria pyroloides

This charming dwarf shrub, which ests us at the present time by reason pretty, deep bronzy leaves and loose, habit of growth, associates well wit alpine Rhododendrons. Enjoying an sunny position raised slightly above the nary level and one which is well draine variety cuneata, besides producing flowers, is freely sprinkled later with berries.

E.

Parrotia persica

While agreeing with all T. H. Evere to say (issue February 12th, page 10 would like to add another fine quality account of this delightful tree, namely of the bark of the trunk, which shel during winter after the manner of the l leaving large patches of bright yellow. trees here—several in number—were effective in full bloom and during hot sunshine. These crimson flowers and blotched trunks render Parrotia pers very charming and picturesque tree. E.

Sussex.

Damage from late frosts

The effects of recent frosts is now on apparent upon many choice trees, sh and flowers. Subjects which have nev my knowledge, been damaged here in

ex before, have suffered severely. Early-ring and Himalayan Rhododendrons are usly damaged, also Andromeda japonica, lus indica, Aralia chinensis, Cercidi-um japonicum, Magnolias, Buddleias, idia kalomitka on south wall, Labur-, Griselinia littoralis, Vines of various, spikes of Eremurus an inch thick were ht to the ground, Rheums, Spiræas, many other plants, including large es of Knot Worts (Polygonum), which absolutely killed to the ground-line, plantations of Rubus spectabilis, and R. nus, which have been naturalised for are seriously disfigured.

to the effect upon the fruit trees in at the time, it is too early to say with nty what damage has been done, gh to-day (May 13th) I notice a certain nt of fruit-dropping from exposed Pears.

ex. E. M.

The frosts of April

tch Pea" has my sincere sympathy. ps it may, to some extent, console him n that we, in Scotland, have suffered severely. My record is as follows:— 26th, 11 degs. frost; April 27th, 8 April 28th, 10 degs.; April 29th, .; April 30th, 10 degs.; May 1st, 12 On May 2nd, at midday, the frost gave ut the damage was done. Plum blos-nd Pear blossom on walls ruined; erries badly hit; Potatoes blackened, gh protected; early sowings of Turnips, es, and Lettuces so seriously damaged cut the losses, hoed them out, and re-In addition herbaceous plants were cut, Delphiniums, Dielytras, Lupins, sia lactiflora, Senecios, and Cimici-suffered severely, while the buds of the al Poppies were a dismal spectacle. lendrons and Azaleas, as well as other ng shrubs, were also damaged, and first time in my experience I saw us ornatus and N. poeticus marred by Lucky it is that we gardeners are ts after an experience such as this.

e, Dumfries. W. McG.

The porosity of flower pots

e been waiting with great interest to swers to your correspondent's letter May 7th, page 270) with regard to the d wherefore of the porosity of flower- have experimented for some time e object of making what I believed ssible to attain a better flower-pot.

difficulties are many, as it is desired in for plants in confined spaces all antages that they find in just those ar spots on the surface of the world hey flourish to keep those conditions t in a walled space that shall be to the eye and enhance the beauty of ts. These conditions must necessarily rent for different varieties of plants. al pot, bowl, or pan which can be itable to many varieties of plants is e pot or bowl must be pleasing to the hat it can be stood in view in suitable out must harmonise and enhance the of the plant, not detract from it. It e porous in every part so that mois-capillary action may reach all the nd the drainage perfect, excess of ot depending on one small outlet, er either pouring out too rapidly or if ll outlet is blocked not at all. All f the bowl or pot should be ab-so as to hold in reserve a cer-ount of moisture for the roots, addition, slow evaporation should e soil in the pot cool, and even if to go dry there is not that burning which is so fatal to tiny roots. The degree of porosity should be according to the rapidity of watering by plunging that is most beneficial to the plant. Here I might say that during my experiments I found that certain succulents from very dry and stony heights were greatly benefited by the absorption at night, when the temperature fell, of the moisture condensing, and that a different thickness was an advantage in other cases, though weight had to be considered, and stagnant water was also found to have become impossible. Under the conditions I have described the tendency to over-water is not a danger, as the evaporation from all sides is continuous. In the case of plants requiring much moisture the danger in full sunshine might be too great a caution in watering, but these could be stood in a saucer of water. Wet feet would not result; the moisture as absorbed would be carried to all parts, even the top edge of the pot.

It is also essential that the plant can be turned out of the pot or bowl with the ball of earth and root intact.

It would be interesting to have criticisms of the points I have stated. Points missed might enable me to carry my experiments to greater success.

Design of the pot or bowl is, of course, another matter, but the latter shape has my vote, not only for its beauty, but I think it is better for the spread of roots.

REGINALD T. DICK.

—— The query over the signature of H. E. Ivatts is a most interesting one, and it is a curious fact that, in view of the importance of the flower-pot in connection with the artificial cultivation of plants, so little attention has been paid to the matter. While there appear, in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, articles upon every conceivable subject connected with horticulture, I cannot recall one which has dealt exclusively with the flower-pot. That porosity is desirable is, I think, undeniable. At one time, now a good many years ago, I was induced to buy a large quantity of glazed flower-pots, chiefly 9-inch and 10-inch sizes, and in which I grew Chrysanthemums. The result was, to me, sufficiently educative. The plants, which were grown in the orthodox pots—Bulwells, Wellingtons, Alloas, or Portobellos—all did very well indeed. On the other hand, the plants in the glazed, non-porous pots were a source of continual worry so far as keeping the soil at an even condition of moisture was concerned, and the plants were never, apparently, quite happy. The same thing was observed in the case of Ferns and of other plants for which the glazed pots were used, and a series of happy "accidents" finished the career of what one of my journeymen called "the lazy man's pots"—presumably because they did not turn "greasy" and green on the outside and did not, therefore, require much washing. There are, too, very decided differences in the porous qualities of unglazed pots. Perhaps I may be allowed to illustrate what I mean. I think Scottish gardeners will agree with me when I say that, generally, the Scottish-made flower-pot is more porous than the English-made one. This may be due to the texture of the clay, and, perhaps, to the baking of the pot. Concerning this point I merely dogmatise. Be the case as it may, when, as a young journeyman, I went to an English garden well known in the Midlands, it was a very considerable time before I got the "hang" of the watering. The plants appeared to me to need much less water in the harder and less porous English pot than similar plants in equal-sized pots had done at home, and I was nearly heartbroken before I mastered the idiosyncrasies of the English pot—and of anthracite! As I have said, the subject is of great interest, and, in view of its importance, perhaps someone who is able to speak with authority may be induced to contribute an article on "Flower-pots."

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Japanese Cherry Botan Zakura (Prunus serrulata moutan Miyoshi No. 24)

One spray, a cluster of thousands of white flowers, faintly flushed pink

At a recent meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, Captain Collingwood Ingram, The Grange, Bennengen, staged a very interesting collection of the later-flowering varieties of Japanese Cherries from his well-known collection, which includes considerably over one hundred distinct varieties of these handsome spring-flowering trees. On the occasion referred to he showed twenty-one varieties, which well illustrated the diversity of floral form and colouring

Mazus reptans

A plant which is very floriferous and attractive on the rock garden just now is the Himalayan Mazus reptans. It forms a loose mat an inch or two high and sends out numerous runner-like growths, which, in themselves, suggest a ready means of increase. The flowers, which are borne on a shortly-branched arched stem, are of a light violet shade with a white patch on the lip, which is dotted with yellowish-brown spots. Usually, I believe, the plant is accorded a semi-shaded position, but it is by no means a failure in a sunny spot. In fact, the plants I have in mind are placed in one of the uppermost pockets on the rockery, and there seems to be no end to the supply of flowers. These plants are growing in a mixture of loam, leaf-soil, and grit. W. H.

Grand Maitre, a fine Old Dutch Tulip shown by Messrs. Barr and Sons

Tulip Purple King, a flower of faultless form with whit base, shown by J. R. Pearson and Sons

Gold Medal Tulips and a Remarkable Exhibit of Blue Poppies

TULIPS were the outstanding feature of the last meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society held at Vincent Square on May 17th and 18th. This was the occasion of the National Tulip Society's annual meeting. There were many large and bold groups of brilliantly-coloured Darwin and Cottage Tulips from different parts of the country.

Messrs. Barr and Sons and Messrs. Dobbie and Co. both gained gold medals for their groups of Tulips, these being the two best and most comprehensive collections. The former contained a great number of varieties, including the fine old Dutch Tulip, Grand Maitre, illustrated above. It is of rich violet-purple. In the same collection were Troubador, Gloria Mundi, Baronne de la Tonnaye, Bartlett, Ellen Willmott, Zulu, Esopus (rose-pink, flaked with white), Velvet King (deep maroon), and Vesta. Old English and old Dutch varieties were well represented in this collection.

Darwin, Cottage, and Parrot Tulips were well arranged in Messrs. Dobbie and Co.'s collection. The following were conspicuous:—Dom Pedro, Panorama, King George, Mrs. Moon, Louis XIV., Avis Kennicot, Dido (salmon-pink), Prince Albert (a bronze-tinted Darwin), and Carrara (perhaps the finest of all white Tulips). The showiest of the Parrots were Zany (scarlet and gold) and Sensation, beautifully feathered.

Purple King, a very fine rich purple Breeder Tulip of faultless form and white base (see illustration above), was the pick of varieties shown by Messrs. J. R. Pearson and Sons. Other varieties of note in this group were Farncombe Sanders, Orion, William Copland, and Faust.

Dido and Vesta were well shown by R. H. Bath, Ltd.

The Rev. Rollo Meyer's collection was rich in orange and bronze coloured varieties, including Golden Bronze, Louis XIV. (very prolific at Watton Rectory), The President, and Goudvink (purple, with orange shading in the edges). This was the largest amateur exhibit of Tulips.

Mr. H. G. Longford, Abingdon, Berks, had a large exhibit, including The Bishop, Zany (an attractive Parrot Tulip), Alaska (a yellow Darwin), and an uncommon-looking variety, Sundew.

Tulips were also shown by the Welsh Bulb Fields, Ltd., D. Stewart and Sons, J. J. Grullemans and Sons, Mr. G. W. Miller, and Bronwylfa Fruit Farm.

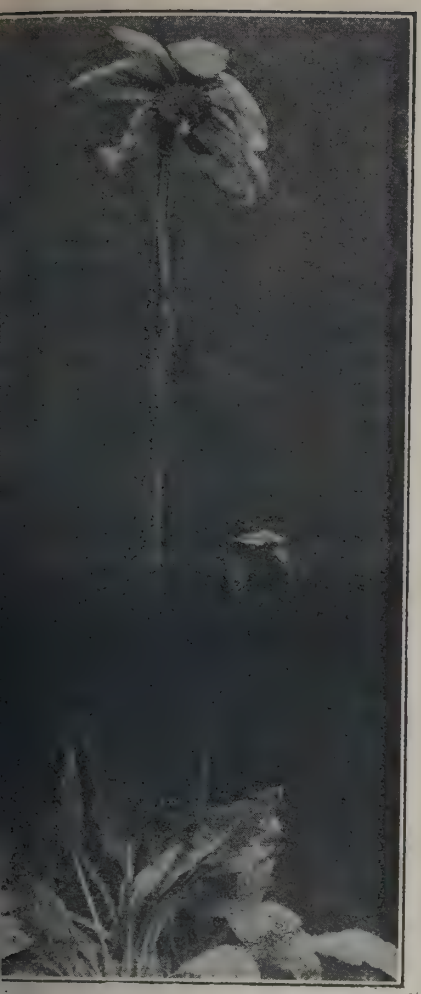
The successful exhibitors of florists' Tulips in competition were Mr. C. W. Needham, Sir Daniel Hall, and Mr. W. Peters. Sir Daniel Hall, of Merton, Surrey, gained Awards of Merit for Tulip Mars, a bold Darwin of deep orange-scarlet colour, and Tulip Bronze Wings, of a ruddy bronze hue.

Collection of Blue Poppies

It is seldom that an exhibit arouses so much interest as the attractively-arranged collection of Meconopsis sent by Mrs. Jones (gardener, Mr. F. Brooker), Abe Castle, Perth. The outstanding speci M. grandis, which gained a First-class ficate. It has a large purple-blue flow 5 inches across, with deep orange-co stamens. The flowers are borne o stems about 2 feet high. In bud the is of a rich dark purple with large stigma. Other species in this wonder lection were M. Prattii, M. quintupli the Harebell Poppy, about 18 inches with nodding pale silvery-blue flowe cream-coloured anthers, and its major, of stronger habit, the lovely b Baileyi (shown as M. betonicifolia), large sulphur-yellow flowered M. intes with amber-brown anthers. Altogeth of the most interesting exhibits o fascinating flowers that we have ever

Arum italicum

In this Arum, a very near relation common Lords and Ladies (A. macu the leaves have a handsome whitish which makes it a distinctly orna foliage plant, and it has the merit of early in the year. After the leave withered the bold spikes of scarlet se also ornamental. It is apt to seed it freely, and should therefore be give rather back place in the shrubbery



opsis grandis, one of the finest of the Blue Poppies
First Class Certificate

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

May 20th. Annual Festival Dinner of the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund, under the Presidency of Sir Henry Whitehead, at Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. 2., at 6.30 p.m.

May 21st. Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society's Show (4 days).

May 24th. Garden Dinner at the Garden Club, 9, Chesterfield Gardens, London, W. 1., after which a paper specially written by Miss Gertrude Jekyll, V.M.H., will be read to members and their guests.

May 24th. Lecture on The Gardens of England, by Mr. George Dillistone, at 16 Portman Square, London, W. 1., at 3.30 and 9.30 p.m. See note, page 302.

May 26th. Annual Dinner of the Kew Guild, President Mr. Walter Irving, at the Clarendon Restaurant, The Broadway, Hammersmith, W. 6., at 7.30.

May 26th. Conference on Labels and Labelling, in the Conference Tent, Chelsea Show, at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Mark Fenwick, J.P., will preside.

June 2nd. Iris Society's Show, at Vincent Square, Westminster.

June 3rd. Iris Society's visit to Wisley. Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. Norman-Bunyard, F.L.S., 25, Bower Mount, Maidstone.

Garden Scheme on Behalf of Queen Alexandra's Memorial Fund.—As announced, many gardens in England and Wales are to be thrown open to the public from the 30th May to the 30th June. A charge of 1s. to 2s. 6d will be made for admission to the gardens to raise funds for this Memorial. A full list of the gardens can be obtained on application to the General Secretary, National Memorial Fund, 28, Windsor House, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

Meconopsis quintuplinerva ("The Harebell Poppy")
Nodding flowers of pale silvery blue

in fairly good ground in some other-aste corner. Where it is in plenty it much use for accompanying cut ls. The whole plant is grasped at ground-level and pulled up bodily. If this is done it holds together in a more natural way than can be had by any arrangement of separate leaves. It should be prepared overnight by being plunged deep in a pail of water so that the tops of the leaves only are out of the water; it will then stand well for several days. G. J.

Meconopsis integrifolia
Clear sulphur yellow

Collection of Meconopsis, including M. grandis, M. Baileyi (shown as M. betonicifolia), M. quintuplinerva, and M. integrifolia, shown by Mrs. Walter Jones, Aberuchill Castle, Perth

Soils for Alpine Plants

A FEW years ago, when I was trying to grow alpine plants in a covered structure, and when my collection was so small that I could give to each specimen the very soil it needed, I became convinced that the secret of growing alpines well consisted in planting them in proper soil, together with good drainage and a careful mode of watering, because many things that would not grow in some kinds of soil did remarkably well in others. I am, however, well aware that experience of that sort cannot be of much use in the case of large collections in the open air. There is also much in other conditions besides soils. Since that time I have grown the same species with success in other soils, and lost many by trying to grow them in the same soil as that which previously answered well. In my then limited experience I thought that soil was the all-important point in alpine plant culture, and with that conviction I began in the open air by giving, or trying to give, to each its proper soil and quarters, and to such an extent that I carried out the soil principle that my little garden is a series of beds or pockets of various mixtures and non-mixtures. I still believe there is very much to be said in favour of employing certain soils for most plants under cultivation, but I do not now consider as I used to do that soils are all-important, nor can I conceive it possible for anyone to lay down hard-and-fast rules for the cultivation of alpines in our variable soils and subsoils, even though we may try to entirely adapt them, for there is peat and peat, loam and loam, and clay and clay. Doubtless Nature is our surest guide, and if we cannot follow her, what are we to follow? But can we copy Nature (as seen in the native homes of alpine plants) in this country, and with such mixtures of grits and soils as must necessarily vary very much in degree, both chemically and mechanically, from the alpine soils, etc., for doubtless that is so, and probably more or less such differences exist in the various alpine districts themselves. Nature's lessons are not always learnt by reading one page of her book. We need not be surprised at apparent contradictions, which, viewed in relation to the cultivation of alpine plants under artificial conditions, may show that sometimes a "lime hater" may be grown on lime, when probably in such a case some other conditions are varied. This I assume to be the most important consideration in connection with our combined readings and copyings of Nature, viz., to try, by cultural experiments and observations, to learn the most simple way of growing alpine plants in their finest forms in our gardens; were it not so, surely our time might be better occupied.

I may here say that I have proved many plants to be lovers of certain soils, but I have also proved others to be quite the reverse. Lime has been used in various forms here, viz., in the shape of big stones, lime chippings, mortar-rubbish, lime-water, and likewise in other forms, and it need scarcely be said that these have operated unequally. There is one form which I have used for many plants with remarkable results, viz., lime "boiled" and richly charged with animal hair and other animal matter. I have found many kinds of Iris, Saxifrage, dwarf Phlox, Primulas, Geums, Myosotis, Senecio pulcher, Helleborus niger, Artemisias, Antennaria, Violets, Alyssum, Sedums, Menziesia empetriformis, and many other common things, Pyrethrums, Gentiana acaulis, Daisies, Polyanthuses, and Pansies to be very fond of it, as also are Trollius and Cypripedium Calceolus which have been tried in it for a longer period. Some of these will not live in other forms of lime. I may also name incidentally that a Coffee plant was planted in it and is now a good healthy specimen. A Cucumber plant was tried in it with excellent results. An unhealthy Gardenia had some mixed with fresh loam in which it was repotted, and since then (last spring) it has made a fine healthy growth. These facts are mentioned to show that lime in certain forms, and used under certain conditions, may produce other results than the orthodox. I believe that when we seek to grow alpines we must consider other conditions in connection with soils, climate, altitude, aspect, rainfall, drainage, and surrounding shelter as tending to maintain the necessary amount of humidity, which otherwise should be provided by artificial means, and to go further into detail I have found it very important on my small bits of rockwork to form depressed surfaces, not only about the bases, but on the ridges; these are not only very useful, but important, and act very differently. The ridge depressions will not grow the dwarf Gentians, though there seems to be no lack of moisture, because (as I have supposed) the drainage was too rapid, but in such a position with its roots under a big piece of limestone, Arnica montana does well, the soil being leaf-mould, loam, and charcoal. The Gentians referred to just now have done fairly well since they were planted in similar soil in a depression below the garden level, and where they are constantly in a very moist state.

Probably some, or all, of the above conditions will vary in 99 gardens out of 100, and to alter one of such conditions, as, say, the detritus from granite to lime, might not move the balance much either one way or the other, but in other cases the same alteration might act like granules of acid dropped into an alkaline liquid. How often, too, has it been proved that to transplant a subject fro side of a small depression to the othe more than 3 feet—has had a magical o the plant. No doubt the meth making rockwork in sections of various of soil is good, but unless such sectio somewhat extended inter-saturation m harm. Again, the staple soil of the g may be calcareous loam; therefore the cal qualities of the soil should be ascert but even under skilful management se rockeries are, from their sponge-like p ness and uneven forms, liable to b mixed chemically, especially when organic matter is used. This may far-fetched, but it has at least a direct ing technically on the subject of soils, also bad drainage, for though many are known to like stagnant moisture a roots, if these should be near any various forms of lime it is not hard that such lime-charged moisture wou as a rule, against the health of plant li

On the whole, I consider it very d indeed for anyone to lay down rules in to soils without going very elaborate all other conditions relative thereto. I instance the lists of plants already so given us. They are said to be the re from Nature and observation. Stil clash as it would appear, though I h differences have natural causes, and such causes can be clearly explained w wisely go on comparing notes, but avo ing down cultural rules. The questior what materials may we grow such pla home, where both climate and soil a ferent from those of alpine regions? materials are silky loam, peat, leaf well-decayed stable manure, sandston red brick grit, charcoal, shingle, and c limestone and granite. I venture to sa an intelligent use of these in any si where perennial border plants thriv yield good results, whether the alpin grown in pots or on rockwork. Some finest specimens have been reared on b finely-sifted ashes topped with 6 inc rotten manure and sandy loam. Such mens are easily lifted with balls for ar pose.

ALPI

Aquilegia glandulosa
One of the most beautiful of all Columbines

Aquilegia glandulosa

POSSIBLY the most beautiful Columbines, this lovely species always easily placed, but if the rig ditions and the right position are coming, then will it be a sheer del exquisite blue and white colouring. joys a rich loam and half-shade, and p much importance attaches to planting plants rather than old examples. Flo in May, A. glandulosa grows about 18 high; the flowers are large and spr sapphire-blue and white. Many wil been enraptured by the exhibits of thi ous Columbine at the Chelsea Shows, several firms usually accord it great ar merited prominence. A. glandulosa from Siberia so long ago as 1822. jucunda is, by some authorities, varietal rank and is by others consid be synonymous with A. glandulosa. I scribed as smaller than the type and biennial persistence, or but little mo easily raised from seeds.

RALPH E. ARN

Preparing for summer flow

Bring forward the work of transferr spring flowers to reserve quarters, and fail to water them should the weath tinue dry, for a time at least. Dig and all beds and borders in readiness above, which, in the south, may in instances be planted out.

REES AND SHRUBS

Kalmia latifolia

IE Kalmias constitute a small group of andsome shrubs, and belong to the atural order Ericaceæ. About the e of June the subject of this note is at st, and at that time many of the flower-ees and shrubs have already produced vealth of blossom. This fact makes it welcome, and it is surprising that it is nore extensively planted. However, and there the Kalmias are seen in a hing condition, and it was a pleasure ne across a fine example in the gardens L. B. Francis, Esq., St. Tewdric, ow, Mon. The specimen quoted can n in the illustration. Here it has at-a height of 7 feet, and it is about 5 feet Altogether a glorious bush, and it lanted many years ago, and has pro-reached its maximum height. K. lati-s a native of Eastern N. America, e it was introduced to this country in

evergreen, and the glossy foliage is attractive. The clusters of flowers om 4 inches to 6 inches across, and ually they are saucer-shaped and a g shade of rose. Kalmias enjoy a soil or a rooting medium free from nd where the root-run is cool and not during the summer months.

re the ground is of a light nature a of peat, leaf-mould, or lawn-mowing will be beneficial during the summer s. T. W. B.

Kalmia latifolia at St. Tewdric, Chepstow, Mon.

Hollies

here anything more beautiful in the er season than a Holly tree some 10 to 15 feet high, covered with its deep lustrous foliage and thickly studded s bright red berries? Both from an ental and useful point of view the Holly ways be a great favourite. It is, un-dly, the finest hedge plant with which acquainted, being at all seasons fair upon, and it is, when well formed and or, perfectly impervious to the passage an beings and cattle. A Holly hedge en some 10 feet high is a joy for ever, sts indefinitely. I know Holly hedges were good 50 years ago, and they are excellent condition. Your readers have y noted that some Holly bushes bear more or less every year. Some bear ally, and here and there one is always This does not depend on soil or n, it is simply a matter of sex, some bearing male, others bearing female only; and some bear both male and these being the plants that can be n to carry a crop with some certainty. known large specimens to stand for pparently quite sterile and then came when they were covered with berries. is undoubtedly caused by pollen from tree being carried by the wind. I f one tree that, to my certain know-or 20 years did not bear a single berry, , after such a long period of sterility, with fruit. Hollies being raised from urchasers cannot be certain of ob-berry-bearing plants, which, un-y, acts as a deterrent to the more e use of the Holly from an orna-point of view. This difficulty could e overcome by budding, taking the m prolific trees. I am strongly of that it would answer the purpose of rowers to make a speciality of ed to be berry-bearing plants. ndoubtedly, would be glad to obtain or placing in conspicuous positions n the garden, woodland, and wild garden could they be assured that they would be able to enjoy their full winter beauty. The common green Holly is really very beautiful when it is given the chance to develop. I have in mind a tree some 15 feet high, broad in proportion, with branches sweeping the ground and which stands on a Surrey common. It happens to be a fertile plant and is frequently loaded with thousands of bright berries. Such a specimen would be an ornament to any garden and more worthy of care than many of the exotic things that are much valued. In the majority of gardens the Holly does not get a fair chance; it is planted in shrubberies and similar positions among strong-growing trees and shrubs, and so crowded that it cannot display its characteristic beauty. It is certainly worthy of better treatment. Some object to planting Holly hedges because they think that Holly is of very slow growth, but this is an error, a good hedge may be furnished from 3 feet to 4 feet high within four years, but there must be liberal treatment. Young plants cannot be expected to go away freely in poor soil. The ground should be trenched 2 feet deep, the top being well manured. The first year there will be little growth, but the roots will be busy working in the enriched ground; the second year growth will be fairly free; but the third season there will be a big push of strong shoots of from 18 inches to 2 feet in length.

Cleanliness is, of course, imperative; every weed must be destroyed, and the third year a mulch of dung will make much difference to the growth made that season. After this no more nourishment need be given, the future of the hedge will be assured; the foundation will be laid for a long and healthy life. I would preferably plant in autumn, as the root takes hold of the soil before winter comes. In the case of young plants that have been twice transplanted, such as nurserymen supply for this purpose, Holly can, however, be planted at any time during the winter, but large specimens should be moved either in the autumn or in early spring. Spring planting, however, has its dangers. I once saw a field of about 3 acres which had been planted in early spring, and not more than 50 plants were alive—a big loss. Had they been planted in winter the soil would have been solidified by heavy rains, and the loss would have been negligible. Spring planting is a gamble unless provision is made for watering, and in the case of specimens frequent overhead sprinklings. If there are nice rains in April all will be well, but I have known that month and May to be rainless. In the case of plants set out in March it is safer to water them in well, leaving the surface soil loose. A little labour in this way is often well repaid. J. CORNHILL.

Surrey.

Grouping Yuccas.

In our endeavours to enhance the beauty of our gardens and promenades we should consider not only the plants best adapted for that purpose, but we should also select positions that will set them off to the best advantage. A group of statuary, for example, however beautiful in itself, might be comparatively ineffective without appropriate surroundings. A fountain, however artistic, would lose half its charm were it deprived of the Water Lilies that spread out their leathery leaves on the pool below it; and, in like manner, when planting groups of dis-

tinct types of vegetation, due regard should be paid to the contrast or harmony that exists between them and their associates. Among the many thousands of indigenous and exotic plants at present in cultivation we have some adapted more or less to every particular position in our gardens or conservatories, be they natural or artificial. If we require massive plants to set off architectural features we have the different kinds of Agaves, which, when fully developed, not only add a charm to noble masonry, but the plants themselves also derive additional beauty and force from such associations. Among hardy outdoor plants few can compete with Yuccas for noble effect when well grown, and when set in positions in which their peculiar mode of growth and noble inflorescence can be seen to advantage. These plants are easily cultivated in most gardens, but if the soil is particularly sterile a few cartloads of fresh porous loam from a sheep pasture will give them a good start. Under favourable circumstances these plants soon lose the miserably stunted appearance in which we too often see them, and when in robust health we have no other hardy plants which can be said to possess the same exotic appearance which Yuccas have. Most gardens would, therefore, be benefited by the addition of a group or two of these plants, judiciously placed for picturesque effect.

Water Lilies

INCONSTANT April mornings drop showers or sunbeams over the glistening lake, while far beneath its surface a murky mass disengages itself from the muddy bottom, and rises slowly through the water. The tasselled Alder branches droop above it, and newly-opened Hepaticas and Epigæas on a neighbouring bank peer down modestly to look for it. Wishing to see these treasures of the lake in their morning hour, we encamped on a little island, which one tall tree almost covers with its branches, while a dense undergrowth of young Chestnuts and Birches fills all the intervening spaces, touching the water all around the circular shelving shore. We kindled a gipsy fire of twigs, less for warmth than for society. The first gleam made the dark lonely islet into a cheering home, turned the protecting tree to a starlit roof, and the Chestnut sprays to illuminated walls. Lying beneath their shelter, every fresh flickering of the fire kindled the leaves into brightness and banished into dark interstices the lake and sky; then the fire died into embers, the leaves faded into solid darkness in their turn, and water and heavens showed light and close and near, until fresh twigs caught fire and the blaze came up again.

Rising to look forth at intervals during the night—for it is the worst feature of a night outdoors, that sleeping seems such a waste of time—we watched the hilly and wooded shores of the lake sink into gloom and glimmer into dawn again, amid the low plash of waters and the noises of the night. Precisely at half-past three a sparrow above our heads gave one liquid trill, so inexpressibly sudden and delicious that it seemed to set to music every atom of freshness and fragrance that Nature held; then the spell was broken, and the whole shore and lake were vocal with song. Joining in this jubilee of morning, we were early in motion; bathing and breakfast, though they seemed indisputably in accordance with the instincts of the Universe, yet did not detain us long, and we were promptly on our way to Lily pond.

Will the reader join us? Almost every town has its Lily pond. Ours is accessible from the larger lake only by taking the skiff over a narrow embankment, which protects our fairyland by its presence. Once beyond it we are in a realm of dark Lethean water utterly unlike the sunny depths of the main lake. Hither the Water Lilies have retreated to a domain of their own. A decline in business is clear revenue to Water Lilies, and the waters are higher than usual because factories are idle. But we may notice, in observing the shores, that peculiar charm of water that, whether its quantity be greater or less, its grace is the same; it makes its own boundary in lake or river, and where its edge is, there seems the natural and permanent margin. And the same natural fitness, without reference to mere quantity, extends to its children.

Before us lie islands and continents of Lilies, acres of charms, whole, vast, unbroken surfaces of stainless whiteness. And yet, as we approach them, every islanded cup that floats in lonely dignity, apart from the multitude, appears as perfect in itself, couched in white expanded perfection, its reflection taking a faint glory of pink that is scarcely perceptible in the flower. As we glide gently among them, the air grows fragrant, and a stray breeze flaps the leaves, as if to welcome us. Each floating flower becomes suddenly a ship at anchor, or rather seems beating up against the summer wind, in a regatta of blossoms. Early as it is, the greater part of the flowers are already expanded. Indeed, that experience of Thoreau's, of watching them open in the first sunbeams, rank by rank, is not easily obtained, unless perhaps in a narrow stream, where the beautiful slumberers are more regularly marshalled. In our lake, at least, they open irregularly, though rapidly. But this morning many linger as buds, while others peer up, in half-expanded beauty, beneath the lifted leaves, frolicsome as Pucks or baby-nymphs.

As you raise the leaf, in such cases, it is impossible not to imagine that a pair of tiny hands have upheld it, or else that the pretty head will dip down again and disappear. Others, again, have expanded all but the inmost pair of white petals, and these spring apart at the first touch of the finger on the stem. Some spread vast vases of fragrance 6 inches or 7 inches in diameter, while others are small and delicate, with petals like fine lace-work. Smaller still, we sometimes pass a flotilla of infant leaves, an inch in diameter. All these grow from the deep, dark water—and the blacker it is, the fairer their whiteness shows. But your eye follows the stem often vainly into those sombre depths, and vainly seeks to behold Sabrina fair, sitting with her twisted braids of Lilies, beneath the glassy, cool, but not translucent wave. Do not start, when, in such an effort, only your own dreamy face looks back upon you, beyond the gunwale of the reflected boat, and you find that you float double, self and shadow.

Let us rest our paddles, and look round us, while the idle motion sways our light skiff onwards, now half-embayed among the Lily pads, now lazily gliding over intervening gulfs. There is a great deal going on in these waters and their fringing woods and meadows. All the summer long the pond is bordered with successive walls of flowers. In early spring emerge the yellow catkins of the Swamp Willow, first; then the long tassels of the graceful Alders expand and droop, till they weep their yellow dust upon the water; then come the Birch blossoms, more tardily; then the downy leaves and white clusters of the Medlar or Shadbush (Amelanchier densis of Gray); these dropping, the r chalices of the Mountain Laurel open; a fade into melancholy brown, the sweet A uncloses; and before its last honeyed bl has trailed down, dying, from the sten more fragrant Clethra starts out abov Buttonbush thrusts forth its merry face wild Roses, and the Clematis waves its s of beauty. Mingled with these grow, the Spiræas, white and pink, yellow T me-not, fresh white Arrowhead, bright Vervain and Skullcap, dull Snakehead Monkey-flower, coarse Eupatoriums, weeds, Golden-rods, Asters, Thistles, host beside. Beneath, the brilliant s Cardinal-flower begins to palisade the shores; and after its superb reflectio passed away from the waters, the grot Witch Hazel flares out its narrow y petals amidst the October leaves, and so the floral year. There is not a week o all these months when one cannot sta the boat and wreathe garlands of blo from the shores. These all crowd arou brink, and watch, day and night, the op and closing of the Water Lilies.

Meanwhile, upon the waters, our keeps her chosen court, nor can one of mere land-loving blossoms touch the h her garment. In truth, she bears no near her throne. There is but this one s among us, Nymphæa odorata. The b ful little rose-coloured Nymphæa sang was merely an occasional variety of cos She has, indeed, a half-sister, Nym alba, less beautiful, less fragrant, but ing more fashionable hours—not openin cording to Linnæus) till seven, nor closi four. Her humble cousin, the Nuphar, keeps commonly aloof, as beco poor relation, though created from th same mud—a fact which Hawthorn beautifully moralised. Undisturbed, ever, the Water Lily keeps her fr court, with few attendants. The Pickerel-weed (Pontederia) is her gentl usher, gorgeous in blue and gold th July, somewhat rusty in August. The W shield (Hydropeltis) is chief maid-of-ho she is a highborn lady, not without blood indeed, but with rather a bend si not precisely beautiful, but very fasti encased over her whole person with a tinous covering, literally a starched d Sometimes she is suspected of conspir drive her mistress from the throne; I nave observed certain slow waterc where the leaves of the Water Lily hav almost wholly replaced by the simila smaller, leaves of the Water-shield.

More rarely seen is the slender Utric a dainty maiden, whose light feet touch the water—with the still more d floating white Water Ranunculus, a shy Villarsia, whose submerged merely peep one day above the surfa then close again for ever. Then the many humbler attendants, Potamoget Pond-weeds. And here float little emi from the dominions of land; for the florets of the Viburnum drift among th pads, with mast-like stamens erect, ling the water with a strange beaut cheating us with the promise of a new flower. These are the still life sequestered nook; but it is, in fact, a cr thoroughfare. No tropical jungle swarms with busy existence than thes summer waters and their bushy banks

Gathering Water Lilies

Every flower bears fragrance in its and you hesitate to leave one behind after the first half-hour of eager gr one becomes fastidious, rather scorn on which the wasps and flies have al

Over our rural water-courses, at midsummer, float these cups of snow. They are Nature's symbols of coolness. They suggest to us the white garments of their Oriental worshippers. They come with the white Roses, and prepare the way for the white Lilies of the garden

Two views of the lake at Gravetye Manor, nr. East Grinstead, Sussex

The home of William Robinson, founder of "Gardening Illustrated"

eks only the stainless. But handle nderly, as if you loved them. Do not t the open flower as if it were a Pæony llyhock, for then it will come off, s, in your hand, and you will cast it l upon the water; but coil your thumb ond finger affectionately around it, he extended forefinger firmly to the low, and with one steady pull you will a long and delicate stalk. Consider es. Over our rural watercourses, at mer, float these cups of snow. They ure's symbols of coolness. They sug- us the white garments of their l worshippers. They come with the Roses, and prepare the way for the ilies of the garden.

Water Lily comes of an ancient and family. It has assisted at the most ous religious ceremonies, from the ng of recorded time. The Egyptian was a sacred plant; it was dedicated ocrates and to Nofr Atmoo—Nofr *good*, whence the name of our ily, Nuphar. But the true Egyptian flower was Nymphæa Lotus, though Nymphæa cœrulea, Moore's "blue Water Lilies," can be traced on the sculptures also. It was cultivated in tanks in the gardens; it was the chief material for festal wreaths; a single bud hung over the forehead of many a queenly dame; and the sculptures represent the weary flowers as dropping from the heated hands of *belles*, in the later hours of the feast. Rock softly on the waves, fair Lilies! your Eastern kindred have rocked on the stormier bosom of Cleopatra. The Egyptian Lotus was, moreover, the emblem of the sacred Nile, as the Hindoo species of the sacred Ganges; and both the one and the other was held the symbol of the creation of the world from the waters. The sacred bull, Apis, was wreathed with its garlands; there were niches for water, to place it among tombs; it was carved in the capitals of columns; it was represented on plates and vases; the sculptures show it in many sacred uses, even as a burnt offering; Isis holds it; and the god Nilus still binds a wreath of Water Lilies around the throne of Memnon.

From Egypt the Lotus was carried to Assyria, and Layard found it among Fir cones and Honeysuckles on the later sculptures of Nineveh. The Greeks dedicated it to the nymphs, whence the name Nymphæa. Nor did the Romans disregard it, though the Lotus to which Ovid's nymph Lotis was changed *servato nomine* was a tree, and not a flower. Still different a thing was the enchanted stem of the Lotus-eaters of Herodotus, which prosaic botanists have reduced to the Zizyphus Lotus found by Mungo Park, translating also the yellow Lotus dust into a mere "farina, tasting like sweet gingerbread." But, in the Lotus of Hindostan, we find our flower again, and the Oriental sacred books are cool with Water Lilies. The orb of the earth is Lotus-shaped, and is upborne by the tusks of Vesava, as if he had been sporting in a lake where the leaves and blossoms float. Having got thus far into Orientalism, we can hardly expect to get out again without some slight entanglement in philology.

(To be continued.)

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Bulbous plants

Narcissus, Muscari, Tulips, Ornithogalums, Fritillarias, Erythroniums, and also the early-flowering Iris which have been used for forcing are now thoroughly hardened off and will be planted to form interesting colonies in thin woodland. If planted with reasonable care and not too thickly these plants ultimately provide very useful and pleasing effects.

Lilies

Plants which have been forced should be hardened off gradually and encouraged to finish their ripening at the foot of a sunny wall. Others now coming into bloom will benefit from periodical applications of diluted manure-water.

Green fly

If permitted to remain on the plants for any length of time green fly will play havoc with the young buds. It is therefore advisable to fumigate the plants immediately its presence is observed.

Firing

The use of hot-water pipes is no longer necessary in any but early and second fruit-houses, stoves, and some Orchid-houses if full advantage is taken of the sunshine in controlling the temperature of such houses, unless an exceptionally cold night should intervene, when the heat could with advantage be turned on. It will often be found that a very large number of subjects show great improvement and require less attention following the stoppage of artificial heat and are less affected by insect pests.

Cannas

Continue to increase those intended to bloom indoors by removing the suckers as they appear with a little soil and a portion of the old tuber attached, and pot these up singly in 60-sized pots. It is not impossible to get a supply of these showy flowers all the year round, providing the plants are kept growing in a warm house which is closed early in the afternoon. The strong plants which have been expressly prepared for the open air must be gradually hardened off in readiness for planting out early next month.

Sweet Peas

Lines sown in autumn are growing freely, and it is now advisable to examine the rows to place inside the large shoots which are constantly falling through the boughs before such are damaged by wind and rain, for these are approaching the flowering stage. A little weak stimulant may be applied at intervals should the weather remain dry, and dampings overhead following hot days will increase their vigour and assist cleanliness. Encourage the growth of spring-sown varieties by frequent overhead dampings, and apply light stakes as required.

Climbing plants on hot walls

Guard against excessive dryness among these plants. Such positions are liable to be overlooked, and valuable climbers cast their buds and suffer accordingly when so neglected. Many are growing rapidly and require attention in the matter of training frequently.

Rhododendrons

As these cease to be effective the old flower-trusses should be removed and any necessary thinning or balancing of the bushes may be carried out, new growth following almost immediately.

Viburnum Carlesii and V. macrocephalum

Examine these handsome shrubs and cut away any robbing suckers which are springing from their base, and which have killed many a specimen. Such robbers are easily distinguished from the true shrub.

Clematises

Those who are repeatedly losing their plants through slugs eating away the growths as they appear through the soil will be well advised to place a ring of sheet zinc 6 inches deep around the collar of each one, sprinkling the inside with fire-ashes.

Raspberries

These must be soaked if dry weather continues, and Strawberries which are now approaching the swelling stage should be mulched with clean straw or litter to preserve the cleanliness of the fruit. Do not allow this crop to suffer from drought at any time during the fruiting period.

Gooseberries

Apply a mulch of clean litter to those kinds intended for gathering in a green state. This will prevent a large percentage of the fruits from becoming useless through splashing.

Broad Beans

Pinch out the tips of these at 2 feet 6 inches from the ground, and if at all attacked by dolphin place same on the fire, for dropping them between the rows only encourages the spread of this pest.

Scarlet Runners

These may now be sown on well-prepared ground or in trenches previously prepared. The Beans should be sown 2 inches deep and in double rows 10 inches apart. Dust the lines with soot as soon as germination is observed to ward off slugs.

Main Crop Peas

Sow these in quantity, making the drills slightly deeper than formerly, and attend to the staking of earlier-sown crops before dropping sets in.

New Zealand Spinach

This is a good substitute for ordinary Spinach during hot weather, and a sowing should now be made. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Asparagus

Another fairly generous dressing of salt should now be given the beds, this being of very considerable value to this plant, while a soaking of liquid-manure once or twice during the season is also beneficial, especially on light soils.

Potatoes

This is the crop that responds most readily to good cultivation. It is hardly possible to work too much among the plants from the moment they appear through the ground until the earthing-up process is finished. The Dutch hoe is an admirable tool to employ, but should be augmented occasionally by a digging-fork, the soil between the rows being loosened to a depth of 4 inches or 5 inches. When the Potato quarters are treated in this way not only will the work of earthing-up be made very easy, but both quantity and quality of the crop will be greatly improved.

The Dutch hoe

From March to October this is the most useful of all tools in the vegetable g for by its constant use not only are kept under and the whole garden kept and tidy, but all kinds of plants ben having the surface stirred and broke this preventing undue evaporation whi mitting warmth and air to reach the Slugs and other vermin are discourage are, indeed, exposed to the sharp eyes birds, who do not fail to take full adv of this.

Prepare for bedding

While numbers of the hardier plant nowadays in our bedding schemes are a in their flowering quarters there are stil numbers of tender kinds that are us summer display that it is unsafe to pla until the end of May. It is well, the to have the beds and borders these lat to occupy ready so that the actual pl may be comfortably and expedi carried out. There is no use, as I hav some doing, spending valuable time the surface with steel rakes and makin if intended for the reception of very fi valuable seeds. If the soil is well with hoe or fork and then made level wooden rake this is all that is require after all, most beds must be trodden o the feet while planting is being done.

Thinning fruits

While there has been a very fine amo blossom on fruit trees generally I am that the frosts and snowstorms of th week of April have in many cases e ruined the crops of Pears, Plums, berries, Cherries, and Currants. Strawberries, and Raspberries, not be flower, have so far escaped. At ti writing it is impossible to even approxi estimate the damage, but any who a tunate enough to have a good "set" start thinning in good time, it being de to do this betimes so as to prevent an check.

Strawberries

The flower-stems are rising in the districts so a final clean-up of the beds be undertaken, removing all weeds, we ing between the plants, and then b down with straw or other clean mate protect the fruits being splashed with sand.

Raspberries

As a rule, these send up many "canes" than are at all necessary, advisable to go over the beds and pull surplus growths, including weeds. If able great benefit will be derived by th if a fairly generous mulch of rich old can be spread all over the ground b the plants. This, especially on light

Schizanthus

The season of beauty may be sligh longed by giving the plants a little liquid-manure twice weekly. Do no water, nor, on the other hand, perm plants to flag for lack of moisture roots.

Tuberous-rooted Begonias

The latest batch are now fit for tr ence to the flowering-pots. Use very loam three parts, sweet leaf-mould tw and enough coarse sand to ensure p (Too much sand encourages an attack dreaded mite.) The addition of a potful of bone-meal and a 4½-inch p Thomson's manure to each barrowload is a distinct help. C. B

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow

VEGETABLES

tical hints on growing Celery

.ERY proves itself to be a valuable lition to the list of select vegetables for umn and winter use, and can be among those subjects in which detail forerunner of success. Even from the stages of growth this is essential, f neglected, no amount of attention ırds will bring it to perfection.

naincrop supplies seed should be sown the end of March in heat, pricking off oxes when the seedlings are large to handle. These in turn, when they nade good plants, should be trans- into a cold frame, one preferably with bottom, on which a layer of good nanure has been placed, covering this layer of old potting soil about 3 inches llowing a space of 6 inches each way 1 the plants. Well water them in, from bright sunshine for a few days stablished, afterwards admitting air keep them sturdy.

hes for their final reception should be d well beforehand, digging into the a good layer of rotten manure, leaving in a rough state until planting is out, when it must be finely broken up tate this operation. A sprinkling of added at this period will prove bene-

lifting from the frame disturb the s little as possible (a garden fork under the layer of manure and raised vill avoid this to a great extent), and ant divided with a good portion of and soil attached will result thereby. rmly according to the nature of the wing 9 inches between the plants for ws and 1 foot apart for double rows, r being planted on the angle system,

this period onward attend regularly oving side growths, and water ıly whenever necessary. In ad- stages of growth occasional doses of anure and soot-water will prove very l. Leaf-mining maggot often proves me. Prevention is better than cure, ıe foliage is sprayed weekly towards with clear water, and a dusting of applied immediately afterwards, no this pest will be seen. Attend to the up when necessary. This is best short intervals rather than by leaps ıds. A dressing of soot around the uring the earthing-up process will keep the slugs at bay, as it is sur- ow they find their way into the the plants, rendering them unsuit- table use.

is a moisture-loving plant, and ut all stages of growth must not be o suffer for the want of it, otherwise ecome puffy and lose its crispness, ts chief characteristics. In severe eather protection must be given, acken or similar material for the This must be removed on all occasions. W. F. FAIRMAN.

ıary Peas for succession

a good supply of this much-prized is in demand for late summer owings should take place, and a than the ordinary attention should hem. There seems to me to be two growing these, one of which is to em with all and rather more than t in the way of manure, which is and wasteful, and the other is to do sufficient to enable them to help themselves. Given a deeply-trenched soil containing a sufficiency of lime and just a moderate amount of manure is far preferable to digging ordinary trenches as for Celery, and packing them with thick layers of manure which they cannot assimilate. Under the former conditions the soil is well aerated, and the roots penetrate down to where they are cool and moist and the nitrifying bacteria will feed them, as will be seen by the many "nodules" on the roots. They also resist drought better and are much less liable to attacks of mildew. The drills may be drawn slightly deeper and the seed covered to a depth of about 3 inches at this time of year, so that when finished the drill is slightly below the ground-level. Sow the seed thinly and thin out where the seedlings are nearer to each other than 2 inches. Where there is any fear of shortage after the previous sowings have been gathered one should sow a mid-season variety, such as Senator or Stratagem, or where the garden is small and taller varieties are not wished for, otherwise the later varieties are suitable for present sowing.

Among these there are good old standard varieties that are hard to beat, such as Autocrat, which is a wrinkled Pea of excellent flower, very robust, and not so liable to mildew as some. The Gladstone is a worthy companion to the above, and to those who have no difficulty in obtaining supports, Alderman, though much taller, is good in every way. The varieties to choose from are very numerous in the various catalogues issued, but in keeping to standard sorts one can do worse than grow these that have been well tried. In dry periods a good soaking of water may be given with good results, afterwards mulching each side of the row with grass mowings or similar material.

One is, however, confident that where the land has been trenched in an ordinary way, or even bastard trenched, there will be no anxiety as regards moisture, particularly if the hoe is kept going. A. WHEELER.

FRUIT GARDEN

Planting Strawberries

IF there is one question I am asked more than another it is, When is the best time to make a Strawberry bed? If a full crop is desired the first season the months of April and May are the best for planting; that is, if a sufficient number of young plants can be obtained.

Many people, however, still persist in the old-fashioned plan of planting in autumn, owing to the fact that it is so easy to select layers or runners when cleaning the old beds in September and plant them at once in a fresh bed.

Now, the difference amounts to this, that the insertion of plants in April and May will, with care and attention, produce a good crop of large handsome fruit the following June and July, but those not planted until autumn will only give a mere sprinkling of fruit, or perhaps no fruit whatever the following year. If no plants can be obtained, then it is necessary to wait till later in the season when the new runners have been formed, but this difficulty, with a little foresight, is easily overcome, as it is a simple matter to keep a good number of runners over from the previous autumn, planting them close together in a sheltered corner and covering them with a layer of straw or Bracken if severe frost threatens.

The very last month in which Strawberries may be planted with a prospect of a crop of fruit the following year is July, but the earlier the rooted runners are planted in the month the better.

After this plants turned out of small pots become necessary, and this may be carried out until September, after which it is useless to expect plants to fruit next season to any extent.

The difference between plants inserted during the next month or two and those planted in September is very great and must be seen in the autumn to be believed.

The early-planted have made large, strong, vigorous plants which, next season, will cover themselves with fine trusses of flowers and fruit, while the late-planted are small, single-crowned plants that may or may not produce a small truss of fruit next year.

The Strawberry is a surface rooter, but at the same time is a gross feeder, and luxuriates in a well-worked, most liberally-manured and fairly deep soil.

Usually the ground is trenched to the depth of two spits, but I prefer three, working in at the same time the best nearly fresh stable manure I can get hold of, which in these days, unfortunately, is very scarce. If the soil is light a liberal dressing of cow manure or "fat" farmyard manure should be mixed with the second spit, but in the case of a heavy subsoil use plenty of strawy manure in the trenches instead. Allow the bed some little time to settle down before planting, and if it has one heavy rain on it so much the better. Two important points to observe when planting is to plant "high" and "plant firmly." On no account bury the crowns of the plants, but keep them well above the surface; spread out the roots and make the soil quite firm. When planting, some use a dibber, but the work is far better done with the trowel.

The proper distances are 2 feet apart in the rows if the soil is good and a strong-growing variety like King George V. is employed, or 18 inches where the ground is not so suitable for the Strawberry or a smaller-growing kind is to be planted, with a rather greater distance —2 feet to 2½ feet—between the rows.

There are many varieties to choose from, but the three varieties that do well with me are King George V., Sir J. Paxton, and Royal Sovereign. F. H.

Devon.

Inspection and certification of Strawberry plants

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, on the recommendation of its Horticultural Advisory Council, proposes to set up a voluntary scheme of inspection and certification of Strawberry plants which will apply in the case of sales of stocks. Plants from which runners are intended to be taken for sale will, on application by growers, be inspected and certified if they are found to be true to variety. Present knowledge of certain of the diseases of Strawberries is insufficient to enable the Department to certify entire freedom from them, but certificates will not be issued for stocks which are obviously unhealthy. Lists of growers holding certificates in respect of Strawberry stocks will be published at the end of the inspection season so that purchasers may be informed of them. Growers who wish to avail themselves of the facilities offered under this scheme should make application to the Secretary of the Ministry, 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1, before May 31st. A fee of 7s. 6d. per acre or part of an acre of Strawberry plants inspected will be charged for each inspection, with an additional charge of 1s. per certificate and 3d. for each copy certificate.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

White Lupins

I enclose two spikes of white Lupin, and should be glad if you can tell me what is wrong. I have a large number of plants in different parts of the garden, and all of them look very healthy. The coloured ones are all flowering well, but the white ones are, in every case, like the enclosed, the buds dropping off before they open. There are two very fine blue ones, one on either side of the plant, of which I send you the cuttings, and quite close to it. I also enclose a few leaves of Delphiniums. I have a large bed of healthy plants, but a few of them are being attacked in this way. CHAS. G. MARSHALL.

[We have carefully examined the samples of the white Lupins you send and can find no trace of disease. It is, therefore, likely that the recent sharp frosts are responsible for the dropping of the buds, for it must be remembered that nearly all white flowers are more tender than are coloured varieties of the same species. In the case of the Delphiniums it is difficult to form an opinion as to what has caused the trouble, seeing the few leaves sent were much withered and dried up when they reached us. Here, again, frost is most likely the cause, although this plant also suffers quickly if the soil at the roots becomes very dry. In the latter case copious drenchings of water would help to bring back the plants to vigorous health, but most likely the flowers will be poorer than would otherwise have been the case.]

Arums to name

(Scot).—Both your specimens, which arrived in perfect condition, are forms of Arum maculatum, known popularly as Cuckoo Pint, Wake Robbin, Lords and Ladies, or Common Arum. The plant is poisonous, and springs from a white, tuberous rootstock. The hooded flowers are followed by short spikes of bright red berries when the foliage has died away. These berries are much sought after by pheasants during the winter months, and, although poisonous to human beings, seem to agree well with these birds. In some districts the leaves and spathes (the hoods enveloping the real flowers) are spotted with purple, or sometimes the leaves are quite handsomely veined with white; in other districts all the leaves and spathes are plain green as in your specimen No. 2. In certain districts both forms grow side by side, but the various differences are not accounted sufficient to warrant separate names. Although frequent in hedges and woods in England and Ireland, this plant is only doubtfully wild in Scotland. Few people would consider it worthy of cultivation.

Injury to Tulips

Will you, please, tell me if the enclosed Tulip bulbs are diseased? If so, what is the name of the disease and what is the cure for it? They were grown in virgin soil and were imported from Holland. E. R. HUTLEY.

[Your Tulips are badly affected with "Fire," which appears to be very prevalent this spring. This is caused by the fungus Botrytis tulipæ. All you can do now is to take up those diseased and burn them. Spraying the healthy specimens with a solution of liver of sulphur, using 1 oz. to 3 gallons of water, might help you to keep the disease in check. If you have only 20 clean out of 100 burning the lot would be the easiest way out. You should not use the bed for bulbs next autumn unless it is sterilised with formalin or some other chemical.]

Treatment of Wallflowers

(F. A. V.).—You were too late in sowing your Wallflower seed, hence your disappointment. The seed should be sown by the middle of May and the seedlings pricked out at 6 inches apart when about 4 inches high. They will then form bushy plants for putting into beds in October and will bloom freely during April and May. Yes; cut out the centre and pinch the tips out of any extra strong side shoots. They will then bush out evenly and will become good flowering plants for next year.

Lilies of the Valley

(Miss Lowe, Crewkerne).—The flowers have been damaged by frost, which has been most severe in the case of plants growing close to the ground. It is evident from the specimens sent that Lilies of the Valley make strong growth and flower well in your garden. Yes; the Sympleet oil heating stove would be quite satisfactory for your greenhouse. We recommend it:

Roses for inspection

Would you kindly tell me what is wrong with this Rose? It comes from a large, fine tree facing south on a house wall, blooms twice a year, and the first blooms are always like this. It is manured regularly and watered when necessary, and I cannot think what to do with it next. A. J. K.

[We notice signs of mildew on the bud sent, and this has a bad effect on all Roses. It must be remembered, however, that several varieties of Roses behave in this manner, especially early in the season, and there is not, in their case, any real remedy for this disfiguring trouble. As a rule, these varieties produce perfect blooms later in the season, and we hardly think that it is old age that causes yours to go wrong.]

GREENHOUSE

Tree Carnations

(F. A. V.).—This name has been frequently given to what are more generally known as Perpetual-flowering Carnations, a valuable race of plants which are growing and blooming throughout the year under glass. Such plants when kept potted on and maintained in a healthy condition will reach 4 feet to 5 feet in height with a diameter of 2 feet or even more. These are used for filling beds during the summer months, and plants from 5-inch pots are put out at 14 inches apart for this purpose, often with great success; but they do not winter well in the open, being essentially cool greenhouse plants. Giant of Nice is a Border Carnation, and, like the others you mention, may be wintered in the open on well-drained soil, but to feel quite certain of these plants it is advisable t young layers in October, pot into 3-inch and winter in cold frames.

FRUIT

Strawberries damaged

Could you tell me the reason of the centre to these Strawberry flowers? are two-year-old plants, and there are of these black-centred flowers to each The petals drop immediately. A. B.

[Your Strawberries have been damag frost. All flowers showing the black having been open when the frost cam spoiled, but later flowers will, most produce fruits.]

Apricot diseased

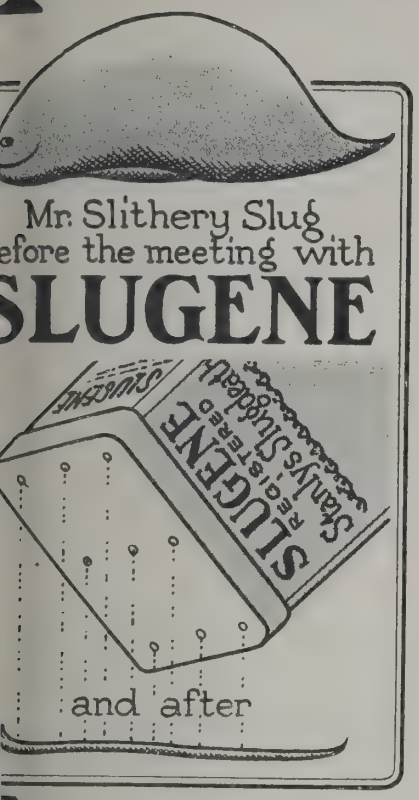
(Priory).—The specimen shoots of A labelled No. 2, arrived in such a rotted tion that it is impossible for us to say has caused the trouble. If you will b enough to send us other specimens pac a tin box as before, but without th paper, we shall be pleased to examine for you. Specimens for examination travel best in a tin box, but if wet pa wet anything is used for packing, di material is liable to decay badly o journey.

Peach leaf curl

I enclose a few leaves of the C Nectarine. I shall be much obliged could tell me what is the cause of the curling, and what I could do to pre from spreading. The trees are young planted in a range of lean-to Peach-h The houses are under repair, and ha had any glass on during the last The trees were planted about Dec having been grown out-of-doors. In years Tomatoes have been grown houses, and there has not been any sp or fumigating done in any way. The face south. The glass will probably placed this summer. I noticed black the soil. Would these do any damage soil is not rich. There are other P and Nectarines in the range whic affected. Would the frost affect them it a disease? Is the Cardinal Nectar out-of-doors tree and hardy? If so, be likely to be a success indoors? I s very grateful for any information. PR

[The specimen Nectarine foliage No. 1 is affected with Peach lea caused by the fungus Exoascus defo In cold, late seasons this disease ca good deal of trouble to outside-grown and Nectarines, but rarely causes tro such fruits when they are grown unde The fungus attacks the leaves and wood, but the degree of attack is de upon weather and other local conditio a tree is badly affected most of the a foliage eventually drops from the tre new crop of leaves is produced a litt The new foliage generally remains fr the disease, and summer growth is free from it also. The fungus winters by means of spores produce infected material lodging upon the tr ports, or the soil. These spores germ the spring and infect the new leaves as they are produced. You can do at this season of the year but pick burn all the affected foliage. Next y fore the buds begin to swell, you spray the tree with Burgundy Mixtu outside-grown Nectarines we shoul that the end of February would be time to spray the trees. If the t badly affected repeat the spraying four days later. When the new folg pears, after spraying, watch carefully

The world's worst vegetarian



is going to feed on millions of Stocks, Asters, and other tender seedlings this spring and summer unless the simple and certain precaution of dusting a little SLUGENE near his favourite salads has been taken.

Read a Gardener's Opinion of Slugene.

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7th June, 1925.

Dear Sirs,—I would like to send you word of a cure for slugs, which was recommended to me by one of our nurserymen here. It is your Slugene. It should be known to every gardener or nurseryman. I have experimented with it this spring. I had ten poles of allotment infested with slugs, which spoilt my crops of potatoes, so I tried your Slugene—a small pinch to each potato. Result—the most even crop for two years and looks well and strong. Also I had a corner in my garden where I could not grow anything for slugs. Now, since using your Slugene in diluted form, I have fine plants.

In fact, Slugene is the finest thing I have ever seen, and I recommend it everywhere I go, having experience as a gardener.

I have tried it both in soil and on top with best results. I remain, yours truly,
W. STRANGE.

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"G.I." 21/5/27. .....

signs of the disease, and if the leaf curl should put in an appearance you must repeat the treatment advised above. At pruning time you should remove and burn all dead wood in your trees. If you can control disease the variety Cardinal should do well under glass, but it is not a good variety for growing outside.]

(Priory).—Your Peach, Princess of Wales, labelled No. 2, is affected with the same disease as your Nectarine. The control should be as advised for the Nectarine. The variety Princess of Wales would be a very good one for a cool house.

Gooseberry-leaf cluster cup

Would you, please, tell me what disease this is on my Gooseberries and the best method of getting rid of it? GROSSET.

[The specimen foliage sent in is affected with Gooseberry-leaf cluster cup, which is caused by the fungus Puccinia pringsheimiana. This fungus is one of those which attack different hosts at different times of the year. At this period of the year the fungus is present in Gooseberry and produces the orange-coloured patches on leaves and fruit such as you send. Sedges growing in the vicinity are attacked later, and the fungus alternates between the two hosts. We should advise you to pick off and burn all infected leaves and fruit. When this has been done the bushes should be sprayed with a solution of soluble lime-sulphur. Repeat the hand-picking and spraying until you have got the disease under control. If there are any sedges growing near the Gooseberries they should be grubbed and burned before autumn. Lime-sulphur stock solution is best bought ready-made, and should be used according to the maker's directions.]

Vine foliage unsatisfactory

(E. F. B.).—It is rather difficult, with nothing but a small leaf, and that very much withered, as a guide, to definitely say what has caused your Vine to suddenly go off as it has done. To our mind the most likely reason is that something has destroyed the roots. We have known wireworms to cause great trouble; also, of course, the Phylloxera. Either of these would cause the attacked Vine to go off in the way yours has done. Also, the trouble could be caused by careless or unskilled digging of the soil, Vine roots being rather easily damaged. Seeing that only the one Vine is attacked, we rather incline to the latter suggestion as being the more likely.

MISCELLANEOUS

Destroying tree stumps

You recently gave a recipe for the destruction of large tree trunks by boring a hole in them and using potassium nitrate. You state that this must be done in October and left until March or April. Are these months essential, or could I carry out the procedure during the summer months with equal chance of success? R. Y. WHITELEY.

[If the tree stumps are dead we see no reason to suppose that October is the only time of the year in which drilling and filling with potassium nitrate could be carried out with success. On the other hand, if the stumps are still living you would stand a greater chance of success if the treatment was applied during the dormant season. We do not undertake to reply to questions through the post.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

A. H. Hartley.—Leucojum æstivum (the Summer Snowflake).

Corsica.—The plant you send is Lavendula stœchas, perennial but tender. Found in Spain and neighbourhood; then called "Romero santo." It seems to do well in the open on the south coast and west, but even there is precarious.

G. G. E.—1, Piptanthus nepalensis (the Nepaul Laburnum); 2, Rhodotypos Kerrioides; 3, Salvia leucantha; 4, had dropped all its flowers, and was so withered that we could not identify it.

O. M. H. R., Bridgnorth.—Exochorda grandiflora.

B.—The May-flower (Epigea repens); see note in last week's issue, page 296. Yes; you may succeed with it in Suffolk.

H. P.—1, Prunus sinensis alba flore-pleno; 2, Akebia quinata.

J. G.—Berberis Aquifolium, sometimes known as Mahonia.

S. D. M., Loughton.—Exochorda grandiflora; Styrax japonica.

G. S., Petersfield.—Azaleas are increased in various ways, in seeds, layering, and grafting. You do not give particulars of your stock plants, but you are right in assuming that Azaleas may be increased by layering. 1, Berberis Darwini; 2, Dielytra spectabilis syn. Dicentra spectabilis (Lyre Flower or Bleeding Heart).

A. H. Rogers, Oxford.—1, Lonicera Maximowiczii; 2, Viola canina var. stagnina.

W. B. Clark, Maidstone.—Tulips: 1, Carnation (Cottage); 2, Greuze (Darwin); 3, Blue Flag syn. Bleu Celeste (Old Double Dutch).

SHORT REPLY

W. C. Smith, Perthshire.—The young Lilac shoots and others have been blackened by recent frosts. There is no disease.

TRADE NOTE

Price reductions

One of the pleasantest things in business is when the demand for a high-class article becomes so great that by making it on a larger scale prices to customers can be reduced. The popularity of the greenhouses made by the firm of Boulton and Paul, Ltd., whose name in the gardening world is a synonym for reliability and good workmanship, has been so great that they are enabled to announce reductions in their lean-to greenhouses from £15 to £14 5s. and in their span-roof greenhouses from £18 10s. to £17.

Royal Horticultural Society

Wisley Trials, 1927

The following awards have been made to the undermentioned flowers by the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society after trial at Wisley:—

FREESIAS

AWARD OF MERIT.

Flowers, white.—Giant White, sent by Messrs. F. H. Chapman.

Flowers, yellow.—Orange Tip and Golden Eagle, sent by Messrs. G. H. Dalrymple; Treasure, sent by Messrs. van Tubergen, Dalrymple, and Carter; Yellow Hammer, sent by Messrs. Dalrymple.

Flowers, rose.—Jubilee, sent by Messrs. Dalrymple, van Waveren, Carter, and van Tubergen; Apotheosis, sent by Messrs. van Tubergen.

Flowers, pale blue.—Wistaria, sent by Messrs. Dobbie.

Flowers, lavender.—Orchidea and Fairy, sent by Messrs. van Tubergen; Grey Dawn, sent by Messrs. Dalrymple.

HIGHLY COMMENDED.

Flowers, yellow.—Apogee, sent by Messrs. van Tubergen and Dalrymple; Buttercup, sent by Messrs. van Tubergen, Carter, Dalrymple, and Mauger; Golden Oriole, sent by Messrs. Dalrymple.

Flowers, rose.—Mouette, sent by Messrs. Dalrymple and Carter; Youth and Rosebud, sent by Messrs. Dalrymple; Conquest, sent by Messrs. Carter, Dalrymple, and van Waveren; Old Rose, sent by M Dalrymple.

Flowers, red.—Red Indian, sent by M Dalrymple.

Flowers, pale blue.—Bluebeard, ser Messrs. Dalrymple.

Flowers, lavender.—Cœur d'Or, ser Messrs. van Tubergen; Twilight, ser Messrs. Dalrymple.

COMMENDED.

Flowers, red.—Robinetta, sent by M Dalrymple and van Waveren.

LATE NOTES

Importation of Potatoes (Canary Isl Order of 1927

In view of the discovery of the P moth in consignments of Potatoes imp this season from the Canary Islands Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries made an Order under the Destructive I and Pests Acts, 1879 and 1907, prohi the landing in England and Wales o Potatoes grown in the Canary Islands they are accompanied by the certifica health prescribed in the Destructive I and Pests Order of 1922. The Order into operation on May 2nd, but it allow the landing of Potatoes shipped from Canary Islands prior to that date.

Arrangements for Chelsea Show

This year Chelsea Show will be he Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 25th, 26th, and 27th. On the first Wednesday, May 25th, there will be a p view for Fellows and their friends 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Only Fellows' an sociates' tickets will admit to the p view, but transferable as well as transferable tickets may be used. will be no admission by payment on W day, May 25th, until 12 noon, when the will be opened to the public.

Those who propose to submit new o plants to the Committees for cert should note that the Committees wi meet on the first day of the show, 6 p.m. on the previous evening. All etc., for certificate must be entered wi Secretaries of the respective Committe 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24th. The taries of the Committees will be in ance to receive entries throughout the noon. Vans will not be admitted to the grounds on Tuesday, May 24th, after

Burford Gardens, Dorking

Sir William Lawrence will throw op gardens at Burford, Dorking, on Whit day, June 6th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m 2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be a of 1s. for admission, to go to the fu the National Memorial to Queen Alex An account of the trees at Burford w pear in our next issue.

SPRING CATALOGUES RECE

Fairseat Nurseries, Wrotham.—B plants, vegetable plants.

Magna Cider Fruit Farm, Chew Ma Strawmats for Strawberries, garde basket, general purpose barrow.

Hewitt's, Solihull, Birmingham.— lay-out, playing lawns, hard tennis Delphiniums.

Roderick M. Crockett and Co., Cr N.J.—New and rare rock plants, Phloxes, rare bulbs and greenhouse pl

W. Treseder, Ltd., Cardiff.—Dahlia

H. J. Jones, Lewisham.—Chry mums, Dahlias, Fuchsias, Hydra Gladioli, Montbrietias, and Zonal Gera

Enquiry

SELSIAN LAWN SAND.—Can any read ply us with the source of supply of "Sc lawn sand.

Chelsea Show—Full Report

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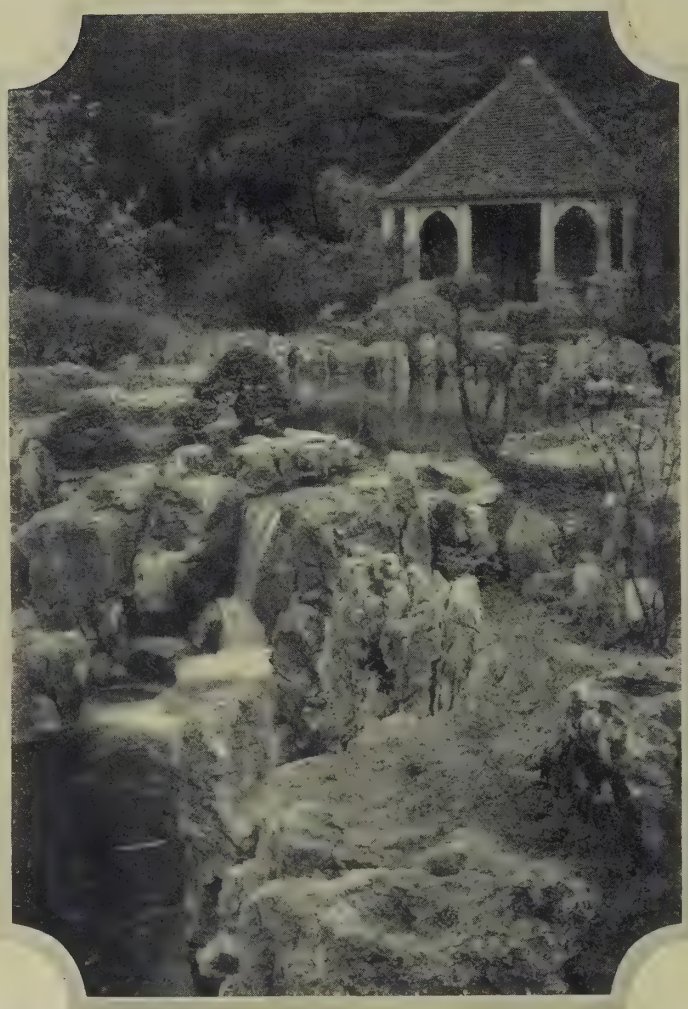
TREES & SHRUBS · THIS WEEK'S WORK IN THE GARDEN

.. XLIX.—No. 2516 | Saturday, May 28, 1927 | TWOPENCE

THE LEADING GROUP AT CHELSEA, 1926
Awarded Sherwood Cup

Somerset and Yorkshire Stone round a pool.

Ferns, Azalea Vas and Japanese dwarfed tr



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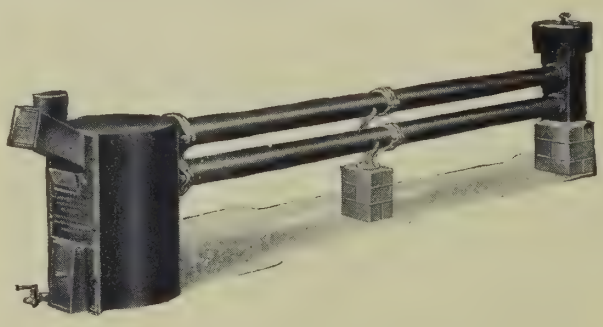

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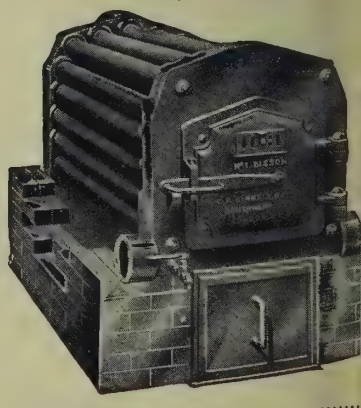

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GARDENING Illustrated

Founded by W. Robinson,
Author of "The English Flower Garden"

516—Vol. XLIX. MAY 28, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 13 -

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All Roads Lead to Chelsea

RE is an atmosphere about Chelsea we never get at any other show. R.H.S. meetings at Vincent Square erings of enthusiasts eagerly met to their latest triumphs—the choicest collecting expeditions, the results of ybridising, and the products of high cultivation. And not alone to display ther, for the true gardener, though so ambiguous as the proverbial will never tire of telling you the first Sweet Pea opened, of you the weights of the new he lifted from the open on t, or of confiding exclusive in- n concerning his latest home- igicide. There is magic in the the initiated few who possess will and the way to come at it, aws many with unfailing regu- ery fortnight, but the masses n swirl by its doors unheeding asure of colour and beauty that remaining a closed book to a spot otherwise unknown, the omniscient London police- olland Park, too, though some ey have once discovered the urn to it every season, as the sfying of the year, is probably own as a skating rink than as of the coming together of leaves, September fruits, and f the summer's flowers.

, on the other hand, is not Mecca of the horticulturist— of the gathering and com- f the gardening clans from ner of the kingdom—it is the when the man in the street puts in his pocket and confesses, if him in truthful mood, enjoy- a flower show. Instead of mentioning it in an obscure es the daily papers give a o it, the illustrated weeklies orth with a page of rock gar- a photograph of H.M. the Queen inspecting the formal work with Lord Lambourne. Fashion flocks through the turnstiles till the hospital grounds are a veritable dress parade, to the tune of a military band on the lawn—with "My dear, the *rock gardens!*" and "Such *heavenly* Hydrangeas in the tents!"

It is the rock gardens that take the public fancy probably more than anything else, and, indeed, some wonderful work is produced every year, with scant help from the site except for a belt of foliage to serve as a background. A fortnight before the show opened, the allotted space was an unpromising-looking parcel of nearly flat ground partitioned like a miniature building estate. The following week found matters much worse, lonely boulders were perched on obviously artificial mounds of London's best clay and surrounded by a mass of lesser rocks deeply embedded in the welter of clay, the whole view framed by a chaos of planks, barrows, tools, and apparently characterless lumps of limestone. Had you been morbid enough to visit the place two days before the opening date you would have returned home with grave doubts as to whether the show ought not to be postponed for a fortnight.

Prepared, then, for the worst, you make your way to Chelsea on the morning of its opening, only to find it the scene of an amazing transformation. May invariably does her best for the occasion, and gives us one of her inimitable blue days, when the sun shines steadily down from a cloudless sky and faint breezes stir through the young, fresh green of the newly-clothed trees, wafting all suspicion of sultriness away into June. The shady walks are gay with the diverse colours of feminine fashion, flaunted to welcome this first day of summer—the tents, gorgeous with massed banks of flowers, displayed in every possible perfection of form. Walking first down the main avenue, towards the rock gardens, you pass between rows of inviting stalls and kiosks, where you may purchase anything, from this paper to a spraying machine, or from attar of Roses to a model greenhouse.

Next you come to the formal gardens, where cool fountains sparkle in the sunlight in pools of every kind of stone and

A specimen Echium in Mr. A. F. Calvert's garden at Coverack, Cornwall

This plant has 320 large cobalt blue flower spikes, which is stated to be a record (150 being the largest number of inflorescences reported on any plant grown in England). The plant measures 21 feet across and is 6 feet high

surrounded by beds and parterres of many flowers. Flagged paths, with Thyme creeping along their crevices, as happily as if it had never crept anywhere else, lead up to a stone-built arbour rambled over by Wistaria.

At one end you will find represented the lavish stateliness of an Italian fountain and sunk garden, with its carved figures and stone balustrades, at the other a revival of an old-fashioned English flower garden with Hollyhocks, Delphiniums, and Lupins, a still canal, and a cobbled pathway enclosed by a hedge of old Yew. The perfect lawn is there, too, made up of imperceptibly-joined trays of young grass, vividly green, and inset with beds of Heather and striped grasses—a lawn, indeed, "with every hair on duty," and on which you could no more walk than you could trample on a bed of Gentians.

From these you pass through a flame of Azaleas, red Maples, and Wistaria, to the rock gardens, and your mind goes back to your visit two days ago. You hardly know the place for the same. You walk now on a gravelled path, past rocky hillsides, mountain screes, and alpine meadows. In one a stream comes out through stunted Pines, bubbles over a limestone fall, and sings along its stony bed into a quiet pool fringed with Primulas and Rushes. In another, tiny Sedums and encrusted Saxifrages cling precariously to a sheer cliff face, which stands eternally watching its reflection in a slowly wandering stream whose own margin is outlined in nodding heads of Primula Sikkimensis. In a third ominous mountain Pines stand up black behind the vivid pinks of Phlox pilosa, Æthionemas, and Androsaces growing in clumps and mats between stratified ridges of limestone, and in another, again, the water rushes through an abandon of high rocks at the back, tumbles over into a shady grotto, where it splashes the fronds of Ferns as it passes, and, before widening out into a pool at the bottom, spares a precious trickle to leak under the intervening meadow and water the rarest treasures of Campanula, Ranunculus, and Dianthus that inhabit the moraine. When you have drunk your fill of all these it is time you made for the tents.

Should you strike first the Orchid tent you will sense an atmosphere of supreme aloofness—the conscious superiority of "the rich man's flower." Of course, they must have a smaller tent to themselves, for they would certainly strike a discordant note in the plebian marquees, sniffing, with noses in the air, in opulent disdain of all humbler creatures.

One is inclined to wonder whether one has a place in the tent at all, but if you are prepared to pay duly uncritical homage to these lords of creation, and worship, as it were, from afar, you may gaze upon as lavish a display of exotic beauty as you could wish to see. There are warmly-coloured masses of Cattleyas, exquisite sky-blue sprays of Vanda cœrulea and rows of weirdly green Cypripediums, and with them other groups of hothouse plants—great blades of Caladiums in green, and silver, and red, and the red and white bobbles of Clerodendron Balfouriana studding bowers of sinister Pitcher plants.

Into the main marquees you must not expect to go unmoved, even if you have been to every show "for the last 30 years." However well you know what is coming, you are bound to be at first staggered, as the endless aisles of colour come into sight once more. There is a subtle smell of trodden grass, too, that mingles with the scents of Strawberries and Sweet Peas, and conjures up visions of bygone shows with a vividness that nothing else can.

You pass between serried blue ranks of giant Hydrangea blooms and banks of perfect double Begonias in blending pinks and salmons, and orange and white; between towering, stately spikes of Delphiniums and Sweet Peas in huge bunches climbing up behind a foreground of misty bouquets and scenting half the tent with their fragrance; between a fire of salmon and orange Azaleas and a quiet garden of German Iris clump of white Lilies shining amon brown and purple falls. Then at the there is a grove of Carnations such the Sherwood Cup the other year, tions pouring out from tall columns at the cardinal points, Carnations up in great sprays from old lead ja Carnations hanging from gilded bas the back, with strands of Asparagu floating through them.

At the opposite corner there is an ing group of shrubs—a tall centre- Tricuspidaria which has become in at Chelsea, hung with drooping scarl and rising from a sea of white or and yellow Brooms, the white pen Davidia among the coloured fol Maples, backed by a mass of Rhodod in full flower. Roses finish the streaming across the end of the te entrance to entrance—American Pil Austrian Copper rioting along trellis background, with fountains of Be richard in the middle distance, que over a glorious display of picked combining the finest Roses of to-d such unbeaten veterans as Fra Druschki.

But you may walk through lines a of such exhibits and ever be discover wonders. There are laden fruit tree ing in pots—Peaches, Plums, and C as well as luscious baskets of Stra and great, cool dishes of Raspberries, berries, and Currants. Then there trim gardens of the annuals, perfectly and perfectly set out—a parterre o glossis, Clarkias, Godetias, Larkspu speckled Calceolarias ranged round a clump of Bamboos and with Nemesia edging; the picture lightened by painted on a canvas of fresh grass wi gravelled paths between.

The hardened Chelsea-goer will sea his own particular exhibit, and wi the ranks of the flowers till he has f whether he be after this undulating Schizanthus, that wall of Rhodo foliage set thickly with the burder glorious spotted trusses, or a particula of alpines where he knows his favour plants are given pride of place. Ma must be who would on no account garden of Lilies, always to be found Royal Show"—the hot orange and t let of its L. croceum, its umbellatum, chalcedonicum cooled by the pur whiteness of its philippinense, the cle white of the chocolate-tinted trumpe regale, and the exquisite blush on th of its Krameri.

Finally, the rarest treasures Bodnant gardens appear at Chelsea exhibited alike to the hungry gaze of firmed Primula fan and the unheedi of the British public, who see them, as through a glass, darkly.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Maincrop Beet

MR. BLAIR'S note on sowing maincrop Beet (p. 280) is timeous. I would even go further than he, and delay the sowing until after May 15th. Germination then is more rapid and the seedlings go away with "the first intent," and, after that date, very rarely receive a check. The result is that the roots are tender and free from stringiness when lifted, a fault which often occurs in Beets which have been sown at too early a date. Mr. Blair's selection of Galloway Purple, Pragnell's, and especially ting's Dwarf cannot be improved up these I add Cheltenham Green Top, consider to be the very finest Beet in tion. There appears to be a prejudic the variety in Scottish gardens, wh unable to say unless, perhaps, the c the leaves may be a drawback. Pe I do not desire a better Beet either fo of root, texture of flesh, or quality in of flavour, and I unhesitatingly con to my fellow-craftsmen on both side Tweed.

A SCOTTISH GAR

Training Sweet Peas

ITH reference to your recent notes on training Sweet Peas, as an amateur grower for the beauty and charm of decoration I may claim to be success- nd believe that the "netting" system handiest and cheapest manner of train- e plants. I use 30 feet stretched be- four posts. The sun and air penetrate two hours do the fixing, and the net- asts three seasons, being taken down e autumn.

ave tried Pea sticks, wire-netting, and oo canes, all rather messy and unsatis- y, and more costly. The netting, 4-inch e and tanned, costs 6d. a yard, 6 feet in , and looks neat and businesslike. A l netting is supplied by Thos. Johnson, Corporation Street, Manchester.

t out the plants when 4 inches in height es apart in trenches 2 feet broad and es deep, and, when a foot high, fill in enches with "Wakeley's" as a mulch, ever fail to get good results. In my n the netting system is the cheapest, est, and most satisfactory in use.

W. H. GLEDHILL.

den Suburb, Liverpool.

Mosquitoes and Midges

ld you possibly tell me of anything to he above off one? I am simply driven m my garden by these pests. I have oil of lavender, oil of citronella, ior, etc., but all appear to be useless.

E. MALCOLM.

excellent preparation for repelling the s of gnats and other fly pests is Allen anbury's "Muscabane Lotion," and it y pleasant to use. The little bottle is carried in the pocket for a further ation, which may be needed in any- from half to three-quarters of an hour.]

Effects of April frosts

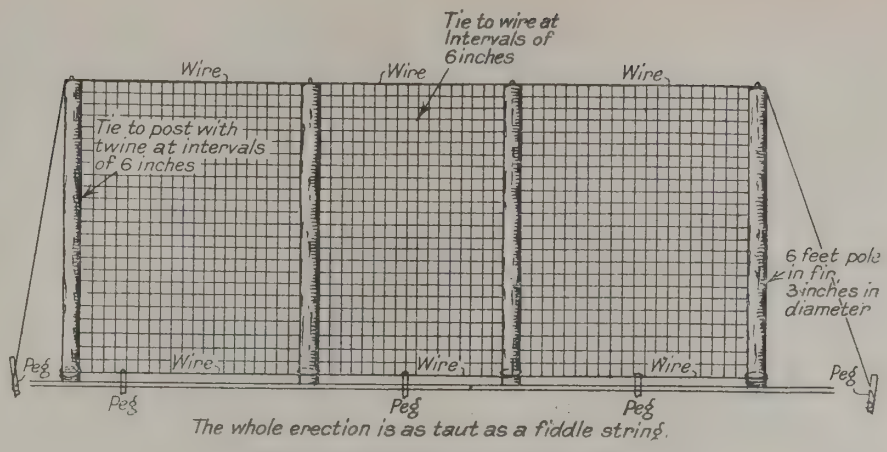
experiences of the April frosts have more favourable than those of your correspondents. The following shrubs, are liable to be seriously injured by frost, did not suffer at all:— thus veitchianus and thyrsiflorus us), Convolvulus Cneorum, Veronica ana and others, Cistuses and Helian- ms of various kinds, Senecio Grayi, is fruticosa, Salvia Grahami, Solanum n and jasminoides (last just planted Teucrium fruticans, and even Buddleia ei, which has survived three winters. were planted in very sheltered places iad gone through the winter well. lia Soulangeana was badly cut, and id no chance of recovery. Herbaceous ials were, apparently, untouched and ias have been making a very fine show erent parts of Oxford. I have been ed to see how little harm has been y the unseasonable weather last month.

A. M. D. H. ROGERS.

Hugh's College, Oxford.

The damage done by the one night's last month was strangely variable. Azalea in my garden, which is on the of Kent and Sussex, was ruined, and f is scarcely showing yet, and Wistaria l its flower-bud, though in neighbour- rdens I see these unscathed. Close Azaleas is a bush of the Snowdrop Halesia tetraptera), which was trans- l into the open from the shelter of the border only a month before, but this ntouched, and is now in full blossom, its relation, Styrax japonica, which ot moved, has lost nearly all its es, and the same fate has overtaken a and Enkianthus. Close to these is a macrodonta, which has never flowered with me, but this year had two flowering branches with the buds showing, but these seem to be unhurt, although it has always felt the slightest frost in other years. O. gunniana is also happy. Perezias and Iris susiana, also some Regelio-cyclus hybrids were unhurt and have been in full bloom, though Iris pumila lost all its flower-bud. In the bog garden Primulas were safe, but all Astilbes and herbaceous Spiræas lost their young flower-buds and shoots; even Caltha palustris was wilted, though Calla palustris (the Bog Arum) was quite happy and is now flowering. Corokea Cotoneaster is evidently a hardy shrub, for it not only survived the frost, but has never flowered so freely as this year, and is now a pretty sight with its hundreds of yellow starry flowers, not only on its outer branches, but also buried in the heart of its tangled thicket.

J. K.



A novel method of training Sweet Peas

Paulownia Imperialis

A very fine specimen of this handsome flowering tree, which hails from Japan, is now to be seen in full blossom in the grounds of Major A. C. S. Bovill, M.F.H., near Ryde, Isle of Wight. This tree is about 50 feet in height, and it is said to be the largest to be found in the south of England. The delicate mauve Gloxinia-like flowers, which shade off to cream at the throat, are borne in loose panicles over a foot in length, and are, indeed, lovely. In climates where the young flower-buds are apt to be cut by spring frosts it is often best to cut back the shoots annually, which somewhat retards the flowering period, though when treated in this way the trees do not attain the large size of the fine specimen to be seen at Ryde. They succeed best when planted in deep, light loam in a position sheltered from cold winds. The foliage appears a little later than the flowers, and the leaves sometimes grow to 1½ feet in length, and have a tropical beauty of their own. Wherever there is a chance of growing it, the Paulownia should be tried.

Brighton. H. H. WARNER.

Cercis Siliquastrum (Judas Tree)

Having just had the pleasure of paying the annual visit to a neighbouring garden to see this beautiful spring-flowering deciduous tree in bloom, one feels that they must call the attention of readers to its charming character.

Not having been so frequently planted as many other kinds of ornamental trees, it naturally attracts considerable attention when one comes across it, chiefly, perhaps, on account of its rosy-purple flowers, which are produced previous to the kidney-shaped leaves. It may have struck one as being more beautiful this year as one caught it in early evening with the sun full upon it, and having as a background some leaden clouds against which it appeared as another cloud of purple.

Though a member of the Legume family, it differs somewhat from the Laburnum, Robinia, and Wistaria in its habit of flowering, not only from the way in which the flowers come before the leaves, but in the manner in which every little shoot is closely studded with the Pea-shaped flowers so that scarcely any wood is seen.

The height which this small tree attains is round about 20 feet, but this varies a little according to its situation, the shape, too, being sometimes irregular. It is hardy in the southern half of England, but is said to need protection farther north. While it is supposed to take the name of Judas Tree, as being the kind on which Judas, the disciple, hung himself, the specific name of siliquastrum is derived from the cylindrical shape of the pod.

Though this tree has been introduced into this country over 300 years it is surprising so few are to be found, considering their ornamental value.

A. WHEELER.

Tenby Daffodil and Aster grandiflorus

In the interesting article of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED dated May 14th, page 294, mention is made by "C. P." of an early Daffodil named Tenby Daffodil, and also a late-flowering Aster grandiflorus. I have been looking through various books, but cannot trace either the Tenby Daffodil or Aster grandiflorus.

I have grown Van Zion, and also the latest-blooming Aster I know of, which is Aster multiflorus, a small white one, which I have had bloom as late as November 11th.

L. CHATFIELD.

Hall Cottages, Mickleham, Dorking, Surrey.

[The Tenby Daffodil is Narcissus obvallaris, an attractive Daffodil with perianth and trumpet full yellow, of medium size, and flowers of pleasing symmetry. The true plant is now becoming scarce. It is listed by Messrs. Barr and Sons, King Street, Covent Garden. This pleasing Daffodil is very early and is best grown in partial shade. Aster grandiflorus is one of the species from which the modern Michaelmas Daisies have been raised; it is the Great-flowered or Catesby's Starwort. Native of North America, introduced in 1720. The large deep violet flowers are produced in November and early in December if the frost holds off. It is listed by Messrs. R. Wallace and Co., Ltd., Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Aster grandiflorus, which grows from 2 feet to 3 feet high, is the latest to flower, later even than the small white-flowered A. multiflorus mentioned by our correspondent and so much used for harvest festivals.—ED.]

Burford, Dorking: Cedrus Atlantica stands like a sentinel at the N.W. end of the house

Trees and Shrubs at Burford

By Sir William Lawrence, Bart., Treasurer of the Royal Horticultural Society

THE outstanding feature of Burford is the abrupt chalk cliff of Boxhill which completely surrounds the park on the eastern side. The cliff rises sheer from the bank of the River Mole to some 460 feet at the greatest height (640 feet above sea-level). The rude scars of naked chalk which gave the hillside the name "The Whites" are gradually disappearing under the growth of the Box during the recent wet years, and, though during the Great War over £4500 worth of Box was cut, the hillside presents an almost unbroken forest of Box, Beech, Yew, Cherry, and Whitebeam, in which Box and Beech predominate.

It is recorded in "The Gentleman's Magazine" that the builder of Burford in 1777 planted many choice trees and shrubs. Of these none remain, and I suspect they were mainly evergreens. The oldest tree of interest is a fine Cedrus Atlantica, which stands like a sentinel at the N.W. end of the house. This may be some 80 years old.

For my father, Sir Trevor Lawrence, Sir Harry Veitch planted many of Wilson's introductions as well as other choice shrubs from the Coombe Wood nurseries. Most of these remain; two Davidias have made fine trees, but are rather at the mercy of late frosts, as are Magnolias Watsonii and parviflora. Plagianthus Lyallii, a good shrub with an unfortunate habit of losing large branches, Berberis Bealii, and several Ilexes were good introductions from this source, as is Daphne retusa, with flowers as large as D. indica and leathery leaves, and Prunus loensis flore-pleno, a beautiful and rare American plant. Wilson's Paulonia have grown to some 30 feet and produce above their huge leaves sprays of flowers in October which are cut by the first frost and never show their Gloxinia-like beauty. My father also used to secure complete sets of Lemoine's Lilacs, Philadelphus, and Deutzia. These have done remarkably well on the light soil of Burford.

Whereas Lemoine's newer Deutzias are scarcely an advance on old favourites, the firm have produced some fine new Philadelphus, notably Coupe d'Argent, with large single flowers, Virginale, a well-known floriferous form, and Girandole, perhaps the best and neatest double. While nothing beats the early-flowering lilac Lamartine for s flower and habit, Lemoine's are respo for other good introductions of late notably Mont Blanc (single white), Cavell (double white), and a beautiful v Paul Thirian, with warm purple buds.

From a Dutch source came a fine white, Jan van Thol, and from Louis of Charlottenburg, a deep red Fürst E A sport from Philadelphus virginale, immense single flowers on long st growths, has been called P. Burfordie

Two species, Syringa Sweginzowii a Emodi, are good garden plants. The f has pale pink flowers with deep red buc stems.

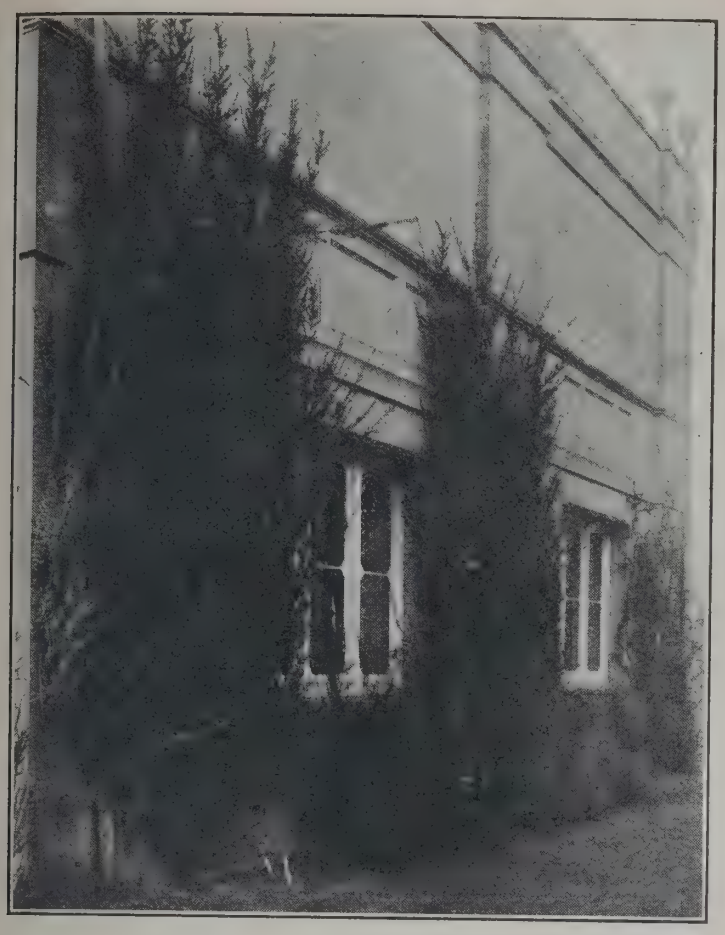
Two immense bushes of Carpentaria fornica also came from Coombe Wood. flower well and are good varieties, but good as the fine Exbury form. Other plants are the well-known double Cherr on the lawn, a fine tree of Morus pendula, with remarkable in-a branches.

Finally, amongst the older trees ar Quercus coccinea now 40 feet high father paid £5 each for these Oaks, protest, but the expenditure has been justified.

In the 10 years I have lived at Burfo arboretum has been greatly increased, l by gifts from many kind friends. O east wall of the house, facing Boxhill, are two plants of Ceanothus rigidus, 20 feet high and a mass of violet bloc April. Cydonias in variety, Pents cordifolius, with scarlet flowers, and floribunda, with bright pink tubular flo do well on the south wall. (By the Abelia floribunda makes an excellent b plant for the greenhouse.)

On the same aspect, protected b bushes of Winter Sweet, are to be Lonicera tragophylla (which probably to be moved to the east or north

Burford: Cypress trees by the main drive



Burford: Two plants of Ceanothus rigidus, each 20 feet high, on the east wall of the house

Sellowiana, and Fendlera rupicola. t are plants of the white and bluish of Fabiana imbricata and of the white irple berried forms of Billardieria. chen wall is covered with Magnolias, fine old plants of M. Delavayii and crophylla, the latter producing one or mense flowers each year.

the lawn the garden proper is reached is through the wild garden. This s composed of a series of pits with des, a natural formation due to chalk ice. These pits offer shelter to many bank" shrubs. All the Cistus do y here. Notable varieties are Cistus rus immaculatus (the eastern ranean form, with immense pure owers which remain open when cut days), C. cyprius (unspotted form), two beautiful plants introduced by lier, C. Silver Pink and C. Winton- he latter a charming and floriferous ith flowers the size of a crown piece, hite with a golden centre, a purple it the base, and a red mark at the each petal. Here grow the Jerusalem n varieties, Buddleias, Eucalyptus, a Wilsoni, with pendulous bloom han parviflora, the pink form of M. a shy flowerer, M. Soulangeana he black Magnolia, an old favourite, collection of shrubby Lonicera, of he only ones worth growing for owers are Maackii, which is the the lot, tartaria rosea, syringantha, phne-like flowers and red stems, and er-flowering varieties fragrantissima ndishii. Many, of course, berry Pileata promises well this year and ovely violet fruit.

ottoms of the pits are moist by perco- om the Mole, and Bamboos grow Interesting plants are Bambusa , 18 inches high, quadrangularis, with square canes, and Murielæ, introduced by Mr. Wilson and named after his daughter. It is here that grows the very large clump of Daphne blagyana, recently illustrated in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED. On the trellis Rubus deliciosus is in full bloom, and close at hand Coronella valentina, a plant now uncommon. It is smothered in yellow flowers with the most delicious scent, and sows itself freely. The Judas trees are also blooming well. A little further on are several plants both of Salix Bockii, which produces its catkins in the autumn and has Box-like foliage, and of Fallujia paradoxa, a rare plant from the southern United States. Though its native home is on sun-baked slopes, it does very well both on a trellis and in the open, producing quantities of large white flowers succeeded by silky seeds. It may be propagated from these or from cuttings.

In the garden proper is a precious stretch of wall—much too little, alas; on the borders in front of which we try to grow many interesting plants which would be happier in sunnier, warmer climes. Among them are two Eriobotryas, japonica and prionophylla, the latter a very handsome and reasonably hardy evergreen with large, serrated, and crimped foliage, Olearia ramulosa, a more attractive shrub on a wall than in a greenhouse, O. (senecio) eleanginifolia, O. semidentata, with handsome violet flowers (O. dentata, from Australia, is killed by 2 degs. of frost!) O. erubescens, a beautiful May-flowering plant, O. purpuracea, O. (Ozothamnus) thrysoides "Snow in Summer," O. (senecio) rotundifolia, O. Nitida ciliolaris, and that marvellous plant, Olearia insignis. Perfectly hardy—my plant has lived through 34 degs. of frost—it hates damp, and if not on a dry bank should be protected by a light which allows of the circulation of air.

Here, too, grow well two Californian plants, Dendromecon rigidum, which produces its yellow Poppies from May to October, and Fremontia californica, pruning of which in September throws the whole plant into flower about June 1st. Neither plant should be grown on a wall, though they require a sheltered position. With me there are three Buddleias which can only be grown on a wall, B. Colvillei, B. auriculata, which produces deliciously-scented flowers throughout the winter, and B. caryopteridifolia, which carries its buds through the winter and consequently only flowers in mild years.

Elsewhere in the old garden Dipelta grow fairly well, while the Stachyurus are failures Caryopteris are very successful, with the exception of Mongolensis, which does so well on the Continent and is the best of the species. Fothergillas promise well, and nothing is as good as F. monticola. Viburnums all like chalk, and the white and pink forms of V. fragrans and V. Carlesii—shrubs and standards—are some of the best

Burford: Weeping Mulberry on the lawn in winter

A fine old plant: Magnolia macrophylla, grown on a wall at Burford
Produces one or two immense flowers each year

plants in the garden. V. utile is rather a naked-looking plant, but V. Harryanum, with its small evergreen foliage, is attractive.

There is a considerable collection of species and first-cross Roses, amongst which may be mentioned Moyesii, excellent in flower and fruit, Hugonis, and Fargesii, the latter possibly a form of Moyesii. Other good Roses are alba carnea, britzensis, Boissieri, Boursaultii, lutea Harrisonii, three American species, virginiana, carolina, and californica, Watsonii and Roxburghii, both with characteristic foliage, nutkana, and, perhaps best of all, microphylla. Many of these are grown in the arboretum where the Pyrus are to be found. First come the two Weeping Crabs, P. Exellenz Thiel and P. Œconomierat Echtermeyer, both forms of P. floribunda. Then follow P. Pissartii nigra (Pissart, please, not Pissard), P. Niedzwetzkyana, which is not beaten by floribunda or atropurpurea, Scheideckeri, still perhaps the freest bloomer, Zumi, a very good plant in the pink and white varieties, Aldenhamensis and Eleyi, two first-class plants, Theifera, a fine plant at the Arnold Arboretum, Sargentii, a charming floriferous shrub rarely exceeding 6 feet, Toringo from Japan, a charming plant, recently flowering splendidly at Wisley, Mume, Davidiana, white and pink, flowering in March, Mahaleb, and incisa, which everyone should grow. In another class come the Cherries, mostly of Japanese origin, of which Mount Fugi, Hisakura, Ojochin (Japan supplies one Cherry under this name and English nurseries another), Gioiko, Kofugen, and Shirofugen should be tried. To this class belong the P. Lannesiana varieties. The little Plum, Pyrus subhirtella, is a charming plant flowering early in the spring. It may be had in the type and as pendula, ascendens, and autumnalis, the latter flowering all the winter. Finally come the Mountain Ashes, P. Vilmoriniana, with fern-like foliage, and cyclamen-pink berries, P. Aucuparia subarachnoides munda (white berries), P. pekinensis, P. moravica lacinata, and P. tianshianica, the latter a very elegant species. The Whitebeams do well on chalk, P. vestita, salicifolia, lanata, latifolia, and the golden-leaved chrysophylla.

Here grow Carpinus, Exochorda, and Callicarpa, and Corylopsis. Of the last, Gotœana, with long racemes of cowslip-like flowers, is the best. Cratægus, a genus now neglected in England, has a good many representatives. C. prunifolius and prunifolius lutea, two good autumn colour plants; P. Jackii, with large flowers and good bark; P. toringoides, with pendulous habit; pilosculus media are all worth g while. P. Tsungarica and Carrie "everyone's plants" both in flow fruit.

All the Amelanchiers are worth g and their nomenclature presents a pre blem. Æsculus neglecta erythroblast marvel, with prawn-red shoots, r Pieris Taiwanensis.

No coloured bush comes up to Cotinus atropurpurea (these are alway from seed and must be selected). cotinoides is very fine in autumn, Cercidiphyllum japonicum, while Di cercidyphyllum, on which I set great has been blackened by the frost.

Altogether forgotten is the North A Nuttallia cerasiformis, which is cover white Almond-scented flowers in F and is proof against frosts.

This is a wearisome catalogue in more is omitted than is listed. In con let me warn enthusiasts against Syringas, none of which, with the ex of reflexa and Sweginzowii, the latter rate plant, is worth growing.

TREES AND SHR

Staphylea holocarpa

THIS handsome flowering shrub is seldom seen, and for that reason sence on the novelty table at the Rhododendron show created great i Some fine shoots, full of bloom, were

A new and rare ornamental shrub: Staphylea holocarpa
Flowers pale coral pink in drooping corymbs. Recently shown by Mrs. C. M. Whitta, Haslemere, Surrey

Irs. C. M. Whittall, Grayswood Hill, emere, Surrey. This Staphylea comes Central China, where it was first dis- ed by Dr. Henry. It was introduced to ation by Wilson in 1908. In its native at it attains a height of 25 feet. Its s are cut into three to four oval oblong ts with serrulate edges. The oblong- lrical flowers are pale coral-pink, almost , tinged with pinky-purple in the bud and are borne in great profusion in ing corymbs from the almost leafless . In the centre of each flower are five s which form a kind of corona, and to one is attached a golden anthered n. It is a most ornamental shrub in , but, alas! its flowers drop all too ly.

wly planted Rhododendrons

haps the best time to plant evergreen odendrons is about April, when the keen iting north-easterly winds are likely to ceased—although that has not been the his year. If the ball of soil round the is dry it should be thoroughly soaked planting, and care should be taken to he soil firmly all round afterwards. In ent of very dry weather succeeding the ng it would be well to give a good ig now and again if the plants show ightest sign of suffering. Once growth become established, the plants will sh for years in the same spot without bance. This fact should be remembered planting, so that plenty of space may t for future development. Overcrowd- first will only lead to trouble sooner er, and it may become necessary after a ears to cut out every other plant to plenty of space for development.

Ranunculus parnassifolius, collected in the Dolomites

Ranunculus Gramineus, grassy leaved

ALPINES

nunculus parnassifolius and others

IS fine alpine plant is extraordinarily autiful again here this season, and ings home to us the importance of ng the best form of this plant. I know Buttercup well in the Alps, and have been disappointed with it. In many ies it is very poor indeed, often with hree or four petals, and occasionally y without them. Collected plants of should never be purchased unless seen wer, and the same applies to plants from imported seeds collected in- ninately by some careless collector or a who had not seen the plants in flower. btained our plants in the autumn of from the north of Italy, and a few ed last spring and charmed us by the pure white and glistening flowers they is. This year, being fully established, are still finer, and although only the st bloom on the short branching stems en, and exceed in size a 5s. piece, we ounted up to seven more buds on the stem.

large, glossy, heart-shaped leaves a lovely setting for the great white s, and the whole plant does not exceed es to 4 inches in height. They thrive ficently here in old stone troughs in a gritty mixture at the foot of biggish rs embedded in the compost. They est facing full west, and the large and ful Pinguicula grandiflora makes a companion plant to it. After flower- d ripening seeds this Ranunculus dies and disappears entirely until the fol- April; in fact, we had some fear that ants had failed, and greeted with joy little crop of seedlings which germinated freely in a cold frame in March. Now all our old plants are up again and we trust they will provide us with an ample crop of seeds to increase the stock of this extraordinary fine form of the finest of all the white alpine Buttercups of Europe that are at all amenable to general cultivation. Ranunculus amplexicaulis has been very fine, but is a much taller plant, and has not the same look of coming from great elevations. R. alpestris is getting beautiful now, and has very pretty glistening leafage in addition to good white flowers, R. crenatus and R. magellanicus are similar, and the wee R. Traunfellneri, which is rather later with us, is another charming member of the white-flowered alpine species. Very fine, too, this season, is a distinct form of R. aconitifolius (grandiflorus?) collected last summer on the woody slopes of Czrna Prst, with flowers as large as a shilling, produced on freely-branched stems about 18 inches high; but this is better in the moist border or the bog garden, or in shaded spots under bushes or by the waterside and incomparably finer than the usual form seen in our gardens. Of the yellow-flowered, easily-grown alpine Buttercups our favourite here is R. gramineus, with large golden salvers elegantly poised on graceful stems over narrow, grass-like leafage. It is a good, reliable perennial in a sunny spot, and improves from year to year. It might be likened to a version in gold of the lovely white R. pyrenæus that occurs in such untold masses on the highest alpine meadows in the Valais, for instance, but that pretty plant is not at present represented in our collection here.

A very quaint plant is R. Thora, with shrill golden flowers of no great size over a few huge, blue-grey, leathery, kidney-shaped leaves, but it does not compare for beauty with R. montanus, R. millefoliatus, R. carpaticus, and R. uniflorus, which are a few more good yellow alpine Buttercups which might be noted with advantage by lovers of alpine plants. W. E. Th. I.

Sussex.

Helichrysum celledioides

This is a splendid plant for a dry, elevated position, for it will withstand heat and drought with impunity.

It is worthy of a place on the rock garden where a plant of endurance is required, its silvery foliage relieving, to a great extent, the usual barrenness associated with the dreary season.

The plant, to my mind, should be regarded as indispensable in the rock gardens, for in habit, hardiness, freedom of flower, and ease of culture it is almost unequalled.

There is nothing better for poor limestone soils, and it will come in useful alike for covering rocks or for making spreading patches on exposed parts, and, where it has a modicum of soil to root into, develops into beautiful little grey carpets.

The plant forms a dense mass of Thyme-like verdure about 2 inches high and dotted over with compact heads of white flowers which last for a long time.

The flower-heads are fully ½ inch across, and barely rise above the foliage.

The plant is wiry in habit and flowers freely on every bit of growth.

It never looks better than when planted in a wide vertical fissure where it can stream down, and if there are no plants in the way it should be allowed to grow at will.

As it creeps along the ground and gives off numbers of little rootlets it is increased with the greatest ease. H. Stevens.

Symphytum caucasicum

The Comfreys receive but scant attention from the ordinary grower of plants. They are not to be despised for the large border, and for the wild garden they are highly at-

Verandah in a town garden

tractive. Most of them are of tall habit, and they are most appreciated in the places already mentioned. There is a considerable resemblance among the plants of the genus in cultivation. Few of them are to be met with in nurseries, and seeds appear to be seldom offered by the trade. The best I know which is in commerce is Symphytum caucasicum, but is not, I consider, superior to S. bohemicum, a plant I grew 20 years ago. The latter does not appear to be in the market now, and S. caucasicum forms an excellent substitute for it. It is about 3 feet high, and has large, rough, rather coarse-looking leaves, and in spring and early summer clusters of bugle-like flowers of blue and pink.

These flowers make a good effect in the mass, and when looked at singly they present some charming tones of colouring, which help to reconcile us to the comparative coarseness of the plant which yields them. S. caucasicum is quite hardy and will do well in ordinary loam. It is, as the name would suggest, a native of the Caucasus and adjacent districts. Plants may be procured and planted now. S. A.

The perennial Lobelias

The herbaceous or perennial Lobelias are, in many gardens, a vanishing race, and it is because they are not so hardy as other perennials, like Phloxes or Starworts, for example, that their culture is not understood, and, left in the ground, they often die off in winter. The best plan is to lift the clumps in the autumn and keep them in a cold frame until April, when they can with safety be planted out. They are what country people call "nesh" plants, and to see them at their best should be grown on a warm and well-trained border in soil in which a little leaf-mould has been worked along with old stable manure. Those who have the opportunity of procuring a few plants should get them in at once. L. cardinalis is, perhaps, the most popular of the group, flowers of a scarlet-cardinal with bronzy foliage ma a conspicuous object in any garden wh bloom. Queen Victoria, too, has s flowers with leaves of reddish-purple. Barlow has carmine flowers. Lobelias can be propagated from seed in light soil in spring in a cool house or f or cuttings taken in spring and helped a little bottom heat are not long in ro Clumps may also be divided in Mar April, at the time of getting the plant the borders. W

Festoons of Wistaria

HOW lavishly Nature's favours ar tributed this May! There is no to live in the country in order to in the blossoming time of the flow shrubs and creepers, for in the very he a large town close to an ever-noisy ra station I can sit on my verandah and lo the sunlit blue sky through festoo Wistaria. The graceful leaves and te with their drooping profusion of blo flung like a delicate veil from post to fall in a chain of amethystine beads the pergola poles below, until the e drawn downwards to a yet deeper no purple in the Irises set amongst the opalescent bells of waving Solomon's Near by is a radiant bush of Choisya te (the Mexican Orange-flower) adorne bridal white, faintly aromatic. We waited through an autumn of constan and a long, dreary winter, but for on town dwellers have been allowed to some of the real delights of spring.

L. M. Cru

Choisya ternata (Mexican Orange Flower) beneath the verandah

ROSES

Some climbing Roses

VONDER if there are many folk like self who are rather tired of the con- nt recurrence of this or that Rose and for something fresh? If so, they will, I , thank me for telling them of some ate climbing or pillar Roses. We owe l to that energetic raiser, Mr. Clark, elbourne, in Australia. He kindly sent me to try on the Riviera when he sent to England, and I hope I may hear hing of them ere long. I will only on those that have proved themselves and think that two or three are of out- ing interest and beauty.

Nabonnand also has raised one climb- ose of exceptional beauty and freedom wer, and one of the late Mr. Pember- seedlings is quite indispensable for n bloom. Mr. Clark has raised many that are crosses with R. gigantea and st be regarded as demanding warmth helter. Of these I will only praise one is of exceptional beauty. He has l it Black Boy, a name which hardly t justice. It is, I imagine, a cross be- the deep velvety Clos Vougeot and R. ea. Its vigour is extraordinary, and louring magnificent. Sweet-scented f full size, it arrests the eye at once; so so that my gardener complains that any enthusiasts ring him up to know me of this striking Rose. How far it rove itself an autumn bloomer I dare y, but in any case it deserves a trial.

EN OF HEARTS is the most brilliant d in colour. Very large in bloom and sweet scented, and perpetual, it is an e on the well-known McIsaac Pereire, must now take a back place. How ally fine pink Roses are to be found ing in the late-blooming Rambler ! Nabonnand has, I am glad to say, ed us with one that is irreproachable.

E BONNET is the name of a Rose that upersede any other in this class. It is La France in flower, petal, and scent, very vigorous and perpetual in bloom, has only to be seen growing to be ised at once as indispensable. I certainly call it the finest and best of k pillar or climbing Roses, not except- dy Waterlow, and I hear it has suc- even in the far north of Scotland, the rainfall is so heavy.

Æ, a cluster Rose raised by Mr. Pem- has proved itself a most delightful Rose. Its golden petals soon fade hat in the summer suns, but in it is most desirable, for it then re- the yellow Banksian Roses of spring ttily that I have been asked how I Banksian Roses to bloom in Novem-

fine Rose, Mermaid, deserves a word se on this coast, for after many years th it has at last condescended to bloom winter, when its lovely single yellow last for days and contrast with the own Rose, Anemone, that is scarcely ithout flowers all winter, and yet suc- o well in England.

EDWARD H. WOODALL.

Dahlias

e stately plants have become exceed- opular again during the last few years. the later districts they may now be fully flowered, such sections as the s Gem and Collarette coming into before the end of July, and continuing ost arrives. The first week of June enough to risk any of them in their g quarters.

An early drought

Up to the time of writing (May 24th) we have had but little rain since April 12th, with the exception of a couple of thunderstorms, and even then but little rain fell in this district. This is a most trying time for all newly-planted things; not that the soil is dry a few inches down, but the surface is so baked under an almost continuous north or north-east wind, with a blazing sun, the last week past, which is having a most disastrous effect on recently-moved subjects in many places; the more so on land that is of a clayey nature. Here the ground is so hard that a fork can scarcely be got into it, and cracking in all directions, so that little can be done until we get a good soaking. In the meantime steps should be taken to loosen the surface with the fork as much as possible without unduly disturbing any roots, and give such plants a thorough watering and a dewing overhead with the syringe or hose each morning and again in the evening while these conditions last. Fortunate are those who got in their small seeds ere such weather set in, but on a soil as just mentioned it was impossible on account of its wet state, while now it is more or less lumpy and far from being a suitable seed-bed. In a small way much may be done by watering the soil and breaking down before it hardens again, and the same might be adopted where any thinning of the crop is essential, either in the vegetable or flower garden, and well watering the disturbed soil so that some may settle among the roots of those remaining. We gardeners would prefer a moist May month, as much of this work demands attention just now. Happily, it is but seldom that such parching weather sets in so early in the month, but by adopting some such methods as herein described much may be done to lessen the damaging effect it must have from that of more normal conditions usually experienced at this time of the year.

Festoons of Wistaria blossom

From a hardy fruit point a comparatively dry period has its advantages during the blossoming, yet from many quarters, especially Worcestershire, among the Pershore Plums, comes the news of severe frosts causing much havoc among Apples, Plums, and Strawberries, while in the Southampton district the crop of the last mentioned will be poor unless the much-needed rain quickly comes. Similar conditions prevail among the early Potatoes in the Scilly Isles, I hear.

Eltham. J. M.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Peaches

Attend to the tying in of the shoots regularly, otherwise the swelling fruits become hidden from sunshine and will lack flavour as a result. A very good plan is to place small thin strips of wood underneath each fruit, the wood stretching from wire to wire, thus lifting the rapidly-colouring fruits to the sun. 9-inch or 12-inch labels answer admirably.

Autumn-sown Cyclamen

These are ready for shifting into their flowering pots, which should be of 5-inch and 6-inch diameter. Use a good turfy loam into which has been worked a little old leaf-mould or well-decayed manure and bone-meal, with sufficient sharp sand to obtain a friable, open mixture after potting. The plants should be stood in a closed cool frame at the back of a north wall or fence. They should be syringed over twice each day should hot weather continue and be kept rather close for 10 days, following which air may be admitted gradually.

Annuals

Those sown in the open during April will require thinning. Such thinning will depend upon the variety to be dealt with, for whereas such as the Bartonias, Lavateras, Cornflowers, etc., need to be at least 1 foot apart, Rhodanthe, Phacelia, Nemesia, etc., need only 6 inches, and many of the smaller kinds even less. Those who have not yet tried sowing Nemesias broadcast in the open should do so. Rhodanthe and Phacelia sown about June 10th are usually very superior to those sown in spring, the former reaching 2 feet in height.

Pears

Attend to the thinning of the fruits, for many of the trees have set crops far in excess of what they can be expected to mature, and to leave too many upon the trees is to spoil the quality of all, and quite possibly prevent a crop the following season from over-taxation of the trees.

Sweet Peas

Apply the final stakes to the last batch, following which the plants must be mulched and kept well supplied with water, a drenching overhead following hot days being most beneficial.

Roses

Immediately caterpillar is observed the bushes should be sprayed either with Katakilla or Quassia Extract, both of which are safe and effective.

Seakale

The young thongs planted out to form fresh plantations last month must now have their crowns reduced to one growth, as much finer forcing roots follow. The hoe should be freely used among the plants until they are seen to be growing freely.

Asparagus

Keep the beds free from weeds, which must be hand-pulled, and apply a light dressing of an approved fertiliser, such as Asparagus manure or Clay's, at the rate of 1 oz. to each square yard. Do not allow the beds to suffer from lack of moisture during their growing period, and do not cut three-year-old beds too severely.

Celery

Seedlings raised in heat and pricked off into boxes and frames are now in readiness for the trenches, which were prepared early in the month. Plant firmly, but not too deeply, and apply light shade if the weather is hot and sunny, and abundant moisture for the first 10 days, under which conditions the plants will quickly establish themselves and go ahead.

Early Potatoes

Draw a little soil up to the plants as a protection from late frosts, and keep these growing in frames well supplied with moisture.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

"Bedding out"

This "rite," although not nearly so slavishly followed at it was 30 years to 40 years ago, still has its "devotees." Fortunately, the bulk of modern gardeners are content to spread the business over a month

The Bird's Nest Fern

or six weeks, whereas formerly the whole had to be crushed into one hectic week. By using a much wider selection of plants and many of these hardy, or nearly so, the work of filling beds and borders can be begun about the last week in April, leaving only the really tender kinds to be planted in June.

Begonias for bedding

Especially in damp districts this fine plant succeeds much better than such things as Zonal Pelargoniums, Gazanias, Petunias, and others that were, formerly, considered indispensable. In soils where this plant does not do over-well the addition of a generous dressing of leaf-mould forked into the surface will be found to work wonders.

Nemesias

This, the finest of all dwarf annual plants, is a bit fastidious as to soil, and will not thrive for more than two consecutive seasons on the same site. It is, indeed, advisable to provide entirely fresh soil each year, and when this is done few other plants are more satisfactory in the flower garden. While the large-flowered type produces some of the most vivid colour imaginable, its habit of growth detracts from its value as a bedding plant. The dwarf hybrid type, however, with smaller flowers, but with an ideal habit, can hardly be equalled for mak pleasing display.

Salpiglossis

The modern strains of this graceful are really magnificent, and if planted sunny yet sheltered position produce a fine effect. Should be neatly staked, of rather a fragile habit of growth.

Kidney Beans

These may now be sown with more of success than was the case three we four weeks ago, Sutton's Masterpiec the old Canadian Wonder being amor most reliable varieties even in bad sea

Second-early Cauliflowers

Plants raised from seeds sown under early in March and grown on in a fran now fit for transplanting to their perm quarters, and will come in as success the earliest batch.

Brussels Sprouts

In many districts here in the north Br Sprouts raised out-of-doors in spring s do much good, so chief reliance shou placed in those raised in frames and ready for planting out. It entails a more work, but the results well repa extra trouble.

Surplus bedding plants

Not until all the débris, incidental annual bedding out, has been cleared can one claim to be finished with th Any good surplus plants of such kir Asters, Stocks, Salpiglossis, Antirrh Nemesia, Verbena, and Petunia, if up and set in a cold frame, will make able decorative plants for flowering greenhouse, or for room decoration, w few will come in handy for making goo gaps in the beds.

C. Br

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

INDOOR PLANT

The Bird's Nest Fern (Aspler nidus)

THE bold, elegant habit of this makes it an interesting specimen warm greenhouse. It has broad, smooth, shining fronds, which arise in from the rhizoma, giving it the appe of a huge nest, in which it is easy to ir some tropical bird would make its The elegant, rigid, lanceolate leav 3 inches in diameter and rise to a he from 3 feet to 4 feet when fully gro that a good specimen naturally becc very imposing sight. Were this plant known it would become very popula Fern lovers who possess a warm gree in which it could be easily grown. It difficult to cultivate, all it requires is low pan half-filled with crocks and a c of equal parts of peat and Sphagnum and a few lumps of charcoal to keep it To prevent the base from becoming by an accumulation of water the plan be potted high, in the same man Orchids. During the winter very little is required, but in the growing seas compost should be kept constantly Just below the bases of the leaves number of aerial roots will be observe if these are mulched in the summe chopped Sphagnum and dried cow the plant will be materially assisted.

G. F. GARD

Botanic Gardens,
The University, Bristol.

A Visit to the City

s of historic interest in the vicinity of Bouverie House

ERE has been a gratifying response to r invitation to readers (see leading ticle, issue May 14th) to visit places c interest in the vicinity of Fleet and those who are desirous of joining st party, on June 21st, will be well ad- o make early application for tickets. previously announced, arrangements een made for a series of lecture-visits main places of interest in the City of n under the expert guidance of Mr. Walker, one of the foremost authori- the treasures of the City. Participa- the visits on alternate Tuesday and sday afternoons, starting on June 21st, y open to readers of GARDENING ILLUS-, their children and friends. They ssemble in the Publications Hall, ie House, Fleet Street, at 2.45 p.m. t us and Mr. Walker, who will conduct n a tour ending up at Bouverie House p.m., where tea will be served in the estaurant. Readers may, if they so book for all excursions.

GRAMME OF LONDON VISITS.

JUNE - SEPT., 1927.

DAY, JUNE 21. **Temple.** will be a literary r about the first se tours, when having associa- with Chaucer, speare, Dr. John- Goldsmith, and s will be visited. arty will have ex- facilities for g and learning ry of the delight- nd church of the e, and the Halls Middle and Inner e.

ESDAY, JUNE 29. **lement Danes.** e second tour, will inspect Dr. n's house in Square (imme- adjoining the of "GARDENING TRATED"), the Curiosity Shop," th century Fleet building, and St. Clement Danes Church.

3. TUESDAY, JULY 5. **St. Bride's, Fleet Street.** The third ramble will include places particularly associated with the business of printing and newspaper production, for which Fleet Street is noted. The remains of the old River Fleet will be investigated, and visits will be paid to St. Bride's, Fleet Street, known as the Printers' Church, and to the offices of one of our great daily newspapers. The itinerary of further tours will be published from time to time, but any reader requiring a complete synopsis of the ground to be covered can obtain the full programme on application, or refer to our issue of May 14th.

s are asked to apply at least a fortnight prior ntended visit for tickets for the party on the h they select. There is no charge of any hese visits.

M OF APPLICATION

Editor of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED,
BOUVERIE HOUSE,
FLEET STREET, E.C. 4.

A VISIT TO THE CITY.

ould be glad to have tickets n your Visit to the City under Mr. Walker at 2.45 p.m. on

our party for this date is full up, book me for one of the following

.....

ss.....

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Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

Narcissi failure

(T. W. Bush).—It seems likely that last year you removed the foliage while still green from your Narcissi, which so weakened the bulbs that they were unable to bloom this season. Bulbs of all kinds must be permitted to retain their foliage until it dies down naturally. You may lift the bulbs after the foliage is quite yellow and dry off in a shady place, replanting on fresh ground in August or September.

Pansies for exhibition

(T. W. B.).—To obtain best blooms for exhibition confine the plants to one stem and place a stake to each, and tie loosely thereto. Remove all flower-buds as they appear until a few weeks before the show. Shade from bright sunshine and see that they never suffer from dryness at the roots. An occasional watering with weak liquid-manure and clear soot-water is very beneficial. You can obtain Bath's special strain of Pansies from R. H. Bath, Ltd., Wisbech.

Select list of Tulips, in their various colours

("West Somerset").—Cottage Tulips (scarlet): Glare of the Garden, Inglescombe Scarlet, Gesneriana spathulata major, Coronation Scarlet, Fire Dragon, Flame, Scarlet Emperor, Lucifer, Macrospila, Grenadier. Darwins (scarlet): Farncombe Sanders, Vermilion Scarlet, Feu Brilliant, Flambeau, Orion, Professor Francis Darwin, Whistler, Glow, Professor Rawenhoff. Breeder Tulips (various colours): Bronze Queen (syn. Sensation), Bacchus, Albion, Aspasia, Goliath, Copernicus, Dom Pedro, Gloria, Jaune d'Œuf, Louis XIV., Lucifer, Mabel, Mrs. Beecher Stowe, Orange Beauty, President Lincoln, Turenne, Velvet King (syn. Dreadnought), Roi de Siam.

Cottage Tulips (bronze): Bronze King, Golden Bronze, Hamlet, Jules Faure, Prince Albert. Cottage Tulips (blue and lavender): James Watt, Grand Maitre (violet-purple), Grand Monarque (plum-purple), Purple Perfection, Union Jack, Velvet King, William de Zwijger. Darwin Tulips (bronze): Prince of the Netherlands, Henner, Millet, Eclipse. Darwin Tulips (blue, lavender, and purple shades): Bleu Amabile, Dal Ongaro, Dorothy, Dream, Erguste, Euterpe, Frans Hals, Greuze, Gryphus, Gudin, Jubilee, Mauve Claire, Melicette, Nora Ware, Remembrance, Rev. H. Ewbank, Sweet Lavender, The Bishop, Viking, Viola. Lists of these Tulips may be obtained on application to either of the following seedsmen:—Messrs. Dobbie and Co., Edinburgh, and Messrs. Barr and Sons, 12, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. 2.

Planting Water Lilies

(G. S.).—Where pools and lakes are not available it is by no means difficult to grow Water Lilies in shallow tanks or tubs. These should be fully exposed to the sunshine, and there is no need to add fresh water too frequently, nor should fountains play upon the foliage. The natural soil in any lake or pond will suit Water Lilies perfectly. In other cases, however, a rich loamy soil with about one-quarter of its bulk of cow manure, or well-rotted stable manure or leaf-mould should be used. The depth of planting may be from 1 foot to 3 feet below the surface of the water, the stronger-growing varieties of the Marliacea group being placed deeper than the others. The rootstocks should be placed in wicker baskets in the compost and sunk to the required depth, and planting may be done any time from the middle of April to the end of May. For selection see reply to "W. F."

A selection of Water Lilies

(W. F.).—Among natural species the best are alba, candida, nitida, odorata, pygmæa, and tuberosa, all with white flowers, those of the last-named being from 4 inches to 7 inches across, flava (canary-yellow), and sphærocarpa (rosy-carmine). Among the hybrid varieties some of the best include caroliniana (rose-pink), Colossea (large blush white), Escarboucle (deep vermilion-red), Froebelii (carmine-red), W. B. Shaw (soft rose), and sumptuosa (deep pink). To these must be added the Marliacea and Laydekeri varieties of various shades, including yellow. Any of these varieties may be grown successfully in the open air in tanks, pools, or lakes exposed to the sunshine, and it is better if the water is still and fresh rather than running, as water in motion is apt to be cooler than when still. By making a dam with a boom here and there in running water greater placidity of the surface may be secured.

Purple flowers in grass

I journeyed home by train from Marseilles on April 29th, and for about 10 miles between Arles and Tarascon saw quantities of beautiful purple flowers growing in meadow grass. I was unable to decide from the window whether they were a Salvia or the pratensis type, or an Orchis of the foliosus type, or perhaps a Camassia. They appeared to be about 18 inches tall, of a very deep blue-purple, making something of the effect our Bluebells have in woods, but these were certainly not Bluebells. Can you, or perhaps one of your readers, tell me what they were likely to have been? They grew in great quantities in large patches, but only in the locality named; at least, I did not see a single one north of Tarascon. VIOLET CLIVE.

[The purple flowers seen in quantity in the meadows between Arles and Tarascon were, probably, Salvia pratensis reinforced with Phyteumas, Campanula rhomboidalis, and Geranium sylvaticum. A sight not at all unusual in the south, and generally the Salvia preponderates over the others, which, however, tone in to help the general effect. We have, on occasion, seen similar effects, and always found, on nearer approach, a mixture rather than a one-species effort. Last year we saw an almost similar display, but several shades lighter, and, on walking into the meadows, found the effect due to untold numbers of Campanula patula. Very fine indeed. It made one wish to create similar pictures on poor sandy pastures in England.]

GREENHOUSE

Greenhouse plant for inspection

(W. E. S.).—The specimen sent is that of a variety of Clivia (I. mantophyllum). There is no sign of its having been attacked by any kind of insect. Although this plant will exist in a fairly low temperature, it will not thrive properly. We should say, therefore, that your plants, growing as they are in a greenhouse with but little artificial warmth, are rebelling against this treatment. It is most likely that the trouble has been aggravated by keeping the soil too moist during the winter. A winter temperature of not less than 50 degs. is essential to success with this plant, while water must be given rather sparingly while it is at rest.

FRUIT

Pear canker

(P. Clutterbuck).—The specimen flowering spurs of Pitmaston Duchess sent in for examination have been killed by canker caused by the fungus Nectria galligena. Pear scab is also present, and is probably the real cause of the trouble, because the canker fungus is a wound parasite, but can enter a shoot easily through a scab wound. If you examine the spurs you will find that they show portions of dead wood, which generally show cracked bark. The spurs that have been killed should be cut out and burned; the rest of the spurs should be overhauled, and all dead portions cut away. As soon as all the petals have dropped from the flowers the affected trees should be sprayed with soluble lime-sulphur at summer strength. The spraying should be repeated three weeks later. In the early autumn the trees should be again overhauled and all dead wood cut out and burned. Spraying operations should be carried out next year if necessary, commencing with one at winter strength before the buds begin to open.

Gooseberry red rust

(D. M.).—We are not quite sure what you mean by "Red Rust," but it is probable that your disease is the one known as Gooseberry Cluster Cup. It would be more satisfactory both to you and us if you sent along a specimen for examination. If your Gooseberry trouble is Cluster Cup you should follow the advice given to "Grosset" on page 316 of our issue for May 21st.

Promising Apples

("Drum Keen," Ireland).—As soon as the fruits are swelling freely sprinkle a moderate quantity of one of the proprietary mixtures all over the surface as far as the roots are likely to extend, and very lightly fork it in. In dry weather a good soaking of water will carry the food to the roots. Thomson's Vine, plant, and vegetable manure is one of the very best for your purpose, and may be had from any seedsman. Printed directions are supplied with every parcel.

Figs not fruiting

(Anxious).—There are several methods, all quite good, for successfully growing Figs, the whole of which cannot be detailed here. In the first place, your trees are, seemingly, growing in too rich soil. The roots of Fig trees must be severely restricted, so that the growths made are short-jointed and sturdy. In winter you should see to this, and if you require details as to how to go about the matter write us again and we will gladly advise. Meanwhile, pinch the points out of all the shoots, and should there be any overcrowding remove some of them altogether. It is hardly likely that you will get a good crop this year, as the over-luxuriance of your trees cannot be corrected by pinching alone.

VEGETABLES

Rhubarb bolting

(A Reader).—In most districts Rhubarb has behaved in the same way as yours. It is caused, we think, by the abnormally mild winter, which prevented the crowns securing sufficient rest. This, combined with the cold spring, is responsible for the trouble. If you cut away the "shot" stems as soon as they appear the later stalks will be all right. Rhubarb that is not regularly and liberally manured is also bad for "bolting."

Forcing Rhubarb

Could you state in which month Rhubarb roots out of doors should be covered up in pots or tubs to have a supply from the end of December on? R.

[To have Rhubarb fit for use at Christmas you should cover the crowns up about the middle of November, and as soon as the first batch get fairly started into growth another batch should be ready to follow on. If your Rhubarb roots are limited in quantity it is advisable to force them where they are grown. Procure the requisite number of pots with movable covers and place them over the crowns, then on these put some fresh stable litter, or leaves and litter mixed.]

Diseased Tomatoes

(R. C. Flegg).—From the material sent it is impossible for us to say what is the matter with your Tomatoes. The leaves arrived in such a dried-up condition that they were reduced to powder when handled. If you will be kind enough to send us a complete plant packed in a little tin box we will do our best to help you.

Cucumber plant dying suddenly

(Second Gardener).—From your account it would appear that the plant was attacked with eelworm. Clear away all the soil, and before a fresh supply is put in, mix Vaporite with the compost. This should rid the soil of these pests.

TREES AND SHRUBS

New Zealand Daisy as a hedge

(A. Middleton).—We presume that you refer to the Daisy Bush (Olearia Haastii), which in lime-free soils makes a nice thick hedge. It is not a rapid grower by any means, yet fairly free, and stands pruning well. Plants to form a hedge should be placed at 3 feet apart. No, it is not a in such soil.

Rhododendron species

(G. D.).—The best truss of a shown at the recent Rhododendron sh which a special prize was given by th H. D. McLaren, was adjudged to decorum, shown by Mr. G. W. E. the second prize went to Mr. E. J. P. for R. xenosporum.

Trimming a Beech hedge

(E. P., Hants).—A Beech hedge shelter in winter when young and wh pruned, through the curious habit of ing its dead leaves through the dark r For this reason the Beech should be in spring just before growth commenc the same applies to a Hornbeam hedge

Name of shrub

(V. Green).—The shrub you send c f is the North American Rubus spec the purple-red flowers of which brigh shrubberies from the middle of Ap wards. It is a desirable flowering Although its orange-yellow fruits a duced in this country they are of n mercial value, but in North America it are valuable as food to some of the tribes. This shrub spreads freely by of sucker-like growths from its bas with me has formed large thickets wilder parts of the garden.

A richly-carved Sundial shown at Chelsea by the Horsecombe Quarries Stone W

MISCELLANEOUS

Blanket weed in Water Lily tan

(G. S.).—Where the green filmy appears in tanks or pools during the s months this may be kept in check by some sulphate of copper crystals into vas bag and drawing it backwards a wards through the water. About 2½ the crystals will suffice for a tank 10,000 gallons of water, and so on, portion.

NAMES OF PLANTS

C. Clark.—1, Fuchsia fulgens; 2, deline lutea; 3, Veronica gentianoi Alyssum saxatile; 5, Corydalis lutea.

R. M. L.—Fraxinus Ornus (Mann native of S. Europe and Asia Minor, ing a height of 50 feet to 65 feet.

P. W. C.—1, Berberis stenophy Syringa vulgaris (common Lila Exochorda grandiflora (Pearl Bus Amelanchier canadensis.

THE CHELSEA SHOW

MAY 25—27

A record Show—and more elbow room

HEN the show opened at 9 o'clock on Vednesday morning, May 25th, all vas in readiness for the visitors, who 1 tens of thousands. The judging ed, the awards known, and the were seen to advantage. There is to be said for this Continental of opening a great flower show. tely, the weather on the opening as favourable—cloudy but fine, y but cool enough to give the pleasant temperature. It must be l, however, that the cut flowers, y Tulips and Sweet Peas, were not on Wednesday morning as they were lay evening when most of them were ranged. Taking the show through- extremely good indeed. We believe the best and most interesting ever Chelsea.

uesday the King and Queen came the afternoon and passed freely the show without the embarrassment g any crowd about them. Princess d the Duke of Connaught were pre- he same time.

oyal Horticultural Society are to be congratulated on the success of this great exhibition, and we take this opportunity of expressing our indebtedness especially to the Secretary, Mr. F. R. Durham, the Assistant Secretary, Mr. A. Simmonds, and to Mr. Frank Reader for the facilities granted in enabling us to present this report in good time to readers.

Of the outstanding exhibits we would specially mention Mr. Whitelegg's rock garden of Cheddar stone, illustrated on this page.

Rhododendrons were particularly well shown, and the great favourite, Pink Pearl, from Bagshot, was seen at its very best form —immense trusses and well coloured.

The only plants to receive the high award of First-class Certificate from the Floral Committee were Daphne aurantiaca, shown by Mr. A. K. Bulley, Azalea John Jennings and Cornus florida rubra, both shown by Mr. Lionel de Rothschild, Exbury, Southampton.

ROCK GARDENS

The outstanding feature of the rock garden section this year is Mr. George Whitelegg's magnificent effort. In construction it is an epitome of all that a good rock garden should be. The whole conception is bold in the extreme, and yet there is nothing aggressive in a single inch of it. Its very courageousness, indeed, endows it with a grandeur rarely attempted at Chelsea, and in execution never surpassed. Verbal description of a rock garden is never very satisfactory. In this case it is futile, for motif, conception, composition, and execution are, alike, good, and must be seen to be believed. Its success lies in the remarkably faithful handling of bold masses of Cheddar rock. There is a sense of proportion throughout the whole scheme that gives complete satisfaction to the beholder. One feels that in this exhibit every natural law, even every vagary of Nature, has been respected, and it is Nature in her most picturesque mood. It may be true, as Ruskin said, that "good artists rarely imitate," but here is an example of the artist who has gone to Nature for his lessons, who has idealised her efforts and interpreted her moods in a wonderful composition.

To attempt a description in words of its rugged cliffs, its alpine ledges, the gradual softening of the foreground by well-managed outcrop, the harmony of its relation, one part with another, the water issuing from its cool

The rock garden by Mr. G. Whitelegg, for which the Sherwood Cup was awarded for the best exhibit at Chelsea

recessed background and realistically finding its way along a boulder-strewn course to its lowest level and then disappearing, as such watercourses sometimes do, in a subtle but perfectly realistic way, would be but to put into words a description that might apply to many minor and quite inferior efforts. Mr. Whitelegg's exhibits are notorious for the excellence of his collection of alpine plants. These are still in evidence, but for once he has managed to keep the planting in its proper place, or as nearly so as one can do in an exhibit that must be, after all, a shop window, for the nurseryman depends on his sales to pay his expenses. However, the combination is so good and of such a nature that he could, had he wished to do so, have taken liberties with his planting and lost nothing of the effectiveness of the exhibit as a whole. That he has exercised restraint is to his credit.

It is unfortunate for Mr. Gavin Jones, who has used the same stone in a more modest effort, that he is, from point of mere size, rather overwhelmed by his neighbour. Here, also, is a bit of Nature exquisitely interpreted. His theme is simple. Just one chosen piece of realism admirably conceived and perfectly executed. It says plainly to the observer that he has achieved exactly what he set out to do, that he has been able to keep control of his picture from start to finish.

Mr. Herbert Brook has produced one of his excellent little moorland pictures. Nothing bold or emphatic in its composition, perhaps, but very pleasing and pretty. Dainty in character perhaps best describes it. Full of soft lines, it looks what it is probably intended to represent, a little bit of Westmorland shaded by trees, for surely no sunny aspect could have produced this study of grey stone and the greenest of Moss. The watercourse is charmingly managed, and the arrangement of stone throughout is just what we have come to expect from Mr. Brook.

Messrs. Hodson's effort, far superior to anything of theirs we remember having seen before, is very effective. At the same time, to be quite honest, it appears to lack that convincing atmosphere of the three previously mentioned. It is one of those efforts of which one can find no serious fault, and which is decidedly pretty. As a rock garden possession it would give pleasure to a great many people.

Messrs. Pulham, working on a somewhat smaller scale than usual, have produced a pretty miniature cliff with water runnel issuing from its coolest part and trickling along its base. The rather regular stratification is not so pronounced as to give a sense of monotony.

Messrs. Cutbush have set themselves a difficult task in using a rather square sandstone that always looks too new and raw for exhibition work, although it tones beautifully in the garden. The use of it in this exhibit is correct enough, but the material is not pleasing, and the same effort in a more satisfying material would have produced happier results.

Messrs. Clarence Elliott have created a miniature mountain that is, frankly, a position in which to display many good plants, and Messrs. Rogers have tapered off the rock garden section with a nice little bit of low rock mound full of good things in the way of alpine and rock plants.

FORMAL GARDENS

The formal as well as the rock gardens reflect the greatest credit on their designers and planters, and they are quite up to the high standard of excellence which we have been accustomed to see at Chelsea in previous years even if they do not surpass it. The designs are varied in character, and many of these gardens are admirably suited for private houses of small dimensions, while others could be well reproduced to form a distinct feature amid grounds of larger size.

Messrs. James Carter and Co., of Raynes Park, exhibit what they term "The Temple Rhododendron Garden." On each side the scene is bounded by a bank of the finest varieties of these beautiful flowering shrubs, and in the centre there is a broad sweep of lawn above which, raised high above it, is a noble Italian temple approached by a flight of semi-circular stone steps. The view of it is seen quite uninterrupted, but at the sides two pools of water add beauty to the picture, the water being conveyed to them from two leaden figures of Watteau design, from the base of which fine sprays of wat thrown.

Messrs. Pulham and Sons have n believe, shown a formal garden at C since 1919, when they obtained th medal, but this year they are exhibiti in the Main Avenue. The site is an u one inasmuch as it is an angular or the farthest end of the angle there is a terrace of York stone from which a se columns rise, consisting of York ston red tile courses which support a perg Oak timbers upon which climbing Ro trained. The terrace is approached b short flights of stone steps and paved ways. Below an octagonal break in t of the terrace a pool of water is placed, is fed from a leaden mask in a Around this court the beds are fille Polyantha Roses, and in stretches of t on the outer portions of this uncomm den geometric beds are cut, also plante Polyantha Roses. Two small square with fountains playing are also placed lawn, and the borders at the sides Italian-like garden are planted with H geas, Delphiniums, and Anchusas.

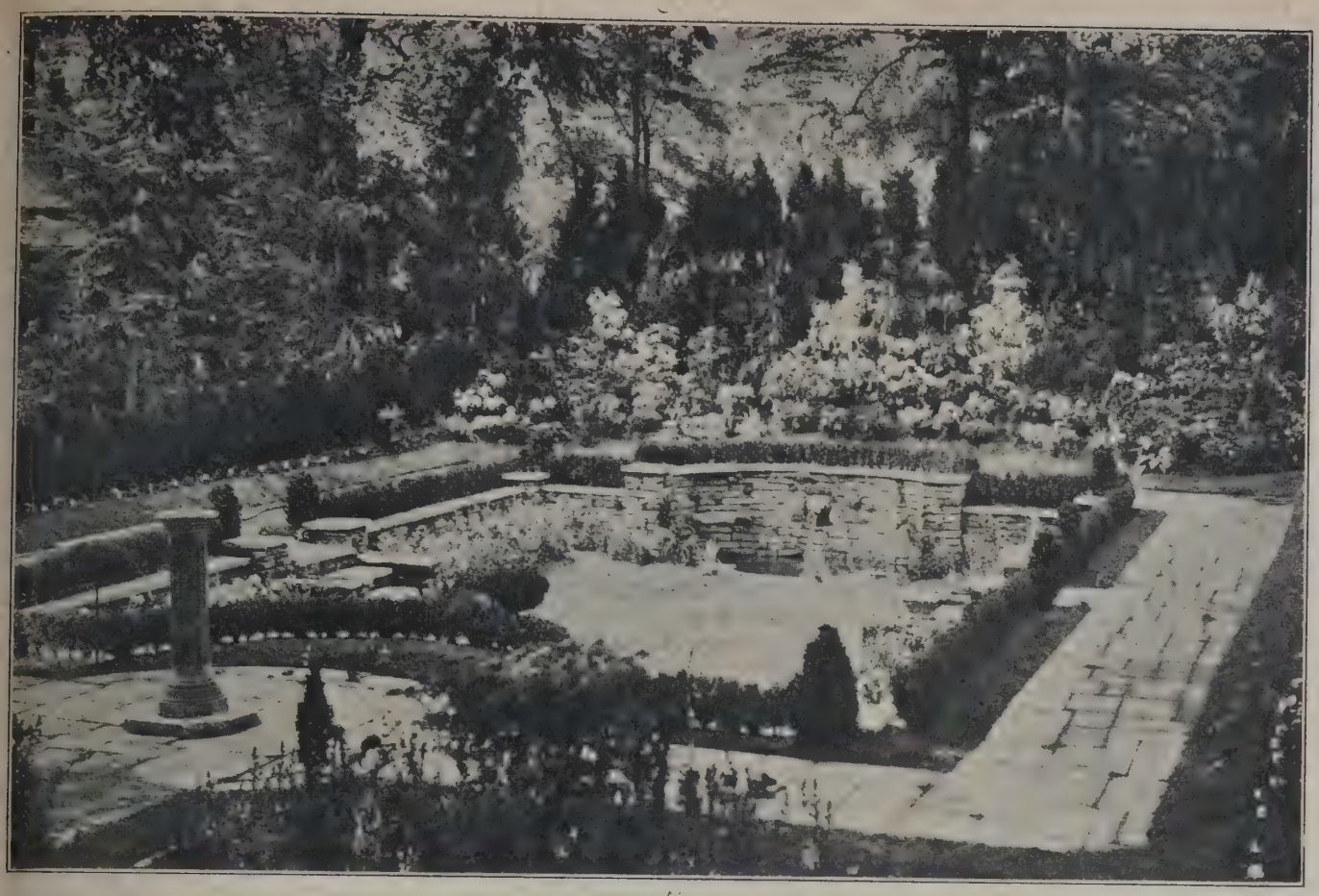
The Horsecombe Quarries and Works are showing an old-world w garden with a sunken centre in which is a small Lily pond. The dry wal planted with things which give a goo of the possibilities of such a garden established. The front is enclosed Horsecombe balustrading, and upo rough coping stones bowls of old Bath are placed. Various garden ornamen cluding dovecotes, sundials, and bird etc., for which the firm are famou shown in another part of the grounds.

Messrs. Cheal and Sons, of Crawl hibit a garden surrounded by a Yew On each side there is a long herb border containing Lupins, Lilies, panulas, Pæonies, and other choice flo plants. At the furthest end of the l water-tank containing Irises and Lilies, and some interesting bog plan to be seen near the margin of the p the centre of which a jet of water rise a leaden figure. At the back of the fo pool there is a circular-raised terrace is approached on each side by a flight o steps. At the back of the terrace Azaleas of many tints are seen to adv in front of a background of Thuja other tall evergreen shrubs. On the sp lawn there is a small central bird ba at each of the four corners are b Polyantha Roses.

Messrs. Vernon Bros., of Kensington a formal garden with semi-circular with stone columns covered with c climbing Roses. In front of the there is a circular pool. In the centre a life-size bronze group by Henry P R.A. Other smaller bronze figur J. A. Stevenson, who has exhibits year's Academy, decorate the perg broad flagged path leads to the founta on each side there is a broad expanse o giving an uninterrupted view of the fo and garden seen through some hav wrought iron gates.

Messrs. Wallace, of Tunbridge have an extremely picturesque roc water garden surrounded by a fine va ornamental shrubs and Azaleas in variety. On the rock-work borderi little lake are planted Primulas, Rodg Orchis foliosa, and miscellaneous rock Amongst the uncommon plants to b is the Habranthus pratensis. By the edge there are groups of Iris sibirica orientalis. Another plant to be noted Ixiolirion Pallasii. Standing above, b the pool, there is a particularly fine sp

The new Dianthus Allwoodii Alpine form shown by Allwood Bros.



An old English garden by Messrs. R. Neal and Sons

cer palmatum rosea marginata, and specimens of Quercus purpurea should e noted.

ssrs. Gaze's, of Kensington, have a ese water garden with Japanese garden approached by a wooden bridge. The pool is planted with various Irises and Lilies.

ssrs. Bakers, of Wolverhampton, show orative garden in which a stream of meanders about amongst turf and crossed about the middle of its length picturesque stone bridge. The sides of tream and pools are planted with es in variety, many kinds of Primulas, ns, Irises, and in the pools Water and Aponogeton. Various Bamboos se the beauty of the little picture. On igher portions of the garden various is are interspersed with Maples.

srs. R. Neal and Sons, of Wands- are showing a sunk garden. The is surrounded by a low retaining wall which is a Box edging. Below the olyantha Roses and Carnations form ht border which surrounds a central Above the level of the lawn there is a paved path and raised grass verge. hole garden is surrounded with beauti- lden Yews, while at the end of the furthest from the eye there is a fine of Azaleas and Rhododendrons seen t a background of tall dark Retini- Cupressus, and Thujas. On each the entrance there is a bed of fine ions surrounding a central Acer of l-purple colour.

rs. Wood and Son show a small garden with stone retaining walls on de and informal rockwork at the end gh level. A tall Yew hedge surrounds hole garden, in front of which are of various colours. Below the wall me beautiful groups of Irises, and gain, are planted near a central tank of graceful design in which are Water Lilies.

Messrs. Charlton and Son, Tunbridge Wells, exhibit a circular sunk garden planted round the outside with beautifully tinted Maples, light-coloured Rhododendrons, and Azaleas, below which, approached by a short flight of steps, is a central court paved with stone cleverly relieved by well-placed turf and decorated by a central figure. This garden, though small, contains nearly 100 varieties of ornamental and flowering shrubs.

Mr. James MacDonald is showing a formal garden with central lawn and fountain which rises from a pretty little lead figure, the basin being filled with various aquatics. Surrounding the fountain there is a large stretch of lawn, outside of which it is bordered by gravel path and a Yew hedge. At the end furthest from the eye there is a fine bank of Rhododendrons bordered by gold and silver grasses, and other varieties for which the firm is so noted. At the end of the garden, opposite that above described, there is a charming formal bed of ornamental grasses.

CARNATIONS

As we predicted in a recent number of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, the Carnations grown on the American system of planting out in the beds was seen at its best at Chelsea just as they would be seen to disadvantage at Christmas compared to those grown in pots, as cultivated by the average amateur.

Mr. C. Engelmann's immense display shows the grand quality which one now expects to see in his Chelsea group. His novelties are Palette, which has a buff-yellow ground overlaid with pink; the quaintly-named Zorro, a heliotrope with petals rayed with pink; Brenda, which, with its art shade of red shot with brighter red, reminds one of Shot Silk. Arranged in tall tripod pillars some 10 feet high, he made a change by associating two shades together. We noted Orange Sunstar with mauve, crimson Topsy with the salmon Laddies, pale pinks and scarlets in quite an interesting and unusual style.

Messrs. Allwood Bros.' group is another gigantic effort, where no pains to excel previous years are spared. Artistic arrangement is always one of their features. In their present exhibit the delightful shade of Wivelsfield Apricot stands up well, and although no longer a novelty, is still one of the best in this colour. Coral Glow is another of the same class. The light red Laddie and the deep scarlet Edward Allwood were outstanding among many others. Opposite to their main group, arranged in suitable stone vases and in garden formation, their Dianthus Allwoodii was seen to advantage. A better effect could not be obtained than with this style of exhibit.

Messrs. Stuart Low and Co.'s group is composed of flowers grown at both their Bush Hill Park and Crowborough nurseries. As exponents of the pot cultivation method, one noted that the stems were as strong as those from planted-out stock. Their novelties of this year were featured. Ruby Glow, which is a pleasing ruby-red; Fragrant Rose is very sweet; and Daphne, perhaps the most pleasing-formed flower in the mauve-heliotrope section. Perhaps the finest vase in their group was Sir Philip Sassoon, which has the fragrance and colour of Old Clove combined with the size of their White Pearl.

Reminiscent of the old Souvenir de la Malmaison are the Perpetual Malmaisons grown by this firm, one of which has pride of place for the sweetest-smelling Carnation in commerce—Mrs. Myles Kennedy.

Messrs. Keith Luxford and Co. specialised in the varieties largely grown for cut flower by market growers, and their Enchantress Supreme and White Enchantress were fine. Sheila Greer, not always considered a market variety, has proved both suitable and

acceptable, its orange shade flecked with red being just what florists want these days.

The Border Carnations staged by Mr. Jas. Douglas are exquisite in their formation. The pretty laced and fancy varieties cannot be excelled for beauty, while there is a fine fragrance in many of the Cloves, notably in the Bookham Clove and White Clove among others. Bookham Flame is a remarkably well-named variety.

Border Carnations were also shown by Messrs. Lowe and Gibson, who associated them with Liliums and other hardy flowers.

Messrs. A. F. Dutton, Ltd., show their Mrs. A. J. Cobb, which secured the *Daily Mail* Cup in March for fragrance. This comes into commerce in the early part of next year, and will be much sought after with its rich old Clove colour and scent.

Mme. Vlasto, from Mr. Beck, was another special exhibit. This variety is much like Butterfly, white ground traced with purple.

Perpetual Pinks come from Mr. G. H. Herbert, who had one of his characteristic exhibits of these popular flowers.

LILIES

Habitués of Chelsea who are Lily lovers find a permanent, or at least perennial, centre of gravity in Wallace and Co.'s exhibit. Chelsea Show without this wonderful display is hardly conceivable. Certainly the show would seem incomplete without it. No R.H.S. Spring Show, as Chelsea is officially called, within our memory has been without this unique feature, nor in the many we remember has the firm ever occupied other than the first place in the Lily world. This is in itself remarkable. In every other section of the show competition has grown keener, and merits have varied from year to year. In this there is really no competition, and the position of the firm appears to be unassailable. It is the more creditable that, recognising as it must that it holds all the honours in its own hands, it continues to strive so consistently to maintain its own high standard. It is impossible to mention all the good things in this group, but Thunbergianums there are in plenty. Atrosanguineum, Orange Queen in splendid condition, Alutaceum, Sanguineum, and others, including a dainty apricot-tinted novelty unnamed at the time we saw it. Lilium umbellatum is also well represented, but these appear common beside a fine group of Monadelphum Szovitzianum, some glorious trumpets of Brownii, a bold mass of the dainty Kramerii, Martagon album that looks as if it was plentiful, which is *not* the case, Pardalinum, Hansonii regale, a few Farreri, and another rare Lily, Davidii, which, with its bright orange-spotted flowers, reminds one of Willmottiæ combined in some indefinable way with L. canadense. There is also a delightful little group of Martagon hybrids, showing a wonderful range of colour. Lilium giganteum (the species) was not out at the time we saw it, but looked as if it might be by the time the show closed. By no means all the preceding list will give a fair idea of the comprehensiveness of the collection, and anyone interested in the genus Lilium will find a half-hour's study of this group will more than repay them.

A few other Lilies are scattered through the show. Messrs. Lowe and Gibson have a fine central group of regale. Messrs. Barr and Son had a nice little colony standing near their group, which we concluded belonged to them. The old Pyrenaicum was well in evidence here, but a careful search rev nothing anywhere that could not be fou Wallace's group.

ROSES

As at the old Temple Show so at Ch Roses are one of the most popular exl It is interesting to compare the old solic varieties we had 25 years or 30 year with the more floriferous Hybrid Teas day. In only one feature were the old ties superior to some of the modern, that of lasting quality. Raisers to-da raising varieties of fragrance—at least, of our good things are so endowed, bu British public often takes to a bri coloured Rose with few petals, and thes more quickly past.

In Messrs. Chaplin's fine group stan predominate over a groundwork of anthas. We noted that deepest of all son Roses, the Chateau de Clos Vou which contrasted well with the bright y of Florence Izzard. The bush variety, Bowyer, is much like Etoile de Holl Over all rode stately weeping Roses, g a fine effect.

Mr. W. Easlea brought several of his ties. Thelma is a climbing Rose of the of Paul's Scarlet Climber, but of pale shade.

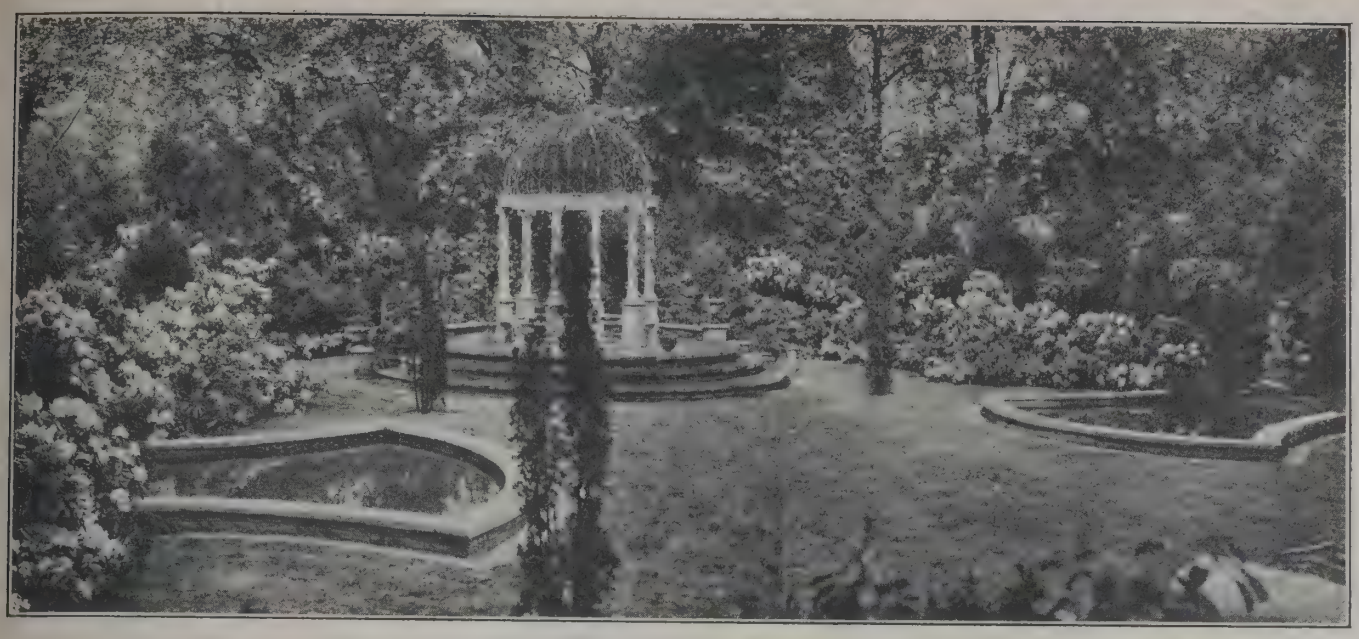
Messrs. B. R. Cant and Son have ran Roses as a background, with tall star of the orange-apricot Lady Wakefield, I and the semi-double Cecil, a bright butt yellow.

The dwarf Polyantha Roses of M Wm. Cutbush and Son are arranged way which makes them irresistible. Pyr of these were lightly dotted with cli Roses. We note that Ellen Poulsen i one of the best of the dwarfs, in pal shade, and that Golden Salmon is one brightest in the newer Polyanthas.

Polyantha Roses form the framewo Mr. Geo. Prince's group. Those lookin a pale pink in this class will find Cluster, as seen here, as good as the n ous new things coming from abroad. A Hybrid Teas, Lady Sylvia is of the fine seen in Lady Butterfly, but with a rose that is lightened by a ray of salmony-o —an ideal buttonhole Rose. Rosel too, still appears the best yellow for for

Lilium regale (above)
Lilium rubellum (below)

Shown by R. Wallace and Co., Ltd., in their Gold Medal group



Temple Rhododendron garden by Messrs. Carter and Co.

r. Pemberton's Roses are represented by golden-salmon Polyantha, the pale pink), which is a similar variety to Ellen sen.

essrs. Frank Cant and Co. have outling standards of Mrs. H. Bowles, with specimens of the golden Mrs. H. Morse spersed with pillars of the gorgeous lsa.

essrs. Ernest Paul have leading cuter varieties in such sorts as Mme. Butternd Hoosier Beauty, dainty and fragrant nicely-pointed buds.

. Elisha Hicks' group of Roses is rich ybrid Teas. Cut flowers arranged with s of Ramblers includes Clovelly, the exon pink variety, and the ever-popular . Butterfly, of salmon and orange shade. ica, the fragrant, well-made Rose, ls well cut, and the yellow Mrs. H. e is a vivid piece of buttercup-yellow.

IRISES

antity rather than quality almost des the Irises in the show this year. It is hat the best sorts are not well repred, but weather conditions have probably very troublesome to the growers. rs. Bunyards have a very fine collection, r the best in the show. Some of their ns are very fine indeed. Billia, a huge e bicolor with rosy-purple standards rich red-purple falls, looked clean and . Mrs. H. F. Bowles, with its orangenut effect, is quite distinct. A magniclump of Pioneer shows what a vigorgrower this fine Iris can be. Amdeur, Corida, Germaine, Perthuis, ræ, Lady Foster, Titan, Glamour, Asia, ian, two of Bliss' finest Irises, Duke of rd and Swazi, and a group of varied ngs under number are a few of the good s worthy of mention. All sorts of s have been made by raisers about k" Irises, but so far as we could see, ng is quite so pink as Suzan Bliss, or ps Dream might compete for first place s respect.

next group that seemed to be the al place to look for Irises was Wallace's, lthough the collection is very compre-e, there seemed to be something lack-stamina in the general condition of the . Magnifica, Ann Page, Aphrodite, Al-Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau, Dominion, ssadeur, Duke of Bedford (not in good , Viola, Citronella, and many others testified to the extensiveness of this firm's collection; and there are numerous others, with a few seedlings as yet unnamed.

The Orpington Nursery Co. have an attractive group of Irises, including Titan, Tenebræ, Moa, Hyperion, Ophelia (a beautiful new hybrid all soft rose and fawn, called Marquisette), and one giant outstanding of, we believe, American origin, called Mauna Loa, a great red-purple bicolor of which the exhibitor thinks great things, and which opinion appears to be fully justified so far as one can judge at a show.

Then we looked for Mrs. W. R. Dykes' exhibit, and were rewarded by a vision of a sturdy clump of pure yellow with numerous flowers some 2 feet to 2½ feet high of Amber. This is going to be a good garden Iris in England, but there are diverse opinions about it as compared with certain American yellows. Until they are grown side by side no opinion is of much value. A number of other "Dykes" hybrids included Lulworth, Ruby, Aphrodite, and Moonlight, and various others, all shown "just as they would grow" in beds in which the lime that has been added is apparent.

Those who still love the older varieties of Irises and the much more convenient cost of them as compared with the modern productions should certainly visit Messrs. Barr and Son's exhibit. Here will be found such varieties as Sarpedon, Wyndham, Mount Pam, Juniata, Alcazar, and, amongst others, the dainty Isoline that here belies its character for being a shy flowerer.

Messrs. Lowe and Gibson have included in their group a nice little collection of Irises, and Mr. Amos Perry also shows a few good things, principally of his own raising.

Altogether, although it is not an "Iris" Chelsea, the genus is worthily represented.

SWEET PEAS

There are several noteworthy exhibits of Sweet Peas in this great show. One exhibit of quite exceptional merit was that set up by Messrs. Dobbie and Co., of Edinburgh and Marks Tey, Essex. This magnificent display is to be seen on the west side of No. 1 Tent, and represents this beautiful sweet-scented annual at its best. We were informed that there were no fewer than 11,000 spikes of blossoms arranged in this very attractive display. The flowers are set up in tall stands, bowls, and vases of varying description, on a groundwork of black velvet and embellished with Palms, Ferns, and Asparagus Sprengeri. In all, there are about 50 to 60 different receptacles, all most charmingly arranged. The more noteworthy sorts are Flamingo (scarlet), Majestic Cream (cream), Magnet (salmon), Camellia (white), Wizard (orange-scarlet), Hero (cerise-scarlet), Gold Crest (pale orange), Gleneagles (lavender), Hebe (soft pink), Pinkie (lovely pink), Prince of Orange (a most glorious orange-scarlet), Royal Purple (purple), Constance Hinton (cream), Sunkist (cream, edged pink), and others, such as Picture, Royal Scot, Chieftain, Miss California, and Ruby.

A dainty table group of this subject is shown by Messrs. Carters, Raynes Park, S.W., in which the Sweet Peas are arranged in glass bowls on glass stands, all very clean and neat in appearance. There are about 40 of these receptacles, filled with blooms of leading sorts. Among the more noteworthy are Royal Sovereign (richest orange), Enid (flesh), Royal Mauve (mauve), Model (white), Mrs. A. Stanford (soft pink), Geisha (cream), Raynes Park (lavender), Marjorie (orange-cerise), and Princess Patricia (deep lavender). This display is in No. 2 Tent.

Messrs. Dickson's, "Hawlmark," Belfast, in the same tent, have arranged a long table group of Sweet Peas in rather novel fashion, in panels of trellis-work, in baskets, bowls, vases, and stands. The beauty of individual sorts would be better seen and appreciated by this method of arrangement. Here are to be seen such popular sorts as Magnet (orange-scarlet), Wizard (orange), King Mauve (mauve), Matchless (cream), Lucifer (cerise), Elegance (flesh-pink), Mammoth (orange-scarlet), Corona (rich pink), Constance Hinton (white), and Pink Perfection (salmon-pink).

Mr. J. Stevenson, Wimborne, Dorset, in Tent No. 2 has a charming little exhibit, in which he shows Sweet Peas as usual in excellent form and condition. His stands of this subject are splendid, and his pretty little bowls are worthy of emulation by other growers. We have a special liking for the following sorts:—Royal Sovereign (rich orange), Austin Frederick Improved (lavender), Nina (lovely deep pink), Marjorie (deep carmine novelty), Glorious (orange-cerise, novelty of great promise), Guinea Gold (deep orange), and Wild Rose (a lovely salmon). This group should be sought after by Sweet Pea lovers.

By far the brightest display of Sweet Peas

to be seen in this really wonderful show is that staged by Messrs. Robert Bolton and Son, Birdbrook, Essex. The flowers in this fine exhibit are remarkable for their large size, good form, and exquisite colouring, and cannot fail to impress the visitor with their superb all-round good quality. Great taste is evinced in the arrangement of this group, and it merits the highest praise. We are impressed with the beauty of the following varieties: — Peggy (scarlet), Colorado (orange), Royal Pink (salmon-pink), Olympia (purple), Model (white), R. F. Felton (lavender), Challenger (pink, edged white), Mrs. A. Searles (rich salmon-cerise), Comrade (cream, tinted pink), Powerscroft (pale lavender), Susan (an improved "Picture"), Valentine (palest pink), Gold Crest (orange), and Royal Sovereign (orange).

BEGONIAS

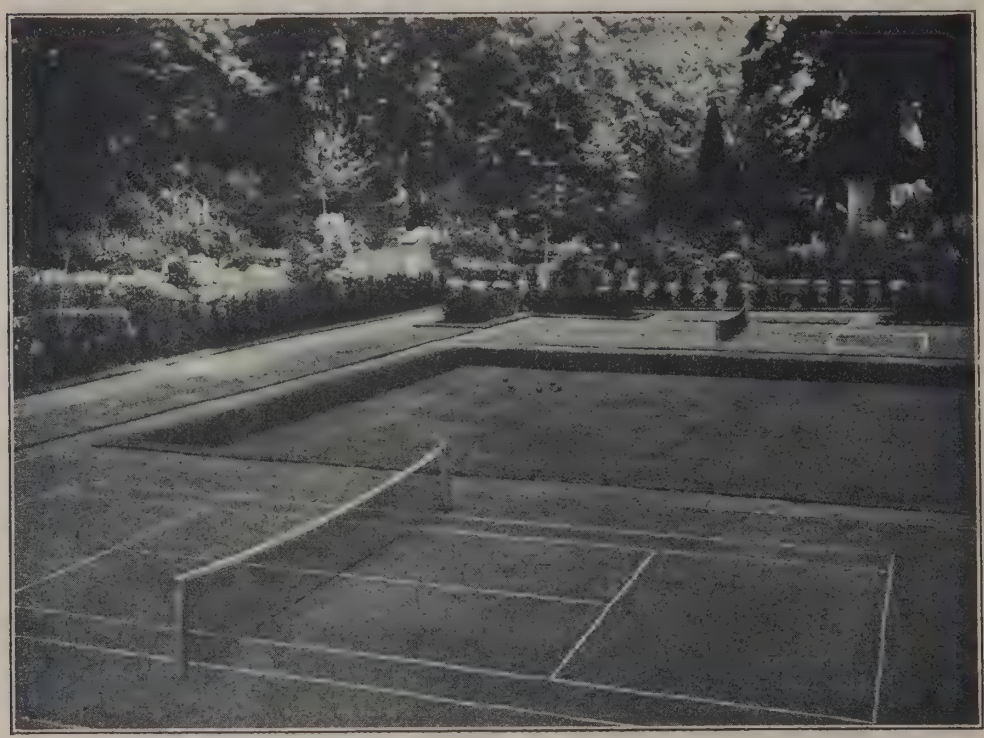
Messrs. Blackmore and Langdon, Bath, well maintain the high reputation they have gained for exhibiting the tuberous-rooted Begonia in ideal form and condition. We question whether this subject has ever been represented by better specimens, both as regards plants and the superb quality of the individual flowers. They are without a blemish. This table group is arranged in tiers at the Chelsea Hospital entrance to Tent No. 1, and catches the eye of the visitor immediately on entering the tent. Each variety is well worthy of mention, but space forbids us mentioning more than the following sorts, which are all double-flowered, of which the group, as a whole, consists:—Hilda Langdon (shell-pink), Brian Langdon (rose-pink), Mrs. D. B. Crane (flesh-pink, ideal), Sidney Robinson (rich orange, grand form and free-flowering), Queen of the Belgians (rich salmon-pink), Lord Lambourne (shaded orange, lovely form), Mrs. J. Davidson (rich deep yellow, free-flowering), Mrs. Peter Blair (pure white, very large), and C. E. Pearson (a glorious rich scarlet). This fine group was finished off with hanging-baskets of Begonia pendula in such varieties as Molly (blush), Lona (bright red), Mrs. Bilney (orange), and Stella (brick-red).

VIOLAS

Messrs. Chaplin, Waltham Cross, have a small table group of beautiful Violas. Individual plants, each carrying one good bloom, made a pretty display, interspersed as they are with small Adiantum Ferns. It is a most refreshing little exhibit. Here are to be seen such sorts as John Adamson (yellow), Mrs. Fincham (rich purple), Kathleen (claret and white), Mrs. James M'Ewan (white, edged blue), Arkwright Ruby (richest bronze), Lizzie Storer (purple and lavender fancy), Rebecca (yellow, flushed heliotrope), Swan (white), Fred Williams (mauve), Lord Shaw (rich blue), and Queen Mary (purple). These are the better sorts.

A few Viola species are shown by Messrs. Jarman and Co., Chard, some of which are noteworthy. Gracilis Wyndley Gem is a brilliant purple flower. G. Golden Spur is also a pretty little thing.

Mr. H. Clarke, Taunton, set up in Tent No. 2 a pretty lot of Violas arranged in golden baskets, bowls, etc. The better-known sorts are well shown, such as Moseley Perfection, Rebecca, Mrs. James Sculley, Lily Stark, James Pilling, Gladys Finlay, Mother Bostock, Alexander Ramsey, and John Adamson. These are all noteworthy. Messrs. Isaac House and Son, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, show their new mauve-blue bedding Viola, Ann Hathaway.



Miniature sports ground exhibited at Chelsea by Messrs. Sutton and Sons
Bowling green, tennis court, and hard court

TULIPS

Tulips develop best in moist, growing, warm, but not hot, weather. For the May flowering Tulips the season started with abnormally hot weather and drought. The drought has lasted seven weeks, though some storm rain, far too scanty, has fallen in places. Can there be any Tulips left for Chelsea? The wonderful has happened. It is only at Chelsea that such wonders *can* happen, because there the most wonderfully skilled nurserymen in the world are determined that they shall have Tulips. And Tulips are there. Not so large as a fortnight ago, but still fresh, clean, gloriously coloured.

Messrs. Barr and Sons have the la display with over 100 varieties mos quisitely arranged, with Prince of O massed as the central feature, Alcemene rose), Moralis, Bleu Amabile, Clara Louis XIV., Dom Pedro, Ronald Goliath, Ellen Willmott, Vesta, Queen, and that glorious Old English Goldfinder, in grand fettle. Mr. Mu arrangement of the whole group is a m piece of staging which compels deep ad tion.

Messrs. Dobbie have put up a fine of late-planted Tulips, which are young, and beautifully coloured. Carrara, Mrs. Moon, Harry Veitch, Wm. Pitt, XIV., Jubilee, Rosabelle, Petrus Ha (deep rose), Frans Hals, Valentine, some Parrot Tulips. This exhibit, sple staged, is a "tour de force" of gr Tulips for late work, in spite of frost waves, and drought, and is a marvello position of what can be done with brain cultural skill. They are all so fresh young, without any trace of the advers ditions they must have gone through.

Messrs. Bath have staged a group numerous varieties, in which W. T. (grandly shown, the deepest of all Tulips, and deliciously scented), Pr Juliana, La Tulip Noire, Dom Pedro, T and many more conspicuously figure.

The Bronwylfor Fruit Farm have pu fine show of large Tulips, including G iana major, Fra Angelico, W. T. Ware Moon (very good), Mauve Clare, Centennir, which were a few of many sorts. This exhibit is an example of h carry Tulips through adverse conditions out resorting to late planting. It is piece of good management.

Mr. Miller, of Wisbech, put up a sm very well-grown display in which A Triton, Inglescombe Yellow, Vesta shown), and Picotee were some of the varieties. The Tulips of Chelsea, while not the huge size of those at the of the season, yet enhance and upho full credit which this show, now annua most famous, invariably produces. great praise is due to all those grower exhibited them, and it shows they wer of resource, courage, determination, a usual ability.

PRIMULAS

Considering the late date and the weather it was surprising to find Prim such good form. One missed the fine of Lady Aberconway and the Ho McLaren of last year, though they pu remarkable exhibit in another section.

Oliver and Hunter, of Moniaive sho usual, a wonderful lot of Primulas, b regards variety and cultivation.

P. microdonta apicola is a fine mensis species, even better than the Florindæ. Both are Giant Sikkimens former with larger flowers.

They also show a white form of P. donta, with small flowers, creamy-whi

P. pseudo-Sikkimensis and P. flexil dwarf small Sikkimensis; P. Tsargone rich purple muscavioides. P. luteol especially good.

P. hapala and P. leuchenfolia were in foliage, the latter with deep rose f both more interesting than beautiful Bartley strain of pink forms of P. p lenta. P. oblanceolata, not unli glycosma, mauve flowers with yello Giant form of P. Littoniana is in fine A curious species is P. prionotes, a tal bearing heads of purplish blooms with centre.

G. Wood, Ashtead, was showing in his xhibit P. Cockburniana, bright orange. onica Lissadell hybrid and P. capitata ery well grown.

E. Th. Ingwersen, East Grinstead, new form of P. japonica Brockhurst very vivid crimson. He also showed rdii, P. helodoxa, and P. Sikkimensis.

H. Rogers has two exhibits, a rock and a table exhibit. In the former atured the Bartley strain of P. pulveru- a big mass of well-grown plants; also kimensis. In the tent they showed the pulverulenta and Asthore, seedling s between P. Bulleyana and P. na.

d and Co., of Taplow, have P. ana, the curious species more like a Orchid than a Primula. The flowers uve with a red calyx, and the appear- of the plant is very striking. P. a and the rich carmine variety as Beechwood variety, japonica . P. Bulleyana, orange-yellow. P. flora might be described as a purple kimensis, P. conspersa not unlike a rm of farinosa.

rer, Sons, and Crisp have some fine of P. Sieboldi La Lorraine, with P. ll hybrids, P. pulverulenta, and P. a hybrids.

ace, of Tunbridge Wells, in their Lily ododendron garden show P. helodoxa llow) and plants of P. Florindæ and odonta, which were not in flower.

aplehorn, of Beckenham, had a fine f P. Littomana and the Bartley strain ulverulenta, the pink forms; also P. and the larger species, P. chrysopa, th mauve flowers.

richard and Sons, of Christchurch, as ave first-class plants, chief of them . Sieboldi La Lorraine, P. Lissadell (bright orange-scarlet), P. capitata rple flowers with mealy calyx borne d heads).

vell and Beale show some fine plants rock garden exhibit in the tent. y good were P. secundiflora Lissa- rids. P. Sikkimensis planted at the the pool were good, also P. Wardii farinosa, the tiny species with pink

idge and Co., of Westerham, show esii, a tiny dwarf species with pink also P. Cockburniana, P. pulveru- Bartley strain, with various pink

euthe, of Keston, have P. Sikkim- capitata, P. Thibetica (a tiny species ke P. Forbesii), also P. helodoxa.

ardner, Craven Nurseries, Adding- owed P. Sikkimensis, P. Wardii, and ica in their rock exhibit.

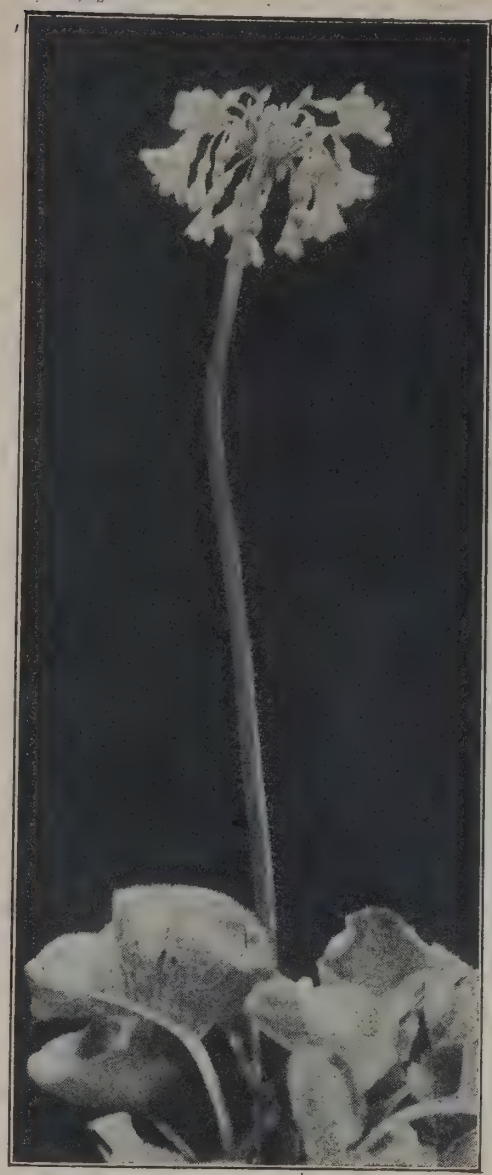
Jones, of Letchworth, have groups Sikkimensis japonica hybrids and enta, all well grown.

s, of Wolverhampton, are showing rly good plants of P. japonica Etna, oloured form. P. Bulleyana and P. , with purple flowers, were others, chionantha, with white flowers with entre, and P. helodoxa.

ldersey Hall show a small group of only. Lissadell hybrid P. Sikki- vas specially fine, and large clumps eola, with yellow flowers.

showed a good selection in their including P. Bulleyana and P. seedlings, one a fine apricot shade. ca carminata was good, and also P. hybrid Red Hugh.

Watt, as usual, has a very interest- of Primulas and Auriculas, which P. Wardii and P. sibirica (very simi- mauve flowers), P. Bulleyana, P. (rich orange-yellow flowers), P. Munroi (the white counterpart of P. Wardii), P. capitata (purple flowers in round heads), P. leucherifolia (rosy-mauve flowers with distinct foliage), P. Sieboldi, and P. pseudo-Sikkimensis.



Primula Florindæ, recently introduced by Capt. Kingdon Ward, and shown at Chelsea by Messrs. Oliver and Hunter.

It is a giant species, with Sikkimensis-like yellow flowers and large ovate leaves

Jeans and Trowbridge show pink forms of P. pulverulenta, including the variety Lady Thursby (rose-pink), also P. helodoxa and Lissadell hybrids.

G. H. Dalrymple exhibited Primulas in his group of Lupins, the finest being a new hybrid, Sir George Thursby, a massive grower of japonica parentage, the only plant that Mr. Dalrymple has ever succeeded in raising by crossing P. japonica with another species. The flowers, borne in whorls, are very large and of a brilliant velvety crimson. He has also some P. Littoniana and his now well-known strain of P. pulverulenta, the pink varieties which are shown by several firms in the show, which was raised by him at Bartley.

STOVE AND GREENHOUSE PLANTS

At the Embankment entrance to No. 1 Tent the Messrs. Carters, Raynes Park, have set up one of their inimitable groups in a series of three groups, two flanking the sides of the tent at its entrance and the other a larger group facing north. It is, indeed, a grand effort and is a source of much interest to visitors. Here are to be seen grouped in masses such subjects as Tom Thumb Calceolaria, also C. Carter's Victoria Prize Clarkia Brilliant Princess, Salpiglossis, Dutch Iris in variety, Cineraria stellata Cactus, C. stellata, C. Brilliant Prize (Grand) Schizanthus (new pink shades, very pretty and very varied), Rehmannia angulata (pink), superb Gloxinias and tuberous-rooted Begonias, Nemesia in various colours, Sweet Peas, in the pink of condition, Streptocarpus in pleasing variety. Petunias, and many other beautiful subjects far too numerous to mention. The plants are well done, and the group as a whole a masterpiece of artistic arrangement.

On the west side of No. 2 Tent the Messrs. Ellisons, West Bromwich, stage a table-group of pretty stove and greenhouse Ferns, all most interesting. Conspicuous plants in this collection are Cibotium Schiedeii, a graceful plant, Davalia figiensis robusta, D. polyantha, D. ornata, Lastera atrata, Dicksonia apiefolia, Alsophila van Giertii, Gynogramme Veitchii, G. Alstonii, Blechnum corcovadense, Polypodium mandanianum, and a useful plant of Platycerium Veitchii, besides a number of small plants of other useful species.

A table group of Cacti and succulents is set up by Mr. Sydney Smith, 51, Falmer Road, Enfield, in Tent No. 2. Here is to be seen no fewer than 300 species and varieties of these two subjects, such as will doubtless prove of immense interest to those who follow the cult of these quaint and curious plants. Half-a-dozen good Cacti are Mamillaria perbella, M. bombycina, Echinocactus Lenninghausii, a fine specimen of E. Griesonii Opuntia platyacantha, and a flowering plant of E. Haselberghii, a rare specimen. This exhibit is a source of pleasure to many.

In Tent No. 2 a small table group of Calceolarias is arranged by Mrs. Sheppee, Holly Spring, Bracknell, Berks (gardener, Mr. W. Limmer). Well-grown plants of C. Clibranii are very striking and conspicuous, and together with an interesting form of herbaceous Calceolaria combine to make a useful exhibit.

In the same tent there is a useful table group of Fuchsias shown by the Castle Nurseries, Ltd., South Chingford, E.4. It is gratifying to be able to record the exhibition of such one-time popular sorts as Fascination, Ballet Girl, Mauve Beauty, and Castle Favourite among the double-flowered sorts, and such excellent singles as Emile Zola, Display, Achievement, The Doctor, Dr. Topinard, and Fairy. This group should be of interest to many.

At the hospital entrance to Tent No. 2 Messrs. Stuart Low and Co. show a group of miscellaneous stove and greenhouse plants. Here is to be seen a beautiful collection of Hippeastrums, in which there are flowers of excellent quality and colour. The Bottle-brush bush is shown well, and quite a number of other interesting plants.

A small table group of cut flowers of Zonal Pelargoniums is shown in No. 2 Tent by Mr. R. J. Case, Staplegrove Nurseries, Taunton. Chavarri Hermanos (brilliant scarlet semi-double), President Baillet (semi-double scarlet), Fascinator (semi-double salmon), L. G. Lambton (scarlet tinted white single) were his best sorts.

Messrs. W. R. Russell, Ltd., Richmond, have made an exhibit which well maintains their position as distributors of choice stove and greenhouse plants. This fine exhibit is arranged in Tent No. 1, and is a conspicuous feature there.

Messrs. Ed. Webb and Son., Ltd., Stour-

bridge, have a splendid exhibit at the hospital entrance to No. 1 Tent. This group is arranged against the side of the tent in the form of a grand bank, in which are to be seen well-flowered specimens of double scarlet Clarkia, compact hybrid Schizanthus, the Chelsea strain of Primula obconica gigantea, Cineraria stellata, grand herbaceous Calceolaria, Nemesia in variety, Salpiglossis, and other equally interesting things.

In the same tent Messrs. John Peed and Son, West Norwood, S.E., have a large comprehensive group of stove and greenhouse plants in charming variety. This group is also set up by the side of the tent, and makes a most impressive display. At the back of the group are stately palms, and grouped in front are Caladiums including such varieties as Eugene Draps, Resplendent, Inimitable, Racine, Candidums, Triomphe de Comte, John Laing, C. E. Dahle, and John Peed. Cartons, Leonard Bause, Lord Balfour, Dracæna Victoria, Lilium longiflorum, a fine strain of Gloxinias, and beautiful Streptocarpus, Hydrangeas, and other subjects together all contribute to the making of a noteworthy group.

In Tent No. 2 there is a pretty little group comprising Calceolaria Clibranii profusa and Statice profusa hybrida. The plants are most profusely flowered, and represent these two subjects at their best. This group is shown by Mrs. M. Denny, Horwood House, Winslow, Bucks (gardener, Mr. H. Thrower).

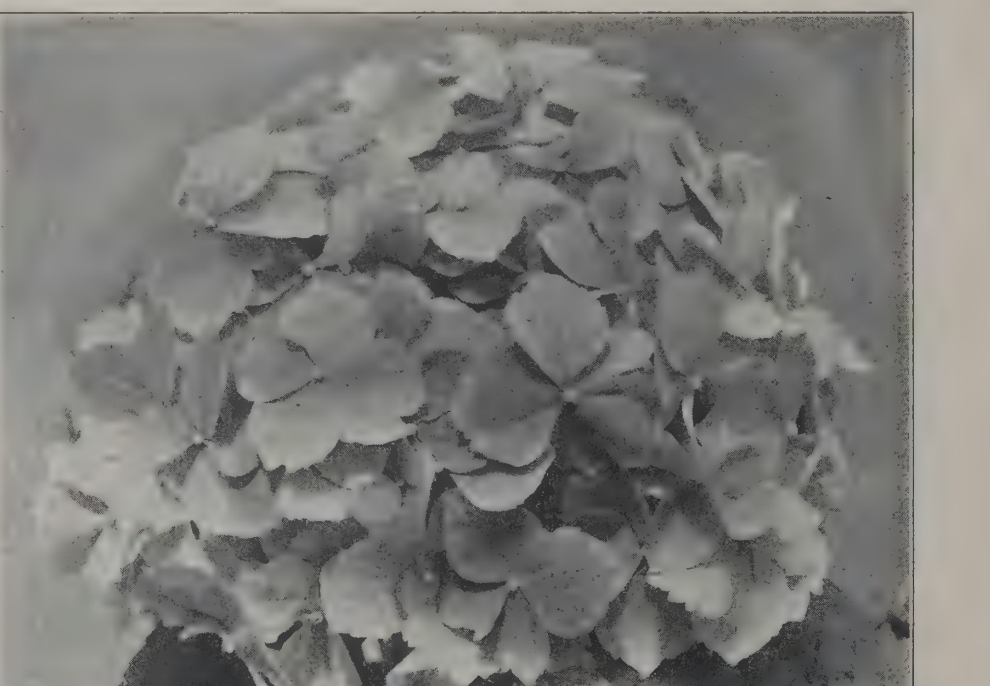
The Australian Tree Ferns in this group create a quite cool and refreshing effect. Underneath these Tree Ferns are numerous interesting plants, which seem to be in their native habitat, and very natural in consequence. Choice stove and greenhouse plants in this group, among others, are: Pandanus Sanderiana, P. Veitchii, Dracæna Victoria, D. Sanderiana, D. Prince Manouk Bey, Caladium William Rappard, C. Marquess of Camden, Croton Russelliana, C. Elvira, C. resplendent and puciana, Anthurium Lord Lambourne, A. Russelliana and A. Rothschildiana, and a pretty plant of Cyanophyllum magnificum. A really good exhibit.

The Studley College for Women make an attractive group of Clarkia, Schizanthus, Empress Stocks, and Hydrangeas, etc. Spiræa Ginnat is very noteworthy, as are other plants in this group.

In Tent No. 2, in a mixed group, Messrs. W. and J. Brown, Peterborough, show Heliotrope Lord Roberts, and Salvia Harbinger. In the same group Messrs. Jarman and Co., Chard, show bunches of Zonal Pelargoniums in variety, both double and single-flowered varieties being represented.

HYDRANGEAS

Mr. H. J. Jones, Ryecroft Nursery, Lewisham, S.E., near to the hospital entrance of Tent No. 1, staged a highly-attractive group of Hydrangeas, for which subject in recent years he has become famous. It seems hardly credible that so much advance has been made with this subject since Mr. Jones first devoted his attention to it five years ago. There are other groups of these in this great show, but none which for quality and variety in form and colour will compare with this really wonderful display. All the better sorts are shown, as well as a goodly list of seedling varieties. The plants of the latter were shown in "thumb" pots at Chelsea Show last year. A few standard pots are the following: Maréchal Foch, Heiderosee—one of the best and most consistent pink sorts—Parsival, Mme. Chantard, Rubus, Elmar, Blue Prince, Queen Wilhelmina, Peer Gynt, Niedersachsen, Le Cygne, and many other beautiful things. The varied colours of this group are most noteworthy.



The new Hydrangea H. B. May, one of many new seedlings shown by Mr. H. J. Jones

Hydrangea novelties are shown in a group of hardy Azaleas at the west entrance to Tent No. 2 by Messrs. L. J. Endtz and Co., Boskoop, Holland. These grand seedlings only go to prove how wonderful has been the advance made with these plants. The better sorts are Mrs. Bardse (brilliant pink), Mrs. L. J. Endtz, Deutschland, La France, and Queen Emma. We are sure to hear much of these novelties in the future.

Messrs. W. Cutbush and Son, Ltd., Barnet, Herts, among other subjects, stage a group of Hydrangeas at the Embankment entrance to No. 2 Tent. Well-known sorts are in evidence, such as Pasteur, Helge, Goliath Blue, Maréchal Foch Blue, Parsival, Elmar, Lorely, and Blue Princ colours of blue and pink are p diverse.

A very imposing group of Hydr arranged at the Embankment en No. 1 Tent by Mr. Philip Ladds, Junction, Kent, the well-known grower. The arrangement for the shows is quite new. Here are to huge baskets, surmounted on filled most artistically with standard pink and blue colours of varying sh these stands stand out of a groun plants arranged in undulating mou effectively. Trailing fronds of A plumosus and an edging of Pteris a most imposing picture. A few better sorts are Mme. A. Rivera val, Rhinegold, Blue Prince, Foch, Mde. Trufant Goliath, Glahn, and Peer Gynt. At the ho trance to No. 1 Tent a large sem group of Hydrangeas is arranged Bruno Schrœder, Dell Park, Egh dener, Mr. Henderson). The arranged in irregular fashion, in wh are Florentine vases fil'ed with no sorts. For a private grower this i exhibit, and does the grower muc Mde. Moliere, Le Marne, Prof. Helge, Krimhelde, E. G. Hill, an There are many massive heads of fl plants in small pots, showing exce ture.

Messrs. Hillier and Sons, Winch the same tent, in a mixed group, ha teresting little group of Hydrangea ing such sorts as Gertrude Glahn, Lorely, Goliath, and Maréchal Foch

HIPPEASTRUMS

A beautiful table group of seedl peastrums is exhibited by Lady Ab and the Hon. H. D. McLaren Bodr y-Cafn, North Wales (gardener, M Puddle). Many of these seedlings flowers of splendid quality in a series of colours. There are white others white flushed crimson and and some of the self-coloured flo really remarkable, especially tho crimson colour, very velvety in ap There are also some good orange sorts, and a few excellent rose specimens. Altogether they are a Blue Streptocarpus seedlings in ma of that colour are pleasingly int among the other plants. This gr the Embankment entrance to No.

[*Owing to pressure of space ref Hardy Plants, Orchids, etc., is u held over until next week.*]

GOLD MEDAL AWA

GOLD MEDAL AND SHERWOOD CUP, for the torious exhibit in the show—Mr. G. G. Whitel GOLD MEDAL AND CAIN CUP, for the best ex by an amateur—Sir Jeremiah Colman, Bart.

SWEET PEAS.

R. Bolton and Son, for Sweet Peas; Dob Ltd., for Sweet Peas.

ORCHIDS.

Charlesworth and Co., for Orchids.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

Hon. Vicary Gibbs for Vegetables; Sutton a Vegetables.

MIXED GROUPS.

R. Wallace and Co., Ltd., for Mixed Group other Bulbous Plants, Irises, Herbaceous Rhododendrons.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

James Carter and Co., for Cinerarias Petunias, Schizanthus, Calceolarias, Clarkia Flowering Plants from Seed; Sutton and Son glossis.

CARNATIONS.

C. Engelmann, Ltd., for Carnations; Allwoo Carnations and Pinks.

GARDENS.

Bakers, Ltd., for Garden.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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tes on Rhododendrons at Vincent Square and Elsewhere

SPITE the fact that the flowering ason was one of the worst on record, d that a severe frost had descended less than a week before, the Rhodo- n Society's show at Vincent Square onderfully good. Curiously enough, in Sussex, for instance, seem to have far less than some parts of Corn- My own exhibits from north Corn- re lamentable, and were only brought ll their appointed places in the hope ng to make the hall look less bare. ng them was a most depressing busi- nce many large bushes had but one flowers, and often these were en- partially frosted.

some flowers picked in bud were o have several bells at the centre l, and whilst certain blooms drooped heir time, others failed to open pro- Among the big groups it was notice- w the species stood out; not neces- n point of size, but rather in purity r and grace of form. True it is that f the interspecific hybrids almost them, but even among these, few y an improvement on their parents. flower of R. Nuttallii was, indeed, h of cultivation, but perhaps a little lace in the showroom; nor, I fancy, ch a flower have been produced any- in the British it-of-doors. In rroundings how t might have Growing as a an epiphyte on eat forest tree e accompani- f Tree Ferns, , and ever- rubs, and lit up subdued jungle by occasional of sunshine, it a thing of lent beauty. he flower ever under these s? I doubt it. bloom of R. adjudged the ies, was a very wer, the purity hite enhanced, , by the green r. Always, I e green spots ch of coolness cy to a flower. e Augustinii pped is a fine of this: Van e, de la Mare is another, and among hardy hybrids The Bride.

A flower of R. hæmaleum, one of the sanguineum series, very dark crimson, almost black in bud, was new to most of us, and in the hands of the hybridist should give a deeper colour than anything we have at present, besides producing a plant of moderate size and good habit, which will be welcome in gardens where space is a consideration. In two exhibits I noticed R. Kingianum, shown as Zeylanicum, uncorrected, moreover, by the judges. The former has a small loose truss coloured crimson and flowers in May, whilst the latter possesses a more conical and larger truss, light red with paler shading, and often opens in January. The leaves are very much alike, yet it is curious that the two are so often confused.

One of the most interesting items was an exhibit of the lapponicum series got together and arranged by Mr. Stevenson. Indeed, a labour of love and incidentally of much anxiety and difficulty. Designed as educative for the general public, it appealed, in fact, most to the expert. Taken in conjunction with an article which appeared recently in the R.H.S. Journal, it should surely show the owners of rock gardens how eminently suitable for this treatment are the smaller members of the genus. Being rather late in the season, many of the species were, unfortunately, over, but to mention only two, the dark violet russatum and the yellow muliense must have been a revelation to those unfamiliar with them.

Next year the show will probably be under the auspices of the "Rhododendron Association," a much wider body, of which it is hoped the foundations were laid at a meeting held recently. May success attend its birth, and may it prove a benefit to the many lovers of the Rhododendron throughout the country.

From London I went to Bournemouth, where I was greatly interested to see the treatment of the chines or deep narrow valleys, which add so much to the beauty of that pleasant place. But when, I wonder, will the Bournemouth Corporation cease to be obsessed by the cult of the "hardy hybrid" and begin to experiment on the species, which would look surpassingly fair under the Scotch Firs on the sides of the ravines?

The "hardy hybrid" out of flower is not, shall we say, very interesting, whilst many of the species are.

There is the majestic foliage of the large-leaved species—Falconeri and fictolacteum, to instance two of the hardiest—with the proviso that this section must be kept out of wind and full sun. And there is the triflorum series, of slender port, small foliage, and butterfly flowers. One can picture groups of the yellow ambiguum or triflorum, the white chastophyllum, or the lavender-blue Augustini on these slopes in the changing light cast by the shadows of the Pines, and surely it would delight the good folk of Bournemouth and their many visitors. One expedition I made to a garden in the neighbourhood—one of the most wonderful gardens it has ever been my privilege to see. A tiny garden it was, exposed to the blazing sun and to all the winds that blow, and with a soil which would have brought despair to most people. True, there were no rabbits, but

The blue Rhododendron Augustinii, exhibited at the Rhododendron Show
The green spots give a touch of coolness and delicacy to this beautiful form

every other difficulty had been faced, and, to a great extent, overcome. And the collection of plants of all sorts was marvellous. A fine shrub of Camellia reticulata, just going out of flower, was one of the most surprising. Berberidopsis corallina was flourishing beyond belief, and of other denizens of Chile Embothrium coccineum, Eucryphia cordifolia, and Tricuspidaria lanceolata were there, the two last growing well, the first rather attenuated. There was a good plant of Benthamia fragifera and another of the finest of the Magnolias, M. Campbellii; whilst M. Delavayi was also represented. The tender scented Rhododendron Countess of Haddington was in flower against a wall, and the curious R. spinuliferum in the open—the last in the very best of health. Of the other Rhododendron species there were many, including quite a number of the large-leaved varieties. Alas! I fear my friend will never really succeed with these, for even the greatest plant-lover and keenest gardener cannot transcend climatic conditions. Still, it is beyond praise what he has done already with these and with innumerable other rare and difficult plants which ignorance and a not too retentive memory prevent me from mentioning. So I came away en route for Messrs. Pritchard's most attractive nursery with more courage to surmount my own difficulties and with the sincerest admiration for what insight and determination can accomplish.

Before leaving Bournemouth I went, at the request of my Marlborough schoolboy, in search of a rare plant named Simethis bicolor. The record in Bentham and Hooker gives Poole Heath as its habitat. But no map marks Poole Heath, nor do the inhabitants appear to know it. So I followed such advice as was obtainable, and toiled for miles along pavements by the side of dusty roads with houses springing up everywhere. Drosera rotundifolia I found in abundance in a ditch with allotments on one side and an asphalte factory on the other, but never a sign of Simethis. Can anyone tell me if it still grows wild or if it has been crowded out? "PETER THE HERMIT."

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund

OVER one thousand guineas were subscribed to this Fund at the annual festival held under the presidency of Sir Henry Whitehead at Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. 2, on the evening of May 20th. In proposing the toast of the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund the Chairman referred to gardening as one of the great arts, and drew attention to the fact that the gardener, who comes of a prolific stock, had little or no opportunity of laying much aside for his children. We are pleased to record that the Chairman's appeal for funds for this admirable cause was not in vain.

The Silver Cup for Pæonies

The competition for the second of three cups presented by Mrs. Edward Harding for award for the best exhibit of three flowers of each of six varieties shown by an amateur will take place on June 21st next Royal Horticultural Society's fort show, R.H.S. Hall, Vincent Square, minster.

Potentilla fragiformis

A first-rate plant is this for the roc den, and one which blooms at the time. It forms large tufts of felted which are quite interesting in themse they produce a silvery effect early in th and from the end of April onwards qu of handsome bright yellow flowers 2 inches across appear on what are prostrate stems, its total height being 6 inches. E. MARK

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

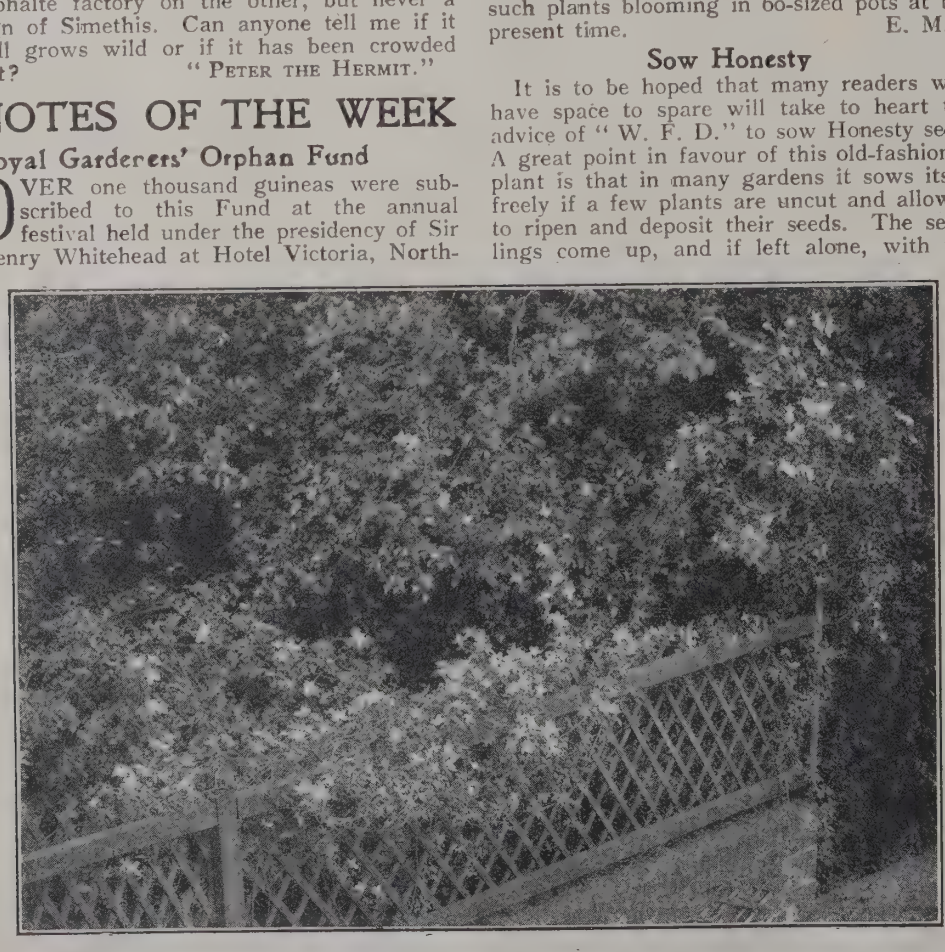
Clematis montana rubens

THIS Clematis, having grown over a fence into the branches of a pink May tree, has flowered with me for the first time this year, and, although the buds were pink, the open flowers turned white, which was rather disappointing. In a neighbour's garden the flowers are much larger, rounder, and of a pleasing shade of pink. Can any reader explain this variation? I am told that a dressing of lime will help to develop the pink colour. C. T. K.

—— Those who enjoy this graceful climber may be reminded at the present time—while its glorious festoons of rosy-pink flowers adorn pergolas, fences, and buildings, and fall from the branches of trees to the earth—that a few ripe seeds saved later on and sown in pots of sandy soil will furnish them with a charming batch of healthy young plants varying in different shades of pink, some of which are even more pleasing than those of the typical rubens. I have a few such plants blooming in 60-sized pots at the present time. E. M.

Sow Honesty

It is to be hoped that many readers who have space to spare will take to heart the advice of "W. F. D." to sow Honesty seed. A great point in favour of this old-fashioned plant is that in many gardens it sows itself freely if a few plants are uncut and allowed to ripen and deposit their seeds. The seedlings come up, and if left alone, with the exception of thinning out when they close together, they will not require a until their seed vessels are ready for the following year. These self-sown generally group themselves much bet make better plants than if transplan may say that I have found Honest lutely indifferent as to sun or shade, finest plants I ever had were self-sow lings in a border which receive no su late afternoon in the height of su Then, if self-sown plants can be de upon, as should be in every garden the Lunaria is grown, a succession o is secured without re-sowing. I bo packet of seeds of the white var Lunaria biennis in 1884, and while th true to colour, in after years I had proportion of purple-flowered varieties that time until 1920 I could depen self-sown seedlings, even though I r in 1905. That was a good spell, s how much can be done from a 3d. pa seeds of some things.



Clematis montana rubens growing over a fence into a pink May tree

International Committee for H tural Congresses

In the periodical, "Die Garte (XXXI., nr. 17, April 29th, 1927, p. 2 following notice is found:—

"France.—The Société Nationale culture de France has now sent out tions for an international horti congress in Paris. It will be know the Austrian Horticultural Society, occasion of its hundredth anniver organising for September, 1927, a national horticultural congress, wh International Federation of Prof Horticulturists intends to hold its meeting this year at Genf. Schweizerische Obst- und Gartenba is quite right in criticising this inter competition of horticultural congres in recommending the intervention of mittee for international arbitration."

I should like to make a few remar this notice:—

Such an arbitration committee the International Committee for tural Congresses, in which most Governments are officially represent competition mentioned above has dr full attention of this Internationa mittee. We can only regret that th isation of the Paris congresses h planned without knowledge of ou mittee, and may hope that in future ties with intention to convoke inte gatherings will apply to the Inter Committee for avoiding such coin The Committee will co-operate yearly meetings of the Federation fessional Horticulturists. While t considering only economical and co problems the congresses (probably ev

will take up a programme of cultural, ific, and educational questions.
e existence of this International Com- e and of the International Federation of ssional Horticulturists makes thus the on of an international arbitration com- e unnecessary.

The International Committee for Horticultural Congresses.
Dr. M. J. Sirks,
Hon. Secretary.

geningen, Holland.

ercis Siliquastrum (Judas Tree)

e a letter in your issue of May 28th, 319, about the Judas Tree.
vould be of great interest to us to know is the largest size ever attained by one se trees in England. We have three garden here; two, which are between t and 30 feet high, measure, respec- 54 inches and 40 inches round; but the s quite 40 feet high and 11 feet 6 inches the base. The wood is exceedingly , and constantly splitting where the es fork. The "bowl" also is rotten centre, and we should much like to how this should be treated. The tree ost lovely sight when in full flower.

M. Thynne.

tham Court, Worthing.

e tree 40 feet high, recorded by our ondent, is one of the largest—possibly rgest—in England. There is a fine en of the Judas Tree (Cercis Sili- um) recorded in the grounds attached Picture Gallery, Dulwich. This tree eet high, the stem girthing 7 feet 11 at a yard from the ground.—Ed.]

The porosity of flower pots

ring in question the appropriateness lequate functioning of so ancient a cle as an ordinary flower-pot may, to seem a symptom indicative of the ap- of "the silly season." Yet there may en instances of other things as equally d by long usage, the utility or effi- of which was advanced or even sub- o a greater reformation.
very varying environmental conditions which a flower-pot is liable to be into use, and, indeed, the special nents of plants to be grown therein, ly creates many aspects in respect to dinary physical characteristics and is inevitable to the material of which r-pot consists.
riginal query may, perhaps, require nplification, in that it was limited to intenance and normal constancy of e to the plant soil with special refer- the porosity of the pot, other than tom, upon its external surface only, espective of any position which the plant might be required to occupy.
curred to me that were the external of a pot sealed—in any simple man- more regular and normal moistness soil might be maintained with, per- ome economy in watering attention. lue of such suggestion may, long ave been determined, and I thought your readers might be in a position ess an opinion as to its actual ad- s or otherwise.
eplies of Mr. R. T. Dick and "A Gardener," in your issue of May distinctly interesting. If the "lazy pots" of "A Scottish Gardener" azed also on their interior surface I gree to the happy ending of their for, in order to conform to garden soil environment, it certainly seems to maintain the porous character ot wall body and that of its interior This porosity being necessary for of moisture from the internally-glazed saucer, yet some plants may not require it from such source.

My query, of course, inferred a doubt as to any desirability for evaporation and loss of moisture from the external pot surface where a saucer is not used—and its absence is frequently to be observed—the peripheral soil contents which are largely occupied by roots may not be adequately maintained in as moist condition as normally pertains in a garden border.

Whether the suggestion of Mr. R. T. Dick that the cooling of the plant soil of a pot consequent to evaporation from its external surface is advantageous I am unable to say. An externally-sealed pot could, however, be watered by immersion via drainage aperture in the ordinary way. H. E. Ivatts.

Ranunculus asiaticus Improved Palestine strain
Award of Merit

Iris stylosa

I was interested in Mr. Bunyard's note *re* this lovely Iris (see Gardening Illustrated, issue May 14th, page 285), which I have grown in numbers and in almost every conceivable position for years, and have long dismissed any idea of its being tender in the southern counties. I think it very probable that Mr. Bunyard has misunderstood the authorities he refers to, and that the reason the latter suggest the protection of a wall is more in consideration of its delicate flowers than of the plant itself. The flowers are so refined and delicate that a storm, or even ground frost, will ruin even the opening buds, hence the soundness of the advice we are offered. E. M.

Anchusa myosotidiflora

A few years ago it was decided here to use a number of seedlings (mostly self-sown) of this beautiful plant to carpet the ground beneath a young plantation of Lilacs. The soil is heavy, but very poor. In spite of this the plants have grown luxuriantly, and provide a sea of Forget-me-not-blue beneath the varied colours of the Lilacs.

Many of the plants measure 3 feet high and through, and so graceful are they in their aspect that one is reminded of a large Gypsophila paniculata covered with wonderful blue flowers. This is a choice and delightful way in which to use one of our best hardy flowers, as the shrubs are in no way injured.

Sussex. E. M.

Ranunculus asiaticus Improved Palestine strain

Grant Allen on various marriage customs.

At the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, held on May 10th, and again at the Chelsea Show, this remarkable and highly-coloured strain of Ranunculus brought forth general admiration. The flowers are large, shapely, and in many cases fully double, and the colours range from chrome-yellow through amber, bronze, and crimson to rose-pink. It is an extremely beautiful strain, said to have originated from a wild, large-flowered, single red found on the Plains of Palestine. We understand that the colours are those represented in the Dr. Ragioneri's strain. These beautiful flowers, shown by Messrs. Watkins and Simpson, were given an Award of Merit.

Grant Allen, who was exceedingly attracted by theories concerning the colours of flowers, makes some interesting observations in that delightful book, "The Story of Plants," published by Hodder and Stoughton. In the chapter on "Various marriage customs" he devotes a great deal of attention to the family of the Buttercups. Of the common English bulbous Buttercup he writes.

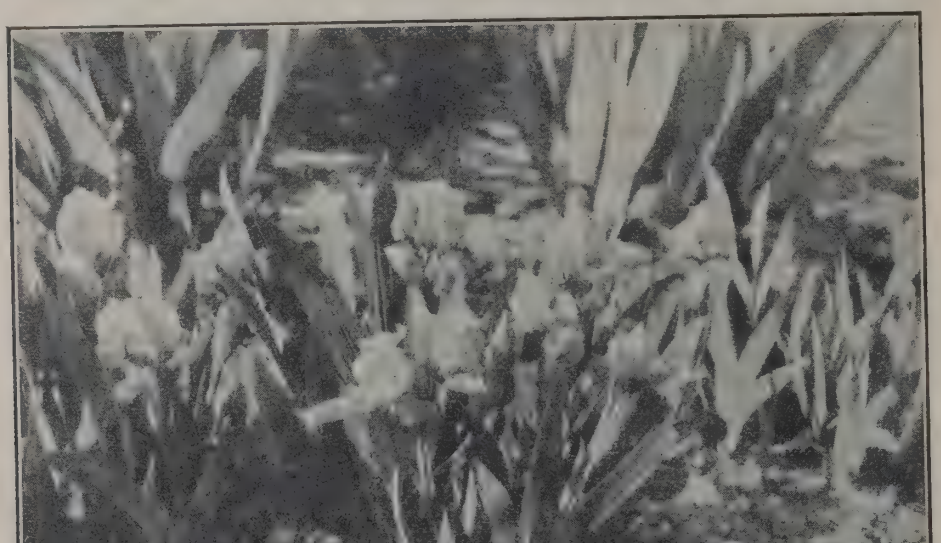
It is yellow in colour, a point which is common to most early and simple flowers, because the stamens are generally yellow, and when they developed into petals they naturally retained at first their original colouring. [This statement, however, requires proof before it can be accepted; the colour may have been green.] Only later and for various special reasons did certain higher flowers come by degrees to be white, pink, red, blue, purple, or variegated. There is some reason to believe, indeed, that the various other colours were developed one after the other in the order here named, and to the present day all the simplest families of flowers remain chiefly yellow, as do the simpler and earlier members of more advanced families.

The common bulbous Buttercup is prevailingly yellow. It consists of four distinct and successive layers, or whorls of organs. Outside all comes a calyx of five petals, which cover the flower in the bud, but are

hardly noticeable in the open blossom. They also serve to keep off ants and other creeping insects, for which purpose they are turned back on the stem, and are covered with small hairs. "But I thought the plant wanted to attract insects," you will say. Yes, the right kind of insects, the flying types, which go from one flower to another of the same sort, and so promote due fertilisation. Flying insects, attracted by colour and shape of petals, keep to one brand of honey at a time; they never mix their liquors. [The statement by Grant Allen that flying insects never mix their liquors is too sweeping. Bees tend to confine their visits to one kind of flower at a time. Wasps, butterflies, and others are not credited with this habit.] But ants are drawn on by the smell of honey only; they crawl up one stem after another indiscriminately, and steal the nectar which the plant intends for its regular winged visitors. Hence plants usually possess advanced devices for keeping off ants and other climbing thieves from their precious honey. Hairs on the stalk and calyx are enough to secure this

And now we must notice another curious device for ensuring cross-fertilisation in many flowers. In the bulbous Buttercup the stamens and carpels do not come to maturity together; the stamens ripen first, and after them the carpels. How does this ensure cross-fertilisation [*i.e.*, cross-pollination]? Why, if the bee comes to a flower in the first or male stage, in which the stamens are at their full, and discharging pollen, the sensitive surfaces or stigmas of the carpels will yet be immature, so that he cannot fertilise them with pollen from their own blossom. He can only collect there, without disbursing anything. But as soon as he comes to a flower in its second or female stage, with the carpels ripe, and their sensitive surfaces sticky, he will rub off some of the pollen he has thus collected, and so cross-fertilise the flower he is visiting.

Each Buttercup thus goes through two stages. First, its stamens ripen from without inward, till all have shed their pollen and withered. Then the carpels ripen in the same order, till all have been fertilised by the



Iris Reichenbachii in the garden of Sir William Lawrence, Bart., at Burford, Dorking

object in the meadow Buttercup, which has a tall stem, and therefore is not so easily climbed; for the hairs, small as they look to us, prove to the ant a perfect forest of underwood. But in the early bulbous Buttercup, which has a shorter stem, and the smell of whose honey is therefore more alluring to the groundling ant, this device is not alone sufficient, so the calyx on opening turns down its separate sepals close against the stem in such a way as to form a sort of lobster-pot, out of which the creeping insect can never extricate himself.

Inside the calyx-layer of five sepals comes next the corolla-layer of five petals. These petals are the attractive business advertisement of the flower; they contain at the base of each a tiny honey-gland or nectary, which is covered by a scale or small inner petal, so to speak, to protect it from the attacks of insects. But when the bee or other proper fertilising agent arrives at the flower, he lights on the set of carpels in the very centre of the blossom, and proceeds to go straight for the little store of honey. As he does so, he turns gradually round all over the carpels, and dusts himself with pollen from the ripe stamens.

appropriate insect. Each carpel here contains a single seed, which begins to swell as soon as the ovary is impregnated.

The true Buttercups themselves are distinguished from all other members of the group by having a tiny scale over the nectary or honey gland at the base of the petal, or at least by having the nectary itself as a visible pit or small depression. Almost all of them are yellow, though in other respects they differ from one another, as in the shape of the leaves, or in the way in which the sepals are turned back to form a protection against insects. One of the yellow Buttercups, too, commonly called the Lesser Celandine, has varied from the rest of the race in a peculiar fashion, for it has only three sepals, instead of five, according to the usual pattern, while it has eight petals instead of five in its corolla. I merely mention this fact to show how many small changes occur in different flowers, even within the limits of the same family. And though most of the true Buttercups are yellow, a few are white, such as our own Water Crowfoot and the alpine Buttercup called Bachelors' Buttons, while still fewer are red, like the turban Ranunculus of our spring gardens.

But besides the true Buttercups we
also a vast group of Buttercup-like
regarded as members of the Buttercup
In these we can trace some curious
tions. The little Winter Aconite of o
dens has this peculiarity: the peta
nectary have grown into a sort of
honey-cup, much more attractive to
insects than the simple scale-bearing p
the Buttercups. Several other But
like plants have even lost their petal
gether, and coloured sepals do duty i
place. The Marsh Marigold, for insta
one of these; what look like petals in
really very brilliant yellow sepals.

Three familiar but highly-advanced
bers of the Buttercup group will se
show the immense changes effected in
spect by special insect fertilisation.
are the Columbine, the Larkspur, a
Monkshood. In the simple Butterc
honey, we saw, was easily accessible t
small insects; but in the Winter Ac
was made more secure by being kep
were, in a sort of deep jar; and in thes
est of the family it is still further
away, in special nooks and recesse
vases or pitchers, so as to be only pro
by bees and butterflies. These hig
sects, on the other hand, are the safe
lisers, because they have legs and a pr
exactly adapted to the work they are
for; and they have also, as a rule, a t
red, blue, and purple flowers, rather t
simple white or yellow ones. Her
blossoms that specially lay themselves
the higher insects are almost always
purple.

Columbine still retains the origi
sepals and five petals of its Butter
cestor. But the sepals here are
purple, and are displayed between th
in a most curious manner, so as to
the coloured advertisement of the
The petals, on the other hand, are
into long spurred horns, each with a
of honey in its furthest recess, securel
where only an insect with a very lo
boscis has any chance of reaching it.
these two rows come the numerous s
and within them again a set of five
each many-seeded.

Larkspur carries the same device
further. Here there are five sepals,
blue, and prolonged into a spur at t
which covers the nectaries. Why th
covering? Well, in Columbine, inse
wasps often eat through the base
spurred sepals and steal the honey,
benefiting the plant in any way,
don't come near the stamens and
Larkspur provides against that evil
by covering its honey with two p
coats, for within the spur of the se
a spurred nectary made up of the
The petals themselves are reduced
and do all the attractive duty, and t
petals are combined into one.

I have treated the single family
Buttercups at some length because
to show you what sort of variatio
single plan were common in Natu
see here a family built all on one sch
altering its architecture and decorati
most singular degree in its differe
bers. The simplest kinds are circul
metrical, orderly, and yellow; the hi
irregular, somewhat strangely sha
blue or purple. This is the genera
evolution in flowers. They begin
Buttercup; they end like the Monksh

Iris Reichenbachii

IRIS REICHENBACHII is a
and the eastern counterpart
chamæiris. On chalk and other
it is a good plant, with spikes a
and flowers hardly distinguishable f
Yellow Hammer.

Anemone nemorosa—blue varieties

These charming blue forms of the common wild Wood Anemone have been very fine this year and are well worth their place in any garden. They seem to do best in half-shade, with just enough sun to open their blooms fully and enough shade to prevent their becoming dried up during dry, hot spells. A light soil with plenty of leaf-soil seems to suit them, but the wild species seems to thrive in heavy clay in sun and in shade here. The blue forms increase quickly in congenial positions, and should be left alone to increase year by year. Should they get too crowded they should be lifted in the early autumn and replanted immediately. The roots should never be left out of the ground for long, and never allowed to get dry.

The earliest to flower is Royal Blue, a dwarf grower with rich blue flowers as deep as A. appennina. This is followed closely by A. cornubiensis, a very charming flower of mauve-blue shaded with a purplish tinge outside. This is a very good doer, though I read in Mr. A. T. Johnson's delightful book, "A Garden in Wales," that he does not succeed with it. Then follows A. Alleni, the finest of all, a giant flower on long stems and large foliage, a delightful soft grey-blue with a mass of golden stamens; it is, indeed, a real beauty. I only wish it would go on flowering for weeks. A. celestial, a later bloomer, is a bright blue in habit, like Royal Blue, but is not so deep in colour.

A. Robinsoniana, when its flowers open first, is a nice shade of pale grey-blue, but as it hangs its head somewhat, and the colour becomes paler, its beauty is less than the others.

A. Blue Bonnet is the latest of all, and opens its flowers when the last of the others are passing out of bloom, big, massive, round flowers of pearly grey-blue, its weak point being just the want of a bit more blue to make it equal to A. Alleni.

I have also A. Pattoni and A. Blue Beauty. The former has not flowered yet. The latter is, to me, rather like an early Blue Bonnet, but I shall see it, I hope, in better form next year. A. nemorosa grows in thousands in the woodland here, and there are many which turn quite a rich colour—almost carmine—soon after they open. Probably this is what is known as the variety rosea. D.

Hants.

A well designed garden

Three views in Mr. A. C. Kenrick's garden at Walsham House, Elstead, near Godalming, to which a visit will be paid by members of The Garden Club on Thursday, June 9th

1. The south front and lower terrace.
2. The newly made Iris garden, looking east.
3. Lily pond and Rose garden, with French Lavender (Lavandula Stœchus) and Lavender Cotton (Santolina Chamæcyparissus) on the dry walls.

It is a garden of pleasant vistas. From the terraces may be had delightful views of the surrounding country. Note the well proportioned walks, the well filled flower borders, and the good use made of local stone in the construction of steps and walls.

THE CHELSEA SHOW

(Concluded from page 336)

THE illustrated report of the Chelsea Show appearing in our last issue has met with great approval, and we take this opportunity of thanking readers for their congratulations upon our last two numbers. To the report already published must be added the following observations on hardy plants, Orchids, and other features of this great exhibition :—

HARDY PLANTS

Mr. W. H. Walters, Colesborne Gardens, Cheltenham, had an interesting exhibit of rare Pæony species, including P. Woodwardii var. Colesbornense (with pinnate foliage), P. Cambessedesii (in which the underside of the leaves is crimson), P. obovata (pink), the vivid P. officinalis Sunbeam, and other seldom seen forms. He also showed a well-flowered spray of the Andean shrub, Cantua buxifolia (hardy in our south-western districts), a fine plant of Cypripedium pubescens (a delicately-scented Orchid), Rodgersia pinnata Elwesii (a remarkable bronze-leaved form).

Fredk. Wood, Ashtead, had some of the beautiful and uncommon Aquilegia glandulosa, the minute Rosa Roulette, a specimen of the pale greenish-yellow biennial Campanula thyrsoides which is slightly fragrant, the charming little rose-pink Œnothera mexicana, the rare and beautifully-zoned Dianthus calligonus, and a finely-grown plant of Saxifraga cotyledon pyramidalis.

W. E. Th. Ingwersen, Sharpthorne, East Grinstead, had a fine exhibit of choice alpines, among the more noteworthy being Pinguicula grandiflora, Primula japonica Brockhurst Variety (very richly coloured), Viola elatior, Potentilla Warrensii, Helipterum anthemioides, from Tasmania, Helichrysum bracteatum, Trollius europeus albidus, and a splendid group of Ramondias.

H. Hemsley, Crawley, showed a number of pots of Nertera depressa fruiting freely, the large mauve-flowered Roscœa Humeana, a telling mass of the fragrant Daphne Cneorum, and the dainty alpine Viola calcarata.

Messrs. Oliver and Hunter, Moniaive, Dumfriesshire, showed the vivid Mimulus Whitecroft Scarlet and Andromeda polifolia rosmarinifolia, as well as a number of rare Primulas and Meconopsids.

Clarence Elliott, Ltd., Stevenage, had a well-stocked rock garden in the main tent, where Campanula Steveni made a pleasing drift of colour among limestone rocks. Here also were to be seen the violet-hued Gentiana pyrenaica, Wahlenbergia pumilio, Hyacinthus amethystinus, Oxalis enneaphylla rosea, and a small plant of the rare Coffin Juniper, which is said to attain the dimensions of a huge tree.

W. H. Rogers had a number of branches of the vivid Embothrium coccineum at the back of his stand of rock plants. The bright scarlet Lapeyronsia juncea (very similar to L. cruenta, but larger), Viola Bluestone (a magnificent plant of Saxifraga cotyledon Caterhamensis, Dianthus alpinus rubic and the graceful Japanese Iris gracili went to make up a beautiful exhibit.

The Wansford Nurseries had flowered plants of the violet Edrai serpyllifolius major, the bright blue P calcarea, the dainty Æthionema iber and a large rosette of the striking S vivum violaceum.

Bowell and Skarratt, Cheltenham, a most interesting group of hardy ter Orchids, conspicuous among them be hircina, the extraordinary Lizard with a pronounced musky smell, anthropophora, Orchis papilionace simia, Ophrys lutea (the Wasp O Arisarum triphyllum (a curiously American Aroid), the rare Viola Tulipa Sprengeri (last of the spec flower), the tiny Dianthus Freynian Erigeron leiomerus.

Tuckers, Ltd., Oxford, had well plants of Saxifraga pyramidalis and group of Lewisia Howellii, Mc echioides, some choice dwarf conifer other plants well arranged among lim blocks.

Gavin Jones, Letchworth, showed including the rare Phyteuma con Geranium cinereum album, Sa valdensis, and Crepis aurea.

Backhouse, of York, had a telling of Gentiana acaulis, dwarf Japanese A some remarkably well-grown Ram Cyclamen repandum, and Onosma ech

In a ground group Messrs. La Southampton, had a fine displ Thalictrums, long-spurred Aqu Heucheras in great variety, Lychnis v fl.-pl., and choice Verbascums.

Sheppards', Hollywood, Birminghan a small rock garden with a pleasing g Saxifraga aizoon rosea, Armeria Merl chaste Trillium grandiflorum, and the flowered yellow Potentilla ambigua.

Chaplin, Waltham Cross, had a b fine Pansies, Arkwright's Ruby cons among them.

R. Gardner, Craven Nurseries, ham, had Anemone alpina, Primula f alba, true Rosa alpina, and Ac ecalcarata, a small maroon-coloured slightly fragrant.

Maxwell and Beale, Broadstone, showed a fine collection of Thymes,

Two novel and pleasing gardens at Chelsea

1. A perfect lawn with a formal water garden in the centre, by James Macdonald
2. Japanese lake approached by a plank bridge, exhibited by W. H. Gaze and Sons

magnificent effort in Cheddar rock
y Mr. Gavin Jones

"Just one chosen piece of realism admirably conceived and perfectly executed. It says plainly to the observer that he has achieved exactly what he set out to do, that he has been able to keep control of his picture from start to finish."—*Gardening Illustrated*, page 330

bog Primulas, Incarvillea grandi-
dum Lyoni, Rosa pimpinellæfolia,
Tradescantia virginica.

Crawley, were showing some very
ered plants of the orange-scarlet
Haageana, the exceedingly dainty
filifolia, Sedum pilosum, Viola
a, and the elegant blue Linum

nd Trowbridge, West Moors, had
ty Maianthemum convallaria,
neglectus versicolor, the pink
magna rosea, and the Heath-like
Fraseri.

, Sons, and Crisp, Twyford.—
autlioides, Globularia incanescens,
Brittoni, Delphinium nudicaule,
pedata were noteworthy plants in
bank of small Conifers, Brooms,
ese Maples.

rn, Beckenham, had a rich mat of
Fern (Hymenophyllum tunbridg-
ing against a large rock, and other
hardy Ferns.

Antirrhinums made a sumptuous
every conceivable shade of pink
. Rose Queen, Primrose King,
e Queen were especially telling

, Twyford, had a grand display
Delphiniums, and other tall her-
nts, and Geum Fire Opal.

Lupins in a vast range of shades
nd mauves provided a feast of
dreds of spikes being grouped in
nt.

Ltd., showed a good collection of dwarf conifers with small shrubs suitable for rock gardens, and the rich crimson Helianthemum chamæcistus.

Wm. Wood and Son, Taplow, had a variety of alpines flanking a central group of bog Primulas. Pentstemon Bridgesi, Aquilegia Reuteri, Anemone palmata alba, and the biennial Sedum pilosum were conspicuous here.

The Primley Botanic Nursery, Paignton, showed a number of rare plants, including the Portuguese Linaria reticulata aurea-purpurea, Malva Primley Blue, the vivid Dianthus Atkinsonii, Wahlenbergia Banksii, and W. vincæflora, a very tall-growing form.

Bakers, Wolverhampton, had a well-disposed group of stately Delphiniums of the choicest varieties rising from a groundwork of pink Lupins and Astilbes.

In J. C. Allgrove's (Slough) exhibit were noble spires of Eremuri of soft pink shades surrounded by standard Cytisus Dallimorei, the creamy-yellow Rosa Hugonis, and beneath them a wealth of Oriental Poppies, Pæonies, and Pyrethrums. Some large pans of small Sempervivums formed a suitable edging to this exhibit.

Lowe and Gibson, Woking, showed a great variety of herbaceous plants, Pyrethrums, Lupines, and Verbascum densiflorum all being prominent factors in a telling show.

Kelway, of Langport, Somerset, had a glorious display of Pyrethrums and Pæonies, with a few baskets of curiously smoke-hued Lupins.

Blackmore and Langdon's Delphiniums were as magnificent as ever, some of the more impressive varieties being Mrs. Foster Cunliffe, Mrs. Townley Parker, Millicent Blackmore, The Shah, and Howard H. Crane.

The Eremuri, shown by Amos Perry, Enfield, were especially grand and towered above a wealth of Irises, Ranunculus Ragioneri, Sarracenia flava, Hemerocallis Apricot, Tulipa Sprengeri, and some wonderfully beautiful new Tree Pæony seedlings.

C. Gibson, Leeming Bar, had his huge Trollius, Mrs. G. Gibson, and Gibson's Giant Orange Iceland Poppy.

Cuthbert, Southgate, had a fine group of Tritonia Prince of Orange, which suggests an apricot-hued Sparaxis and is hardy in many places.

Prichard, Christchurch, had the distinct Dianthus neglectus Wells' Variety, Erinus alpinus Dr. Hanele, Silene Hookeri, Anthyllis montana rubra, Saxifraga Macnabiana, Œnothera speciosa rosea, the lemon Hippocrepis E. R. Janes, Linaria cymbalaria variegata, Malvastrum Munroanum, and the brilliant Gazania splendens.

W. Wells, Jnr., Merstham, showed alpines and dwarf conifers alongside a variety of Primulas.

H. Clarke, Taunton, had baskets of Violas of many varieties and a plant of the old Mimulus moschatus which really has the true Musk scent.

H. Langridge, Westerham, Kent, had a sandstone rock garden with a stream where goldfish were swimming. A very pale form of Viola lutea was one of the most attractive plants here.

G. W. Miller, Wisbech, had the graceful

The new Primula microdonta alpicola
Flowers lemon yellow on strong stems about 18 inches high
Award of Merit. Shown by Oliver and Hunter

Heuchera tiarelloides alba, the single scarlet Pæony Sabrina, a perpetual-flowering white Chrysanthemum, and the new Geum Fire Opal.

The Misses Hopkins, Ashdown Park, Coulsdon, had a small rock garden with some large rosettes of Saxifraga longifolia, Delphinium luteum, and the dainty Viola Hopkinsi.

Mr. J. Robinson, New Eltham, had a miniature gorge in his rock garden with carpets of Arenaria balearica and Sedum lydium.

Amos Perry, Enfield, had a special exhibit of Oriental Poppies, including the deeply laciniate King George, the salmon-pink Mrs. Perry, and the pale pink E. A. Bowles.

Wm. Yandell, Maidenhead, showed pans of Violas and Pansies, the old-fashioned brown and yellow Jackanapes among them.

The Chalk Hill Nurseries, Reading, showed Lupines in variety and a well-arranged group of Geum Fire Opal, with Black Knight Viola in the foreground.

Great interest was taken in the brilliantly-coloured Habranthus pratensis shown in quantity by Mrs. Bucknall, Creagh Castle, Doneraile, Co. Cork. The flowers were cut from a south border and were remarkable for their strength and size, as well as for their brilliant orange-scarlet colour. From the same garden came Summer-flowering Violets, with large flowers freely borne on stalks a foot long and over, but, alas! the flowers are scentless.

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE.

Daphne aurantiaca, shown by Mr. A. K. Bulley, Neston, Cheshire.
Azalea John Jennings, shown by Mr. L. de Rothschild, Exbury.
Cornus florida rubra, shown by Mr. L. de Rothschild.

AWARD OF MERIT.

Border Carnation E. Lyall Swete, shown by Mr. J. Douglas, Great Bookham.
P.F. Carnation Evelyn, shown by Messrs. Engelmann, Saffron Walden.
Hydrangea D.B. Crane, shown by Mr. H. J. Jones, Lewisham.
Dianthus Susan, shown by Messrs. Allwood, Haywards Heath.
Perpetual Polyantha Rose Kersgergen, shown by Messrs. Cutbush, Barnet.
Aster alpinus Shirley, shown by Messrs. Ladhams, Southampton.
Hydrangea Mrs. Baardse, shown by Messrs. L. Endtz and Co., Boskoop.
Hydrangea Deutschland, shown by Messrs. L. Endtz and Co.
Begonia Mrs. F. Bedford, shown by Messrs. Blackmore and Langdon, Bath.
Begonia Mrs. A. Baldwin Bantock, shown by Messrs. Blackmore and Langdon.
P.F. Carnation G. F. Phillips, shown by Messrs. Hewitt, Solihull.
H.T. Rose Hilda, shown by Messrs. B. R. Cant, Colchester.
Viola cornuta Jersey Gem, shown by Messrs. Watkins and Simpson, London.
Lupinus Countess of March, shown by Mr. G. R. Downer, Chichester.
Aponogeton distachyon Aldenhamense, shown by the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, Elstree, Herts.
Habranthus pratensis, shown by Mr. R. C. Notcutt, Woodbridge.
Clerodendron fragrans, shown by Sir Wm. Lawrence, Bart., Burford.
Pitcairnia aphelandræfolia, shown by Sir Wm. Lawrence, Bart.
Lewisia rediviva Vancouver variety, shown by C. van Tubergen, Jun., Haarlem.
Primula microdonta var. alpicola, shown by Messrs. Oliver and Hunter, Moniaive. (See illustration above.)

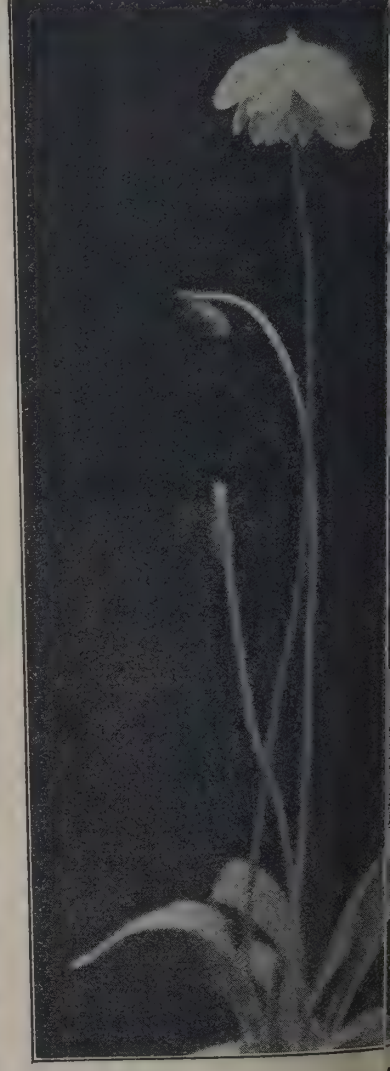
Cercis racemosa, shown by Mr. Lionel de R
Exbury.
Magnolia Nicholsoniana, shown by the Lady Ab
and the Hon. H. D. McLaren, Bodnant.
Cytisus Lord Lambourne, shown by Messrs. W
and Sons, Ltd., Killiney, Co. Dublin.
Azaleodendron Galloper Light, shown by M
Rothschild.
Weinmannia trichosperma, shown by Mr. G. W.
Ardingly.
Rhodohypoxis Baurii, shown by Mrs. Garnett
Albrighton.
Pæonia Hiatt C. Baker, shown by Mr. H.
Almondesbury.
Rhodohypoxis rubella, shown by Mrs. Garnett
Viburnum macrocephalum, shown by Mr. L.
child.

SALPIGLOSSIS

Messrs. Sutton and Sons, Readin
very large group of geometrical
arranged Salpiglossis in a series of
groups in almost every conceivabl
and in plants representing excell
ture. The strain of plants emanati
this well-known firm was of the ve
The different colours were grouped in
and arranged in this manner the ef
beautiful. This display was a r
to visitors as showing what has bee
plished in the development of th
glossis in recent years. Some of t
noteworthy were large-flowered golde
rose and gold, violet-blue, dark b
gold, brown-gold, crimson-magenta
nut and gold (very striking), rich
chamois, rose-veined.

HARDY FERNS

A most refreshing group of hardy I
arranged in the west corner of Tent
the Chelsea Hospital entrance. Th



A double-flowered Blue Poppy
opsis quintuplinerva fl.
Shown from Colesborne Gardens, (

ted of about 200 distinct varieties of Ferns, and, without exception, they nost interesting. This group was staged . Amos Perry, of Enfield Hardy Plant y, Enfield, N., who has devoted many to this subject and which fully justi- ie attention given to it. He staged pecies and varieties as Struthiopteris lvanica, S. germanica, Athy. f.f. tatum consensii, A. f.f. Cragii, A. f.f. ctylum, A. f.f. regale seedling, A. f.f. um capitatum, Polystichum aculeatum rimum, P. angulare divisilobum Pad- . a. frondosum, Osmunda regalis, ndrum crispum Nobile, and a host of ood things which the lover of hardy ound most interesting.

LY ORCHIDS ADMITTED

e Orchid tent, in which Orchids only dmitted, there was such an array of as we have never seen before; neither easy to say which was the best group. worth's Odontoglossums left one ss, Cowan's Odontioda Chantecler rival, and McBean's Odontoglossum simum Shrubbery Variety is of in- able beauty. Perhaps the most bril- ce of colour in the whole display was er's Sophro Lælio-Cattleya Falcon irt Variety, orange-scarlet with deep lip. In the same group was seen the finest of yellow Brasso-Lælio- s in Yellow Hammer bred from the Orange Blossom.

eremiah Colman received the high f a gold medal and Cain Cup for the ibit shown by an amateur. This as rich in Dendrobiums, Odontiodas, liums, Cattleyas, Miltonias, and a series of Lycaste Skinneri—indeed, ned a greater variety than any other xhibit.

xecutors of the late Mr. H. T. Pitt, Stamford Hill (gardener, Mr. Thur- nt a very attractive group, in which a number of new Miltonia crosses -grown specimens of Odontoglossum , Odontiodas Meltis and Duchess of d Anguloa Clowesii.

J. Joicey (gardener, Mr. J. Mackay), , Witley, won the amateur challenge a well-arranged group of rare and n specimens, including Dendrobium ceum (remarkably fine), Odontioda new), Lælio-Cattleya Padova (with son labellum in violent contrast to sepals and petals), Aerides Houllet- and Cypripedium bellatum.

rchids throughout were exceedingly d in addition to those already men- ere were groups by Cypher and wan and Co., Stuart Low and Co., Black and Flory, Sutton Bros., and Hatcher, and Mr. Harry

from the groups of Orchids there imen plants of botanical interest, Eulophia purpureus, shown by van de Weyer Cliffe, Dorchester. t had an immense spike of bloom nches in height, and it received a ommendation. Another specimen to eat interest among Orchid special- a magnificent specimen of Vanda vith eight strong spikes of bloom. it, which had been grown in a a Cattleya-house, was shown by nclair, Chislehurst, Kent.

lowing awards to new and rare ere made:—

IRST CLASS CERTIFICATES.

innerii var. Mrs. Hamilton Smithe, shown by emiah Colman, Bart., Gatton Park.
Corregio, shown by Mr. J. J. Bolton, Claygate.
ince Shimadzu var. superba, shown by Mr. R. n, of Cathcart, Glasgow.
ucia, Stamperland Variety, shown by Mr. R. n.

The success of this rock garden by Mr. George Whitelegg, which gained the Sherwood Cup, lies in the faithful handling of bold masses of Cheddar rock

AWARDS OF MERIT.

Miltonia Conqueror, shown by Messrs. Sanders, St. Albans.
Odontoglossum eximium Colmanii, shown by Sir Jeremiah Colman, Bart.
Odontonia Corona var. Rajah, shown by Messrs. Charlesworth, Haywards Heath.
Vuylstekeara Melba var. atro-purpurea, shown by Messrs. Charlesworth.
Cymbidium Erica var. Lord Lambourne, shown by Messrs. Stuart Low and Co.
Miltonia gloriosa superba, shown by Messrs. J. Cowan and Co., Southgate.
Miltonia Kennie var. extraria, shown by Messrs. Sanders.
Odontoglossum Prince Imperial, shown by Messrs. J. and A. McBean.
Brassolæliocattleya Ursula var. magnifica, shown by Messrs. H. G. Alexander, Ltd.
Cattleya Jupitas, shown by Messrs. H. G Alexander, Ltd.

CULTURAL COMMENDATION.

Vanda Parishii, shown by Mr. E. Sinclair, Manor Close, Chislehurst.
Dendrobium Gatton Sunray, shown by Sir Jeremiah Colman, Bart.

AMONG THE SUNDRIES

To do even a minimum of justice to the more than usually extensive display of horticultural accessories, all of which play their part towards gardening comfort and success, is more than can be attempted in our limited space. Nor can we inflict upon our readers the long list of sundry aids to gardening that were noted in a tour of the avenues and the large additional space allotted on the lawn on this occasion. We can but admire the way in which many firms in this section spared no effort to bring their exhibits up to the high standard of the show. A few brief notes of those displays which were fortunate enough to "catch the speaker's eye" must, therefore, suffice, and it is, of course, no reflection on their worth that many deserving and even famous exhibits have only the briefest mention here. We admit this to be hard on a gallant band of stalwarts who have practically no share in the glory, but who materially assist in the success of, the Great Show.

Insecticides and Fertilisers

Prices' new garden fertiliser, exhibited for the first time and put up in small tins, should be in big demand. G. H. Richards, Ltd., of XL All fame, displayed sundries of every description, and we observed have now taken over "Kamforite" and also the well-known preparations of the Stonehouse Co. ("Abunda" and "Kilzall"). Fisons, Ltd., had special fertilisers of every sort; Adco, Ltd., their Adco Standard Fertiliser and Adco Accelerator; South Metropolitan Gas Co. "Metro-Sulphate" and "Metro" Wood Preservative. Corry and Co., Ltd., and Geo. Monro, Ltd., also had every conceivable preparation "in stock," and the latter, in addition, were showing garden

tractors, cultivators, and seed drills. Abol, Ltd., and Acme Chemical Co. were also prominent exhibitors in this section.

Spraying Machinery

This section was well represented by the Four Oaks Spraying Machine Co., Ltd., Holder-Harriden, Ltd., and Martineau and Smith with various types of knapsack, bucket, and portable sprayers. The "Eclipse" patent syringe was again on show, and a new type the "Solo" was demonstrated by the F.N.P. Manufacturing Co., Ltd. This is of the telescopic, continuous spraying variety, and useful for liming and creosoting as well as for ordinary spraying.

Garden Ornaments

There was a considerable array of these, and such firms as Pulham and Son, Potters Art Guild, Bromsgrove Guild, and Arthur H. Moorton, Ltd. (who included bird-boxes), had their usual attractive groups. The Empire Stone Co. were new exhibitors, and we admired especially their semi-circular seat and terra-cotta oil-jars. Wakeley Bros., Ltd., were also newcomers in this section.

Garden Furniture

Many visitors gave special attention to the exhibits of the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops (wicker-ware), the Not Forgotten Association (baskets), the Disabled Soldiers' Embroidery Industry (wicker, etc.), the London Association for the Blind (wicker-ware, including fencing), and St. Dunstans, at which stand blind workers were seen engaged in hammock-making. The En Tout Cas Co. displayed well-made seats around model tennis courts (green and red), and W. H. Gaze and Son had Teak seats surrounding a miniature "all weathers" court. Robert Green, Ltd., showed garden seats and tubs, and Harrod's and Gamage's were large exhibitors of "garden comforts" generally. A. Overend and Sons showed well-made rustic designs, together with a small span-roof greenhouse.

Greenhouses

A tour of the exhibits of Messrs. Boulton and Paul, Duncan Tucker, and Messenger and Co. (also garden seats and boilers), J. Weeks and Co., Skinner Board and Co. (wire tension type), and G. Hayward and Co. and others would have satisfied the requirements of anyone in the purchase of a hothouse, from the palatial conservatory to the modest lean-to. Heating apparatus was included in most exhibits, and a grand display of "Horseshoe" boilers of every type was put up by Chas. P. Kinnell and Co., who included valves and pumping machinery.

Tools

We all hate hedge-clipping, and that labour-saving appliance the Hansen Hedge Clipper was a great attraction. Even with a demonstration on an imaginary hedge it is obviously a boon. A new garden cultivator was also shown. Mr. J. Hampson's Shoulder Hoe caused a mild sensation, and everybody wondered why it wasn't thought of before.

Lawn Mowers

Green, Ransome, and Shanks were the principal showmen in this category, displaying hand and motor mowers of all types. Dennis Bros. showed motor mowers only, as did the makers of the "Atco" and the "Governor" mowers. Lloyds and Co., Ltd., besides their popular machines, brought Pluviette sprinklers and a lawn leaf-cleaning machine.

General

J. Carter and Co.'s stand included everything in tools and sundries for the garden, and Wm. Wood and Sons, Ltd., in addition to their exhibits of greenhouses, furniture, and ornaments, had a comprehensive display of gardening implements. Allwood Bros. exhibited perfumes and Carnation sundries, Wakeley's their celebrated "Hop Manure" and many other requisites, H. J. Greenwood the "Rival" plant stake in sizes for all plants." "Acme," "Helichrysa," and "Wizard" labels were on show at their respective stands, and many other types were assembled in the tent for Thursday's conference on "Labels."

Other Exhibitors

Abbott Bros., seats, etc.; Acme Patent, ladders; Ashtead Potteries; Miss A. L. Baker, flower holders; Camp and Co., Ltd., pruners; Castles Shipbreaking Co., Ltd., Teakwood furniture; Chase Continuous Cloche, plant protectors; S. Condrup, Ltd., syringes and mowers; Cooper, McDougall, and Robertson, insecticides; Cooper Stewart Engineering Co., sprinklers; Crown Optical Co., instruments; Drew Clark and Co., ladders; Dryad Works, cane furniture; Miss A. Everitt, gloves; Fernden Hard Tennis Court, hard court; Florists' Telegraphic Delivery Association, examples; Fowler, Lee, and Co., bottling appliances; Garden Supplies, Ltd., insecticides; Godiva Engineering Co., mowers; James Gray, Ltd., greenhouses; Thos. Gunn, Ltd., tools; J. Haws, water-cans; Hodsons, Ltd., hard court and ornaments; Burton Holt, Ltd., ornaments; Holtzapffel and Co., tools; House and Garden Sundries Co., seed sowers; Hughes Bolckhow and Co., Teak furniture; C. A. Jardine, secateurs; A. B. Johnston, loam; Robert Lee, bee appliances; London Gardens, glass and pottery; Miss M. A. Lucas, aprons; R. Melhuish, Ltd., tools; Miss M. Nalder, children's tools; New Cross Timber Co., rustic; C. T. Overton and Sons, bee appliances; Papworth Industries, furniture; Paramount Furnishing Co., furniture; H. Pattison and Co., horse boots and lawn tools; Piccard Pictet and Co., cultivators; Piggott Bros. and Co., tents; B. Pinney, plant protector; Plant Bros., Ltd., furniture; Prentice Bros., Ltd., fertilisers; Radium Fertiliser Co., fertilisers; W. T. Revitt, furniture; Robinson Bros., fertilisers; Rural Industries, Wattle fencing; Sanders and Co., ornaments; G. E. Savage, cane furniture; Miss K. Sherman, plant sticks; J. Singleton, "Nuesprays"; W. Sinton, furniture; H. C. Slingsby, ladders; Smellie and Co., tools; Smith and Ellis, tools; D. Swain and Co., greenhouses; T. J. Syer and Co., furniture; Tangent Tool Co., motor mowers; E. H. Taylor, Ltd., bee appliances; T. and C. Associated Industries, Wattle furniture; Thames Bank Iron Co., boilers; Th. Noel, paving; Timothy and Sandwith, insecticides, etc.; B. J. Walker, secateurs; Walker's fruit tree protectors; John Weech and Sons, greenhouses; E. Westmacott and Co., preserved fruit; Wilkinson Sword Co., pruners; Mrs. K. M. Wintour, preserves; Women's Farm and Garden Association, literature; E. J. Woodman and Sons, tools and sundries; D. and H. Wren, pottery; and the Horticultural Press.

THE LABEL CONFERENCE

The Conference on Labels was held in the Conference Tent on Thursday, the 26th, at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Mark Fenwick took the chair, supported by Mr. Gilbert Carter and Mr. F. R. Durham. There was a fair attendance.

Mr. Fenwick said that for public gardens and collections of trees, shrubs, and plants the label used in Edinburgh (names let into lead) were claimed to be the best, while Kew used names stamped on lead plates. Zinc labels were good when written on with chloride of platinum, the only liquid ink of any use for this purpose. Platinur was also good. These labels were expensive side, and a cheap yet durab was still wanted.

Mr. Gilbert Carter said he wante to be educative and of, say, 100, 60, words long. He advocated the Willesden waterproof paper printe varnished and tacked with copper t wooden blocks. Labels should be durable, and cheap. A large zinc la shown that had been made in 188 legible.

Mr. A. B. Jackson considered tha should be of durable material, and sidered lead to be the best. For tr shrubs, labels on them should have i tion about them. Squirrels sharpe teeth on lead labels. He had aluminium wire quite effective for fa labels on. The information necessa correct spelling of species and variet try of origin, whether hybrids, and t of planting the trees.

Mr. Grove said we should still c to use wood labels, but they were to broken. Lead was the best metal.

Sir W. Lawrence advised the nurs to send out permanent labels wit plants.

Mr. Hay said he thought too muc was laid on durability. What he wan an immovable label for the parks.

Mr. Chittenden said that at Wis visitors pulled the labels up to read th then did not replace them correctly. pottery labels were of no use. Zyloni were fairly permanent, but they brittle, and birds took a liking to the tugged them out of the ground. The man then asked those gentlemen w exhibited labels at the conference them their views.

The representative of the "Heli label told the experiences which caus label to be invented, and pointed legibility, cheapness, and many pe advantages.

The representative of the "Neeta said that metal labels got covere Lichen. The "Neeta" was made v pressed metal foil on zylonite, and w legible and permanent.

The representative of "Beetle Pr stated that their label was unbreaka non-inflammable.

The representative of the "Acme said that their label was practical structible, and he undertook to see t gave correct spelling on all labels is them.

Chrysanthemums in po

Many of these are ready for th potting, and this should be proceed before the plants become potbound. plan is to erect a bench at the ba north wall—or, better still, beneath where the soil will retain a reasonal condition, whereas exposed to full it quickly becomes too dry and unsu correct potting. The compost shoul of three parts broken fibrous loam remaining third made up of the follo Old Mushroom bed and leaf-moul through an inch sieve, old lime-rubb ash, and sharp sand. Add a 6-in of ¼ inch bones to each barrowloa mixture. Where 8-inch and 9-inch used it will be inadvisable to fill th the present time, two-thirds of th will be quite suitable. This adm generous top-dressing being appl when the plants are most in need o firmly and stand the plants close to an open but sheltered position fo weeks.

PLANTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST AT CHELSEA SHOW

ifraga calabrica, with fine pure white sprays. A handsome at does not die after flowering. In this respect it is better than lia, to which it is closely allied. Sometimes called S. longi-olia. Shown by Mr. E. Scaplehorn.

ohne aurantiaca. Flowers bright golden yellow, borne in he axils of the leaves. A sturdy evergreen hardy shrub. by G. Forrest; raised in Edinburgh Botanic Gardens. Grown and shown by Mr. A. K. Bulley, Neston, Cheshire. First Class Certificate.

3. Primula chrysopa. Flowers mauve with golden eye, and very sweetly scented. Shown by W. Wells, Junr., and previously granted an Award of Merit.

4. The Lizard Orchid (Orchis (Himantoglossum) hircinum). A British species with a long, twisted, dull green lip. Shown by Bowell & Skarratt.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Standard bedding plants

Heliotropes, Pelargoniums, Streptosolons, Fuchsias, and Lantanas should be securely staked immediately they are planted out, and be kept well supplied with water for the first few weeks.

Dahlias

Apply stakes to the strong, rising shoots before the storms have broken them off or forced them to the ground, and plant out a further batch—raised at a later date—from seeds and cuttings.

Aubretias, Alyssums, Polyanthus

These and similar plants which have been lifted from the beds should be kept supplied with water for a time, otherwise a large number will be lost. This is often overlooked during the rush of bedding.

Specimen plants in vases

Every endeavour must now be made to get these into their summer positions, and any staking or training completed without delay.

Conservatory

For the next few months annuals will furnish the bright colour desirable in this department, and strong seedlings should be potted on in readiness. These include various kinds of Schizanthus, Petunias (both single and double), Salpiglossis, Lobelia tenuior, Statice, Nemesias, Godetias, and Clarkias.

Fruit houses

Air must now be more freely admitted, and for longer periods, even to the opening of ventilators to their fullest extent, except during occasional dull and chilly days. Water must be copiously applied to confined indoor borders, and the syringe freely used among the foliage, except in those houses where the fruit is ripening.

Vines

Pay constant attention to the stopping and training of young shoots, and continue to close early those houses containing newly-planted canes, in order that the season's growth may be completed early and enable the wood—which is usually late in this respect—to become well ripened.

Hardy fruit trees

Continue to spray against caterpillar, which is attacking the leaves, and scab, and attend to the stopping of the shoots. Syringe those trees daily during the afternoon which were transplanted during the past winter, especially those trained to walls. A start may also be made, in the case of Pears, with the thinning of their fruits.

Strawberries

Copious supplies of water must be given to plants now swelling their fruits, otherwise prolonged dryness will produce sour and bitter berries.

Cucumbers

Those now cropping will derive considerable benefit from a top-dressing of good turfy loam and well-seasoned short manure, which should be brought to the same temperature as that of the house before being placed over the roots. To prolong the fruiting of these plants all surplus Cucumbers should be taken off and kept until required, in water, in a cool room. Seeds should be sown to provide plants intended to occupy cold frames and maintain future supplies.

Gentiana acaulis

Remove the old flower-stalks from these and so prevent undue strain upon the plants. A light top-dressing at this period will encourage growth.

Seeds of Alpine flowers

Now that the frames have been relieved of bedding plants many alpine flowers may be sown. These must be kept cool and shaded from bright sunshine until germination has taken place, when air and light may be gradually admitted.

Annuals

These have germinated more freely than usual this year, and thinning must be resorted to before the colonies of plants have choked each other. This is almost a daily occupation at the present time.

Celery and Scarlet Runners

Those planted from boxes into trenches recently must be well supplied with water and protected from the ravages of slugs.

Vegetable Marrows

The main batch may now be planted out on well-enriched soil previously prepared, and if bell-glasses are not available a few evergreen branches should be pressed into the soil to shelter them from cold winds for a week or 10 days.

Potatoes

Earth-up all varieties as they reach a suitable height. Keep ahead of the staking of Peas and sow others. Sow Lettuces every 10 days and keep those reaching maturity well supplied with moisture, and plant Tomatoes in a sheltered spot in the open.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Cucumbers

During the height of summer a little shade is desirable for this crop. Maintain abundance of moisture in the atmosphere of the house. An occasional soaking of liquid-manure will help considerably to prolong the fruiting season and ensure the fruits being of good size and colour.

Melons

Where it is possible to maintain a high temperature right into the autumn a final sowing of Melons may yet be made. These will be fit to take the place of the early batch after the last-named has matured its crop. Should this method be favoured it is imperative that as soon as the fruits are cut the house be thoroughly cleansed in every corner, for the Melon invariably leaves a legacy of vermin that would very quickly ruin the newcomers.

Tomatoes

Especially when growing in pots a good top-dress of rich, fresh soil augmented with a fair dressing of some approved artificial fertiliser will be of great benefit to plants carrying good crops of fruit. Watering must have careful attention at all times, for to permit dryness at the roots, followed by heavy drenchings of water to correct the matter, almost invariably results in cracking or splitting of the best fruits.

Late Peas

It is usually only waste of time, space, and seed to sow the late varieties in most parts of Scotland after the end of May. Of course, an early variety may be put in at the middle of June, but the quality of these at the end of the season leaves much to be desire I prefer to sow "Rearguard" and Gladstone" at the very end of May, almost invariably doing well and giving dishes of excellent flavour till the e October.

Indoor Peaches

As soon as the trees are denuded o crop the leaves should be vigorously sy with clean water, but in the event of thrips or red spider being present drastic measures must be employed. gation on several occasions must be re to, while some suitable liquid inse should be used instead of the clean wa syringing.

Primula obconica gigantea

This first-rate winter-flowering shou'd be given decent treatment if rea plants are desired. If pricked into bo pans some weeks ago they should now for potting up into 3-inch pots. Ret same temperature, continue to shade fr sunshine, and water with the greatest c especially at first.

Seedling Begonias

It is seldom that we attempt to bloom lings out-of-doors here in the north th year, as they do not usually attain su size to do so. To pot up every one seedlings would be a big job, and the sary space under glass cannot alw available. A good plan is to make u able beds under cold frames, setting little plants in these, shading carefully, thoroughly, and encouraging steady g In due course the great majority will when all the best can be marked for p ture next year and the others retai bedding.

The Amaryllis in summer

Many fail with this handsome plant because of wrong treatment a flowers fade. In the majority of ca plants will have completed their grow warm house, so should be removed sunniest stage or shelf in an ordinary house. Water must be given when r and an occasional dose of weak manure is beneficial. Continue thi ment until the foliage begins to turn when water must be gradually dim but the bulbs must not be dried c gether, it being a mistake to kill th through prolonged dryness.

Delphinium

These stately plants are apt at t receive a check through the soil b dry. This is especially likely where is light and porous. A thorough dr occasionally during dry spells is ti spent.

Keep the hoe at work

It is hardly possible to overdo th the Dutch hoe among growing plan kinds. By its use not only are we under, but vermin are disturbed, aerated, and undue evaporation che of which is distinctly to the adva plants of all kinds.

Thinning hardy annuals

How often do we see these useful the hardy annuals, simply ruined be neglect in the way of thinning? Th matter should be carried out early, a effective, must be drastic. One plan square foot of space to itself will more beautiful than would a dozen into the same space.

C. L

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

Border Daffodils

classification of Narcissi current ng writers and florists—with its sions, sub-divisions, and sub-sub-, according as one feature or another flower predominates—is no doubt y if we are to avoid chaos and make e intelligible between one expert and as well as between buyer and seller. own part, however, though, like my ırs, I find the technical classification y and convenient for more formal mn occasions, I use for common or ıse the simple, if unscientific and in- classification of " Border " Narcissi how " Narcissi, or, to use a jargon or the moment, Lowbrows and High- he working masses, as it were, and less elite. I am fond of the High- vhose merits require, for their true ent, a member of the Daffodil Com- the R.H.S.—they are so handsome, sive, and so expensive. But I love pect also the Lowbrows, whose " beauty wins the ready admiration many, and whose conformity to an principles of reproduction brings hin range of the most modest purse. ntial characteristics of a good Border I consider to be these, namely, (1) a onstitution—it must be what gar- ıll " a good doer "; (2) fairly rapid tion, so that it may be had in quan- it must be a generous bloomer—if it goes blind it is of no use for the (4) it must have strong, upright ems as straight and stiff as Rushes; villowy stems are serviceable for out for the border they do not offer resistance to wind and weather; ower must look you squarely in the ess of modesty being a defect in a Daffodil. These several virtues, un- Daffodil possesses, it cannot be con- n ideal border flower. There are tures which are desirable, though ntial—stature, for instance. But ll flowers are effective, a border has s well as a back or middle distance, the front a low-grower, like the ıay be just the thing if it has the points. Then there is size of ınd, other things being equal, the e better. The smaller a Daffodil is ıs, minimus, cyclamineus, nanus— r for the rockwork, but the worse border, where what you want is pe " effect. Some of the newer, d more expensive Daffodils, when ome possible, will be magnificent the border by virtue of their size, ome of them, I fancy, may fail in ther of the essentials. The very hat constitute the charm of certain flowers—the delicate colouring, the of the central crown, the shape, nd imbrication of the perianth seg- ıd the drooping pose—tell at a dis- ly feebly or not at all, and are seen vantage only when the flower is cut d in a long-stemmed glass.

Daffodils—if one may call them —which I have known intimately e—and that is a long time—I have ed lately to appreciate at their true border flowers. These are the the Odorus section, which, being not appeal to the hybridist, since ot lend themselves to his purposes. double, they are a desirable group rden, having every quality desirable er Daffodil—facility, pose, colour, thing else. A splash of their lovely yellow gives a dash of sunshine to ven on the dullest day; besides that ight reedy grass is, perhaps, the prettiest in the whole range of Daffodil foliage. Further, the Campernelles have another virtue, which I ought perhaps to have mentioned as a sixth essential—they last well, astonishingly well, and that not as some blooms last which, nevertheless, soon get to be too perceptibly *passé;* they continue bright and cheerful to the end. The double Campernelle, for outdoor or indoor culture, is very specially to be commended, but they are, all of them, sunny and charming, the least as well as the largest. Whilst dealing with permanency of bloom in Daffodils I may be permitted, perhaps, to note the exceptional lasting power of a flower which, from the delicacy of its appearance, one would be apt to regard as amongst the most transient—the double Cernuus. This Daffodil, with the single Cernuus, Colleen Bawn, was the earliest to bloom with me this season, and still, after quite six weeks, the Cernuus plenus is presentable to a not too critical eye. Than these nodding Daffodils none are, in themselves, more delightful or interesting, but, partly from the filmy delicacy of their tissues, partly from what is really their distinction, their pliant stems and nodding, pendulous habit, they are not sufficiently robust for the border. Nevertheless, discounting their short lease of beauty and their susceptibility to injury from wind and mire, if you want moonlight as well as sunlight in your border, what can better give you the soft lunar effect than, here and there, a silvery moon of Cernuus Daffodils? ALPHA.

(*To be continued.*)

The new "Show" Daffodil Eskimo
Pure white, of beautiful outline and great substance. Raised by Brodie and Brodie

The Prickly Poppy

Popularly known as the Prickly Poppy—quite an attractive alternative title, by the way—Argemone grandiflora amply justifies, by its appearance, the English name. Its annual duration is, of course, a great bar in the eyes of many, but, after all, annuals are exceedingly valuable in their way. This Argemone is a capital plant to place well back in the border, where its height of 2½ feet gives it a claim to a suitable position. It is a hardy annual, but has been successfully employed as a biennial by sowing in early autumn and wintering the young plants under glass. If not sown too early the small plants should stand the winter well in most localities, but the seeds may be sown in the open immediately, and, if in good soil, should bloom very freely the same autumn. It is worth the trouble, as the plant's spiny, glaucous foliage is highly attractive, and more so when its yellow Poppy-like flowers open. There are many positions where a plant of its character could be utilised with advantage. S. ARNOTT.

The Liatris

The few varieties of the Snakeroot met with in gardens are useful plants for late summer and autumn in the herbaceous border. They are effective plants when well grown and will repay good cultivation. All succeed in good, rich, light soil. L. pycnostachya is a tall-growing variety from 3 feet to 5 feet, with flowers of a pale purple colour in a dense spike. Although a perennial, the best results are attained by treating this as a biennial and sowing seed every spring.

L. scariosa is a dwarf variety, reaching only about 2 feet high. The flowers are of a darker shade and larger than the variety pycnostachya.

L. spicata is one of the handsomest, with its violet-purple spikes remaining a long time in bloom, growing from 1 foot to 2 feet in height.

L. squarrosa has bright purple-coloured flowers on leafy stalks reaching between 2 feet and 3 feet high. All are worthy of a place in the herbaceous border and are easy to propagate by division in spring or by seed.

R. F.

Exhibition Vegetables

THOSE who have had little experience, or those who have not given the matter consideration, have any idea of the time and labour needed to grow vegetables up to exhibition standard. There is not only timing the exhibits intended for the show so as to be in the height of perfection on the day, but the varieties of each kind must be up to date. There is always the anxiety that some of them will be a few days past their best, or, on the other hand, have not quite reached that state of perfection desired by the judges.

Peas are the first to be considered. The pods of these must be well filled, fresh, tender, and soft, and possess that delightful sugary flavour so much desired. Now there are some varieties, especially among the large-podded varieties like Quite Content, that are rather disappointing, as the pods seem to be well filled, but are puffy, and the seeds they contain small. Therefore we must be on our guard with respect to these varieties. Good judges are in favour of deep green pods and the seeds inside of even size, close together, but not overgrown, and of a sweet, agreeable taste.

Of this type there are many in all sections. To name all would take up too much space, but I will just give a few. In the early class Carter's Daffodil, Carter's Giant Stride, and Chelsea Gem are excellent. Among the main crop are Carter's Exhibition, Carter's Stratagem, and Telegraph. Late kinds: Royal Salute, Autocrat, and Carter's Latest Giant are only a few of the varieties suitable for exhibition.

If the soil during the growing season can be kept thoroughly moist the haulm will remain fresh and green much longer, the pods better filled and more plump; therefore conserve the moisture in the soil as much as possible. Always mulch mid-season and late Peas when about a foot high, which will save a deal of watering in hot, dry weather, and if a daily sprinkling over the foliage is given, the mulch will be kept moist and supply nourishment to the roots.

Artificial manure is very beneficial, but must be used with judgment. If used in the powder state well wash it into the soil. The ground, of course, must be thoroughly well cultivated and enriched. Gather the pods early in the morning or late evening (never in the heat of the day), take to a cool shed, and keep in the dark to ensure as little evaporation as possible. Be very careful not to handle more than possible or the bloom on the pods will be destroyed. The number of pods required should be of as even a size as possible. If for a collection of vegetables give them a very prominent place.

Potatoes for exhibition should be washed clean with a sponge or flannel to show their skins naturally. On no account scrub them with a brush. Select tubers of a moderate size according to the variety shown and the season of the show. Of course, in late autumn and winter months large tubers will find more favour than earlier in the season, but even then guard against overgrown specimens.

To grow exhibition Potatoes in a very limited space is by no means an easy task, but the case is very different where there is almost an unlimited number to select from. Exhibition Potatoes cannot be obtained from weakly plants, and, as a rule, not from plants with an extra strong haulm. In the former the tubers will be small and in the latter they are usually overgrown and ugly.

The amateur then, or those of little experience, with limited space, must, in the first place, select healthy, medium-sized tubers as seed, with plump, well-developed eyes. Some varieties produce more eyes than others, and the strongest, as a rule, are those at the apex, as is the case with the kidney varieties. It is seldom with these varieties the buds at the pointed end develop, unless the other more prominent buds have been injured. Provided the sets are planted at the proper distance apart there is little fear of the haulm being overcrowded. If the latter is well developed without overcrowding there will be a nice crop of show tubers, but if the haulm grows too strong and becomes entangled there will be few, if any, show tubers.

The soil should be liberally treated beforehand to render it fertile and friable. But soils vary so much in texture, even in the same district, that it is difficult to exactly state how the plants should be treated. However, we may take as a general rule that the soil for Potatoes cannot be too fine, and where the soil is of a retentive character too porous.

Onions require a long season of growth. The ground must be deeply and heavily manured, not only on the surface, but at the bottom of the trench, as the roots go down some distance. As soon as the plants are in active growth liquid-manure is most essential to secure exhibition bulbs.

For the show table the Globe type finds the most favour, as they are not so liable to rot at the neck as the flat kinds and they are much heavier.

To produce exhibition bulbs much skill is required, also there is an art in properly ripening them in order that they will keep fresh and plump for a long time. Decay is apt to set in much sooner with vegetables so grown than those grown under more natural conditions, therefore keep them in an atmosphere that is dry and cool as possible.

A very popular vegetable exhibited at shows at almost all seasons is the Carrot. In the spring we have the short kinds forced, in early summer we have the intermediate type, and later on the long varieties. To secure first-class roots of the long varieties the ground must be dug 3 feet deep, working in at the same time a good dressing of newly-slaked lime; rake level, and in due course sow the seed. Ground so prepared, the roots will go down to the full depth of the soil; they will be beautifully tapered and of that deep red colour so much desired.

Carrots require two very essential ingredients, namely, potash and lime. Supply these in sufficient quantity on a well-worked soil and there is no reason why better roots should not be staged than is to be seen at many shows. Carrots require about 50 per cent. of potash and 15 per cent. of lime, and if the soil is not rich in these, then they must be supplied. On no account must the plants be crowded, even in their young state, as this will weaken their constitution. If given a good start and all weeds kept down they, when well established, will be able to look after themselves.

The Parsnip takes a much longer time to complete its growth, therefore it is necessary to sow the seed very early. The soil the Parsnip likes is a rich, deep, friable loam, though excellent roots may be grown on a well-worked stiff clay soil. There must be no decaying vegetable matter in the ground or the roots will fork and not present that clean, smooth, white appearance so necessary for the show stage. My plan is always to well dig the ground in autumn, leaving it loose that the air may penetrate as deeply as possible. Then the first opportunity is taken in February, when the ground is fairly dry, to fork it over and break it down fine. The seed is then sown in drills, covering it an inch deep. These drills are 18 inch so that the foliage has room to deve

In the case of a stiff, retentive s earth should be mixed with it to n whole more porous. Some soils, are so stiff that holes must be made first-class roots. These are made special dibber for the purpose, whic holes 2 feet or more if required. T are then filled with fine soil, two seeds sown in each and covered with of soil. When sown in rows and th have made two or three rough lea must be thinned to about 10 inches a to the holes, leave one in each.

In the case of stiff soils, the groun dry weather cracks dreadfully, the obviate this, hoe the surface fr Always show this vegetable in it length, as it looks better to see t tapering roots than for them to be Do not scrub the roots with a brush, with a soft flannel or sponge. Aft ing, be careful not to expose the sunlight as this is liable to discolou

Finger-and-toe disease

A disease which often attacks Bro other garden crops of the Cabbage as well as Turnips and Swedes, i and-toe disease. That, however, o pens on soils which are deficient in li having less than 4 or 5 per cent. valuable mineral. It is a strange th sometimes soils resting on limestone contain little or no lime. They ha driven out of them by the rain and water. They become acid that wa the immoderate use of such ferti superphosphate, dissolved bones, phate of ammonia, and then serve a propagating ground for the micro-or of finger-and-toe disease as soon as in an appearance.

In a recent trade journal an acco given of an experiment in Denmar gard to this disease. It was condu an acid black soil over sandy loam plots were laid down, one of them b without treatment and the other thr 47 lbs. per acre of nitrogen in the nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammon calcium cyanamide respectively. De nitrogen in the nitrate of soda and of ammonia plots, finger-and-toe flourished abundantly, but in the plo with calcium cyanamide the diseas peared, and an abundant crop was th No doubt this was due to the readily lime contained, about 60 per cent. cyanamide. In the rapid destructio finger-and-toe organism it is essen the lime should be in a highly acti and evenly distributed.

Vegetable Marrows

A good plan with this rather ten ject is to dig a hole about 3 feet sq 3 feet deep, and fill it with spent ve rough grass from under trees, lea such like, treading all down fir spreading a generous layer of good on top, finally finishing off with 6 i good soil. The refuse will generat gentle warmth, just what the Ma quires to start it away. Cover with light for a few days, shading fro sunshine. Leave the "light" on d night for a fortnight.

French Beans

The French Bean is exceedingly ble to the late frosts, but so grea esteem in which this vegetable is

desperate efforts are made to get it as possible, and for that purpose sow- seeds are made in boxes, and the when up, are kept in shelter until it safe to plant them out. A good of people forsake this Bean entirely carlet Runners come in, while a good of others give this earlier and dwarf ne preference. It is, I suppose, a of taste, but it strikes one that what dered so desirable in June might be desirable in August. In fact, I ly make three sowings of French the first in a box to transplant, and from which to gather Beans in June, a main sowing in the open from which the crop lasts from July to August, the third in August, from which I gather until the frost comes in October.

There need be no difficulty in growing this wholesome vegetable. It asks not for a highly manured soil, preferring warmth and openness to rich feeding. Dig your soil deeply and sow the seeds about 3 inches apart in double rows, with 1½ feet from row to row. The depth at which the seeds are planted should not be less than, nor exceed, 2 inches.

F. B.

Answers to Queries

ns—Queries and answers are inserted in ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre- follow these rules: All communications clearly written on one side of the paper l addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING *. Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. n business should be sent to the* PUB- *he name and address of the sender are in addition to any designation he may be used in the paper. When more than is sent each should be on a separate aper, the name and address being added As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

in the sink garden

ou advise me as to the planting of a k? Will any plants do, other than and succulents, dwarf Campanulas, neglectus, and that sort of thing?

B.

this point Mr. Clarence Elliott

name some of those which I have st, and tell of their wants and the which suit them best. Let us con- the level ground between the base ck and the edge of the sink, and I me that in some places the rocks within an inch or even less of the , while elsewhere you have left spaces anything from 6 inches to across. Your best plan will be to opener, level spaces with carpeting, ing plants, to make a sort of grass- e flower lawn, and in the narrower etween rock and sink some close with here and there a trailer to partially clothe the sink side.

wn effect I recommend Gentiana ymus Serpyllum minus, a minute hyme; Claytonia australasica, with fresh green leaves like grass a an inch high and almost stemless vers. Erigeron leiomerus gives the a lilac Daisy an inch or so high; inutum (Little Mary), which is a sy less than an inch high; Primula a fine turf-maker, with big, rosy erect and almost stemless; P. rather taller, with heads of lilac- rs; and P. scotica, a dwarfer edi- and darker in colour; Androsace nk; Viola Bertoloni, lavender-blue; ala calcarea, mat-forming and bril- ; also Anemone vernalis. Among plants you may put some of the the bulbs—Crocus species, such as C. reticulatus, etc.; Iris Histrio, les, and I. Danfordiæ, very early nt yellow; Narcissus Bulbocodium, ineus, N. minimus, and N. trian- the lovely Oriental Alliums, A. A. Farreri, and A. Purdomi, which heads of lavender-blue flowers like anthus on 4-inch to 6-inch stems. nd many others—to taste—to form lawn on the lowest levels. As rail down the sides of the sink, I following:—Saxifraga apiculata, primrose-yellow and pure white respectively; and S. Haagii, golden-yellow, and all flowering in earliest spring; Dryas octopetala, with its lovely flowers like white Anemones; Androsace lanuginosa, silky-leaved, trailing and with heads of lilac flowers in late summer; Polygonum vaccinifolium, again for late summer and autumn, with slender rosy flower-spikes and crimson autumn leaves. Achillea Lewisii will make a mat to bulge out over the sink side, and this good plant will go on producing its pretty sulphur-yellow flowers from early till late summer, and often after that. Arenaria purpurascens will trail forward if pushed from behind by a rock, and it covers its mossy cushion with charming lilac star flowers. If you want a mat of violet, try Calamintha alpina. The old Cheddar pink, Dianthus cæsius, will give you a mat of blue-grey with rose-pink fragrant blossoms. Hypericum reptans is first-rate, spilling from the sink in a thin stream of fresh green, with big stemless flowers nearly an inch across, citron-yellow and stained behind with a reddish flush. An extremely choice and lovely plant and, alas! expensive, is Linum salsaloides prostratum. It forms a dense low mat of Heath-like foliage, and then, in summer, entirely hides this with a smother of big flax flowers of white satin delicately veined with palest watery lilac.

On the north side of your mountain, in the cool, you may have a Primula or two, especially P. pubescens Mrs. Wilson, a small neat Auricula, very free-flowering and cool strong lilac in colour; also P. Ruby, with intense ruby-red flowers, and the old nivalis of gardens with snow-white flower-heads and Cowslips scented.

That must do for my list of plants for the ground floor. Now for a few to grow on the mountain sides, wedged in narrow crevices. Here we want small, compact-growing species to form tufts among the cliffs. A family that first comes to mind is Saxifraga, and of these the Kabschia section is especially good. S. Burseriana, with its white flowers, huge and pure, on smooth red stems in earliest spring is lovely. Of all the yellow Kabschias, S. Faldonside is still the best, with its citron-yellow blossoms, perfectly rounded; S. Irvingii, tiny, neat, thrifty, with hard cushions of close blue-grey foliage and countless little shell-pink flowers; and S. Myra, larger flowered, but compact and dwarf, and rich cherry-red. One more I must have, S. tombeanensis, later than the others and pure dead white in flower. These are the cream of a whole crowd of lovely species. Saxifraga oppositifolia you must have, with its shilling big heather-purple flowers, stemless and brilliant in March. There are several varieties, and splendens is the best of them. Then S. Aizoon baldensis, the smallest of all the Aizoons, which Farrer and I discovered on the ridge of Monte Baldo. This is appropriate to the smallness of the sink garden, with its minute rosettes of encrusted silver and its white flowers on stems a couple of inches high. Last of the Saxifragas, S. cochlearis minor, richly silvered in leaf, but with purest white flowers in sprays on red stems.

Here on the rocks are perfect homes for some of the Androsaces, the grey felt pincushions of A. helvetica, or the silky tufts of A. arachnoidea. Of Campanulas I would choose C. Zoysii, for here it may hope to elude the wily slug, which thinks nothing of a four-mile tramp to enjoy a good tuck in at it. C. Zoysii flowers late in summer with pale lavender bells, all puckered together at the mouth like the smocking of a Kalmia blossom.

Of Pinks you have a choice of two or three, Dianthus neglectus, 3 inches high, with rose-pink flowers, buff-yellow at the backs of the petals; or the minute D. musalæ, rare and dainty. Myosotis rupicola is a doll's house Forget-me-not of dazzling azure an inch high. Wahlenbergia serpyllifolia is like a mat-forming Campanula, which in May produces a crowd of big upturned bells of Tyrian purple. This has done uncommonly well in my sinks, and so, too, has its sister, W. pumilio, with starry flowers of lilac. I have named but a few of the plants one may grow in sink rock gardens, but, apart from telling of these favourites, I hope I have succeeded in suggesting the types of plants which are best and the best way of placing them.]

The Lily of the Valley—its varieties and their cultivation

(Jessica Desmond).—The best time to plant is immediately after the foliage has ripened off, and when lifting old plantations the finest crowns only should be used. These should be planted singly at 3 inches apart, and, when completed, the crown of the plant should be about an inch below the surface, otherwise the soil—following heavy rains—will settle down, leaving the crowns exposed above the ground. I saw a very bad case of this kind quite recently, and advised the owner to apply a top-dressing of an inch of soil at once. If you can manage it spread a light 2-inch mulch of well-decayed manure over the surface of the bed, following the planting. This will prove most beneficial to the re-establishment of the plants. Borders intended for Lily of the Valley should be chosen on the cool north or east side of walls or fences. They should be deeply dug, and if the soil is heavy apply free quantities of manure, leaf-soil, and old lime or mortar rubble—sandy soils scarcely require the latter—and before planting the Lilies see that the soil is moderately firm. Of course, this Lily will grow on south borders, and many plant in this aspect for early flowers, but the most handsome and lasting beds are those on the cooler side of walls. In woodlands this plant naturalises freely, the partial shade common to such positions suiting the plants admirably. The flowers, however, are not so fine as those produced under cultivation. Beds should be lifted, divided up, and replanted every four years or five years if the finest flowers are desired. The following kinds are known:—Convallaria majalis; this is the old and well-known plant of gardens. There is a variety of this with gold-striped foliage and one with double flowers. There is also the pink-flowered kind, quite an interesting plant, sometimes offered by nursery-

men, and which, I believe, originated in Ireland. The most striking of all, however, is that known as Fortins variety, a robust plant with larger leaves and flowers than any other and a really first-rate plant. I find that the pink-flowered form is offered by J. Stormonth and Sons, Kirkbride, Cumberland, and as you might find difficulty in locating it I give address.

Lilium regale from seed

I have been successful in sowing Lilium regale in spring, 1926. On March 27th they were pricked separately into small pots. They are now about 5 inches high, each with a sturdy little leafy stem. They are stood out in a cold frame. Ought I to plant them in their final border in September, when their leaves die down, or is it better to keep them another year in their pots?

BELGIAN READER.

[We are pleased to hear of your success with this beautiful Lily; your treatment up to the present is quite correct. Treat as before, when the ripening off of the foliage has been completed. Before growth commences —which is towards the end of March—shake out the bulbs from the pots and plant in sheltered and partially-shaded beds in the open at about 8 inches apart, and burying the bulbs about 8 inches deep. The beds should be made of good loamy soil to which a free addition of peat or leaf-soil and sand has been added. A percentage of the bulbs will bloom next year and, of course, should you desire to grow a few on in pots you may shake them out as above and pot them into larger pots filled with the same mixture as advised for the open. The bulbs are rather too small to risk planting them in borders containing other strong-growing plants.]

GREENHOUSE

Increasing Fuchsias

(Mrs. Lazenby).—The best method of increasing these shrubs is by cuttings taken from the plants in February and March, when such cuttings have reached about 3 inches in length. Plants which have been rested in cool houses and frost-proof sheds respond freely when brought into gentle heat, and these furnish excellent cuttings. The cuttings should be about 3 inches long and six or seven of these may be dibbled into a 3-inch pot filled with sandy soil, the pot being plunged up to its rim in Cocoanut fibre in a propagating frame, where they will root freely. Should it be the hardy Fuchsias you refer to, then your cuttings should be taken about the second week in September, using the young green tips and proceeding as above, except that you may stand the cuttings in a cool, closed, and shaded frame. Dew the cuttings over each day should the weather prove hot and dry, and keep the sashes closed until root-action has taken place, when air must be gradually admitted.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Wintering Acacia dealbata in the open in Devonshire

Having planted two Acacia dealbata outdoors facing south do you think they will do well? Will you let me know if I shall have to take them in for the winter?

Devon. G. H. SMITH.

[This Acacia is much grown in the warmest parts of your county, and if your plants are against a south wall you should have no anxiety for their future. Young plants, however, often grow vigorously and grow late, and thus the uppermost shoots do not ripen thoroughly, and to protect such we would advise placing a few Yew or Spruce branches among them during severe spells for the first year or two as a precaution. There is a strong plant in East Sussex, known to the writer, planted in a recess between two glasshouses, but otherwise quite exposed, which has successfully survived several winters unprotected.]

Rhododendrons not blooming

Can you, please, tell me the reason why my Rhododendrons have not flowered for the last two seasons? Enclosed two buds. They are growing in pots. Two years ago I moved them out of 12-inch pots and potted them in 18-inch pots. Do you think I overpotted them? The compost was half peat, sand, leaf-mould, and soil. Would it be advisable to pot them again in the same pots?

R. S.

[There is nothing wrong with the leaves and buds you send, excepting that they are weak. We would suggest that you feed the plants with diluted liquid-manure during their growing season, also mulch the surface of the pots with well-rotted cow dung. We suspect that the plants have been too dry at some time, and that the material you used in your potting compost is not sufficiently nutritious. The 18-inch pots should suit them admirably. Rhododendrons need very firm potting, otherwise the moisture passes away round the outside, leaving the ball of roots still dry.]

Training a standard Almond tree

(W. P. Fletcher).—You will be acting quite correctly in doing as you propose, and in order to encourage a more bushy head pinch the tips out of the lowest of the remaining shoots at 1 foot from the stem, and even the tip of the leading shoot if this develops a tendency to rush away.

FRUIT

Vine troubles

(M. C.).—The specimen Vine leaves labelled No. 1 are infected with red spider. These creatures are very small and protect themselves by spinning very fine webs, which serve to protect them from the various plant washes. If only a few leaves are affected you ought to be able to control the pest by keeping on with the sponging. Water and a moist atmosphere are the great enemies of red spider, and you should keep your houses damped down as much as possible. After the fruit has been cut a free use of the syringe will help you to keep down the pest for another year. It is a common practice to paint all the hot-water pipes with a mixture of flowers of sulphur and water as an aid to red spider control. Great care must be used not to get the pipes overheated after the sulphur has been applied, or damage to the Vines will result. We can find no trace of disease upon the second lot of Vine leaves, and we think that the leaf scorch has been caused by the sun. Perhaps the glass is faulty above the three spurs, or air has not been admitted early enough in the morning to get the foliage dry before the sun reached it.

VEGETABLES

Growing crops for exhibition

(W. G. Simons).—Good all-round manures and safe ones to use for your purpose are Vitalizer, a fruit, plant, and vegetable manure manufactured by Messrs. Bentley and Sons, Barrow-on-Humber, Hull, Le Fruiterer, by Messrs. Wm. Wood and Sons, Taplow, near Maidenhead, and Clay's Fertilizer, obtainable from most seedsmen. The latter is, perhaps, the safest in the hands of a beginner, and may, like the others, be mixed with water and applied to the plants and fruits in liquid form, or sprinkled, according to the directions sent by the vendors, over the surface and watered in. Bone-meal is also an excellent manure. The us manures is very marked, both upo fruit, and flowers, in quite a short if you are able to obtain good manure, then apply a mulch of the days before any of the fertilisers Both flowers and fruits should b gently thinned when required for e and in some instances shaded fro sunshine a few days before they are freshness on the exhibition table be important. Damping of the foliag evenings, following hot days, is v ficial, and, where available, the from a farmyard mixed with water colour of pale ale is reached is bette purpose than clear water. "Vege Home and Exhibition," by Edwin is a book which would help you co in addition to the cultural deta therein. It explains the best me illustrations—of setting up the This book is obtainable at most bo We know of no book which treats and flowers combined for exhibi would advise you to visit a good sho you would obtain a fair insight methods employed by successful exh the arrangement and selection material.

Tomatoes failing

(G. Garton).—The box of soil ha come to hand. From your letter think that wireworm or some othe sect is the cause of the trouble. Y examine the collars of the plants and if the failure is due to insect a should be able to find the culprits the soil-level. If you fail to find in us a complete plant and we will te cause of the trouble. If the plants you can send us selected portions fr ground-level, but send the root-sys well. Most of the soil can be shake

Destroying Horseradish

I should be glad to know if there of eradicating Horseradish from a ground where it has taken possession and is still spreading.

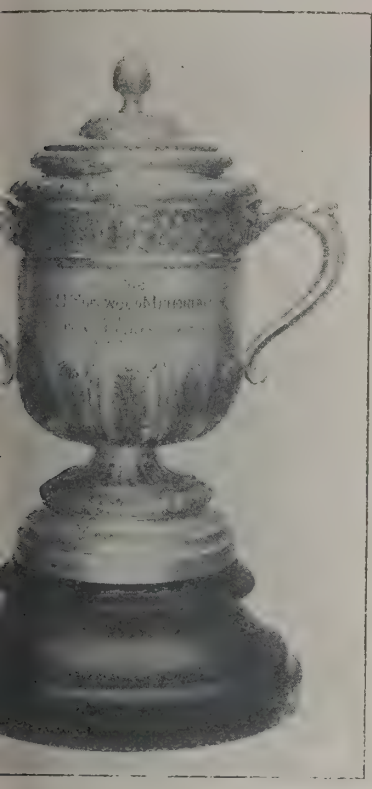
[This is a difficult task, and is cessful when the ground is deeply and every piece of root picked out We advise you to dig your grou 6 inches deep—unless large trees give the base of each trench a s Weed Killer, and as the upper s placed hand-pick every piece you In the following year leave the grou until the autumn. This will enal clear away every remaining shoot.

MISCELLANEOUS

Spraying problems

(A Reader).—We have always be to inform our readers that when prietary brands of soluble lime-su they should follow the maker's di to the amount of water to be adde we find that the different makers strength somewhat. We have also many occasions that for certain v Gooseberries it is always advisa lime-sulphur at half strength. C Cousin's Seedling, Berry Early, a shire Lad are a few of the varie will not stand lime-sulphur at ful There are also some varieties wh safely be sprayed at all. Golden good example. If your damaged f a different variety to those not inju perhaps, explain why the fo damaged and the latter uninju trees that have been damaged shou a little time to recover before spray Please write again and inform us

Chelsea, 1927: GEO. G. WHITELEGG'S



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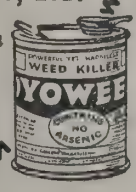

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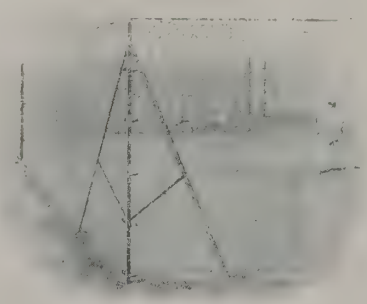

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make of the lime-sulphur used, and also in what strength it was applied. If you can give us the name of the variety of Gooseberry damaged we should be better able to advise you. Your Damson tree should be sprayed with a good nicotine wash or a quassia wash. Please see note on Insect Pests, on page 284 of our issue for May 14th.

Removing slime from pond

(Knockholt).—As your pond is thickly covered with this objectionable substance it will be advisable to first remove the thickest of it by means of a fine-meshed sieve tied to a pole, or a light frame made in the shape of a tennis racket and fixed to a long pole—young Willow wands laced together answer perfectly, and if the slime is drawn to the sides with an ordinary hay-rake it can then be conveyed to the banks, or elsewhere, by means of these fine-meshed tools. We know of no fish which would keep the pond clean, but by using copper sulphate you will be able to do so, and if you carry out the following instructions no injury to the plants should follow its use. Calculate the cubic contents by multiplying together the length, breadth, and average depth in feet, then multiply the result by six, which will give approximately the number of gallons of water in the pond. For each 10,000 gallons put 2½ ozs. of copper sulphate into a bag and pull it through the water until all is dissolved.

Water weed

Like the person who writes on page 281, I have a pond which is covered with a green, slimy Moss. I have tried permanganate of potash, which keeps down the Duckweed, but not the Moss. There are no fish, and the water is not running, except in rainy periods. Could you name the quantity of copper sulphate to use for a given quantity of water?

— BELGIAN READER.

[For quantity of copper sulphate see reply to Knockholt.]

Soil for examination

(G. Garton).—We have carefully examined the sample of soil and can see nothing wrong with it. Have you been using any chemical manure? If so, you may have given too large a dose. Then, again, there is the possibility of having given too much water, the Tomato, although requiring a large quantity, very quickly resenting any sourness caused by stagnant moisture in the soil. Yet another cause of flagging would be keeping the house close shut during dull weather and then suddenly throwing open the ventilators when the sun appeared. If none of these are likely causes we can only conclude that you may have been top-dressing the plants with fresh soil and introduced wireworms, which are very destructive to the Tomato.

Soil sample

(Draw).—We have analysed your soil sample for acidity and find that it is extremely acid in character, and we do not wonder at your not getting satisfactory results with most crops. As the land becomes vacant you should apply ground limestone at the rate of 1 lb. per square yard. The limestone should be spread evenly on the top of the soil after digging and then lightly forked in. For such a light soil as yours, ground limestone will be more useful to you than quicklime. If you have any portion of the soil carrying any member of the Cabbage family the limestone could be applied at once, as suggested above. To improve your soil you should use manures of a fairly heavy nature. Cow manure or pig manure would answer the purpose well, but all manures used should be in a well-rotted condition. Horse manure, especially in a fairly fresh condition, would open the soil still more. Your type of soil is also likely to be short of potash, and we should advise you to apply Kainit at the rate of 4 ozs. per square yard during the coming winter. With a soil so acid in character as the sample you have sent us it will be several years before the full effect of the lime is apparent, but it should show an improvement next year. The liming will require repeating about every third year. You should write to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, for a copy of leaflet No. 170, "The Use of Lime in Agriculture," and No. 385, "Lime and Its Uses on the Land," at 1d. each, post free. "Soils and their Properties," by Dr. W. Fream, and published by G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., London, is a useful little book. Soil acidity is your main trouble.

Tank for goldfish

(E. J. B.).—We think that the trouble you are having with your goldfish is due to the water, and especially to your changing it frequently. Goldfish love warm water, and to keep changing them into cold tap-water is always injurious. We should advise you to clean out the tank again and fill it with soft rain-water, and you should endeavour to get some water plants growing in the tank. Vallisneria would do nicely. Failing this, any water weed will answer the purpose. As soon as the water plants become established they will keep the fish supplied with oxygen. If the water in the tank becomes foul a little charcoal placed in would sweeten it, but if you can get just enough water plants growing to supply the fish with oxygen, foulness should not arise. We do not think that in such a small tank the fish will be likely to stand the winter, but perhaps you could remove them to a greenhouse tank for the winter months. If the tank in the garden is cleaned out once a year and planted back with the water plants you should have no difficulty in keeping your fish alive.

Beetles for name

(C. Clark).—The large green beetle is the Rose Beetle (Cetonia aurata, L.). This beetle flies by day and feeds upon the flowers and foliage of the Rose. In some districts and in certain seasons it does a good deal of harm. The beetles deposit eggs in the soil, which eventually gives rise to little white grubs swollen at the end. The grub stage feeds upon the roots of Roses and other plants. When fully fed they are about 1½ inches in length. The damage to the root-system is considerable because the grubs are feeding for at least two years in the soil upon the fibrous roots and the skin of the larger roots. The smaller black and yellow beetle is a common one and is called the "Wasp Beetle" (Clytus arietis, L.). The resemblance to a wasp lies in the colouration alone. As far as we know this beetle is not injurious to plants; the larval stage feeds in rotting wood.

Leaf-miners

(J. A. G.).—The leaf-miner, which attacks the Rose, is a different insect to that which attacks the Laburnum. However, the life histories of both are similar, so that for your purpose they can be treated as one. The perfect stage of the Rose leaf-miner appears in May. It is a very tiny moth. Eggs are laid on the under-surface of the Rose-leaf and the tiny caterpillar, which appears later, eats its way into the leaf. When fully fed it eats its way out of the leaf and pupates in a cocoon at the base of the leaf-stalk. There is a second brood in August, and this brood pupates on the Rose bush or in the ground. If the nicotine wash is to be any good at all it must be used when the larvæ are within the leaf, and the spraying must be d thoroughly if it is to be successful. try spraying the trees with a tar in winter and a dressing of a good secticide at the base of the trees This treatment should account both which pupate above and below grou Nicotine washes have been used w effect on leaf-miners, but the wash a fairly strong solution, and there i the danger of burning the foliage.

SHORT REPLIES

W. E. Gilbert.—The book refer "The English Flower Garden," now in its 14th edition, having bee and brought up to date during the p The price of the new edition is obtainable from John Murray, 50, A Street, London, W. 1.

W. E. S.—The protuberances yo on the roots of your Asparagus are teristic of these plants, but are of n propagation purposes. If you wis crease your stock you can accomplis dividing the crowns in spring or by

NAMES OF PLANTS

J. Turner.—1, Ledum buxifol Gaultheria trichophylla; 3, Stachy (Woolly Woundwort or Lamb's- Arisarum proboscidium.

A. M. N.—1, Gypsophila re Veronica Teucrium Royal Blue; 3, glandulosa; 4, Heuchera Richards H. hispida.

W. T., Hants.—1, Exochorda gra 2, Cytisus scoparius Andreanus; 3 scoparius; 4, Cytisus albus.

A. S., Redhill.—1, The Mexican Flower (Choisya ternata); 2, S ocymoides; 3, Euonymus japoni albo-marginatus; 4, Berberis vulg atropurpurea.

Cranfield.—1, Iris Kharput; withered, but either Diamant or 3, Antennaria tomentosa.

G. W. M.—Viola bosniaca.

A. Bass.—Billbergia nutans (nar Billberg, a Swedish botanist, the name refers to the "nodding" Native of Brazil, introduced 1868, sent in for identification at this seas hardy, but sometimes grown as a plant.

TRADE NOTE

Slugs and the remedy

The long fast of the slug is over recent showers have brought the m some of garden pests to the top, most voracious appetite. His immu most of the poisons prepared fo unique. With his coat of protecti he just crawls clear of these irri goes on feeding. Those dainty fro base of your Pyrethrums wilt and mysteriously, and you go blam Frost, but it is almost certain to one of the 14 species of Agriolimax or Arion hortensis. Every garden get busy immediately to attack these fore the damage is done. Prev better than cure, and the slug is certain to be present in the neighbo Border Carnations, Stocks, Asters Sweet Peas, Dahlias, Delphinium anthemums, Cabbages, Beans, Marrows, and most seedlings. Th of a little Slugene will be found a c simple remedy. It is guaranteed t nate any of the slug species, an used with safety on the most d plants. It has a 20 years' reputa many testimonials, including a favo port from the R.H.S.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

518—Vol. XLIX. JUNE 11, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 13 -

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Notes from a West Somerset Garden

W small bulbs of the Peacock Iris ræa glaucopis) planted three years have made a good group in the rock n a sunny-corner. Although the me up in mid-winter they do not uffer from bad weather at all, and e often been as many as 30 flowers e same time since early in May. e" of the flower is a most intense really amazing shade. Moræa is an allied but very distinct species Transvaal, remarkable for the its leaves—often over a yard long. flowers are freely borne on stems feet high and are not unlike our llow Flags at first sight. Fine this very uncommon plant were n by Mrs. W. R. Dykes at the reea Show. It will be interesting to e wonderful Moræa Robinsoniana hardy in West Somerset. Seede through the winter unscathed, urse, are too young to bloom for s. It is said to flower well in the s, where the stems are taller than

quisitely-formed flowers of Iris nd I. Wattii have been produced freedom this year. The latter has ite an imposing plant with 5-foot Bamboo-like foliage. The dainty nese Iris gracilipes has also surits previous efforts, and its butterwers are one of the greatest atn the garden. It is growing in ith its roots under a large stone, well satisfied with these condigh it is a woodland plant in its l. The Californian Iris bracteata wering in remarkable profusion, being almost hidden by dozens of d creamy-white flowers. Iris as at last found a home it likes in r of turf on top of a shed. Here roughly baked in summer and is lugs, and both the blue and white bloomed well.

r of hardy Orchids which were rom the Riviera last year in full not only survived the ordeal of ourney, but are flowering well. to flower was Ophrys aranifera, amed Spider Orchis, which aphappy planted among Gentians in with plenty of old mortar-rubble. chis is in bloom in the rock garvery fine plant of the Monkey chis simia). The latter species flower for over a month. Orchis has been very good with its ed flowers, quite distinct from any ish species and in no way to be ith our native Butterfly Orchid (Habenaria chlorantha). Strangest of all is the Lizard Orchis (O. hircina), so very rare in Britain, but quite plentiful in France. Its stout stem carries a quantity of green flowers with the lip elongated so that it has some resemblance to the long tail of a squirming lizard, and with the "perfume" of an ungroomed billy goat.

In the rock garden Tulipa armena was one of the most delightful of all the Tulip species, its dwarf sturdy habit and rich crimson goblet-shaped blooms being very distinct from the more garish scarlets and yellows of most of the wild species. Last, but by no means least, of the Tulips is T. Sprengeri, invaluable not only for prolonging the Tulip season, but for the fact of freely sowing itself where the soil is left undisturbed. It is, however, safer to gather the seed-pods when ripe and sow the seed carefully in a pot out of the track of gardeners, slugs, and such-like dangers. Close to the gorgeous Tulips the quietly beautiful little Sisyrinchium filifolium, the Fair Maid of the Falklands, is now flowering. As the seed was sown only a year ago it makes one wonder why this attractive species is still so little seen in most gardens.

Moræa spathacea

The yellow flowers are freely borne on stems about 2 feet high

Another newcomer to this garden is Scilla pratensis, a native of the Balkans, and a very delightful little plant. The racemes are lightly covered with mauve-blue starry flowers and come into bloom when all the other small Scillas have gone to seed. The sturdy pyramidal heads of Scilla peruviana are rising from the handsome Yucca-like foliage in the Crinum bed, where the plant seems to appreciate the rich living which Crinums demand.

Pasithea cœrulea may be described as a small-flowered blue Asphodel, and is a desirable addition to a warm border of choice plants. The flower-stems are about 2 feet high, sparsely branched, and the bright blue flowers might be slightly larger with advantage. The stems are rather brittle and easily snapped when they first push up. Homeria collina is one of the most attractive half-hardy bulbous plants, like a tall and slender Sparaxis in habit, but with delicate apricot flowers which last only a day in perfection. This season the Homerias are flowering with great freedom, and there has been a fresh crop of flowers every morning for some weeks. The present plants have all been raised from seeds, and, like most bulbs of one's own raising, are much more vigorous than bulbs which have been imported and dried in transport.

Babianas in various shades of deep blue and purple and white are also flowering well in a well-drained nook on the rock garden, where it is hoped self-sown seedlings will add variety to the colour forms. Few of the Alliums are really high-class plants, but the pale Apple-blossom pink of A. roseum is so pleasing that it is a welcome subject for the rock garden. It is about 18 inches high, and, like most of its kindred, bears bulbils which soon increase the colony, but so far has not become too numerous. The large snow-white daisies of Celmisia holosericea are noteworthy for the number of their slender ray florets and for the length of time they last in bloom. They associate happily with vivid-hued Gerberas in a narrow border at the foot of a wall.

On the dry wall itself the Mesembryanthemums revel in the sunshine, and seem to be quite impervious to drought. For beauty of flower M. aurantiacum, with large brilliant orange blooms, is the finest of all, but for strange beauty of foliage the rosettes of M.

tigrinum and M. lupinum are hard to beat. In well-sheltered crannies in the wall both these species have survived several winters, and are weirdly suggestive of the gaping jaws of hungry sharks. The large trusses of bright golden flowers of Sempervivum barbatum provide a rich piece of colour, and it is curious that such a desirable and easily-grown plant should not be better known in southern gardens. Even where it proves too tender to winter in the open a stock of young plants could easily be housed in frames.

Sedum Purdyi is a newcomer from California, an attractive little species with flattened rosettes of glossy green leaves and yellow flowers of the usual type of American Stonecrop. The very remarkable Mesembryanthemum linguæforme, with long fleshy leaves, is carrying several handsome canary-yellow flowers. It does not look at all hardy, but came through the past very trying winter on the top of a wall with only a small piece of glass over it to throw off heavy rain.

Of the innumerable small species of Veronica few are so charming as the very dwarf Chinese V. pyrolæformis. Its racemes of comparatively large lavender flowers are about 4 inches long. It is a scarce plant and requires care in dry seasons, for it shows the effect of drought long before any other Veronica. In a fairly damp bed a number of seedling Primula conspersa are flowering well. It is a good plant of the farinosa section, but the flowers are rather larger and brighter in tone, and borne on stems a foot high. The somewhat similar P. darialica flowered several weeks earlier, and is likewise a desirable plant.

The now famous P. Florindæ is only just sending up its flower-scape, but the noble foliage and sturdy leaf-stalks have been a joy to the eye since they started into growth early in May. A much smaller Primula of the Sikkimensis group (a form of P. microdonta) is already in flower, a most dainty thing with palest sulphur pendent blossoms. All these recently-introduced Primulas of Captain Kingdon Ward's discovery seem to lie dormant until spring is well advanced, so that it is important not to disturb the soil around them until they begin to show signs of life.

One more plant that deserves mention is an old inhabitant of our gardens, but not a very common one—Ourisia coccinea. Its intense scarlet tubular flowers are seldom borne so abundantly as one would desire, but this year it is making a splendid show. Ourisia is a very thirsty plant and demands a deep, cool, rich soil where the sun will not beat too fiercely upon it. Shade without moisture seems equally distasteful to it.

N. G. HADDEN.

West Porlock, Somerset.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Aldenham House gardens

THE gardens of Aldenham House, Elstree, will be open to the public, by kind permission of the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, on the Saturdays of July, August, and September (other than Saturday, July 16th, the date of the Elstree Floral Fête, when admission will be gained on payment at the gates); also on August Bank Holiday (Monday, August 1st), on the same conditions as in previous years, that dogs will not be permitted and that children are under the control of adults. The gardens were opened on Whit Monday, June 6th, in connection with the Queen Alexandra Memorial Fund, for the purposes of which an entrance fee of one shilling per person was levied.

Southport Great Flower Show

The schedule for the fourth annual Southport great flower show, to be held on August 24th, 25th, and 26th next, is of a particularly comprehensive nature, and it is clear that the municipality responsible for the organisation of these wonderful shows is determined to spare no effort still further to enhance the great reputation Southport has already achieved by reason of the amazing success which has attended the three previous flower shows held in that charming Garden City on the Lancashire coast. The British Carnation Society will hold their 33rd show in conjunction with the Southport Show. The Society's classes are incorporated in the Southport schedule, copies of which may be obtained, post free, from the Secretary of the Southport Flower Show, Town Hall, Southport.

British Carnation Society

The thirty-third show of the British Carnation Society is to be held in conjunction with the fourth annual Southport Flower Show on August 24th, 25th, and 26th. The schedule is now issued and includes upwards of 50 classes. An interesting featu Society's activities is the holding of competition among its members on ject of "My Favourite Carnatio Why!" Handsome prizes are offere successful competitors. Full particu be obtained from the Hon. Secret P. F. Bunyard, 57, Kidderminste Croydon.

Eelworm in Chrysanthemums

Certain varieties of early-flowerin anthemums are very susceptible to attack, and so severe has been the in in some cases that a grower's whole a particular variety has been d Where young plants are seen to be and it is desirous of retaining the s tops of the young plants made into will strike readily now and will flowers not seriously later than th plants already rooted. Almost all of the young plants will be free f worm and a healthy stock of pl follow.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

May flowering Tulips

CAN you suggest the probable reason for all my May-flowering Tulips coming striped with white this year? They were (for the first time since I have had them) not lifted last year, but that is evidently not the cause, as in a neighbouring garden some were lifted and some not, and they *all* have come striped. Are they likely to revert to their proper colours another season? I have a few dozen which were originally left, when lifting, in my herbaceous borders, and have been undisturbed for three or four years, and these have all come true without stripes, and the same in the neighbouring garden I speak of above. This seems to me very curious and difficult to account for. They appeared above-ground unusually early this spring, even before some of my Narcissi which are growing in the adjoining bed.

THOS. ALDERSEY.

The Cottage, Shifnal, Salop.

[The answer to our correspondent is to explain the nature of the occurrence of striped or broken flowers to be found among Tulips. When a Tulip is raised from seed the flower produced is a plain colour which is technically known as a "Breeder." Each year this bulb will produce offsets, the flowers of which will exactly follow the colour and character of the parent, and in this way a stock of a given variety of "Breeder" Tulips is gradually built up. This plain colour or Breeder flower is not, however, the final flowering form of the variety. From time to time striped or variegated forms will appear. The process of Nature which produces the striped flowers is not known; in some years there are many and occasionally none at all. The broken coloured flower is technically spoken of as "rectified," and bulbs and offsets from such flowers will not revert to the plain colour again. If the striped or broken form is an agreeable flower it should be retained, but otherwise it may be thrown away, as it will only reproduce further stocks of the same colouring. These striped flowers may be regarded as unavoidable "sports," and are quite outside the control of the suppliers or growers of the bulbs. A true sport from a given variety can always be distinguished from a Tulip of another kind which has accidentally become mixed by the fact that the sporting Tulip will always follow the original stock in form of flower and habit o and to a large extent in the admixtu colour.]

Weeds

That question, "What is a weed? similar to the question, "What are per clothes to wear?" With c should be a question of comfort, flowers a question of beauty; but consider others, and when I am di my friends I am not comfortabl clothes are unsuitable to my surr and in my friend's garden Potentilla which looks so beautiful in my roc the home of many native plants, wo my eye; but my friend's garden i ceremonial garden and mine is, n a garden, but a garden where all come who can justify their existe by being merry and bright, and in a garden where I keep order and revels, chastening and suppressing t would monopolise the space, and and coaxing those who find life in land more difficult. The Dandelio be relegated to the kitchen garden, many of our native plants are as be those of other lands, and how few allowed to display the real beauty capable of under cultivation su lavished on weeds from foreign clim beautiful it would be to see anserina (the Silver Weed) grow porous bowl in a back street of the of London; how dismal it looks in dust, growing along the edge o road, ignored by the owner of t motor-car rushing home with a sp Mesembryanthemum Bolusii whic secured at a bargain price.

REGINALD F

Morvah House, Newlyn, Penzanc

Ways of growing some foliag

Though we may not all agre method some have of utilising so shrubs which are grown for the sal foliage, there is an advantage to sometimes by deviating from the course of treatment.

One has in mind a plan adopted i grounds of planting, according groups of such kinds as Acer Ne Prunus Pissardi in a dwarf form.

n annually just before growth com- and as many strong shoots as possi- encouraged by the removal of any ıow signs of weakness. The foliage by these growths is much finer than an ordinary bush or tree, and the contrast of the silver and green of with the copper of the Prunus are ctive when placed near together.

opper Beech has been used in places ray, and the Common Beech, which foliage throughout the winter, is s utilised on this account.

g to cases of necessity in order to beauty of the foliage, and also be- is not quite hardy in the north, glandulosa, or Tree of Heaven, is treated. The leaves of this bear semblance to the Ash, or, rather, having a large number of leaflets, s sometimes attaining a yard in nder the above treatment, producing tropical appearance. By cutting it vithin a foot of the base and select- rongest shoot this handsome foliage ıad in the smallest garden.

nia imperialis is another tree with ge, and as it is likely to be cut down districts during severe weather it best to cut it down annually and one growth. It is better to give ther sheltered and warm position e soil is not over-rich to produce a th. A. WHEELER.

Two common Gentians

IANA VERNA is frequently dis- d in the gardening papers. Here easier to cultivate than Mignonette. own in the autumn, the seedlings ut as soon as they can be handled s, and the following autumn the box and the seedlings planted out as in the boxes without any disturb- he soil. The young plants flower rom sowing, and are at their best, in the illustration, 2½ years from Top-dressing of leaf-soil and sand in May.

ite form of Gentiana acaulis must t or collected in flower, the pure ver being very beautiful and the ow-green forms not attractive. At oth these Gentians appear to grow ell in sun and in shade.

(SIR) WILLIAM LAWRENCE, Bart.
, *Dorking.*

Codlin moth

ıll maggot which is found in Apples væ of the Codlin Moth, and the does is very considerable through-

ıa verna at Burford, Dorking

out the country. When, however, there is a very short crop or total failure the numbers of the moth must be greatly reduced, having no homes to go to. As far as I have seen this year there are few eggs about, and it would be of the greatest value if amateur fruit-growers would look over their young fruit and gather and burn at once any which show signs of attack. We should thus catch the moth when its numbers are few and reduce very considerably the possibilities of attack next year. The caterpillar enters, usually, at the eye, and a small hole will be found from which the brown powdery frass is exuding. These are the affected fruits, which should be removed and immediately destroyed. As the thinning of fruits should now be attended to, I send this note to suggest that good work in disease prevention may be accomplished at the same moment.

EDWARD A. BUNYARD.

Green slime in ponds

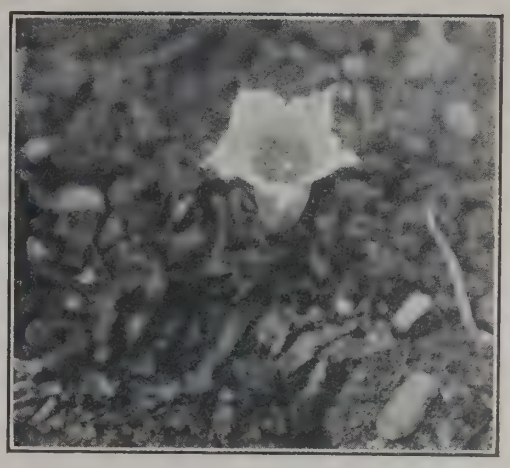
I have just noticed the replies to "Knockholt" and another about green slime in ponds. I have tried introducing water snails (7s. 6d. per 1,000), and find the slime disappears. I got the snails from the Surrey fish people, Dursley, Gloucestershire. The fish eat the young snails. A. N. LEATHAM.
Smallfield Place, Horley, Surrey.

INDOOR PLANTS

Clivias

NOBLE in flower and foliage, these evergreen bulbous plants command admiration in spring when in full beauty, their red and yellow flowers varying from 20 to 30, as a rule, on each spike, some of the new hybrids, which are very beautiful, even exceeding this number under good cultivation, far surpassing the old Imantophyllum miniatum as we used to know it, and is still maintained in many establishments. These plants are easily increased by division at the end of their flowering period in the month of May, care being taken not to mutilate the fleshy roots more than possible, and perfect drainage must be given as they are moisture-loving plants when once established, such to be continued throughout their growing period to the end of summer, when less water is needed; in fact, they require but little until the new year dawns, the comparative rest causing them to bloom more profusely when introduced into more heat and moisture as the spikes appear. Seed can also be obtained, but it takes a few years ere the plants attain the flowering period, and must not be subjected to any rest, but kept quietly growing until they reach that state in a 6-inch pot, a temperature of about 60 degs. being suitable from January onwards for established plants, which require plenty of root waterings and enjoy overhead syringing throughout the growing season.

As a potting compost secure good fibry loam with a little half-decayed leaf-soil, adding a few pieces of charcoal and enough coarse silver sand to ensure porosity, and in repotting, especially with divided pieces, discard the usual potting-stick, relying on the fingers to work down the soil between the roots, as in the case of Amaryllis, whose fleshy roots are easily damaged. The correct time to feed these plants is when the pots are full of roots and making their growth in the summer, soot-water being a capital stimulant to keep the foliage a nice green; the plants also are the better for a light shade during the brightest weather. It may be added that after the plants are in a 10-inch pot, or even a size or two larger, they will go on for some years. It is a mistake to disturb them too often, feeding and top-dressing at



The pure white form of Gentiana acaulis

the proper time as indicated above will keep them in health and vigour. Mealy bug and thrip, their two greatest enemies, should not be allowed to gain a footing, the latter quickly disfiguring the foliage.

J. MAYNE.

Dr. Badger's strain of Schizanthus

Even so recently as 20 years ago the flowers of this glorious annual were small in size and wishy-washy in colour, while the plants were tall and straggly in habit. All this has been changed, and to Dr. Badger more than to any other do we owe the wonderful improvement noticeable to-day. The plants are now dwarf, of much stronger growth, the leaves of fair size and Fernlike appearance, while well-grown flowers 2 inches across are not at all rare. Added to this, the colours are now so varied and beautiful that every taste may be gratified. It has taken the doctor many years' patient labour to reach the present level of excellence, and he is still working away to further improve his favourites. He tells me that it is only by the exercise of constant watchfulness that he has been able to attain the success that is his. He annually grows large numbers of plants until they reach the flowering stage, but immediately destroys every one that fails to meet the high standard he has set. This is the reason why this strain is of such a high and even excellence.

It is curious how public tastes change. Only a few years ago the demand was for the deeper shades of purple and red, while now the almost universal cry is for the pale pinks, creams, and whites. Personally, I think all are beautiful, and a good batch of plants that includes all the available colours is most interesting, and certainly such is able to please the eye of everyone.

While the Schizanthus may be raised at almost any time of the year, I think most satisfaction is got from an autumn sowing, the first half of August being a favourable time. Placed in a cold frame and kept there until hard frost threatens, and then moved to a shelf in a greenhouse from which frost is little more than excluded, the plants, if pinched several times to promote a bushy habit, are fit for the flowering-pots early in February. Still grown as coolly as possible they begin to open their flowers in April, and continue in beauty for at least two months. Over-potting (a fine plant can be grown in a 6-inch pot) and over-watering are the two principal errors to avoid. While, as I have said, the finest batch, as a rule, is that raised in autumn, still quite good results may be had by sowing in May or June for autumn blooming. C. BLAIR.
Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Mr. Amos Perry's remarkable group of own raised Irises

THE IRIS SOCIETY'S SHOW

NOT even the most optimistic member of this Society could have anticipated that its first show would be the wonderful success it proved. To fill the R.H.S. Hall at Vincent Square with Irises was in itself an achievement, but to fill it with the superb quality of flowers that were exhibited constituted a triumph. Never in the progress towards popularity of the genus has any collection of its species and varieties been got together that can in any way be compared with this show.

A one-flower show is sure to interest the specialist, and the Iris is no exception. The exhibits from amateurs far exceeded expectations. Here were gathered together in friendly rivalry amateur Iris growers from all parts of the country. Among the competitors were Sir William Lawrence, Sir Arthur Hort, Mr. G. L. Pilkington, of Woolton, the genial President of the Society, Mr. B. R. Long, of Richmond, Surrey, who gained the Veitch Memorial Medal for the best exhibit staged by an amateur, Mr. C. W. Christie Miller, of Sonning, who brought magnificent spikes of the true I. lævigata, Mr. R. Morton, Mr. G. P. Baker, and the veteran George Yeld.

The Challenge Cup awarded by Mrs. Phillip Runciman was awarded to Mrs. W. R. Dykes, who, we were pleased to note, was a most successful competitor.

A giant form of L. Pseudacorus was shown by Mrs. Grisdale, Cumbernault, Feltham Hill, Middlesex, with spikes over 5 feet tall and leaves nearly 7 feet long.

Capt. Troup, Buckland Newton, Dorchester, showed a good white seedling from the variety Miss Willmott, named My Own.

The amateur classes were well filled; indeed, for once the best blooms in the Hall were to be found in amateur exhibits; but the nurserymen's exhibits, as usual, formed the bulk of the show, filling the main body of the Hall with nine large groups. Each occupied approximately the same area. By common agreement the trade exhibitors decided there should be no awards, and yet each was so obviously an effort to produce the best exhibit possible that it might be said that they proved that it is practicable to produce a first-class show without the difficult task of telling each other, and the public generally, in what degree one exhibit is better than another.

Messrs. Wallace and Co. had many new seedlings to show, and as most of them were under number we presume the selection for distribution has not yet been completed. The group was exceedingly interesting in that it contained so many of the type that has come to be recognised as the "Dominion" race. It is early days yet to determine which among them will prove to be permanent additions to the already formidable list of Irises, but there were certainly two or three that were quite distinct and which we expect to see again when stocks are available. One interesting little species formed a very attractive patch in one corner of this group. This is the hardy form of I. fimbriata (japonica), known as Ledger's Variety. There is some doubt as to the origin of this form of the species. It varies slightly from the earlier-known and tender form. There is, however, now a suggestion that it may be a geographical form collected in the Chitral. Another attractive feature in this group was the finest purple form of Sibirica, Purple Emperor. So remarkable in quality of flower and texture of the fall is this variety that it suggests sometimes there may be something in its blood not pure Sibirica.

Messrs. Bunyard and Co. produced a very clean-looking group of the best of the modern Bearded Irises—Swazi, Corrida, Rosalba, Dimity, Morning Splendour (the first Iris to receive the American Iris Society Medal as the best seedling of the year), Souv. de Letitia Michaud, Imperator, and many other good things.

Messrs. Lowe and Gibson had a nice collection of garden varieties, including but still unsurpassed Pallida da Azure, Shalimar, Morwell, Rhoda, a to them the Fox Hill Hardy Plant up a group of the best of the older sprinkled with a few of the newer so as Lent A. Williamson, B. Y. M Exquisite, and, although interloper Iris Show, some very fine blooms of scarce Magnolia Watsonii were inc this exhibit, and filled this corner of with their fragrance.

Perhaps the group that attracted was that of Mr. Amos Perry. mirable staging of this exhibit was i pleasing effort. A carpet of Ferns which rose as many good things as t permitted. The majority were varieties of Mr. Perry's own produc the general collection was fully re tive of the best of the modern Mrs. H. F. Bowles, Niagara, Wayla ley, Lord Lambourne, Mrs. Mario Duke of York, Crimson Glow, and tion to these that claimed special one seedling, a mixture of bronze, and orange, almost scarlet in parts, hot standards, but somewhat din promised to turn out something goo future.

It was obvious that all the visito show were not on the look-out for t introductions, and that the older still possess an attraction for many as there was always a little crowd round Messrs. Barr's fine group. H varieties as Hon. Mrs. Kingscote, Lorelei, Quaker Lady, Mme. Aurora, Opera, Damozet, and Alca well shown.

Mr. Geo. Whitelegg had a grou named seedlings, many of which w ning to those shades usually describe a term that is hardly applicable to ar

Mrs. Dykes put up an attractive of her own good things, among

haroon, a buff coloured seedling suffused with apricot, smoky and a touch of old rose. Awarded Silver Gilt Medal, 1st Prize II., and selected for trial at Wisley. This was considered the tstanding novelty in the show. If it has a fault, it is that the are somewhat flimsy. Shown by Mrs. W. R. Dykes.

2. Col. Candelot, very striking by virtue of the rich dark crimson of its falls. It is the most crimson of all Irises. Standards bronze, overlaid with lavender. Shown by Mr. B. R. Long, Richmond, Surrey.

magnificent white Iris—Micheline Charriare—a pure white of orm and tall growing. Parentage, Riccardi x Kashmir White. y Denis (France), 1924. The flowers, which are very fragrant, e on stems 4 feet high.

4. Santa Barbara, large, well formed flower. Standards and falls pale silvery blue—a flower of perfect form and poise. Raised by Mohr, 1925. Selected for trial at Wisley. Nos. 3 and 4 were both shown by Mr. G. L. Pilkington, President of the Iris Sooiety.

IRIS SOCIETY'S SHOW—FOUR NOTABLE NOVELTIES

being Amber, the finest yellow in general commerce; a giant that reminded us of Isoline, but with bluer standards, called Vanora, the wonderful new Zaharoon with which she obtained the silver-gilt medal in the class for one new seedling, a remarkable colour-scheme of amber, buff, yellow, with a suffusion of rose in its composition (there is no name to describe its colour), and Cupavo, a great purple bicolor with deep reddish-violet falls and lighter standards.

The Orpington Nursery Co. had the finest flowers of the magnificent Bruno we have ever seen, and, indeed, throughout this exhibit the quality of bloom was remarkable. It was the sort of group that makes it difficult to mention any of its particular constituents because all were so good, and, indeed, there is hardly an Iris of recent production of any value, whether of English, French, or American origin, that was not represented.

Messrs. Waterer, Son, and Crisp arranged a fine bank of good things against the side of the Hall. Mercedes, Neptune, Afterglow, Dalila, Ballerine, Lady Foster, and Magnifica were outstanding, but the blooms of Isoline and Asia were certainly the best of these varieties in the Hall.

Less in magnitude, but not in importance or interest, was Mr. Amos Perry's group of species and first hybrids. Perry has falsified Kipling's "East is East and West is West," because he *has made* them meet. Chrysographes from China and the Californian species have been united in a number of dainty forms that are going to be very popular in English gardens.

To Iris lovers the show was full of wonderful things, but nothing amongst the giants offered quite the appeal to the sense of beauty that these multi-coloured little gems did.

Cyclamen repandum

This is now in full bloom. Its bright glowing crimson flowers are very showy. Its foliage is not unlike that of C. neapolitanum. It does best here at the base of an Oak tree in a very dry position in a gritty soil, and though the foliage is not very luxuriant it is full of flower. There is, I believe, a white form, but I have not got it.

Of the other hardy Cyclamen growing here are europæum (summer-flowering), neapolitanum (early autumn), and Coum and Atkinsonii hybrids (winter flowering). The first-named begins flowering very often in July. Its foliage is round and prettily marbled. Its flowers are of a deep rose, most deliciously scented. It seems slow to establish itself, and, like all Cyclamen, I find resents being disturbed, and until it is thoroughly established is shy in flowering compared to other varieties.

C. neapolitanum begins flowering in September with rich pink flowers and continues for several weeks. Old-established corms will throw up masses of bloom. After the blooms are over the foliage appears. This is somewhat like Ivy in appearance, hence I suppose the name which often is used, hederæfolium. The foliage varies considerably in size, shape, and markings, but it is very attractive and remains on the corms for several months. There is a very nice white form of this species.

C. Coum is very distinct in that its foliage is round and dark green, somewhat wrinkled, and with no marbling on the surface at all. The flowers are smaller than other species and of a rich carmine-crimson. This species crossed with C. ibericum has produced what is known as C. Atkinsonii. The foliage is more or less silver-zoned, as in C. ibericum, even going almost to the self dark green of C. Coum, and the flowers vary from blush to crimson.

C. Coum and C. Atkinsonii flower from Christmas onwards regardless of the weather. They are very free-flowering, and at that time of year are especially welcome for their bright little flowers.

All hardy Cyclamen seem to like a deep, cool, well-drained soil with plenty of leaf-soil and half-shade. They all set plenty of seed except C. europæum, of which I never get any, though I see some pods forming. The curious method of curling its stems up like a watch-spring must be peculiar to these Cyclamen. The stems, in curling up, bring the seed-pod in contact with the soil, and there it remains in the case of C. neapolitanum all through the winter until July, when the seeds are about ripe. Mice seem to be fond of them, and watch must be kept on them.

A promising Iris plicata seedling

Awarded 2nd Prize at the Iris Show as a new seedling (Class II.) and selected for trial at Wisley. The standards and falls are heavily spotted and margined with mauve-pink. Shown by Mr. F. Burton, Hildenborough

Seed should be sown when ripe, and this will flower in most cases in the third year.

Hants. Cyc.

The stately large-flowered Pentstemon

Among late summer and autumn flowering plants this takes a very high place, many of the modern varieties being very fine indeed. It is not so very many years ago t Pentstemon was of but little use for adornment, the colours being so dr uninteresting. Now, however, all changed, for the hybridist has done h well and evolved many gorgeous sh scarlets, crimsons, pinks, and purple what were, mostly, dull mauves, purp lilacs. While several raisers have be gently at work for years trying to this plant, perhaps no other has bee successful than Mr. Beckett, who h tainly raised some of the very finest i ence. I have no idea of the number Mr. Beckett has hybridised and selec I do know that quite a number of the ham varieties are among the very c the species.

Messrs. Forbes, the well-known florists, also deserve great credit for th ties they have given to the flower-lovi lic. At one time it was only the e who took any interest in the Pent and, as is usual with the florist, s form were the chief points to aim a raising new varieties, colour being considered. For effective bedding or flower purposes these dull shades small value, and that, doubtless, reason why the Pentstemon was neglected. Now few other late-fl plants will give a finer or more grace play. Nor is this plant at all diff manage if its few wants are attende an intelligent manner. Although cla a hardy perennial it is not really so, in a few favoured spots, and the bes ment is to insert cuttings in a colc early in September, winter in the fra give abundance of air on every fav opportunity, and plant out where the bloom during May. While rich, we vated soil is necessary for good resu heavy dressings of rank manure mus given or soft gross wood and leaves flowers will result. To produce a f play the plants should be from 12 in 15 inches apart each way. As far as mass in separate varieties, althoug good effects are got by mixing the The following are all first-rate:—Lord ham, Maurice Gibbs, Lord Hunsdon Hunsdon, Red Riding Hood, Mrs. Beckett, George Home, Mrs. Fulford dream, Lady Mary Hope, Crimson Castle Forbes, and Mrs. Langford.

C. F

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

Summer Bedding

All the plants intended for this must now be hardened off in readin planting out during the next 10 days including the more tender-leaved s such as Begonias, Abutilons, F Eucalyptus, Ricinus, and other orna foliaged kinds which up to the prese have been nursed carefully. Their or enemy from the present date is hat but the more the plants are expos harder their leaves become, enabling withstand such unlooked-for storm hardier plants are being planted out and a good soaking of water applied completion of each bed. Those who clean and nice appearance to the should surface them with Cocoanu which also acts as a mulch.

Cypripedium hirsutum (Yellow Slipper)

Planted at the foot of large Magnol bed made up of loam, leaf-soil, an this Nova Scotian Orchid is increa vigour each year, and at the prese covered with exceedingly handsome borne—often in pairs—on stout st inches in height.

IRISES AT BOBBINGCOURT, NEAR WOKING.—Mrs. W. R. Dykes among her prize-winning Irises, and a border of new seedlings, many of which are flowering for the first time. From photographs taken on the eve of the Iris Show

Cultivation of St. Brigid Anemones

Should they be lifted?

[In answer to a correspondent.]

With regard to the lifting of the so-called bulbs we do not advise this. You cannot do better than follow the cultural directions given by Messrs. Reamsbottom and Co.:—

The best soil is rich loam, and land that has been cultivated not less than four or five years or more than 10 years, and heavy rather than light; therefore if yours is very old or light, try, first of all, to add a few spadefuls of more suitable soil. If planting in spring or early summer, select, if possible, a north aspect or similar cool position where hot sun will not blaze on them all day when up; but if planting after June, a south or west aspect or similar warm but open position is preferable. Avoid planting close to a wall or hedge if possible. After planting always water copiously with soft water every evening in dry summer weather, never allowing them to become dry until they have flowered.

Proceed as follows.—Fork over and break the soil up well, then work in plenty of rotten stable manure (cow if possible) about 4 inches deep (one piled-up spadeful to every six roots, if planted 4 inches apart, is a good dressing). Now, after making the bed thoroughly firm, thrust a stick rather thicker than a pencil a measured 3 inches into the soil (not more), withdraw the stick and drop a root into the hole; the root will thus be 1 inch above the manure and 3 inches from the surface. Now fill up the hole with soil again and firm it well down so as not to leave any cavity in which water might lodge before the root begins to grow. Do the same for every root, a 4-inch to 8-inch space between each. Do not transplant them.

The dry roots should not be left lying about, but planted as soon as possible after arrival.

After planting.—Except in clay or very heavy loam, directly you have planted the roots and as soon as the soil is dry enough make it quite firm by rolling or pressing heavily with sole of boot over the roots. These Anemones cannot succeed in loose or spongy ground.

When in flower.—At flowering season carefully cut away all blooms, including old and decaying ones, before they fade and drop their petals; this greatly improves the others, and, helping the buds, prolongs the flowering period.

After flowering.—If, after flowering, the roots are left undisturbed they should p another crop of flowers next season, the blooms are then generally infe quality and quantity, it is undoubted to discard them directly the foliage b withered and unsightly, and procure a package, as far the finest results are obtained by planting a fresh lot of specially-prepared proved dry roots.

BORDER DAFFODILS OF THE REMOTE FUTURE—THREE NEW AND NOTEWORTHY VARIETIES

1. Nevis 2. Tenedos 3. Everest

Claytonia australis

Carpeting the soil with its little which are so dense that a turfy effect duced, this spreader is now in bloo white stemless flowers being freely bor pleasing to look upon. These are se close to the ground—the whole plant s exceeding ½ inch in height—that one the impression of tiny broken eg having been scattered over the s

Euphorbia polychroma

Although so dwarf, this plant is ro growth, spreading quickly over a lar face, and it should appeal to those w these dwarf subjects for planting in of rocks and crazy paving.

A plant of special interest at the time is the above, which forms a very mound of pleasing growth crowne beautiful soft yellow bracts which r small group very conspicuous and d either in the hardy flower border o large rock gardens, where I saw it first time some few years ago and nised its undoubted value for such Catalogues give its height as 1 foot, b me it grows 18 inches high, each plan ing a lovely mound of soft yellow 2 feet across.

Border Daffodils—II.

(*Continued from page* 349.)

regards the effectiveness of Daffodils the border, the finest flowers are, to y thinking, those of a rich yellow, r of the Trumpet section or their ives, the medium-crowned Incompara- Even among the more recent and d Trumpets I cannot remember a finer flower than the old Maximus; that is, t grows well and in generous clumps, s not a Daffodil that thrives in every When, however, it does grow well ure, graceful curves, and exception- ep and rich colour make it—as I re- r it, for with me it is in the past tense st satisfying sight in any garden that ortunate as to possess it in its best Much the same may be said about the yal King Alfred, which, though it may Maximus in size, as it certainly does v-table points, has, nevertheless, not " Santa Maria " depth of Maximus. Iaximus, King Alfred is not every- flower. When Yukon becomes, as fine Daffodils have already become, ng in the market," it will put the f some now triumphant yellows a ut of joint. Michael is also a fine though less imposing than Yukon. of these yellow Trumpets reminds two superb Daffodils (*quâ* Border s, for I offer no judgment as to their oints) due to the pollen-brush of Mr. lson, namely Goldbeater and King of The first-named gets its exceptional from its pollen-parent, Maximus, ine colour it inherits, while King of pollen-child of King Alfred, some of ine features it reproduces, but sacri- ers for a robustious boldness, which an outstanding object in the border. seurs might pronounce King of May quarters a little rough, as no doubt t considered as a garden ornament it iking flower, tall, bold, very large, a full rich yellow. It has certainly *contra,* that when, of an afternoon, sun gets behind it and plays hide- in the depths and shallows of the yellow brilliancy makes things in its rhood seem a trifle dowdy. In its estimation the value of this Daffodil e lateness of its flowering—say, the f of May, when we expect few except those of the Poeticus tribe to om. It should be an interesting fact eners that we are now well on the have our mid-May gardens bright ndsome Daffodils. I don't know die of Brodie makes any conscious create a strain of late flowers, though they are found now and then in his . One late flower of his (of Engel- raising, he tells me) is the lovely large white Leedsii of Vestal hich, in the Brodie latitude, is at its ng the first half of May. It has one hat may or may not please the con- , a tendency, apparently, to hark some ancestor of Cernuus lineage, as the segments are not set to the e approved approximation to a right t incline a few degrees downwards, give the flower a somewhat pendu- ditative air—to give it, in short, name " Syra " may suggest to are sufficiently Victorian, a grace- cian bend." Mr. Guy Wilson, in n at Broughshane, Co. Antrim, is e to the possibilities of late-bloom- odils, and has done good pioneer producing desirable varieties. At (May 25th) there are two of his nspicuously in bloom, being as yet past their best and likely to be still le when the month of June is within ey are not by any means flowers of

The pure white Trumpet Narcissus Beersheba, which gained the First Class Certificate at Vincent Square

superfine finish, but they are large, bold, upstanding things, as gay and handsome as need be for those who wish to keep April loitering on into May. One of these unnamed Daffodils is a sturdy yellow Trumpet, somewhat after King of May, but not so large or so fine a flower. The other is a serviceable bicolor with white perianth and lemon trumpet (progeny of Mme. de Graaff and King Alfred), not, to be sure, meticul usly correct in the shape and symmetry of its features, but a big, cheerful flower nevertheless, of the imposing, though not faultless, order which memory associates with Mme. Plemp, though, not having seen the Plemp this many a day, it may be that I am not speaking by the book.

Many, indeed most, flowers of the medium-crowned Incomparabilis section—white or yellow perianth with yellow crown—are as decorative in the border as are the yellow Trumpets from which they come. So likewise, except for their tendency to sunburn, are the gay Barriis; whilst, on the other hand, the Leedsii flowers—in themselves, perhaps, the most charming of all Narcissi—like the white Trumpets from which they derive, pay the penalty of their delicate beauty in being less resistant to boisterous weather, and, consequently, less lasting. The crowded border does not seem to be the place for such sublimated beauties as Beersheba, Samaria, Moira O'Neil, Gaza, Nevis, White Emperor, White Nile, Tenedos, and others of that brilliant galaxy, where they have to rub shoulders with a rag-tag of aggressive composites—Doronicums, Asters, and such like—encouraged to occupy space by the gardener of herbaceous tastes. Rather, if circumstances permit, let them shelter in some peaceful backwater of the garden, sunny but not sultry; walled in, of course, or, preferably, hedged in with some appropriate plant —Sweet Briar, Holly, Yew, or, best of all if the latitude permits, the common Myrtle—anything, in short, except the evil-smelling, soil-robbing, and altogether objectionable Privet. I would not be so exacting as to require the philonarcissist to reserve his demi-paradise exclusively for white Trumpets and Leedsiis, but admittance for anything else should be made difficult—to the extent, at least, of barring anything that is not liliaceous. Without trenching on the rights of those flowers for which the retreat is specially intended, there could be no safer or more appropriate place for cultivating the small, and sometimes difficult, species of Narcissus—the Bulbocodiums, N. gracilis, N. tenuior, N. capax, and the now somewhat numerous Triandrus and Cyclamineus forms. Not merely would these be admissible, they would be desirable companions and foils for the taller flowers. A dream? No doubt, for those of us whose space is circumscribed, and that is for most of us. But pleasant dreams are good things, even if unfulfilled. At least we spend a good third of our lives in dreaming them. Those of us who cannot provide the desirable special sanctuary must even plant these aristocrats of their race where they can; when, however, they are not unlikely to be outshone and outlasted by less choice, but more flamboyant subjects.

Remains to say a word about doubles, regarded as border flowers; and, much as I prize and admire the doubles of all the sections, from N. capax to the double Gardenia-Poeticus, it is, with a few exceptions, impossible to commend them as border ornaments, since most of them, and these perhaps the finest, are too top-heavy to keep their heads erect and free from soil. The Double Odorus is a fine, bright, upstanding flower that lasts till one almost tires of it, and can hold its own with Doronicums and other border Octopods. Argent is also a smart flower, and, being only semi-double, is light-headed and so can keep itself erect. The same may be said about the double Poeticus when it can be grown satisfactorily, which it too often cannot. There was a time when the double Narcissi were a limited and definite number, and were supposed to be chance creations dating from times immemorial, but I believe there has been lately a recrudescence of duplication, and among these more recent forms and others yet to come there may be flowers admirably suited for the purpose which alone I have had in view, namely, the decoration of the garden border and parterre.

ALPHA.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Herbaceous plants

Those growing in sandy soils quickly exhaust their water supply, with the result that serious flagging takes place, and unless this is arrested in time by copious waterings the flowers will be poor in quality, if not altogether destroyed. Therefore prevent this by applying moisture in time, and in the case of large-leaved, voracious plants, apply some kind of light mulch. Herbaceous Phloxes lose much of their interest if permitted to suffer from drought.

Watering

This should be carried out early in the morning or late evening when the power of the sun is declining, for at such times overhead watering will refresh drooping plants and do no harm.

Rhododendrons and Azaleas

Remove the seed-heads from these as each kind passes out of bloom, and do not permit them to suffer from drought. The same applies to Lilacs and the Tree Heaths. The latter should be cut over naturally, and instead of the plant's energy being wasted in ripening unwanted seed it will be diverted into growth.

Lilies

Many adopt the method of growing Japan's noblest Lilies in groups among Azaleas, and I can thoroughly recommend it. Established clumps will derive considerable benefit from weekly applications of weak liquid-manure water. Stake the plants as soon as their tops are well clear of the shrubs beneath.

Bedding plants

Staking and watering will be a daily occupation until the plants have taken securely hold of the soil. Remove decaying flowers, and if prevented from blooming at all for the first 10 days the ultimate result will be more satisfactory.

Roses

Thin out the buds of these and keep a ceaseless watch for maggot and green-fly, spraying with Quassia Extract or Abol immediately its presence is located. Stir the soil frequently among the plants, and in the case of Wichuraianas loop in the strong young basal shoots about every 10 days.

Apples and Pears

Continue to spray the former against attacks of scab and Apple sucker, and in the case of cordon, espalier, and other trained trees stop the shoots back to within five or six buds of their base. Pears are now being thinned, having set a very heavy crop.

Plums and Cherries

Pinch the shoots back as advised for Apples and Pears, and burn the tips. Aphis is very troublesome among Cherries, especially Morellos, and must be held in check by repeated sprayings of Quassia Extract.

Digging

Endeavour to get all vacant plots manured and turned up in readiness for crops of Broccoli or other winter greens which must shortly be put out, for if such land is ready there is no delay when the weather becomes favourable for planting.

Tomatoes

A batch may now be planted in a sheltered place in the open. The plants should have been thoroughly exposed previously. Those growing under glass are carrying heavy crops and must now be assisted by applications of liquid-manure. Keep the growths of these trained to their supports, but pressure must on no account be used to force neglected growths into position.

Late Peas

It is very little use sowing any, except the dwarf early kinds, after this date, therefore a few rows of a good late variety, such as Autocrat, Late Queen, or Gladstone Improved, should now be sown to furnish a supply during September and early October.

Grape thinning

In the later houses this is now a daily occupation, and with such hot, sunny days prevailing it must of necessity be confined to early morning and evening. Experienced hands quickly overtake such work, but it generally happens that novices have to be taught each year, and their turn comes in these later houses. Great care is necessary, and keen supervision must be maintained over them to prevent rubbing and otherwise damaging the fruit. My own practice has always been to mark a few bunches for them to practice on, knowing that such will be removed later, but not until the berries have grown large enough to admit of defects and damaged parts being pointed out to such beginners. A little of such practice, however, is quickly followed with ability.

Netting fruits

Do not wait until the fruit is actually colouring before securely netting it in against birds, for, once our friends have sampled it, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep them away. Methodical netting admits of the fruit being gathered cleanly and comfortably. This is brought about by erecting stout stakes and training wires from them at 5 feet from the ground. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Planting Main-Crop Brassicas

As soon as the plants raised from seeds sown in March are of sufficient size they should be set out in their permanent quarters. Rich but very firm ground gives best results, and if properly handled a dibber is quite a suitable tool for this process, and is three times as speedy as when a trowel is used.

When to plant

It is, almost invariably, advised to plant these subjects during showery weather, but I find as good, or even better, results if this work is performed during a dry spell. And for this reason. During dull, showery weather slugs are very active and do a deal of damage, whereas when the soil is dry they cannot travel about, and the plants escape. Planting during dry weather a "cup" or depression is left round each plant which is filled with water in the evening, using a can without a rose. In the morning, while the plants are standing erect, well hoe the whole ground, filling up the "cups" with the dry soil, and unless the drought is very prolonged no more watering should be necessary, and there will be but few blanks to fill later.

Cabbages

It is always well to have a succession of this homely and useful vegetable, so the necessary quantity should now be planted. One of the very best varieties for autumn and early winter is Winningstadt. well grown it is of excellent quality, much superior to the Drumhead type, o early Savoys.

Cauliflowers

Plant good breadths of this popular selecting early mid-season and late va so as to carry on an unbroken succ from late July till November. Su Purity, Sutton's Favourite, Dwarf I Walcheren, and Veitch's Autumn Gia all very reliable.

Brussels Sprouts

This indispensable winter green sho planted in quantity. For small g Sutton's Dwarf Gem is excellent, wh general use Newtownards Gem and S are very reliable here in the north.

Borecoles

The homely "Curlie" has its uses, ally in early spring, when other kin none too plentiful. One of the bes hardiest Kales on the market is C Russian Kale. It resembles, somewha old "Ragged Jack," but is greatly su in every way. The plants are very d tive, while, as a vegetable, it is of more agreeable flavour than any of the nary curled greens.

Savoys

Being so hardy, the Savoy is very va during the winter and early spring m Dickson's Omega is the best for lates while a good selection of Ormskirk i good, with Dwarf Green Curled for e supplies.

Broccoli

In few districts in Scotland is the slightest use in planting winter Brocco spring varieties usually do well. It early enough to plant these latter, but of an autumn variety may be put in sometimes useful.

Herbaceous borders

A constant watch must be kept on perennial plants so that staking and be attended to in good time. It dem deal of time and material, but really p the end, properly supported plants b delight, whereas the same plants l themselves are invariably an eyesore.

Dividing Polyanthuses

Certainly the best plants and flowers are had from seedlings, but any specially fine forms or colours ha peared it is only by division that one tain to increase these, seedlings coming entirely true. A rather shad with fairly rich soil suits this plan Dig up the old plants carefully and pieces with the hands. Every fresh with a few roots attached will grow good plant later. A fresh site is ad and should be in partial shade.

Young Zonal Pelargoniums

These are now ready for a shift in flowering pots. The 6-inch size is ve able, and all should be quite clean an a suitable quantity of crocks arranged bottoms for drainage. "Geraniums be grown in good sound fibrous loam parts, leaf-mould two parts, and o coarse sand, but the addition of a potful of bone-meal and a 4½-inch p Thomson's Plant Manure to each l load of the other ingredients will m perfect. C. B

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

EES AND SHRUBS

Spiræa arguta

E have many lovely spring-flowering shrubs at command, and among them we have few fairer or more delightful piræa arguta. It is pretty well known rs of flowering shrubs, but many more to cultivate it. Its cultivation pre- no difficulties. It grows in any ordi- oil and never fails to flower well after been established and to give its sprays ll white flowers. Each branch seems wreathed with these, and at a e a good plant looks as if covered with y sheet. S. arguta is nominally from to 5 feet in height, but when estab- and allowed to grow of its own sweet considerably taller. The whole shrub edingly graceful, foliage and flowers and as a bush or against a wall it is exquisite when in bloom. It is very indeed, and I have never known it even in severe winters when many eputedly hardy shrubs have been badly Plants are offered by most nurserymen rry a stock of the best shrubs.

S. Arnott.

Japanese Maples

e charming foliage shrubs are in- able in any garden. One thing, er, I am convinced that they must have, nat is shelter from rough winds. the foliage is young and tender rough will beat it to a pulp and ruin it, and in the autumn, when the gales come hen the foliage is at its best colour, get blown away before you have had really see and enjoy it.

palmatum atropurpureum is one of st. Its colour is good when it first all through the summer, and again t takes on its vivid scarlet shades in umn.

linearifolium purpureum is a grace- iety with narrow lobed foliage, the not being quite so dark as the pre- variety.

sanguineum is of sturdier growth broader five-lobed foliage of rich -crimson.

septemlobum and its varieties are my tes. The type has seven-lobed leaves l size, bright green changing in the to vivid scarlet.

septemlobum elegans, a bronzy-leaved and Acer s. purpureum, a purple- form, are both very attractive and y good in their autumn colour. But st variety of the septemlobum section variety "Osaka-Suki," which turns utumn to a most intense scarlet, the illiant colour of all. The true plant ery scarce.

hree forms of Acer japonicum grow- e are japonicum, with green foliage size, which seems difficult to get, for ason, and I imported a few plants pan, as the only plant I could get in l is quite distinct in having similar- leaves, but of a bronzy-green, turning utumn to a rich dark crimson. Acer m is, apparently, of dwarfer habit, ge being of a rich yellowish-green.

. laciniatum is a cut-leaved form, and mn colouring is usually very fine, a of crimson, scarlet, and gold.

dwarf-growing A. dissectum and its are very useful plants for small gar- rock gardens on account of their abit. A. dissectum has bright green t foliage.

d. atropurpureum is similar to the cept in its colour.

d. ornatum is a bronzy form not so deep in colour as the preceding variety and of more spreading habit. A. d. palmatifidum has green foliage of bright colour and very finely cut. All these turn a most glorious colour in the autumn of crimson, scarlet, and gold. There are several more varieties of Japanese Maples, but I think this list will do for a start, as these are what I consider the best from an ornamental point of view.

Acer.

Planting trees in parks

It may be very interesting to try and acclimatise trees of doubtful hardiness, but most of the half-hardy Pines that are seen in exposed parks have a poor appearance. When isolated specimens of Wellingtonia were dotted about, not always in the best positions, their foreign aspect did not harmonise with the simple grandeur of our own native monarch Oaks, Elms, or Chestnuts. Our gardens and the grounds we lay out about them are, even at their best, mainly artificial creations, and we please ourselves as to what we plant in them; but many of our fine parks, in all their simple beauty and grandeur, have been handed down through several generations, and although the trees decay and fall through age and weakness, yet, as a rule, nothing is done to replant other trees in the place of those that have died. But there is room for a lot of interesting work of a permanent character, and even if those who carry it out do not live to see the results, others may, and posterity will thank them for what they did. There are now to be seen in nurseries varied and beautiful forms of our own native trees which are rarely planted in gardens. These should be planted in the park in association with the typical forms. The Oak, Elm, Lime, Poplar, Beech, Chestnut, Ash, Maple, Hawthorn, and other trees which adorn our parks are now but types of varied families; and it would be a very good thing to take the different members of a family, those best suited for the purpose, and plant them close to the common forms. As they grew up we should enjoy the contrast, and could conveniently acquaint ourselves with the points of difference in them. But even this improvement, desirable as it is, must not be carried too far, as we must be very careful how we plant trees in the park, lest we destroy its best features. The prettiest parks are those in which the trees fall into large natural glades, groves, or groups, with broad expanses of turf between. It would be very wrong to indiscriminately dot about trees all over these fine expanses of turf. I have seen this done with disastrous results, and some parks which I know now look little better than half-cleared woods, because well-meant improvement by the planting of trees was carried altogether too far. There are too many examples of absurd tree planting to be seen in both parks and pastures; but a little thought will show how absurdities may be avoided, and yet leave room for intelligent tree-planting on a smaller scale, but to better purpose. There is not much done in the present day towards adding to the beauty of our fine tree-adorned parks, and those who have gone so far as to plant trees in them, have not, as a rule, made the best possible choice of subjects. There is no easier way to spoil a park than to dot about those meaningless clumps of Scotch Larch and Spruce Firs which one often sees, and in which a dozen trees are often starving where one would thrive. Those who contemplate planting trees might with advantage visit some good tree nursery or consult a catalogue. They would then, perhaps, be surprised at the great variety there is of things fit to associate with our native trees.

A. G.

Spiræa arguta. Every branch is wreathed with small white flowers

VEGETABLES

Cleaning crops

I HAVE been interested in the notes by other contributors on clearing and cleaning ground that has been neglected and become over-run with Couch Grass, Docks, and Dandelions. This happens to be a subject with which I have had to contend in various gardens. I have had to clear ground infested with not only the above-mentioned Couch Grass, Docks, and Dandelions, but with Buttercups (Ranunculus repens), Bindweed, Bishop's Weed (Ground Elder), Nettles, and even Thistles in abundance. There can be no doubt that clearing the ground by means of vigorous-growing Potatoes is one of the best possible once the ground has been sufficiently cleaned and broken up, but where wireworms are too prevalent for this method to be carried out profitably there are other methods of clearing the ground of these pests better, perhaps, than just fallowing it. The best way of all is to treat the ground with a good stiff dressing of "Vaporite," or, better still, "Kamforite H" (say, 4 ozs. to the square yard) dug in to a depth of about 6 inches below the surface and allowed to then lie idle for at least six weeks to allow the soil fumigant to do its work thoroughly. Another simple but less efficacious plan is to sow the infested plot with common field Mustard (Brassica nigra, syn. Sinapis nigra), this crop to be afterwards dug in as green manure immediately it comes into flower in the summer. Where the wireworm is not so bad one may not only eradicate the pest as above, but save waste of ground, by sowing, instead of common field Mustard, a more useful variety known as Chinese Mustard, the leaves of which are eaten boiled like Spinach, and have a most agreeable flavour. Some advocate the sowing of Rape seed (Brassica napus, syn. Sinapis napus) for green manure as an antidote to wireworm and other insect pests in lieu of Mustard. I have never, myself, tried this, but see no reason why it should not be so used, provided it is not allowed to go to seed in the garden. It would be interesting to know if any other reader has tried this, as I have read that Rape is a thing to be shunned in the garden.

CAPTAIN E. A. SAUNDERS.

Parsley for winter use

It seems rather absurd to speak of winter at this time, but it is now that a start has to be made if an ample and unbroken supply of this esteemed herb is to be maintained throughout the winter. At one time most of us sowed the seeds in frames in July or August, but this never gave really fine produce. A much better plan is to sow thinly now in the open garden and transplant to prepared beds under a cold frame about the end of August. In many gardens Parsley is a very uncertain crop, the plants, after attaining a height of 2 inches to 3 inches, drying off. This unsatisfactory state of matters may be obviated by the free use of leaf-mould, and it is advisable, when preparing to sow the winter crop, to first dress the ground with this material. Be rather generous with the leaf-mould, allowing a thickness of 5 inches or 6 inches to be spread all over the surface, and lightly dug in. The seeds are then sown in the ordinary way. It is a good plan to also use plenty of leaf-mould in the compost into which the plants are pricked in the frame, thus assuring immunity from attacks of the vermin that destroys the plants on occasion. After the plants are transferred to the frame in autumn they may be kept close and shaded for a day or two, but if this be prolonged the leaves turn yellow and it takes some time for the plants to recover. It is best, therefore, to remove the sashes altogether, but giving a light shading of some kind for a week should the weather be dry and sunny. Only when hard frost threatens should the sashes be placed over the frames, for the hardier the plants are grown the better will they stand the winter.

I find that a good strain of the old Myatts Garnishing is as hardy and, therefore, reliable as any for winter use. C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

The value of Rape-meal for growing Celery

The increasing scarcity of farmyard and stable manure for use in gardens is becoming more serious every year, and, consequently, one has to look about and make many experiments for the best and cheapest substitutes. The production of several hundreds of heads of Celery annually is, therefore, rather a serious problem, and I have obtained almost as good results with the following materials as was possible in the past with farmyard manure. The trenches are made in late winter or early spring in the usual manner and filled to the required height with a compost of all the old potting soils, soils from Melon and Cucumber borders, and the usual vegetable refuse which accumulates in all gardens, such as leaf-mould and kitchen garden rubbish.

A few weeks before planting, a very liberal amount of Rape-meal is spread on the top of the compost in the trenches and well incorporated by forking it in. It is better to apply the Rape-meal at this time than mixing it with the compost earlier, as there is not so much risk of loss of plant food by leaching. Rape-meal is a slightly nitrogenous organic substance, and has proved indispensable in the production of good Celery with solid non-frothy stems.

During the growing period growth is further accelerated with occasional applications of sulphate of potash 2 ozs. and superphosphate 5 ozs. per 25 feet run of double trench, and well watered in if weather is very dry. C. H.

Cabbage root maggot

Normally there are two generations of this pest each year; the first occurs at this time of the year and the second about five or six weeks later. Many gardeners are in the habit of not noticing anything wrong with their Brassica crops until the affected plants begin to wilt and die. A little care now will save many plants. The adult Cabbage fly lays her eggs in the loose soil and close to the stem of the host plant, and seems to favour those plants which have rough soil about their collars, and also those which have made holes by the side of their stems as the plants have been moved about by the wind. If Cabbage plants are closely examined at this period it should be possible to determine whether an attack of root maggot is impending. The examiner should get down as near to the soil as possible and gently remove a little of the soil from the collars of the plant. If Mrs. Cabbage fly has been round, her visit will be denoted by the presence of many tiny white eggs, just big enough to be visible to normal eyes. The eggs, although smaller, are similar to those deposited by a bluebottle upon a piece of meat. Two methods of procedure are open to the examiners—(1) If eggs have been found the plants should be at once dressed with a good soil insecticide applied according to the maker's directions. (2) In the event of failing to find the eggs it may be that the flies have not yet deposited any and it would help to protect the plants if they were dressed with creosote. A good mixture is 1 oz. of creosote mixed with 3 lbs. dry garden soil. The mixture should b stirred and left in a bucket covered sack overnight and applied by placing to the collar of each plant. A small 6 potful divided between two plants wo about the right quantity to give.

Report on Condition of Hortic Crops on the 26th May, 192

VEGETABLES

Beans (Broad).—Promising; need ra

Beans (Kidney).—Early sowing cut frost; later sowings germinating well.

Beans (Runner).—Considerable dam frost.

Beet.—Germination reasonably goo growth slow.

Brussels Sprouts.—Growth slow ow drought.

Cabbage (spring-sown).—Making progress.

Cabbage (autumn-sown).—Average an abnormal number of plants bolted.

Carrots.—Germination good, but slow.

Cauliflower.—Plants set out earl growing slowly, showing signs of dam frost; further plantings held up for conditions.

Celery.—Plants recovering after che frost; planting out now held up by dr ditions.

Cucumbers (under glass).—Very sa tory crop; good cuttings being made early plantings.

Kale.—Germination good; growth s

Leeks.—Germination good.

Lettuce.—Progressing moderately; rain.

Marrows.—Germination good; pl out delayed by dry conditions.

Onions.—Growth slow; require rain

Parsnips.—Germination good gen growth slow.

Peas.—Early-sown injured by frost sown fair.

Savoys.—Germinating well.

Spinach.—Condition fair.

Tomatoes (under glass).—Prospects early fruits being picked.

Tomatoes (outdoor).—Planting out just commenced.

Turnips.—Plants much damaged tacks of flea beetle.

FRUIT

Effect of Frosts.—It was feared th severe frosts which occurred daily duri last week of April would prove to hav disastrous effects on fruit crops, but reports indicate that fruit prospects are now, on the whole, than was antic The incidence of the frosts was very lar, varying considerably as betwee tricts, and even between adjoining orc Low-lying parts were badly affected, higher districts and those enjoying escaped more lightly.

Apples.—Bramley's Seedling s severely in most places, and crops variety will be light. Cox's Orange and Beauty of Bath were also affecte siderably by frost, and crops of these w be heavy. Allington, James Worcester Pearmain, and Lord Derby not much affected, and show good pr Lane's Prince Albert, Newton Wonde Cider varieties show no signs of damag carry a good set of fruit.

Cherries.—Sweet Cherries very poo because of severe frost damage, but M have set well in parts of Kent and Buc

Currants (Black).—Crop is expected better than that of last season, in spite severe injury by frost in many dis

n seems to have suffered less injury ost than either Boskoop or French.
ants (Red).—Good crop generally, ving had little effect.
eberries.—Some frost damage in the counties; crops otherwise are satis- ; picking of early fruits has started.
.—Suffered badly from frost; Fer- Conference, Hessle, and Lammas are fair crops; other varieties very light.
s (ordinary).—Frost caused severe , with varying results on the dif- varieties; prospects for Early Rivers r to fair; Czar, fair to very fair; Per- oor; Victorias, poor; Blaisdon Reds, fair; Monarch, fair; Belle de , poor.
s (Gages).—Very light crop, owing to mage.
s (Damsons).—Fair in Kent; else- poor; Aylesbury Prune about a crop.
erries.—Some damage to canes, but s escaped generally and crop pro- ell.
berries.—All early blossom rendered y frost, but secondary blooms have and prospects have much improved; Sovereign suffered worst of all; Castle, half of the blossom de- Mme. Kooi and Sir Joseph Paxton less.

BOOKS

"The Low Road"*

VE just read, with great interest, a unique book which must be of st to many gardeners at the present re shortness of the necessary means one to garden on the lines of least es and without constantly-recurring ure.

the above title Mr. Maxwell de- out 100 pages of good, clear print to nuch about the Heather family on l moors and in the garden. The arden is not entirely a new feature, o recently the gardens which could mething representing a fairly com- ection of these very charming plants and far between, and it was left to Fyfe Maxwell and his partner, Mr. familiarise the gardening world at th the wealth of these plants avail- hose who can appreciate these true of Nature, little touched and en- spoilt by the effort of men in their r to improve the race.

Messrs. Maxwell and Beale have l in acquiring by purchase and per- lecting what must be the most re- ive collection of hardy Heaths and in existence, and they have realised lier specialists have failed to see, is the necessity of starting with d vigorous plants raised carefully all cuttings or layers, and not the ivided old plants that so often give the expected satisfaction.

xwell handles his subject in a lively y style. There is not a dull line in and he labours to drive true under- of the wants and likes of his plants into the reader's mind by bservations and a deep understand- subject.

the true species and their colour d other variations, the writer deals and fully with several rare natural f the greatest interest, and it would at, thanks to his efforts, all these ill gradually come within the means rdener with limited resources and enable most of us to enjoy what has been, up to now, only within the reach of the favoured few.

The book is illustrated with reproductions of clever paintings by Miss Winifred Walker and bound in covers that recall the purple of the hills in Heather-time, and I would counsel all who love the Heaths—and they must be legions—to purchase and study this pioneer volume with a view to bringing at least a part of the glory of the lower hills into every suitable garden. W. E. TH. I.

*fe Maxwell. Published by Sweet & Maxwell, 5s. 6d.

"The Gardeners' Year Book"*

We receive this from the publishers, Messrs. Williams and Norgate, and have pleasure in recommending it as an unusually well-compiled book of reference and of information on horticultural matters generally. Besides the more statistical contents there are a number of articles, both interesting and instructive, by professional writers and some of the leading amateurs.

Sale of plants

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has issued an Order entitled "The Sale of Diseased Plants Order of 1927," which takes the place of the Sale of Diseased Plants Order of 1922 and the American Gooseberry Mildew Order of 1919. Copies may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1. The effect of the Order is to prohibit the sale or exposure for sale of any plant which bears evidence of having been substantially attacked by the Apple Capsid, or of any trees, shrubs, seeds, tubers, bulbs, layers, cuttings, or any other parts of a plant which are substantially attacked by the following pests:—Fruit Tree Cankers, American Gooseberry Mildew, Silver Leaf, Black Currant Mite, Woolly Aphis, all Scale Insects, Brown Tail Moth, Rhododendron Bug, and Powdery or Corky Scab of Potatoes.

The reason for the Order is the serious complaints that have been made to the Ministry during the past few months of the increase of the Capsid Bug on Apple trees in certain districts. The need for a drastic Order was strongly urged, and the Ministry, after full consideration of the advice of its Horticultural Advisory Council, decided that the most practicable method of dealing with the matter was to add the pest to the schedule to the Sale of Diseased Plants Order of 1922. The opportunity was taken of making other small amendments of the regulations, and the new Order is the result.

Inspection and certification of Black Currant bushes

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, on the recommendation of its Horticultural Advisory Council, proposes to set up a voluntary scheme of inspection and certification of stocks of Black Currant bushes intended for sale. Stocks will be inspected on application, and certificates will be issued for those which are found to be true to type, and also apparently reasonably free from reversion. The issue of a certificate will not imply that the stock to which it relates was found to be free from all disease, but no certificate will be given for any stock which is obviously infested with Black Currant Mite or is otherwise obviously unhealthy at the time of inspection.

Lists of growers holding certificates will be issued so that purchasers may have an opportunity of procuring certified stocks.

Growers who wish to avail themselves of these facilities should make application to the Secretary of the Ministry, 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1, before June 20th. A fee of 7s. 6d. per 1,000 bushes will be charged for the inspection (fractions of 1,000 will be charged as 1,000), with additional fees of 1s. for the certificate and 3d. for each copy certificate.

*"The Gardeners' Year Book." Published by Williams and Norgate, London; price, 3s. 6d.

Masters' Memorial Lectures

The Masters' Memorial Lectures will be held at Vincent Square on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 21st and 22nd, at 3 p.m., by Dr. C. H. Ostenfeld, of Copenhagen. The lectures will be on "Some remarks upon hybrids between species in flowering plants."

The Masters' Memorial Lectures were founded by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1909 in commemoration of Dr. Maxwell T. Masters, F.R.S., the great advocate of "science with practice."

Awards to Aubrietias

The following awards have been made to the undermentioned Aubrietias by the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society after trial at Wisley:—

AWARD OF MERIT. — Vindictive and Carnival, sent by Messrs. C. Elliott.

HIGHLY COMMENDED.—Gloriosa, sent by Messrs. Prichard and Ruys; Studland, sent by Messrs. Prichard; J. S. Baker, sent by Messrs. Barr; Magician, sent by the R.H.S.

COMMENDED.—Prichard's A1, sent by Messrs. Barr.

LATE NOTES

London gardens championships

This competition is being organised by the *Daily Express*, in conjunction with the London Gardens Guild. Last year the number of entries was over 10,000, and all these gardens were inspected. Although there are a large number of entries, there are also a large number of prizes; over 1,000 were given last year, including those awarded by local societies, thus making one prize-winner in every 10 entries. The initial judging is done by the local Horticultural Society. The final judges are:—The Rt. Hon. Noel Buxton, M.P., ex-Minister of Agriculture; the Rt. Hon. Walter Guinness, M.P., Minister of Agriculture; and the Marquess of Northampton. There is still time to make application for an entry form, the closing date for receiving entries being June 27th, and there is no entrance fee. Full particulars and conditions are sent out in an attractive folder, and a postcard to the Organisers, London Gardens Guild, 124, Walworth Road, London, S.E. 17, will bring it by the next post.

Phlox stellaria Nelsoni

A chaste and beautiful plant, this alpine Phlox should be freely planted on every rock garden, large or small. The compact, Moss-like growth is, in early summer, covered by myriads of white flowers, purest white except for the faintest tinge of colour at the eye. Drifts of this plant alternated with irregular patches of Aubrietias or with Æthionema, Warley Hybrid, is a very fine sight. It is very easily grown in a sunny position with a well-drained loam as a rooting medium. The plant is very easily propagated from cuttings inserted in sandy soil in a cold frame during the summer months. P. s. Nelsoni is, undoubtedly, one of the most satisfying and most beautiful of alpine Phloxes. RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society

Keeping the Tulip to the fore

The Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society held their ninety-first annual show recently in the club room at the Brunswick Hotel. The Society's records go back to 90 years, but—as has been indicated in previous reports—tradition tells us that the Society was in existence for many years before that.

For the seventh year in succession Mr. Needham won the silver challenge cup for the best stand of nine Tulips. In the open classes there were special prizes for the premier breeder, premier flamed, and premier feathered, and the first-named was won by Mr. Needham with a Daphne breeder, and the other two by Mr. C. J. Fox, with respectively a flamed byblomen, King of the Universe, and a feathered bizarre, Lord Frederick Cavendish. Mr. Needham, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Bentley together form a valuable asset to the show, for they always bring some exhibits of special interest and worthy of emulation. Similar honours in the local classes were won by Mr. E. H. Robinson with a bizarre breeder Gleam, by Mr. W. Robinson with a flamed bizarre Sam Barlow, and by Mr. A. T. Meens with a feathered bizarre Attraction. In the Society the rule is a fair field for all competitors, and the beginner who has his heart in the work and who has been successful in producing a worthy exhibit, stands as good a chance as anyone else. An example of this was seen in the fact that two of the local premiers referred to above were won by exhibitors in the novice class, Mr. Meens and Mr. W. Robinson. Recruits are needed to carry on the Tulip-growing tradition, and it is pleasing to record that several of these have recently joined. As regarded the exhibits staged, there was a beautiful array, and it showed what skill and attention will do, notwithstanding the handicap of unfavourable weather. One innovation at this year's show was a local class for three blooms, these being one breeder, one flamed, one feathered, and all of one colour; that is to say, all bizarres, or all byblomen, or all Roses, and preference was given, other things being equal, to three blooms of the same name. Mr. R. Robinson judged the open classes, and Mr. Needham and Mr. Fox judged the local ones.

ALPINES

Androsace Sarmentosa

THIS is a charming diminutive plant at one time considered difficult to grow, but not so if grown in sandy soil and strong-growing plants keep away from it.

It grows freely with silvery rosettes in matted tufts about 1 inch high and numbers of creeping slender runners producing young plants at the end of each running shoot, quickly forming a spreading colony if fully exposed.

The plant is neat in habit and profuse in bloom. It spreads slowly over the interstices of warm limestone if planted where it will not suffer from stagnant water.

It is one of the prettiest plants and one of the easiest to grow on an open spot in the rock garden in well-drained light soil; all the better if mingled with broken rock, the surface nearly covered with limestone chippings, with abundance of sand, and exposed to the full sun in a slanting position.

The plant forms neat little cushions. The flowers are borne in trusses on slender stems rising well above the dense foliage, and at first sight resemble those of a tiny rosy-eyed Verbena.

The flowers, almost as large as the rosette, from which they have arisen, and nestling on the mass of greyish leaves, have a charming effect.

It should be planted in grit and loam in deep fissures of the rock, where the water will not be so liable to damage them during the winter.

It is seen to the best advantage in a somewhat raised position so that it may crawl some little way over the face of surrounding stones. In such a position it will not be so liable to be over-run by strong plants.

The chief enemy to this plant is dampness in winter, therefore it should be planted in sunny seams where water will get away quickly.

Some recommend an overhanging ledge, but if such protection be not removed it causes too much dryness. A better plan, perhaps, during wet weather is to place two pieces of glass in a ridge over the plant, thus keeping it dry and allowing a free access of air, but this should be removed very early.

The plant is perfectly hardy and w stand intense cold, but, like nearly a with cottony foliage, objects to moi winter, which soon causes it to dam

Being of wiry nature it is advis work a little limestone chippings and and about the plants in autumn. T sides providing the plants with nouri helps to keep them dry, and also prov medium for the young rosettes to ro

When well grown and fully expo plant forms the fullest tufts, and flo freely that a well-grown or happy c startlingly effective.

The plant is best increased by seve tiny young rosettes from the pare and pressing them firmly in sandy pans under the shelter of a cold, air It is well to propagate freely for fea during the wet season. The plant is remarkable beauty and grace that i form broad patches on every rock and is well worthy of the best positio

H. St

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED. *Bouverie House Fleet Street, London, E. C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date cannot always be replied to in the issue ately following their receipt. We do not queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their be named should send fair examples of stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets and points of shoots are useless.) Not m four plants should be sent in any one we same correspondent. Where more than is sent they should be numbered. Of cor cones should always be sent.*

GREENHOUSE

Greenhouse plants for winter blooming

(W. R.).—The following are suitable:—Lapageria rosea, L. alba, Bouvardia leiantha compacta and jasminoides, Acacia Drummondi, platyptera, and oleifolia elegans, Statice profusa, Epacris in variety, Richardia æthiopica, Monochætum sericeum multiflorum, Camellias of sorts, Cinerarias of sorts, Azaleas of sorts, Cyclamens of sorts, Chinese Primroses, Daphne indica rubra, Hyacinths, Tulips, and Narcissus of sorts, Andromeda floribunda (hardy), Tree Carnations, Erica hyemalis, gracilis, grandinosa, colorans, caffra, and many others, several good sorts of Rhododendrons, Lilacs, double white Almond and Tea Roses (all forced), Jasminum grandiflorum, Cassia corymbosa, Chorizema Lawrenciana, Coronilla glauca, several sorts of Correa, Cytisus Atleeana, Leschenaultia intermedia and Baxterii major, and Leucopogon Cunninghamii.

Greenfly on Ferns

(F. M.).—Fumigate them when the fronds have acquired firmness of texture; if the plants are making young growth, syringe with Tobacco-water instead.

Azaleas from cuttings

(T. E.).—When the young wood of the current season's growth is nearly ripe it is in a proper state to make cuttings. Insert the cuttings, not too closely, in 6-inch pots, in silver sand; cover with a bell-glass, shade from the sun. Strike in a gentle bottom-heat. As soon as struck, pot off the cuttings into 3-inch pots in peat and sand, and grow on liberally for two years in a warm or intermediate house.

Gloxinias from leaves

(W. F.).—Insert the leaf half-way into the soil any time after the leaves are fully formed, or cut the ribs into short lengths, with a portion of the leaf attached, and insert these edgewise like ordinary cuttings in silver sand. Place them in a hotbed or warm propagating pit, shade and water mo Or cut through the mid-rib at inter the lower end of each portion with a some silver sand about the cut, a shaded in a close frame with a bri They should root from every cut.

ROSES

Injury to Dorothy Perkins

(A. G. E.).—The trouble is caused while the parts damaged were we often happens when frost comes sud the back of rain or fog. At the sa the wood sent is fairly old, and wo been better cut away, young vigoro from the base of the plant being trai its place. As it is, you should cut o injured wood, as it will do no go damaged state.

FLOWER GARDEN

Retinispora pisifera aurea

(V.).—The growth of this plant, w a rich yellow compact foliage, is slo bears clipping remarkably well qualities have suggested to us its tion for Box as a garden edging. cordingly made experiments, wh proved perfectly successful. We fin compared with Box (1) it is quite and less particular in the choice of it is dwarfer, and bears clipping mu as the leaves are very minute an whilst Box leaves, from their chopped up and mutilated by the s it is far more beautiful, being o golden colour, and very compact a (4) the cost per yard will not exce common Box.

Double Primrose culture

(H.).—The plants growing amid ing of clay were of quite a vigoro ter, while the others, not so treat deplorable appearance. No doubt rose requires to be kept cool about and the beneficial effects of this pra quite evident in this instance. [Th

s that the Primrose, like many other and copse plants, suffers from having roots and tops dried by the sun in an spot, and that some kind of mulching help to counteract one of these evil s.]

sed Phlox

W. Jeffery).—The specimen shoots of sent in are affected with Septoria Leaf which is caused by the fungus Septoria catæ. We found the fungus thriving axils of the older leaves. The fungus ates the stem and restricts the water to the growing points, and hence just the abnormal growth and then the of the attacked shoots. We should you to take up and burn the badly-d plants and to spray the rest with a n of liver of sulphur, 1 oz. to 5 gallons ter. Dissolve the chemical in a little ater and then make up to 5 gallons with ft water. You will see how the Phlox stands this fungicide, and you could se the strength of the solution to 1 oz. allons if you find the foliage will stand praying should be repeated every 14 ntil you obtain control. Watch for the carefully next spring and adopt con-easures earlier in the season.

sed Sweet Williams

close a plant of Sweet William which of many similarly attacked. Until 10 go they were strong, healthy plants, buds, when suddenly they began to and die—not in groups, but one here e there. I could find no grub at the f the plants, but in some cases the at ground-level seemed to be eaten and ed out. Can you tell me what the is? S. R. C.

ur plants of Sweet Williams are d with eelworm (Tylenchus sp.). Eel-attack many kinds of garden plants, nfortunately, contaminate the soil, so hen the bed is again used, the next lot ts become affected. We made a care-arch and could only find immature ens, so that if you lift and burn the d plants at once you may prevent seri-il contamination. You should lift the d plants with a spade and burn plants, and soil. The hole made might be with good quicklime. If the trouble ars when the bed is planted up with r lot of plants the only thing for you will be to sterilise the soil with chemi-The methods of soil sterilisation by of chemicals are expensive, and if you ntrol the pest by the methods sug-above it will save the trouble and e of sterilisation. We should advise t to plant Sweet Williams in the same ext year. Write to us again if we can u further.]

g back Aubrietias, Arabis, Cerastium, and Mossy Saxifrages

regard to (*a*) Aubrietias, (*b*) Arabis, erastium, (*d*) the cushiony Mossy ges, is it desirable to cut them back, f so, when and to what extent? I een told that all of them should be over immediately they go out of A. J. A.

t of all clip off the flower-spikes with of shears down to the leaves. You en reduce your plants to any extent. ias, Arabis, and Cerastium may be severely where such is desirable; they en form compact cushions of growth, ere they are used for draping stone r rocky places it is usual to reduce lants to about half their size. In do-s, cut as much as possible from the de of the plants; they will then fall aturally. Saxifrages often die off in their centre from exhaustion, and to re-establish such plants it is necessary to lift the outer portions and make fresh plantations, but in the case of younger plants, cutting back as advised for Aubrietias may be resorted to.]

Fimbriated yellow Arum

(N. S. Clarke).—We have carefully examined the specimen leaf and flower of your yellow Arum, and can find no trace of disease. It would be interesting if you kept the plant until next season to see if it persists in making abnormal growth. We are inclined to think that the growing point of the plant was injured in the young state, and that the injury has caused it to behave in this manner. We take it for granted that the rest of your plants are perfect. Errors in cultivation could have caused the trouble, but if the others show no sign of the fimbriation, cultivation can have had nothing to do with your abnormal plant. We should be interested to hear from you what happens next season.

VEGETABLES

Tomato trouble

(R. C. Flegg).—We can find no trace of fungoid disease in the specimen Tomato plant sent in. The plant was short-jointed and the growth firm; it appeared to be perfectly healthy in stem, leaves, and roots. We are of the opinion that the yellowing of the lower leaves may be due to one or both of the following causes:—(1) The lower leaves of the plant showed signs of having been pierced by some sucking insects; the leaves are covered by these holes and are quite sufficient to cause them to yellow and droop. We could find no trace of the pest, and conclude that it has left the plant now. If so, the plants should grow out of the habit of dropping their lower leaves. (2) Are you sure that the plants have received sufficient supplies of plant food? It looks to us as though some weak soot-water would alter the look of the plants in a very short time. Try the soot-water and then write us again if you get no result. Place 14 lbs. of soot into a bag and a couple of bricks to keep the bag under water, and add 30 gallons of water. Allow the bag to soak for 48 hours and then stir well and give the plants a good soaking. Note that the roots of the Tomatoes should not be dry when the soot-water is given.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cherry whiskey

I am likely to have a large crop of Morello Cherries this season, but do not know what to do with them. I wondered if any of your correspondents could tell me how to make "Cherry whiskey," which, I am told, is a good liqueur. "DEVONIA."

[Put 3 pints Morello Cherries into a 1 gallon jar with ½ oz. pounded bitter Almonds and 1¼ lbs. loaf sugar. Pour over 2 quarts whiskey; shake the jar every three days for three months; strain off the liquor; bottle and seal the corks. The whiskey is now ready for use. This improves by keeping. If preferred, sugar candy may be used instead of sugar.]

Labour for garden 3½ acres and glass

(G. G.).—If the extent of garden ground is exactly as stated, *plus* lawn and glass-houses, then you are very much under-staffed. We presume that the garden is stocked, in the ordinary way, with fruits and vegetables in the kitchen garden, so unless every modern labour-saving device is supplied you would require three full-time assistants to maintain the place in good order, and none of these would require to be "passengers." With the aid of a motor mower, mechanical cultivators, and suchlike, a man less might suffice.

American Gooseberry Mildew

(North Cornwall).—The specimens you have sent in to us are affected with American Gooseberry Mildew (Sphærotheca mors-uvæ). The cold winds mentioned in your letter may have helped to spread the disease, but they are not the original cause of the trouble. If you examine your bushes you will notice that the appearance of the disease varies with age. Young patches of the mildew are white in colour, but this white stage very quickly passes into a brown stage. The white stage produces the summer spores, which serve the fungus to extend its area throughout the summer. The brown stage produces resting spores, which do not germinate until next spring. These resting spores serve to carry the fungus over the winter period and to re-infect the Gooseberry bushes the following year. The main method of control for this disease is to spray the plants with lime-sulphur during spring and early summer to prevent the summer spores setting up new centres of infection. It is also wise to look over the plants early in the autumn and to remove and burn all the tips of the shoots which are affected with the brown stage of the disease. Spraying with lime-sulphur should commence early in April and should be repeated at intervals of about 21 days until the disease has been got under control. Lime-sulphur stock solution can be bought ready to have water mixed with it. You should follow the vendor's instructions as to the amount of water to add. Some varieties of Gooseberries will not stand lime-sulphur at the usual strength, and at this time of the year it is always advisable to use the fungicide at half strength to see how the foliage stands the chemical. The strength can be increased later if no damage results.

FRUIT

Non-fruiting Greengages

(Egham).—It is somewhat difficult to reply to your query, because you cannot give us the name of the variety of your Greengage. Most varieties of Greengages are self-sterile, *i.e.*, the flowers require the pollen of another variety before fertilisation can be effected. On the other hand, the Plum Victoria is a self-fruitful variety, and many other Plums crop well with it. Have you noticed if the two varieties flower at the same time? If so, we see no reason why the pollen of the Victoria should not be used for the purpose of fertilising your Greengage flowers. If the Victoria flowers at the same time are you sure that its pollen reaches the Gage? Insects are not always working freely at the season when Plums flower. If it is a practical proposition we would suggest that the Gage flowers be hand pollinated. There is no reason why Greengages that flower should not fruit, provided frost does not damage the flowers and pollen of another variety of Plum can reach the flowers. A good dressing of basic slag to the roots of the trees might help your trees to be more fruitful. It could be applied at once at the rate of 4 ozs. to 6 ozs. per square yard.

NAMES OF PLANTS

J. N. B.—Scilla peruviana (Algerian Squill).

Rushford.—1, Anchusa myosotidiflora; 2, Lindelofia longifolia syn. L. spectabilis (Himalayan Houndstongue); 3, Cynoglossum Wallichii.

Co. Clare.—Drimys Winteri, the Winter's Bark of commerce, and a good substitute for Cinnamon. Native of S. America, introduced 1827. Natural Order Magnoliaceæ, and not related to Laurels.

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The Staking of Perennial Asters

IS subject seems to give gardeners a od deal of trouble. I have found the lowing method very successful.

plant, in the first instance, only one shoot taken from the outside of an lump.

first season this makes a strong, ing plant, with a stem about ¾ inch at the base. This needs no staking. ot cut this away after flowering, and lly find that the plant has made seven t strong shoots for flowering the fol- season.

thin these new out, generally or five, accord- the space we to fill. These w with fairly tems and need little support, en this is abso- necessary we e stems cut rge old clumps idying up the in the autumn. ndle these up airly dry and or the winter, g upright.

ese are placed vals round the be supported rows up they found to be all necessary.

those plants near the edge border, or t is wished to e stalks, we me of the out- rowths when o inches high. uses them to instead of straight up, the inside stems are covered by a mass rs from the ground up.

r use any other staking material than e, or ties of any kind, and my Asters ys, but not too, neat.

tried this method with various kinds for a number of years with complete and am convinced that the best material is their own wood used as I vised. Frank N. Keeling.

nton, Derby.

ave not put this suggestion to the the best method of staking Michael- isies that we have tried is with the few twiggy Pea-sticks. The flower- ots of the Michaelmas Daisies grow between the twigs and the stakes are hidden from view. The Michaelmas Daisies in the accompanying illustration of a border at Munstead Wood are staked with Pea-sticks. The worst method of staking Michaelmas Daisies is to tie them round the middle like a sheaf of wheat.—Ed.]

Early Michaelmas Daisies

THE number of desirable varieties of these Asters is now so large that if suitable sites and spaces can be given, it is a good plan to have two sets of borders for their special display, one for the earlier kinds that flower throughout September and the other for those of October. The illustration shows a part of one side of a double border for September. A few plants other than the Asters are admitted, such as for colour and time of blooming will suit with the Daisies. In the foreground of the picture there is a patch of Sedum spectabile, and just beyond it some of the late China Aster formerly called Vick's White, a fine, long-stemmed kind. At intervals along the edge there is a general planting of the silvery Stachys lanata. Among the Daisies on the opposite side there are white Star Dahlias and the handsome deep purple Aconitum japonicum. In the picture at the back of the Sedum is one of the small-flowered varieties of Aster viminius, a mass of tiny blooms nearly white, and at the back of this is the fine Aster Novæ-Angliæ Rycroft Purple. Among the Asters there are groups of the large white Daisy Pyrethrum uliginosum. Every year, when the time comes for replanting, the grouping is made simpler and the planting looser. It is tempting, when there are so many fine sorts, to use a larger number, but as the border is for beauty rather than for the display of a collection, this temptation has to be repressed. The looser planting enables the Daisies to show their natural way of growth to the best advantage. The staking is begun in June, with last year's Pea-sticks stuck in among the growing plants. There is no tying, but from time to time the shoots are so arranged as to have just enough support. In August every bit of stick that shows is cut away.

G. J.

Early Michaelmas Daisies

Notes of the Week

Staking plants

THIS is a very important matter, and if correctly carried out will add rather than detract from the beauty and interest of the borders. Some plants, such as Lilies, often look best when staked singly, using elegant canes and placing them at the back of the stems. Phloxes, too, when kept to single stems are best treated; likewise also Delphiniums, but the majority of herbaceous plants look infinitely better when supported with Hazel or other branches, be they large or small.

When commencing to stake groups possessing several flower-spikes endeavour to arrange one or two branches—or stakes—about the centre of the growths, and follow this by placing others around the plants and among the foliage in such a manner that when the group is completed little more than their tops are visible. Those placed in the

centre will prevent the group of flower-spikes from being driven by rainy winds to one side, a common occurrence when Bamboo canes and string are used, and certainly not pretty.
E. M.

Cornus canadensis (the Bunchberry)

This dwarf Cornus likes a fairly moist position in sun or shade, but the former if possible. It should be planted with sand and leaf-soil in the compost. The Bunchberry seldom reaches 6 inches in height; the leaves are in clusters at the top of the slender stems; in each cluster grow the wee greenish flowers surrounded by four white petal-like bracts. These bracts deceive many people, who, unless the plant is examined closely, mistake them for petals. The autumn effect of this Dogwood is charming, its leaves turn a dull red; together with its red berries it will prove an attraction for a long time. We have found it very difficult to get established here, and our best plants even now are in pots. It is a native plant of Canada, and to see it there in the "fall" is a sight not easily forgotten, as it grows in large quantities. It can be propagated by seed or root division. To those who are not familiar with this plant I can recommend it as a pleasing addition to the rock garden.
Thorpe Hall. R. MOORE.

Prunus autumnalis

This winter-blooming Cherry, of which I saw a tree in January about 15 feet high and through, was very picturesque in its bevy of elegant flower sprays of pink and white. These sprays are most useful for cutting, and may be used over a great part of the winter. Sharp frosts may check them temporarily, as in the Winter Jasmine, but a few mild days will again open numbers of fresh and pretty flowers. E. M.

Boronias and Cape Heaths

Although these are not the easiest plants to grow, they are among our most beautiful of greenhouse subjects, flowering in late winter and early spring. Boronia heterophylla I consider one of the prettiest of its family, and among Heaths I favour Erica hyemalis, some forms of E. gracilis, E. melanthera, and E. Cavendishiana. The last two I have always found the most difficult to cultivate. Cuttings are taken about midsummer of young shoots, inserting these firmly in pots half-full of crocks and a mixture on top of fine sand and peat in equal portions made very firm. The pots are stood in a cold frame and covered with a bell-glass until the cuttings are rooted. The old plants, when flowering is over, are well cut back, and when the new growths are about an inch long repotting, if necessary, is done. The plants do not object to their roots being cramped, but the pots must be absolutely clean. I find the plants much benefited if the pots are plunged in ashes in a semi-shaded position during July and August. F. H.

Toothwart, Lathræa clandestina

It was pleasing to meet with this curious and attractive plant recently, flowering fusely in moist and partially-shaded land at the fringe of a woodland path. flowers, which appeared in considerable bers, stood nicely clear of the grass, a first sight resembled colonies of cl planted blue-purple Crocus. This cu plant, of which two species only, to th of my knowledge, are known, is a pa living on the roots of trees and among leaves, where little cushions of flowers, sionally measuring a foot across, a during April and May. The English of this plant originated from the fact roots bearing a resemblance to human teeth. E.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Spurless Aquilegias

THERE are a number of self-sown Aquilegias in my garden, and this year—as you will see by enclosed blossoms—many are shedding their spurs. The plants affected are in various parts of the garden, so it cannot be the result of one particular aspect. "REDBARNS."

Iris Margot Holmes

With reference to your excellent report of the Iris Society's Show (issue June 11th, page 358), may I point out that upon reconsideration of the awards in Class 13 for a new seedling Iris other than bearded flag Irises it was raised to a silver-gilt medal instead of the silver. This award was made to Mr. Amos Perry for his Chrysographes x Douglasiana Hybrid, Margot Holmes. This Iris was also nominated as the best seedling Iris in the show for the Dykes Memorial Medal. GEO. DILLISTONE.

The conference on labels

I was obliged by your recent intimation that at Chelsea Show a conference on labels would be held. Your reporter made no reference to a really important pronouncement on the part of a high official (who must know every label on the market), *i.e.*, Mr. Chittenden, of Wisley Gardens, who, in the course of his remarks said he had on trial a very ingenious device, a coated metal label on which you scratched the name with a he mentioned a horseshoe one—an marks rusted, forming quite pern writing, which up to the present was good. N. F

Mesembryanthemums in Cornw

In "Notes from a West Somerset den" (issue June 11th, page 355) men made of Mesembryanthemum aurant with large orange blooms, as the fir all of these plants. I do not actually with this verdict, but I should like to m M. coralliflorum, which, with me, ha carmine flowers, a colour seldom s these plants. The writer does not m M. falciforme as growing in his g This makes great hummocks smothe bloom in many Cornish gardens. A interesting species is M. Sutherlandi large, handsome, violet flowers. This from most Mesembryanthemums as back in the winter. I grow M. canin tigrinum, M. agninum, M. lupinu felinum, and M. murinum in a gree I have not risked them in the oper danger here is excessive moisture durin resting season, and it is a puzzle to why so many of these plants do so Cornwall. Many of them are naturalised. The only solution I ca of is that the resting seasons differ, a some have adapted themselves to a with much moisture in the air, quick age in the soil, and good light. Me anthemums flower at many different t the year. I have M. muricatum in first (some time in February), and M tum in October and November, ar worth noting that two very similar may both be worth growing when the at different times of the year.
Penzance. REGINALD T.

Iris Alcazar

AMONG the many beautiful Junc ing Irises of comparatively rece duction this is one of the most and desirable. It is of vigorous gro stately height. The colour of the s is a clear bluish-lavender, the falls ar reddish-purple with a throat richly with bronze. It is one of the fine ki we have from Messrs. Vilmorin.

Porosity of flower pots

Mr. H. E. Ivatts can very soon se question for himself by taking a plant and giving the pot a good coat then wait and see what happens.
JOHN

—— We note, with interest, th spondence on the porosity of flo appearing on page 305, but we do to be drawn into a lengthy corresp with the various writers who have t

Iris Alcazar

ble ideas on this subject. We consider rticle by your Mr. Dick rather involved. article by "A Scottish Gardener" we appreciate better, but it is singular to that while he has found the Bulwell are harder and less porous than the ish pots—which point we will not here st, as all our pots are not baked alike, er can all Scottish pots be baked alike— eceived the next day a letter from a mer at Warwick who thinks our are not "hard" enough, and you t bake pots harder without at the time making them less porous; porosity hardness (which latter means strength durability) go hand in hand. This ner requires 1,000 pots of a particular In the course of the year we turn out -million (500,000) of this one size, but ve no such complaint from the users of ther 499,000 pots of this size. On the hand, we have customers who actually be supplied with "soft" baked pots, f which is the firm of Messrs. Stred- the Dahlia specialists, of St. Leonards- a. Now "soft" pots may be *very* s, but they are not durable, and we l not take any responsibility as regards life" of them; they break like biscuits, ore so when they are used and watered. fill and empty about seven kilns each and a kiln of our size holds, approxi- y, 50,000 pots. It would be disastrous to try to bake a kiln of pots either a soft" or a trifle "hard" for the sake y customer requiring a comparatively having either of these qualities. In cally every kiln some pots are harder others, and for any customer requiring on the "soft side" we select those which have the minimum of hardness, gh we should not ourselves term them "

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Managing Director.

Like "A Scottish Gardener," I have ise" for glazed flower-pots, although f the most eminent of Scottish gar- used nothing else, maintaining that doing he could efficiently work the place wo men less than he could if ordinary vere used. That this man knew his ss no one could deny, but I should that, as described by "A Scottish ner," all new hands must have had erable trouble at first in carrying out atering. There is considerable differ- n the hardness of pots made at the nt potteries, but it does not appear to at porosity depends entirely on the ss or softness of the finished article, e very soft pot very quickly becomes with the green, slimy material charac- of such, while a harder make re- clean much longer, and, as every gar- knows, a plant invariably thrives best ean pot.

ve used pots from quite a number of es, and much prefer the kinds that lean longest, and consider that the f plants thrive best in such, while the of keeping them clean is considerably d. Among the very best pots I have sed are those made in Glasgow, they pretty hard, strong, and well made. nkey pots I also find good, especially aller sizes. I cannot agree with Mr. ld T. Dick that the appearance of the of prime importance, my endeavour being to cultivate plants of such ex- e that these drew the attention, and eptacle is never even noticed. No, ve want is a pot in which plants will and then it does not matter in the hat the receptacle is like. C. Blair.
on House Gardens, Linlithgow.

A fine specimen of Paulownia imperialis at the John Horniman Convalescent Home, Worthing

Paulownia imperialis

SEEING a paragraph in Gardening Illustrated of May 28th, mentioning the Paulownia as flowering well in the Isle of Wight, I should be glad to know how old they must be to flower. I planted one here (Minehead) three years ago next October. It flourishes and grows, but as yet no sign of blossom. A Wistaria, likewise planted three years ago, has not yet flowered.

Somerset. C. Annesley.

[The flowers of Paulownia imperialis fail to develop in this country, owing to its curious habit of exposing the flower-buds through the winter. Many gardeners in England are denied the blossoms of this tree.—Ed.]

—— With reference to the recent observations on this interesting tree from China it may be recorded that there is a fine specimen in the playing ground of the John Horniman Convalescent Home, Worthing. This tree is probably over 40 feet high and the branches spread on one side to a distance of 30 feet. There may be a larger tree at Torquay. Eight years ago the Worthing specimen was going back and the writer was called to advise. The Paulownia is not a long-lived tree in this country, but one reason for deterioration in this particular specimen was obviously due to the asphalte of the playing ground being carried right up to the base of the tree. The asphalte was then broken up to a width corresponding to the spread of the branches and the soil top-dressed with leaf-mould and good loam, since when the health of the tree has improved.

It is interesting to note that the Worthing tree is a source of pleasure to the Trustees and an inducement to at least one of them to select the site for the Home when taking the place nearly 40 years ago. Although a native of China, Paulownia imperialis was introduced from Japan in 1840, and this may be one of the original importation. When in flower it is a beautiful tree, with its blue-purple flowers shaped like huge Foxgloves.

C. T. K.

Plants for a position facing north

One is sometimes asked to suggest interesting plants for a position facing due north. Our predecessors kept cows and attached to the cowshed were three pits each 5 feet 6 inches square backed by a wall 8 feet high. The side walls are 3 feet 6 inches. Two pits are filled with various Meconopsis. The third contains the following:—Shortia galacifolia (flowers abundantly and sets seed); Lewisia Howelli and Cotyledon (in full flower now and very attractive); Epigæa repens (the flowering is over and some of the leaves look unhappy, but on examination one finds fresh roots springing out from below the brown leaves); Trientalis europæa; Wahlenbergia hederacea; Pyrola rotundifolia (we have not got P. uniflora); Ramondia pyrenaica, and R. p. alba; Haberlea rhodopensis; Sisyrinchium grandiflorum; Gentiana Pneumonanthe (a particularly fine form from Styria); Geranium Wallichianum (E. C. Buxton's Var.); Meconopsis Baileyi (now in full beauty); Helleborus orientalis var. "Blue Bird."

To these might be added Sisyrinchium filifolium, Gentiana pyrenaica, G. Farreri, G. sino-ornata, Iris gracilipes, I. verna, Parochetus communis, Conandron ramondioides, Anemone obtusiloba patula, Deinanthe cœrulea, Loiseleuria procumbens, Philesia buxifolia, Mitraria coccinea.

In the bottom we put 1 foot of brick rubble for drainage and 2 feet of a mixture consisting of good yellow loam, peat, and leaf-mould, with a little sand. The surface of the bed is 3 feet from the ground-level and 6 inches below the side walls. The plants are near the eye—a great advantage in the case of such treasures as the Deinanthe and Wahlenbergia. A. C. Bartholomew.

Reading.

ALPINES

Primulas for the rock garden

THE species of Primula are numbered in hundreds, and additions are continually forthcoming from China and neighbouring countries. The romantic story of many of these plants may be found in the chronicles of the many intrepid plant collectors and explorers, who from that floral paradise, the Indo-Chinese border, are constantly enriching our gardens with beautiful flowers. Amongst the better known of these Asiatic Primulas are many easily-grown little species which may well find a place on every rock garden, and to these must be added several little treasures from Central Europe.

For general utility the Himalayan P. denticulata is difficult to beat. It grows as easily as does our own Primrose and quite as regularly, as the peerless yellow blooms with the round lilac heads of flower appear early in spring. A colony in a half-shaded position at the base of the rockery will prove a rural delight. There is a chaste and very pretty white variety, P. d. alba, and it is quite as "easy" as the type.

P. capitata has rounded heads of Syrian purple, fragrant, and sprinkled with white meal. The finest form is P. c. Mooreana, and these flower in late summer and early autumn. Somewhat short-lived plants, a little seed should be sown annually, and if sown early in the year a proportion of the seedlings will flower during the following autumn.

P. marginata is an "easy" and very lovely European Primula and a true alpine species. The leaves are toothed and slightly marginal white, and the heads of fragrant lavender flowers come in early spring. The plant grows well on a rocky ledge in a well-drained soil. The stem, which is continually elongating, should occasionally have some new soil packed around it.

P. nivalis, the popular garden synonym of P. pubescens alba, is a lovely little plant which has probably been cultivated for over a century. The snow-white and fragrant flowers are produced in March and April, and the whole plant does not exceed a few inches in height. Grow it in a cool and rocky bed with loam and peat. I have found P. frondosa a very satisfying plant. It is a glorified form of the native Farinosa, comes from the Balkans, and is quite happy in sun or shade in a well-drained loamy soil, and will be a delight in June with its heads of lilac flowers. It is very easily raised from seeds.

P. Juliæ is now a well-known plant, and will, in a cool rich soil, carpet the ground with its creeping growth and claret flowers. There are several lovely and desirable varieties of this Caucasian species.

P. rosea enjoys a full measure of moisture, but the best form, P. r. grandiflora, may be tried in a north aspect with every hope of success. With its brilliant flowers this dwarf plant from the Himalayas, is, indeed, possessed of great beauty. It flowers in early spring and enjoys a diet of loam and peat.

In a cool crevice may be tried P. Allionii, with its sticky leaves and its pink flowers in March. The pink P. viscosa is "easy" in a rocky bed, and others that may be confidently planted are P. hirsuta and P. carniolica, in the higher rocky places, and for the half-shaded and moister positions the comparatively new P. chionantha, with white flowers possessed of black centres, a "pasty" species, may be tried in company with P. secundiflora and P. vittata, two delightful Primulas with nodding bells.

There are many more, but the above selections are easily managed, and for the most part easily raised from seeds, and should go far towards inculcating an intense regard for this fascinating, wonderful, and very lovely race of plants. RALPH E. ARNOLD.

FRUIT GARDEN

Among the fruit trees

THE fruit-grower's task must be an incessant one; there is no slack time, as it were, if we expect the best results of past labour. Each week practically demands some little attention, specially so in a season like the present, where trees were set out late in spring and scarcely had time to recover from transplanting ere the severe drought sets in, which, from all accounts, appear pretty general, causing much anxiety to the planter as to whether such trees will eventually pull through after every attention being given them. As the month of June advances there is much work to be done in the matter of fruit-thinning, providing Nature

Apple Crawley Beauty

From a photograph taken on May 24th, after other Apples had been damaged by frost. This variety is now thickly set with fruits

has proved kind enough to give us a full crop, and, as far as my observation has gone, Apples appear to have set well and in plenty, but Pears present a more or less scanty crop, yet localities vary so much with but a few miles apart that no definite conclusion can be vouched for as to the welfare of this fruit. Where thinning is deemed advisable dispense with the smaller and any deformed fruit that can be noted. A strong pair of scissors will do such work expeditiously. No rule can be laid down as to the amount of fruit a tree can carry, yet the thinner must bear in mind that what he may consider a crop for a strong, healthy tree must be greatly reduced for one that is young or weakly, as new wood must be encouraged annually if we are to secure successive crops, no matter what the fruit is. Plums frequently set very thickly, though the standard trees that have come under my notice so far have but few fruit. Those afforded wall space usually fare better, as they naturally should do. Where this is the case a free hand is necessary in reducing the crop. One cannot expect full-flavoured, luscious fruit from undersize normally, no matter what the kind may be. Apricots, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Figs, Apples even Cherries that may be carrying crops are greatly benefited, making allowance for all stone fruit until they passed that critical period.

Should there not be the pleasure of thi the crop there is other work that cal attention at this time of the year, notab removal of maggoty fruit, as Mr. Bu recently advised in these pages, cuttin any mildewed shoots frequently found Apple, and pinching others at about th leaf on trained specimens, omitting the and Morello Cherry, which produce finest fruit on well-matured shoots previous year, spraying where black prevalent, on the last-named especially.

Although at the time of writing littl hot summer weather we look for b middle of June can be recorded, that pest red-spider is sure to be troubl among Peaches and Cherries occupyin warmest walls unless the syringe, ho garden engine is constantly applied under the foliage after 4 p.m., using proved insecticide in bad cases. This ing is more effective when the shoo fastened back in position allotted Then there is the question of root wate a very important point in a droughty such as we are experiencing. Even in paratively wet summer it is unwise t entirely on the rainfall in the matter o occupying wall space. Such do not ge full share as do those standing in the and assuming that a mulch had been a earlier in the year this had better be re before watering, then lightly prick ov surface and give a thorough good so first sprinkling on an approved fertili diluted drainage from the stable or cov if carrying good crops; not otherwise trees may make too robust a growth too aged, returning the mulch at the

The season is fast approaching w general survey of all trees must be ma what is termed summer pruning, viz., ping the strongest shoots at the fifth over 6 inches in length, even should t leaders. This partial removal of folia mits more sun and air to fruit and sp well as diverting the flow of sap for the fit of both, for frequently many of these mer-made shoots have curled leaves apex containing aphis or other dest pests that infest most fruit trees throu the year, especially where spraying is in ance, and, unfortunately, there are stil cultivators who doubt its efficacy, othe bably on the score of expense, but as s night succeeds the day the time will when they or their successors will agre it is far easier to prevent than it is to insects of any description.

In conclusion, it will not be out of p reiterate the advice so often given, wh do not allow any fruit to remain o that have been divested of all soil, w transplanted last autumn or this spring trees require all their energy in makin growth for a couple of years or so. planted from one position to another same garden, carefully done, fre finish a moderate crop. J. M.

The late-flowering Apple Crawley Beauty

I HAVE pleasure in sending you a graph of the Crawley Beauty Ap flower, taken May 24th, when it full bloom. At this date almost all th Apples were out of flower. These C Beauties are now thickly set with fru

The photograph shows the natural h the variety as an open, spreading standard tree. Jos. C

The Rhododendron Bug

Leptobyrsa (Stephanitis) rhododendri, Horv

Reproduced by permission of His Majesty's Stationery Office and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

E Rhododendron Bug, apparently a tive of the North-Eastern States of orth America, was first detected in n in 1910, although no doubt it had d the country some years earlier, been introduced in the course of the in living plants. At the present time sect is widely distributed in England, ly in the Rhododendron-growing dis- of the southern, south-western, and counties, and Rhododendron growers iliar with it would do well to study the ms of attack illustrated on this page o be able to deal with outbreaks before ave assumed serious importance.

Rhododendron Bug is also known as hododendron Fly and the Lace Fly, but st two terms should be avoided, first e the insect is not a fly, and secondly e the true Lace Wing is a most useful and so not to be confused with such a this leaflet describes.

NTS ATTACKED AND NATURE OF DAMAGE.—hododendron Bug is found upon Rho- drons, and, in the United States, on a, the newer Rhododendron hybrids be- r more susceptible to damage than the stablished Rhododendron ponticum. vious signs of injury are the presence colate-brown spots on the underside leaf and a pale "freckling" on the surface. The bugs themselves live on dersides of the leaves, from which they he sap through minute punctures, each showing subsequently as a brown spot r. A brown gummy secretion is also resent owing to "bleeding" from the re holes. In mild cases the effect of nage is to make the plant "unthrifty," the leaf colour is obviously bad. In evere cases the whole plant appears to nd where the attack is combined with urable weather conditions—as, for in- a prolonged drought—death may

CRIPTION AND LIFE-HISTORY.—The ap- ce of the adult bug is shown by Fig. 2. neral colour is greyish-white, while the between the veins on the wings are and transparent like glass. The body k and for the most part hidden by the which form a complete shield over the " and which are probably not often or flying. The bugs themselves are own during July, and may then be living on the undersides of the Rhodo- n leaves. So sluggish are they that aves may be picked without causing o move much or even attempt to fly. pairing, the female lays her eggs , but at the side of, the midrib of the lso, though rarely, within the substance leaf itself. Several eggs are usually together, more or less in a line, but an be seen of them, inasmuch as they nost wholly embedded in the tissue ad- the rib, their position being marked ab of gummy secretion. The shape of g is shown by Fig. 3, and it will be that only the tip of the egg reaches face. If the scab mentioned above be this tip can be seen as a minute ring door" through which in due time the bug will emerge. Eggs are laid both old leaves and those of the new season. gs die by the end of the summer and gs remain through the winter and early the following summer. The bug, when newly hatched, is a minute, spiny, black and grey insect, without and about the size of a pin's head. As stated above, it feeds by piercing the underside of the leaf with its "trunk" (proboscis) and sucking up the sap. As it grows larger it moults and resembles Fig. 4, and after two further stages in which the developing wings can be seen it casts its skin for the last time and becomes the fully-winged adult bug.

At all stages the bugs are rather sluggish and tend to remain where they were hatched; in consequence, the leaves of the previous season show the most damage. When the infestation is considerable and the old leaves are crowded with bugs, the latter seem to spread to the new leaves as soon as they appear, and then they also show signs of injury. The eggs are laid both on the old and on the new leaves, not exclusively on the latter as has been suggested.

The spread of the insects from one part of the country to another is almost certainly due to the distribution of infested plants, but in gardens the bugs presumably move from plant to plant even though they seldom seem to use their wings. Too much weight, however, must not be placed on the lack of records of the bugs being seen on the wing, for many usually sluggish insects fly freely under some special weather conditions which perhaps occur on one or two days only during the year.

METHODS OF CONTROL.—(1) *Spraying.*—Rhododendron Bugs can be killed by spraying with such a simple insecticide as soap and water. The chief difficulty consists in wetting thoroughly the undersides of the leaves, which is absolutely essential if success is to be obtained. In the case of small plants, and even large bushes, the difficulty can be overcome by the exercise of sufficient care on the part of those spraying, but it is almost insuperable where dense, thick shrubberies are concerned unless they are of such value as to justify considerable expense.

In spraying Rhododendrons it is worth noting that the leaves are easily injured, and the work should be done on dull days or in the evening. A simple soap wash may be made by dissolving 1 lb. of good soft-soap in 10 gallons water. It should be applied in two operations, the first application being given about the third or fourth week in June, followed by a second about a fortnight later.

(2) *Stripping and hand-picking.*—As the eggs are laid on the leaves it is clear that if the latter be all removed and burned in winter the insects will be destroyed. It is not yet known how far this is a practical treatment, but it may be mentioned that certain foreign countries appear to be adopting it in the case of Rhododendrons for export. Hand-picking in summer is quite effective in the case of a few Rhododendrons, or at the first appearance of the bug in a previously uninfested garden. The signs of injury are so characteristic and obvious that it is not a difficult matter to remove and destroy infested leaves with the insects upon them.

SALE OF AFFECTED PLANTS.—The sale for planting of any plants which are substantially attacked by this pest is prohibited by the Sale of Diseased Plants Order of 1922, under penalty of £10. Further information on this subject may be obtained on application to the Ministry.

FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

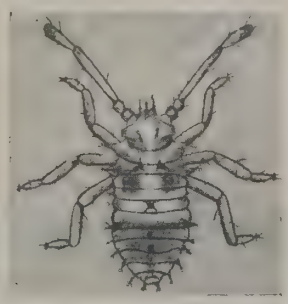

FIG. 4.

FIG. 3.

Rhododendrons from seed

The raising of these shrubs from seed is an interesting and fascinating pursuit. There is a great charm in watching the progress of the seedlings, and perhaps the advent or birth of a new variety with colouring unknown in the family. Perfection may not be written on any one of the seedlings, yet there is great satisfaction in having raised them oneself.

This is a suitable time to sow the seed, choosing a sheltered position in the border, and add to the soil 6 inches of sifted peat and sand. The plants soon make their appearance and make rapid progress if damped overhead occasionally.

When about 6 inches high plant them in rows in a similar compost, keeping the ground well stirred between them to the depth of 4 inches, and give abundance of water. Treated in this way I have obtained flowering plants in two years.

One thing to guard against is overcrowding, otherwise the symmetry of the plants will be destroyed. F. H.

Devon.

Cytisus Ardoini

This is a delightful little shrub without the rampant growth of many of its race, but throwing up tiny shoots barely 6 inches high and bearing numbers of clear yellow flowers. The plant partakes the brilliant colour and free-flowering qualities of the well-known species, but instead of forming columnal bushes this variety spreads into compact little tufts seldom more than 6 inches high when fully grown. It is neat in habit as well as handsome in bloom, and well worthy of a position among rocks, where its wiry shoots will make dense cushion-like tufts. It is excellent for a dry, sunny position, firmly wedged between stones in sandy soil, where it has room to spread. The plant is slow in growth and will never outgrow its position. It will prove a beautiful plant when well established, and grows into large patches, with its tiny shoots just peeping above the rocks. The plant should be top-dressed with sandy material in autumn, as it appears to exist only on its new roots that are pushed out at the base of the young shoot. Increased by cuttings. H. STEVENS.

The woodland gates

In the foreground is a clump of Stachys lanata, sometimes called Lamb's Ear or Woolly Wound Wort

A Beautiful Woodland Garden in West Sus

ON May 28th I visited a garden in West Sussex, where Azalea ledifolia laden with deliciously fragrant, snowy-white blossoms—bushes 7 feet high and through—was growing like a Laurel in the open and filling the air with its sweet scent. Other plants were growing in a wood adjoining, and in this wood I was introduced to one of the most natural and instructive methods of cultivating Primulas, Meconopsis, Liliums, Trilliums, and moisture-loving Ferns, together with their picturesque grouping I have ever seen.

The large summer-leafing timber trees had been relieved of their branches up to a height of 40 feet or 50 feet, enabling just s light to penetrate to the plants below.

Beneath the trees a sluggish strea been taken advantage of and diverte to form a series of damp beds whic occupied by thousands of Primulas in large colonies of one colour and in natural way as to leave one with pression of their having been sown br The soil had, however, been broken enriched with leaf-mould in the f stance, but in the case of almost every seedlings were carpeting the free wo soil in all directions, many of them bloom in positions well apart fron growing in the moist sections nea stream. Among the varieties notice ing up their battalions of 4-foot flower-spikes were P. japonica in colour shades, one bearing flowers no an Auricula and very distinct. P. lenta was represented by great colo graceful, rich-coloured spikes of blo helodoxa, with elegant tiers of p yellow flowers, stood out in striking to the rich and varied orange-scarle of P. Aileen Aroon varying in heig 1 foot to 4 feet, and the more sler equally desirable P. Cockburniana w represented, as was the dwarfer flowered P. Veitchii, P. Sikkimensis, dangling yellow bells, and several ot revelling in a care-free way and ap requiring very little attention in thei setting.

Breaking through these colonies coloured flowers as if placed there hand of Nature herself were d moisture-loving Ferns in the heyday tenderness and freshness, these Onocleas, Lomarias, Osmundas, opteris, and others, while on slightl ground and growing in sandy loam soil were groups of Meconopsis p such vigour as to astonish the writer notes.

The most sensational of these as the colour of its flowers was M. carrying 2 feet high stems of brilli

In a woodland garden, West Sussex: This part is chiefly devoted to Primulas and Spiræas

each about 4 inches across, while was to be seen in bloom the creamy-d M. integrifolia, 2 feet 6 inches tall, s uppermost flower tumbling over like ature lampshade. The vigour and ess of these plants in this natural was surprising. Large groups of M. i already 3 feet high and promising a l of blue flowers eventually, had stems as a broom-handle.

os of Pæony Veitchi and other species rongly represented, and among other d what are generally considered diffi-nts to grow I observed a small group sweet-scented Speirantha convallari-ith Lily of the Valley-like leaves and h spikes of white flowers.

m stylosum, a rather pretty and rose-coloured species, was noted others, and tumbling out of a colony shrubs I noticed a delightful Rose as Farrer's No. 3, with small pink borne on long, bending branches early touched the ground. This is a g and elegant Rose. In more than ition great stately shafts of Lilium m 3 inches thick were observed with on, proving, if such was necessary, ve of the wind-free and partially-woodland conditions.

vidence of the appalling late frosts arly seen among the Himalayan ndrons and many other shrubs, even paradise, and it is doubtful whether them will recover sufficiently to pro-vers next year. Among the climbing rained to a warm wall inside the arden a nice specimen of Abelia flori-rom Mexico was most noteworthy. nt was about 5 feet high and abso-den with its handsome, pendulous, funnel-shaped flowers. All who ew feet of warm wall space to spare ast the south of England—should try f this most beautiful of all Abelias.

ye Manor, Sussex. E. MARKHAM.

In a woodland garden in West Sussex: Clematis Comtesse de Bouchaud
Flowers beautiful satiny rose, in full bloom over a Laburnum tree

Romanzoffia sitchensis

a delightful fragrant alpine of fairly ure. It has a long season of flower, in early May and continuing long y. The plants have small lobed a bright green colour; flowers are ith pleasing yellow stamens, contrasting so lovely, especially in the early morning, with the dew. Romanzoffia sitchensis should be planted in the clefts of rocks if possible, either in full sun or semi-shade, and thrives in any soil which has a fair amount of sand. It will prove a welcome addition to any rock garden. It is a native plant of Canada, found in the Rocky Mountains, seldom below an altitude of 6,000 feet. It is easily propagated by seed or root division. R. MOORE.

Campanula lactiflora (the Milk-white Bellflower) in woodland

Narcissus Bulbocodium

The best of the Hoop Petticoat Daffodils, or Bulbocodiums, for the outdoor garden is B. citrinum, which is hardier and increases more rapidly. I have known of two Scottish gardens in which it seeded freely in an ordinary border, and the seedlings came up and flowered in great numbers, even in the gravel of an adjoining path. In the same gardens the yellow and white ones were not a success.

S. A.

Ornithogalum nutans

This is one of the most beautiful of the Star of Bethlehem group, but it is a dangerous plant to get into a flower border. The quiet white bloom, striped with greyish-green, is one of the best examples of restrained colouring of low-toned character that is to be found among flowers. It is excellent as a cut flower, lovely and long-lived, and has a curious and delightful quality of distinction and refinement. Its own leaves are quite ineffective, but some little twigs of Bay suit it well. It should be planted with extreme caution; best in some quite out-of-the-way place, for if once a small seedling or offset gets into a flower border it increases quickly, spreading about where it is not wanted, and proves almost impossible to eradicate. G. J.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Early Vineries

These should be ventilated to the fullest extent from now onwards, both night and day, especially those which have been cleared of their crops. Syringing of the foliage, too, may be freely indulged in. Even the garden engine may be used in order that the foliage may be washed clean of all destructive insect life. Do not overlook the important matter of the borders, which must be kept well supplied with water, and cut away all waste laterals, which otherwise crowd against the glass, obstruct sunlight, and harbour vermin.

Late Vineries

Feed liberally those carrying heavy crops, and provide additional support to bunches with heavy shoulders. Maintain a temperature of 65 degs. at night, and, while prohibiting cold draughts at all times, admit all the air possible during still and warm days. As the colouring period approaches, a little air night and day from both top and bottom ventilators may with advantage be admitted.

Calceolarias

Seed should be sown without delay of herbaceous types in pots or pans filled with sandy loam, leaf-soil, and sand, all passed through a fine-meshed sieve. The pots should be watered a few hours previous to sowing, when the very fine seeds should be sprinkled thinly over the surface and dusted over very lightly with fine sandy soil or pure sand. The pots should be stood on a cool bed of ashes and be covered with a sheet of glass. They must be kept shaded until germination has taken place. Cool, moist conditions are necessary for the welfare of these handsome plants at all times.

Pelargoniums

Plants required for winter blooming should now be potted into their flowering-pots. Firm potting is essential, this being conducive to hard, short growth, and a good position for the plants after potting is the bed of a disused cold frame, where the lights can be pulled over the plants during extended spells of rain.

Hydrangeas

Remove the old flower-heads as these cease to be effective, and young plants required to form large terrace specimens should be given a shift into larger pots. This completed, plunge the pots up to their rims in ashes in the open. Cuttings made of the young shoots strike freely if taken at the present time, inserted singly in small pots, and plunged in a propagating case. Large specimens used for terraces, balconies, etc., must not be permitted to suffer from drought during the development of their large trusses; such specimens will derive considerable benefit from applications of diluted manure-water.

Cytisuses or Brooms

The trouble with these showy shrubs is that they quickly outgrow themselves and become shabby, but a little careful pruning immediately the flowers are over will tend to assist in keeping them bushy and attractive. Seeds may be sown in the open at the present time of several kinds, including the late-flowering Spanish Broom (Spartium junceum).

Herbaceous borders

These are now becoming increasingly interesting. Staking, watering, the removal of dead flowers, and the stirring of the soil between the plants require constant attention.

Sweet Peas

Feed these liberally, and, where not already done, apply a mulch of some kind to conserve moisture. This will save a lot of watering. Gather the flowers regularly, for if these are permitted to develop seed the plants will soon cease to bloom.

Irises

On no account must Irises be permitted to get dust-dry, and to those who do not possess ponds or streams I advise a soaking of water periodically and a light mulch of manure to the tall and stately late-blooming species, such as I. Delavayi, I. aurea, and I. Monnieri.

Asparagus

Cutting should cease from this date, and, in addition to copious supplies of liquid-manure, a light dressing of salt may be applied to assist a free, strong growth. Extra strong growths may be staked against damage from rough winds.

Winter greens

All kinds of these must now be planted out, using all available ground, reserving only cool borders for late Turnips, Spinach, and salading plants to be sown successively.

Cabbage

Plant red and green Cabbage, Coleworts, and another batch of Leeks, and use the ground from which early Peas have been cleared for this purpose.

Globe Artichokes

Feed these liberally during the coming weeks in order that a plentiful supply of heads—or chokes—are available each day.

Onions

Thin out those sown in March, and, in addition to frequent applications of soot, keep the hoe at work between the drills. A wineglassful of paraffin to 3 gallons of water rosed over the drills will keep the Onion-fly at bay. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Potatoes

The constant stirring of the soil between rows of Potatoes is always time well spent, for no other plant derives more benefit from this. The Dutch hoe is excellent for the purpose, but occasionally it is advisable to use the digging-fork instead, for, by the use of this latter tool, the ground is broken up to a greater depth and the soil pulverised and made just right for this crop, and the earthing-up process is rendered quite an easy task.

Asparagus

Do not cut this crop too late or the crowns will be so enfeebled that next year's supply will be both scarce and poor. Give another fairly generous dressing of salt, this not only greatly assisting the plants, but helping materially in keeping down weeds. One or two soakings of weak liquid-manure is very good for Asparagus.

Tomatoes

These are now ripening rapidly, and so very careful watering is necessary to prevent the cracking of the fruits. While to keep the soil sodden is entirely wrong, it bad practice to permit it to get so dry leaves flag. When the latter state mitted the application of water to co the drooping of the plants causes an e flow of sap, and the fruits are pretty to crack or split. Continue to ren side shoots as they appear, and "st plants immediately they attain the n height. Feeding must not be n where the plants are carrying a go "Weak and often" should be the Weak liquid from the farmyard, if us a week, is very beneficial, while a r dressing of one of the approved fertilisers is usually very effective and less trouble to use.

Thinning Grapes

Endeavour, as far as possible, t dull or wet days for this necessary some operation, for double the spee attained under these conditions as is when bright sunshine prevails.

Melons

As the fruits approach the ripenir the watering, at all times an importa tion, becomes more exacting. To g too freely has a tendency to spoil th of the fruits, while, on the other ha too sparing with moisture at the r inevitably bring on a serious attac min. A middle course must, ther adopted. With later crops plenty may be given, with an occasional weak liquid-manure where the f swelling freely.

Outdoor Peaches

The ground all round the Peach far as the roots are likely to exter receive a mulch of well-rotted ma then have a good drenching of cle Treated thus the soil will be kept moist, while the roots will be able considerable nourishment as it i down from the "mulch."

Strawberry beds

It is now necessary, if this has n been done, to have the beds "bedde or mulched, to prevent the fruits ripen, from getting splashed w Wheat straw is the best material fo where this is difficult to procure, h does very well if cut and well dr placing among the plants. U sparingly, for in wet weather a th grass is apt to cause mildew. On r use lawn mowings, this material the fruits and also setting up a di smell when decaying.

Vermin on wall trees

Especially during dry weath kinds of pests attack most of th fruit trees trained on walls. As so is any appearance of the enemy get some suitable insecticide. It is easier to overcome the troublesom while still in small numbers than they are in myriads.

Thinning fruits

This will, unfortunately, be ha sary in many cases this year, Plums in particular having been frost while in bloom. However, v is a good "set" it always pays crop, and it is well to do this fairly should also be done systematicall case removing all malformed fruit those awkwardly placed. C

Preston House Gardens, Linlith

Charm Dahlias

, if any other, flowers present such a 'e of perfectly distinct forms as do present-day Dahlias, or such a be- g number of varieties. From the uble decorative, with a flower almost as a dinner-plate, down to the small blooms of the well-known dwarf Coltness Gem, there are many inter- sized flowers in widely differing

last few years public interest in the has greatly increased, largely owing troduction of new types and varieties g great decorative value both in the and when used as cut blooms in- Another factor which has a decided on this increased popularity is the with which Dahlias are now used parks and gardens for bedding pur-

time has arrived when they may planted outdoors in any locality ot be inopportune to briefly describe racteristics and uses of Charm than which, in my opinion, there is beautiful or generally useful type in . Charm Dahlias were raised and d only a comparatively few years Mr. Ernest Doncaster (of Messrs. J. nd Co., of Cambridge), the noted iser and expert, who termed them ire Pæony Flowered." The original arieties, Norah Bell and Our Annie, two of the most popular, but since ssrs. Burrell have placed nearly a thers on the market. Other raisers devoted their attentions to the and several valuable additions have m the nurseries of Messrs. West, Turner, and Unwin.

years ago, when Charm Dahlias , as it were, in their infancy and unknown, I spent half a day look- d Messrs. Burrell's Dahlias. Mr. purposely left the Charms until they were, indeed, an agreeable Before seeing them I may say Dahlias left me rather "cold." I n only moderately well, considering vy and ungainly, particularly for coration, and not very attractive on . The Charms considerably modi- opinion. Mr. Doncaster gave me tion whatever of his own en- for the new race at the outset, marking casually as we came to Do you like these?" As I was r the first time at Dahlias having hose faults which, broadly speak- come to believe were characteristic ower, my answer was emphatic. bushy, shapely plants of an aver- ht of about 3 feet, literally with beautifully-formed semi- wers 3 inches to 4 inches in dia- eir strong wiry stems carrying ght well above the foliage. Their bedding purposes was obvious, but I have found them invaluable, too, vers. They are light and graceful nce, lending themselves to dainty nts. If cut in the early morning ng stage, with the dew still upon will keep quite fresh for any- veen seven and 12 days. As for om, upwards of 50 blooms have ed on one plant at one time, so it f one being able to "cut and come through the season until the first st. When first I saw Charm ere were only 10 or 12 varieties, ed, some unnamed in the trial w no other type can boast a more varied range of exquisite n many instances it is quite im- possible to convey in words an accurate description of the rich blendings of different colours which are found in a single flower, while there are also many clear and decided self colours to please those to whom "whole-coloured" flowers make the stronger appeal.

I have already indicated that Charm Dahlias were formerly known as Miniature Pæony Flowered; Mr. W. J. Unwin was responsible for the shorter term. In conversation with Mr. Doncaster he said that he considered the name too long and that, in any case, such beautiful flowers deserved a nicer name. Some little time afterwards they both agreed on the title by which this type is now generally known, Mr. Unwin being the first to call them "Charms" in his catalogue. No one who has grown them will be likely to disagree with the title.

Most of the varieties of Charms to be found in up-to-date Dahlia catalogues are beautiful, but some are, of course, better than others. The following appeal to me personally, and I mention them, irrespective of their price or age. Some are 1927 novelties, which I have seen and which have favourably impressed me:—

Our Annie (2½ feet).—A beautiful shade of shrimp-pink on yellow ground. Very free-flowering.

Pink Pearl (3 feet).—Unlike almost every other Charm, the first flowers come double or nearly double. A soft rose-pink.

Betty (3 feet).—A beautiful and distinct colour; clear lavender-lilac with a small golden base. Pleasing and uncommon.

Dennys (3½ feet).—An effective bedding variety. The colour is an intense and vivid orange-scarlet.

Irma (3½ feet).—One of the finest of all for cut-flower work; indeed, it is one of those varieties the colour of which improves when cut. The form is light and graceful. Soft satin-rose, very lightly flamed orange-chestnut at the base.

Electron (2½ feet).—Curious, yet very attractive. The ground colour is yellow, suffused orange at the base; the centre of petals is heavily overlaid orange-scarlet toning to electric-violet at the tips. A truly wonderful colour effect taken as a whole.

Mamie (3½ feet).—A beautiful colour combination and one of the most attractive. Golden-yellow ground, softly suffused salmony-apricot. Base of petals chestnut-scarlet, forming a zone.

Norah Bell (3 feet).—Scarlet flame with yellow base. Very popular.

Mrs. Ralph Wade (3 feet).—One of the best. Its colouring is unusual and pleasing. Fawn overlaid soft pink on yellow ground. Chestnut-scarlet zone at base of petals.

Picture (2½ feet).—A delightful colour effect. Yellow centre with chestnut zone at base. The centre of petals is golden, deepening to rosy-pink towards the edges.

Rosie (3 feet).—The shape of Rosie is very dainty and rather irregular. Soft yet deep rosy-pink.

Diophen (3½ feet).—Orange-crimson; a telling colour in the border.

Vedas (3½ feet).—Pure sulphur-yellow. The best Charm in this particular shade.

Salvia virgata memorosa in a West Sussex garden
This is one of the best of all Sages for massed effect

Mary (3½ feet).—The darkest of all Charms; rich velvety deep maroon self.

Chameleon (3 feet).—A beautiful blending of art shades. Orange-gold paling to rosy-buff at the edges of petals. The centre and base are deeply overlaid with orange and chestnut.

Flame (3½ feet).—Makes a striking bed. The colour is a pure orange flame self.

Margaret (3 feet).—Dainty and decorative. Golden-yellow centre with the petals flushed, "rayed" and tipped with gold, suffused orange-pink towards the tips.

Dot (3 feet).—Deep lemon, flushed soft salmon-biscuit at the edges of petals. Dot makes a very light and charming table decoration, particularly by artificial light.

Gladys Unwin (3 feet).—Soft pink on a lemon ground, lightly flaked orange-chestnut at the base.

Marjorie (3 feet).—Rosy-pink with a large gold base.

Charmer (3½ feet).—Aptly named, for it is one of the very best. A really fine Dahlia for any purpose. The rich deep zone of orange-chestnut at the base lightens to orange-salmon towards the tips of petals, im-

parting a great warmth of tone when seen in the bunch.

FLORRIE (3 feet).—Quite a new shade in the Charms. Soft lavender-lilac with chestnut blotch at the base of petals.

GLAMOUR (3½ feet).—Most effective. A bright orange-scarlet.

NANNY (3 feet).—Orange-buff, base lightly suffused chestnut.

GLORIA (3½ feet).—Brilliant orange flame with slightly deeper base. Very showy indeed.

GWYNNE (3½ feet).—Deep and rich crimson with a black centre. A striking flower which has wonderful keeping qualities when cut.

HERMIA (3 feet).—A charming colour difficult to portray. Stone-buff, flushed violet, with heavy chestnut zone at the base of petals.

JUDITH (3½ feet).—An attractive shade, perhaps best described as rust-red.

MAC (3 feet).—A soft and rich blending. Yellow, suffused salmon, deepening to salmon-rose towards the tips.

LUCINA (2½ feet).—Apricot-buff, base suffused tangerine and salmon.

Personal taste widely differs, and there may be some growers who still prefer the more formal old-fashioned types of Dahlia, but, having a fair experience of public taste, I can confidently state that the average flower-lover is sure to like Charms. Their shape is informal and pleasing to the eye, and there are now enough colours to be found among them to satisfy the most exacting taste. I am inclined to agree with their raiser's statement that they are the most valuable addition to autumn flowers which we have had for many years. Of course, like many other flowers, they should be planted on the principle of "one colour one bed," confining each bed or border to a separate variety. This may not be always possible, especially where cut flowers are as great a consideration as garden decoration. Quite nice effects can, however, be obtained by planting several varieties in the same bed, provided their colours are taken into consideration and a satisfactory colour-scheme planned. The varying heights to which individual varieties grow sh not be overlooked.

Mr. W. J. Unwin, of Histon, is e ing to produce a race of dwarf purely for bedding purposes. Th bine the dwarf habit of Coltness the semi-double form of flower of t type. The first of this new race introduced this season, and others low. Bearing in mind the popu Coltness Gem, one is very optimisti future. EAST A

Comments on the Chelsea Sho

WHILE taking no special notes at Chelsea, a few outstanding exhibits could not fail to attract the plant-lover and cultivator.

Blackmore and Langdon's Begonias were superb. One or two varieties were far larger than I have seen before, one of which, I think, got an A.M., but it was a pity it was handled so roughly, for by the time it came to the new plant table in the tent it had got badly bruised.

The cultivation and perfect condition of the flowers calls for the highest praise for the firm, for such a delicate flower as a Begonia must call for extra special handling. Opposite their Begonias this firm had a marvellous lot of Delphiniums grown, I believe, in pots. Anyhow, the plant I examined was grown in a comparatively small pot, and it had a stem like a young tree.

Sutton's Salpiglossis were marvellous, and here, again, skill in cultivation and arranging was of the highest. Several thousand plants, each in a separate pot, entail no lit and someone deserves congratulatio

Bolton's Sweet Peas, as usual, w the usual Bolton mark, and Dobb I think, equally good. I underst group contained 11,000 spikes. Size and length of stem were tip-top, an can give Mr. Donald Allan our best lations, for, I believe, he grew the firm's nursery in Essex. The Hyd Ladds' were marvellous. There w tempt at a great number of vari merely what Mr. Frank Ladds wou ordinary lot of stuff that goes to Lor day just now. The arrangement ordinary, and showed great skill o of the man who arranged them.

Wallace's garden in the big tent, was tip-top. The Rhododendron b very bright, and especially fine was variety, Britannia. Their Lilies we Wallace seem to be able to put up made one wish they were less exp easier of success. Their Irises w earlier than natural, and I think t are never so good when flowered u

Perry's Ferns, with their four, even six names, were grown as can do them, and many look far to be hardy. His Fern-grower wonderful man if he can remembe name, for his catalogue contains h varieties, apparently. One alwa the Azaleas of Cuthbert's to be themselves, and this year was no The Japanese Maples show up the ing of the Azaleas. A perfectly-perfectly-shown exhibit, I thought, of Dutch-raised Rhododendrons three or four outstanding varie Chas. Pearson was very fine, m white, and Betty Wormald a very

Lady Aberconway and the H McLaren had a fine exhibit of Am what struck me most was the Bod of Streptocarpus raised by their Mr. Puddle. All shades of mauve the flowers were of exceptional siz all the Bodnant products, of high I went to Chelsea hoping to see great collections of Primulas, bu appointed not to find them this ye

Oliver and Hunter seem to gro better than most people, and th was full of interest. P. Florindæ me to take second place to P. apicola. Their strain of P. Litto markably fine, and all their Prim good cultivation—possibly a cong sphere up North may help. Fe are shown what I call well gro never get to the size of natural-gr and give people a poor impression

If I remember rightly, The Al lege showed some very fine p Sikkimensis. Rogers, in their r outside, have the Bartley strain of lenta pretty well up to the ma many other exhibits had poor of course, they could never sta really well-grown P. japonica in

Lewisia rediviva Vancouver Variety. Award of Merit at Chelsea

Lewisia rediviva is an interesting plant for a sunny, well-drained place in the rock garden. It has thick, branching roots and fleshy leaves. The flowers are from 1 inch to 2 inches across and of rosy hue, varying to white, red, or purple. The roots from which the plant was originally described showed signs of life after being preserved several years in the herbarium. They were planted, and they grew! Owing to remarkable powers of recuperation, the plant was appropriately named rediviva. At the recent Chelsea Show Mr. C. van Tubergen gained an Award of Merit for a strong-growing form named Vancouver Variety, with longer leaf than the type and larger rosy pink flowers. The plant makes a tuft of narrow succulent leaves, from which spring the short-stemmed rosy pink flowers of almost Cactus-like appearance.

hibit on the table, for they would everything else.

other Primula stood out, and that was ple's hybrid Sir George Thursby, a lling colour and plants really well but no doubt it would be better still open ground. Maurice Prichard's hibit, as usual, was full of the best s, and well arranged, too.

an's Clematis, Waterer's Rhododen- nd Notcutt's shrubs were what one from these firms.

d the Lupin Countess of March, ained an A.M. for Mr. Downer, who e very fine varieties and is ahead of else in Lupins, though I did not think p could compare with that of Mr. le for cultivation and arrangement. . Dalrymple going in for these in to his Freesias and Primulas?

tions left one wrapt in admiration zing on the superb exhibits of All- and Engelmann also. They were ly set up, and every bloom seemed

er's herbaceous group was, I thought, best of this section.

Hon. Vicary Gibbs' vegetable exhibit eye-opener as to what can be pro- nder this heading in the month of Probably 150 to 200 dishes were the variety marvellous and the too, and I do not suppose anyone but in Beckett could stage such a group. have missed many other outstand- ps, but every group in the show con- mething of interest to somebody; but ot intended to be a full report of the The extra space made a great e to the show, but even with this s too little room on the first day, and vay past the rock gardens was all too for such a crowd as was present on ng day. The innovation of opening nesday morning was much appre- ut it was hardly a "Private view" ws. It would be better to let them ut the "Private view," for I am elsea is so popular that there will e a crowd far too big, whether there vate view" or not. I believe 51,000 attendance on the first day. Friday and may have to show a reduced e, but no doubt the total for the s was over the average. Z.

us speciosus and Koniga maritima

small end of a little space of garden d of triangular shape has a hump aised rockwork, and beyond it, g to an actual point, a bed of acaulis. The mound is planted with white and purple flowers—Sedum , Ivy Geranium Mme. Crousse, and peciosus—with a general filling of lyssum (Königa maritima). The creases so fast, apparently by self- dlings, that, if it were not one of beautiful of the species, one might ass it as a garden pest. The front cture shows the Gentian bed. In Gentians only, but in September it show of Crocus speciosus in a set- weet Alyssum, also self-sown from mound above. G. J.

Crocus speciosus, a Sweet Alyssum

The Colchicums

E who have only grown the ordi- Meadow Saffrons, beautiful though are, will have no idea of the loveli- e larger-flowered species, with their ns and substantial wax-like petals. speciosum has great, handsome f rich rose tint, and the variety s illyricum, which hails from may be, perhaps, best described as a rosy-carmine. It received the R.H.S. Award of Merit. Speciosum album bears large blossoms of snowy-whiteness, and received the R.H.S. First-class Certificate. It is a most beautiful thing and flowers in late September at the same time as Amaryllis Belladonna, with which it is well associated. The two are the greatest autumn ornaments to any rock garden. Another variety, named giganteum, bears large, soft, rose-tinted flowers with a white centre. It is a native of the great Mountain Zigana Dagh, in Asia Minor.

The last of all to bloom, and most useful in prolonging the Colchicum season and giving brightness to the rock garden in November, is C. Decaisnei, which produces numbers of small pale pink flowers. Among the small-flowered varieties I have also grown agrippinum, with rosy-lilac blossoms curiously chequered. It is one of the earliest to come into bloom, so that this delightful family may beautify our gardens for three months out of the twelve.

Another charming pale pink small-flowered species is named Libanoticus, as it is a native of Mount Lebanon, where it may be gathered among the snowdrifts near the summit. Like all the small-flowered species, it is best grown among small surfacing plants, which support the blossoms and keep them from soil stains.

These Colchicums look particularly well when grown near another native of Palestine, the rich yellow-flowered Sternbergia lutea, which is sometimes known as "the Lily of the Field." We have never seen them flowering more freely than in the University Botanic Garden at Cambridge.

H. H. Warner.

Fuchsia Ricartonii

There are many places in which this useful plant thrives remarkably well, not only in pleasure grounds and shrubberies, but also by the sides of walks in plantations. A gravelly bottom suits it best, but it ought to have a place specially prepared for it, say a pit dug out 4 feet wide and 18 inches deep; let the best of the soil be put in the bottom, as this Fuchsia will often root deeply if it finds congenial material in which to develop its roots. If in plantations it should occupy the most open positions to be found in them, and as Rhododendrons may be expected to adorn woodland walks during summer, this Fuchsia furnishes a profusion of flowers in the later part of the year. This variety of Fuchsia is much hardier than many imagine, and where the subsoil is sufficiently gravelly to give free passage to superfluous moisture to pass away, I have seen it grow into a great bush 6 feet and 8 feet high, and sometimes a healthy plant will throw up a shoot 6 feet long in one season. In exposed situations, or where the frost becomes very severe, it would be well to protect plants of this Fuchsia during winter. G. D.

The Pot Culture of Annuals for Autumn Blooming in the Greenhouse.

The practice of cultivating annuals in pots is not so general as it deserves, and though recognised as indispensable in the garden, they are, unfortunately, too often left out of arrangements for autumn blooming under glass. The following notes outline briefly what can be done with annuals in this direction so as to make the greenhouse gay in the later months of the year

(1) Clarkias

It does not seem so very many years since Clarkias were classed as annuals for sowing out of doors, either in autumn in sheltered localities or in April or May in others. That was the day when most annuals were considered in the light of masses, and their worth as individual specimens was scarcely appreciated. Since the introduction of the elegans section of this family, however, a marked change has taken place in regard to this handsome annual, as, indeed, it has with many others when grown as single specimens.

At the present time, in quite a number of gardens, seedling Clarkias will be up in the borders, and if some of them are now lifted carefully and potted on in 5-inch or 6-inch pots, placing them in a cold frame where they will be able to receive shade as well as sun, one may look forward to having well-developed specimens by early autumn. It is not too late to sow seed even now for later blooming. With this end in view pans should be prepared of light compost made up of old loam, leaf-mould, and coarse silver sand, paying attention to drainage, and keeping the pans in a cold frame, where they should be screened from the direct rays of the sun. Seedlings can have one shift before being finally removed into the larger-sized pots. In the last move an addition of a little rotted stable dung may be given with advantage. In quartering the plants for the remainder of the summer care should be taken to give them plenty of room, and avoid, at all costs, packing them together in a confined space. It is even better to let them stand out of the frame altogether than cramp them in any way. A bed of fine ashes on which they can stand will reduce the labour of watering a great deal. Double varieties of Clarkias are very charming, and keep in flower for many weeks, their colours ranging from pure white, through delicate pinks and salmon, to scarlet and ruby, and with them one can have a greenhouse quite gay in autumn.

(2) Rhodanthes

No annual amongst "everlastings" are more popular in spring and early summer as pot plants than are Rhodanthes. The fact that they are grown for early flowering in the greenhouse by sowing seed in February or March in a warm temperature has given rise to a false idea concerning them, as not a few folk seem to think that only in spring and summer can one have them in beauty. Let those who have never grown them for making bright their greenhouse in early autumn put the matter to the test by sowing seed in June, or even July, in pans of light soil, either in the greenhouse or cold frame, providing compost similar to that recommended for Clarkias, but in the final potting to plant a dozen plants in a 6-inch pot. The growth of Rhodanthes is slender and Pea-like, and need support in the shape of a few thin twigs about them, around which fine raffia can be drawn.

As soon as the seedlings have been pricked off they ought to be kept not far removed from the glass, the latter being shaded to exclude the direct rays of the sun, whilst air must be admitted freely. In the first part of the year experience with these annuals is not always a happy one by those growing them for the first time, as, through excess of moisture at the roots, they are liable to damp off. This does not obtain when seedlings are raised in the summer to the same degree, but the happy medium in the matter of watering must be studied. There is no difficulty whatever in having well-bloomed plants for September and October by following the suggestions given, and only sufficient heat will be required in the house in autumn to dispel damp. One may have them in rose and crimson and silvery-white. Few annuals are more dainty or last longer.

(3) Salpiglossis

Resembling Petunias in the shape of their blooms—being funnel-shaped—but possessing a greater diversity of colours, the Salpiglossis is an annual which is increasing in popularity. It is one which has been greatly improved in recent years, and when exhibited in pots never fails to excite admiration. It is equally useful for sowing or planting out of doors, but is never seen to better advantage than when its culture is undertaken and grown singly in pots.

A general compost suits it, *i.e.*, one made up of leaf-mould and old loam with silver sand incorporated.

The present is a suitable time to sow seeds in boxes or in a cold frame, giving them one shift before finally planting the seedlings into 5-inch or 6-inch pots. By September one may have quite large specimens 2 feet in height or so that add an attraction to any greenhouse where it is only needful to keep a fire going to dispel damp and actual frost.

The flowers are delightfully veined, and are of crimson, yellow, blue and gold, and velvet-red and purple.

They can be stood out of doors for the rest of the summer after they have had their final shift until it is time to house them in September. There are dwarf varieties too.

(4) Godetias

Noted for their prodigality of flowers, Godetias are amongst the showiest of hardy annuals in the garden, and have undergone great improvements in recent years. Those who can remember the early days of Duchess of Albany and Lady Albemarle, two sorts which gave a fillip to the culture of this family, will be able to appreciate the great strides made when growing side by side with modern varieties.

We know that the raising of plants from seed for summer flowering is simple. Seed can be sown in the warmth of a greenhouse, if desired, though there is little necessity for this, as in a cold frame or sown outside in a sunny border one may have very satisfactory results. It is as pot plants for blooming in late autumn or spring under glass that Godetias deserve more attention. If seed is sown about the middle of June in a frame, and one seedling is planted in a 6-inch pot, flowers will appear in September and last for weeks in a house with little warmth. Light soil only is required. I would commend their culture in this fashion to those who have not tried them. In the double sorts there are some very attractive, in pink, and mauve and rose, and crimson and lavender. They range from 1 foot to 2 feet in height, and make a nice addition to a house in late autumn. There is no need to place them under cover until it is time to house them al middle of September.

(5) Mignonette

Scarcely any hardy annual is more in the garden, owing to its sweetly spikes, than Mignonette, and its cu is general. Too often the seed is sov thicker than it should be, with the re plants are weak and puny from the is only when grown as single plants finest specimens are obtained. Th seed about a flower border, which into a big plant branching out into bloom, is an example of the value of For autumn blooming under glass be sown about July. It may be in ground in a bed made up of sandy l leaf-mould, with a little old manure meal and mortar-rubble added, and lings transplanted into 5-inch or 6-i well crocked and filled with similar but as the plants do not take kind moval, owing to the thread-like roo ing, the better plan is to sow two seeds in a pot, retaining only the o is strongest. A cold frame, or stoc doors as soon as the final selection c has been made, will meet their requ until their removal under glass in when the weather becomes cold liquid-manure given occasionally wil wards building up the plants. Flo should be discouraged until a wee before bringing the plants in the gre Only little warmth is needed.

(6) Stocks

For autumn and winter bloomir gentle warmth of a greenhouse no more useful Stocks for grow the two sections known as the Int and Winter-flowering. Seed of th should be sown about the middle o boxes of light soil in a cold frame, the plants off into nursery beds fo after which they may be potted in 6 in loam and leaf-mould and sand, su them, if necessary, in the ground tember, when they can be brough By that time they will be showing will bring both colour and sweetnes house. One may even defer the 1 Intermediate Stocks until it is almo to lift them, planting them out much style of Wallflowers, and a few da shifting, "easing" them with a s shading and watering for a few potting. In that case it will be f some of the plants have grown so l require a 7-inch or 8-inch pot.

Sow seed of the Winter-flowering like Christmas Pink and Beauty o a frame in July, and pot on as Plants may be kept in a cold frame until well on into September or the weather is mild, bringing ther house as wanted. Only gentle w needed to flower Stocks, and air given them whenever possible. Te rich assortment of colour amongst they continue in bloom for month moment this note is written (midd I have in bloom in a cold house St seed sown last July.

(To be continued.)

Stokesia Cyanea

This handsome North American is a desirable subject for the front baceous border or for the larger roc One of the advantages of this plant is that it is late in coming in and is usually at its best during Sp It grows freely in any good garde deserves a warm position to get th sults.

Answers to Queries

:ions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* NG ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre-its follow these rules: All communications be clearly written on one side of the paper nd addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING TED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. on business should be sent to the* PUB-*The name and address of the sender are l in addition to any designation he may o be used in the paper. When more than ry is sent each should be on a separate paper, the name and address being added As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

stachys andina

ILL you, please, name the enclosed old flowering pieces taken from a plant of which I have lately come into ion? Around these old flowers new s have been made, the leaves on which her longer and narrower than those ding the flower. I am told that it ot flower very often, and that the are of somewhat mauve colour. In to naming will you also enlighten n its flowering habits? S. M.

plant sent for identification is Rhodo-andina, of which we give an illustra-t forms a rosette of long, fleshy, owdered foliage with marginal spines t of the Pineapple. The flower-heads ery-grey and pale soft rose, and are seen at their best in early autumn. eric name is derived from *Rhodon* (a nd *Stachys* (a flower-spike). It be-the Natural Order Bromiliaceæ. this plant was collected in the Andes by the late Mr. H. J. Elwes. The subject to damage by frost. The best in this country of which we have as 10 feet in circumference, and it ived no protection for at least six but this was Rhodostachys andina s in the Rosemorran Gardens, e.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

as not flowering and treatment large Bamboos

planted a Wistaria on the W.N.W. ny house in 1923. It has gone right e eaves, but it has never had any all. Is this usual? If not, can you any treatment? (2) How ought one Bamboo clumps to (*a*) limit their maintain good, fresh growth and pearance? Is thinning out in the dvisable?

A REGULAR SUBSCRIBER.

you checked the leading growths of starias when they had reached half sent height and spurred in all sum-ts to within six or eight buds of their would probably have bloomed be-. This is not at all unusual, for we with several similar instances, some , although making a lot of thin, rowth, were not even strong enough . Present treatment: Reduce your ick 3 feet, cut or thin out crowded and shorten all this season's shoots within six or eight buds of their l repeat with others as the season in order to obtain short spurry f your border is in poor heart apply ulch of farmyard manure.

STORING BAMBOO CLUMPS.—There are ible ways of dealing with these, the g that of lifting the clump, dividing d replanting the healthy outer por-form one fresh clump. The second the plants through the centre, re-he one half in order to get at the the remaining half. All spent or portions of which should be re-cluding the old core of dead roots down to the bottom. The cavity thus formed should then be filled in with a good loam and leafy soil mixture made firm and well watered. This is best carried out at the end of April, when fresh growth is beginning to make its appearance.]

ROSES

Climbing Roses not flowering

Will you kindly advise me what to do to encourage climbing General MacArthur and Mrs. Herbert Stevens to bloom? They have been planted three years, and the first year Mrs. H. Stevens flowered well, but not last year, and does not look promising this summer. General MacArthur grows on the house next Niphetos, which is covered with bloom, so the situation is not unfavourable, but it has never flowered, though, like Mrs. H. Stevens, it throws out fine, healthy shoots.

CHERRY ORCHARD.

[Although Niphetos blooms well that is no guarantee that the position is suited to all varieties of Roses. Both Climbing General MacArthur and Climbing Mrs. H. Stevens are very free-blooming varieties, so there must be something wrong either in the exposure or in your method of pruning. While all weakly growths must be cut hard back, strong, well-ripened shoots should be retained and trained in at almost full length. Overcrowding of the shoots must be carefully avoided.]

Rhodostachys andina

A Bromeliad with rose-coloured flowers from the Andes of Chili

FLOWER GARDEN

Primula to name

I enclose flowers of a Primula of which I do not know the name. I wonder if it is a garden hybrid. I cannot send a full flower-head as there is only one and I want to collect the seed. The growth is like P. Bulleyana, with a mealy stalk. A very handsome specimen growing in damp clay. I shall be so much obliged if you can give me any information *re* this Primula. It cannot be a cross with P. pulverulenta, as I have had none in the garden. The kinds grown are japonica, Cashmeriana, denticulata, Red Hugh, Bulleyana, and capitata.

Sussex. ELSIE M. EDGE.

[The much-withered flowers sent, on comparing with a fine collection prove undoubtedly P. sibirica, a species, not a hybrid as you surmise. It is quite possible that this was introduced into your garden as a seed in the soil of other Primulas obtained from a garden where this species grew, and conditions being right in your own garden it came up and prospered. P. Wardii is all but synonymous with this.]

Yellow Violas

About the middle of April I bedded out, amongst other varieties, Redbraes Yellow from cuttings last autumn wintered in a cold frame. This variety usually gives fine large flowers of deep colour. This time some of the blooms are quite tiny and of different shape from the ordinary bloom. The aborted or deteriorated blooms occur on the same plants as the perfect blooms. I shall be much obliged if you can give me any explanation of this, or how to avoid the trouble another year. It does not seem to be a general deterioration of the individual plants. The other varieties, Maggie Mott (mauve) and Swan (white) are blooming as well as usual. A. E. P.

[There is no disease present in the plant sent, but while it looks healthy, there is a certain lack of vigour, which would account for the poorness of the flowers. This, again, might be caused by poverty of the soil, or by growing the plants on the same site over a series of years. This latter the Viola very quickly resents. All successful exhibitors make a point of changing the site each season, as only by so doing can they hope to secure class blooms. The decorative Viola is needful of the same treatment.]

Trouble with Asters

(L. S. T.).—The cause of your trouble is due to excessive watering, with the result that the young plants have sickened and died. Of the three you send, the roots of two were quite dead and the other quite a healthy plant. The trouble probably occurred whilst the plants were in their seed-pans, as is often the case with overwatering, and although the upper parts did not show it at the time of pricking out they were dead. There is nothing in the way of insects interfering with them, and to save the remainder keep them on the dry side for a time.

Montbretias dying

(G. H.).—The roots of those you send appear to have been barked. This suggests the presence of wireworm in your soil, although none were discovered with the roots. You can do little at the present time except apply a surface dressing of lime and soot, watering this thoroughly in order that a percentage may be washed into the roots. Immediately the flowering season is over lift the plants, removing all the soil from their roots and plunging them for a few minutes in a pail containing a weak solution of permanganate of potash. Before replanting divide up the roots, choosing only the largest and best, and

plant 3 inches deep on a fresh site which has received a good dressing of decayed manure, old mortar-rubble, and wood-ash, as the Montbretia loves a warm, open, and friable soil.

Chrysanthemum trouble

Could you, please, tell me what is the trouble with the enclosed plant of Chrysanthemum and what you would advise as a remedy? W. C. IRVINE.

[We have carefully examined the specimen Chrysanthemum you have sent in, and can find no fungus that would be likely to cause the foliage to fail. The root and stem of the plant appeared to be healthy. The injured foliage appears to have been perforated by a plant-piercing insect, probably green or white fly, but we could only find three or four green flies present. Have you sprayed or fumigated the plants with anything that would cause the injury? Otherwise we can throw no light upon the trouble. We think that the plants will grow out of the habit. If the shoots which are now developing show any marks upon the leaves when they unfold, please send us along some specimens and we will examine them. Perhaps in an earlier stage they would show us something more definite.]

Name of Fern and its cultivation

(L. F. J.).—Your Fern is Adiantum pedatum, a native of North American woodlands, where it is usually found growing in the company of Trillium, Hepatica, and blue Windflowers, all shade-lovers. A light soil containing a large percentage of leaf-mould or peat is what it enjoys, and a cool and shaded position, such as that afforded by summer-leafing trees or the base of a north wall. We find it grows admirably in the latter position and is increasing considerably each year. This graceful Fern must not be permitted to become really dry at any time during its growing season, for, if it does, the fronds are certain to get disfigured and the life of the plant impaired. Old beds are greatly improved by applying a liberal top-dressing of leaf-mould each year just before the young fronds begin to move.

FRUIT

Vine leaves for inspection

("Logwood").—We have carefully examined the leaves sent, and can find no trace of vermin, but they appear as if not too well nourished. It also looks as if the house were being kept too close shut. The Grape Vine does not thrive well when so treated. Although cold draughts must be avoided, abundance of fresh air is an essential to success. Try giving a little feeding (a good chemical Vine manure is excellent) and admit more air on all favourable occasions. By the dirty marks on the top surface of the leaves it looks as if the roof were leaking.

Red Currants not fruiting

(J. M. Stewart).—It seems more than likely that over-luxuriance is the reason for your Red Currant bushes failing to produce fruit. It is a great mistake to plant these Currants in rich soil, or to apply manure of any kind unless the bushes show signs of impoverishment. The only feasible cure would be to lift the bushes in November and replant in poorer soil, pruning in February. Little difference would be likely the first season.

Diseased Strawberries

I am sending you, herewith, a few plants of Strawberry. They show decay in beds among other healthy plants. We find they gradually wilt and die in spring instead of making growth. We have had the disease for some years and have shifted the beds about all over the garden without avoiding the disease. We have also brought in new plants. It seems to be a bacteria in the soil living on and consuming the roots. You will see those sent are eaten very small. Can you suggest a remedy? G. H. CHRISTIE.

[Your Strawberries are affected with two diseases, namely, Ramularia (Leaf Spot), which is caused by the fungus Mycosphævella fraganiæ, and a root eelworm, probably Tylenchus devastatrix. It is somewhat difficult to say, with any degree of certainty, which of these troubles is the primary cause of your plants failing to grow. It seems probable that the Leaf Spot (which is very bad on the specimens sent) weakens the plants so that they fall an easy prey to the eelworm. If you examine your plants you will find that the foliage instead of being the normal green are spotted with red. If all the plants are so marked it would be best to grub and burn them. The most effective way of clearing away the trouble, if it is, as your letter suggests, widespread in your garden, would be to take what crop you can get this year and then burn the old plants. Do not plant any runners this year, but during the coming winter prepare an entirely new site by double-digging it, taking the opportunity of working into the second spit of soil a supply of farmyard manure. Next spring the plot should be cropped with early Potatoes, which, when planted, should receive a dressing of sulphate of potash at the rate of 1 oz. per square yard. The Potatoes should be lifted as early in August as is practical, and then planted up with a new stock of Strawberry plants obtained from a good nurseryman. The dressing of sulphate of potash mentioned above should be repeated when the plants have become established. The treatment advised reads rather drastic, but as you have tried moving your Strawberry bed about from place to place and have also imported new plants it would seem that the only plan is to have a complete clear-out, not to grow Strawberries for one season and then start again. The Leaf Spot can be controlled by spraying the plants early in the season with potassium sulphide. The only control that has been used with success for eelworm has been a dressing of lime, followed by sulphate of potash. We have tested your soil for lime and it appears at present not to be in need of a dressing.]

Apple Mildew

(Smallfield, Horley).—Your Apples are affected with Apple mildew, which is caused by the fungus Podosphæra leucotricha. We should advise you to spray your trees with soluble lime-sulphur, using 1 gallon of the concentrated solution to 59 gallons of water. After the trees have been sprayed you should go over the trees and cut out the affected shoots down to clean growth. The treatment should be repeated, if necessary, after 14 days' interval. The result of the treatment advised depends to a large extent upon how well the work of cutting out is done. Please see notes on Apple mildew on pages 374 and 385.

Muscat of Alexandria not developed

(E. G.).—Occasionally we have come across a single bunch on a Vine behaving as yours has done during two seasons, but certainly never in such a wholesale fashion. There must be something radically wrong, for even Muscat of Alexandria is not wont to behave in this way. We would, of course, require to get full particulars regarding the treatment given the Vine before we could point out a remedy. You will understand that Muscat of Alexandria demands a higher temperature than most of the other varieties. If your Vine roots are outside the vinery a chill caused by cold rain or snow after growth had started would be enough t the trouble, while if all roots are ins house the check caused by the soil be too dry might easily be responsibl another possible cause would be heav ings of chemical manure or too stron of liquid-manure.

VEGETABLES

Small Tripoli Onions

(E. P., Hants).—The bulbs are sou hard. Their smallness is due to c and probably lack of nutriment. On small in many districts this year, o lack of moisture.

LEGAL

Right to light

("Freeholder").—These "right to questions are difficult to deal with. stands thus: If A puts a new window side of his house overlooking B's garden, B may erect a hoarding wh prevent A from getting a view. A entitled to enjoy the same amount of he and his predecessors have enjoyed posing A had an ancient fruit tree on that side of his house and B had e hoarding or building to keep the sun tree the case might be different. B m trespass upon A's freehold, either a below ground, but B may do as he to the very edge of his own freehold a surveyor could decide whether th been any trespass in this case. Wha it is that neighbours cannot agre matter of this kind. An agreemen have been so easy to effect!

MISCELLANEOUS

Eradicating woodlice

(L. Stead).—Probably the most method for getting rid of woodlic trapping. It, however, requires pati a little time to really get rid of t structive pests. Good traps are 4-inc pots. In these place slices of raw Po fill loosely with dry Moss. Each examine the traps (you may lay do a number) and shake the vermin into of boiling water. Some get rid of by freely sprinkling borax near wh hide. It is also possible to poison th phosphorus paste, but somewhat da To use this substance mix with th its bulk of barley-meal. When th mixed spread a little of the mixture of cardboard and lay down near the place.

Mould on jam

Can you tell me how to prever forming on the brandied papers, waxed ones, that are placed on jar covering with the damped parchmen do manufacturers use? My jams a until they jelly on a plate, and p laid over the pots to keep the dust off till the jam cools, to be covered Q.

[Our correspondent seems to ha every care in making and cove jam, and we can only suggest th been stored in a damp, badly-venti board, and perhaps been packed t together.]

Mosquitoes

Can you tell me what I can c mosquitoes in tubs of Water Lilie seem to hatch in myriads. A. I

[The larvæ of the mosquitoes breeding in the tubs in which you ing your Water Lilies can be contro can put something on to the surfa water which prevents the larvæ The most commonly used sub

oil, but we think that this substance injure your plants. Covering the sur- the water with cork-dust has been ended as a method of control, but we ot tried the material, and can there- ffer no opinion as to its merits. r way of controlling the pest is to ce to the tubs aquatic creatures which on the larvæ, *e.g.*, fish, water beetles, s, frogs, etc., all feed upon the larvæ quitoes and would do much to reduce umbers. In your case small fish perhaps, be the most useful. Where oil can be used it is the best practical for mosquitoes. It has been shown raffin oil containing 1 per cent. castor eads over a much larger area than araffin is used alone, and also that the oil prevents the film breaking so]

NAMES OF PLANTS

Torquay.—You have not numbered imens you sent, all of which are com- ild flowers, especially on chalk or e formation. Any "British Flora" easily help you to recognise these. only give you the bare names, as it ake too long to write detailed descrip- o help you to identify your un- ed specimens: Lotus corniculatus, sia officinalis, Potentilla repens, m repens, Sherardia arvensis, m arvense, Crepis hieracioides, arvensis.

ield.—Iris Fro.

ner.—1, Escallonias, probably hybrid like 2, E. langleyensis and E. s; impossible to be definite without 3, Laburnum alpinum; 4, Alecost mary, an old-fashioned Pot Herb tum balsamita).

. *Crane.*—1, Lamium maculatum ed form); 2, Lamium purpureum ad Nettle); 3, Veronica rupestris.

.. *Plumstead.*—1, Stachys lanata Ear); 2, Valeriana dioica (Marsh , native); 3, Mesembryanthemum; ble to tell species without flowers.

.—1, Pernettya mucronata; 2, Ver- phœnicium.

l.—Muscari comosum (the Tassel h), a native of Southern Europe.

s.—Limnanthes Douglasi, a pretty nual, useful for bees.

B., Kent.—Billbergia nutans (see A. Bass, issue June 4th, p. 354).

LATE NOTES

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are always about 8,000 children in nardo's Homes, and five others, on age, are admitted daily. These little people cannot appeal for them- nd we are asked to do so on their The work is well worth doing from nal standpoint, for the Homes turn children into A1 citizens, and send t to take their places in the world. and orders may be made payable Barnardo's Homes Food Fund" sed, and addressed to "Dr. Bar- lomes Food Fund," 18-26, Stepney y, London, E. 1.

r mildew of the Apple

ve received numerous inquiries from about the large amount of Apple resent in their trees this year. This which is caused by a fungus, is a ively easy one to control, because at d of the year the whole of the fungus t on the outside of the affected por- he Apple tree. All the true mildews irely upon the surface of the plant and feed by sending in tiny sucker their host; hence a fungicide has a good chance of killing the fungus without injury to the host plant. We should advise that all portions of the Apple trees showing signs of mildew should be sprayed with lime-sulphur at the rate of 1 gallon concentrated lime-sulphur to 59 gallons of soft water. The trees should then be gone over and all the badly-mildewed shoots cut out and burned.

TRADE NOTES

W. Oliver Allen and Sons, of Porthleven, Cornwall, have issued a summer netting list at reduced prices. This old-established firm are the actual makers of new nettings, and, supplying same on the largest scale, they are able to keep prices at very attractive levels. The quality of Allen's goods, coupled with a guarantee to give satisfaction, have made a name for them in the gardening world. Their increasing trade has enabled them to still reduce prices this year. New nettings are all specially dressed and made weather-proof before leaving the works.

Daffodils

For some time past it has been known that Mr. R. F. Calvert, of Coverack, Cornwall, has been purchasing stocks of the bulbs of the newest and rarest Daffodils from the best-known producers in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Holland, and he is now offering varieties which have been awarded medals, certificates, and awards during the last few years. Nearly 200 of the best varieties are offered and fully described, and many illustrated in his new catalogue. In our last two issues we have published special articles on the Daffodil, and it will be seen that most of the varieties specially described by our contributors, and in some instances illustrated, are contained in Mr. Calvert's list. He further announces that he has secured the entire stocks of more than 30 choice varieties raised by leading growers, including The Brodie of Brodie, P. D. Williams, Guy Wilson, and others, none of which will be offered this season, but will be included in his future lists. In addition, Mr. Calvert has also large stocks of bulbs of all the early varieties which will be suitable for the market growers in Cornwall, who are now very numerous and are rapidly increasing. It is now an acknowledged fact that before long the west of Cornwall will be a very important centre for the supply of every description of Narcissi flowers.

"Gripits"

The introduction of the "Gripit," a simple and unique appliance for joining, lengthening, or positioning Bamboos or sticks, fulfils a long-felt want, and owing to its adaptability for many purposes it has been welcomed by amateur and professional gardeners and nurserymen. Gripits have been carefully designed to give constant and unfailing service; the effectiveness of their grip is astonishing, whilst their application or removal is delightfully simple. They are recommended and sold by T. N. Waldron, Ltd., Avon Works, Stratford-on-Avon.

Zonal Pelargoniums

These were shown at Chelsea by W. A. R. Clifton, King's Drive, Willingdon, Sussex, from whom a descriptive catalogue may be obtained.

Obituary

THOMAS REGINALD HAYES

We regret to record the passing on June 13th of Mr. Thomas Reginald Hayes, of Keswick, aged 63. Mr. Hayes was a well-known authority on rock garden construction and alpine plants. He is survived by his widow and three sons, two of whom carry on the business of Thomas R. Hayes and Sons.

A Visit to the City

FOR the benefit of readers who have not yet sent in their names for our free visits to places of interest in the City, we give below the programme of London visits. On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, starting June 21st, readers and their friends should assemble in the Publications Hall, Bouverie House, at 2.45 p.m., to meet us and Mr. Walker, and to then take a tour of the neighbouring City under Mr. Walker's guidance, the tour ending up at Bouverie House at 5.30 p.m., where a cup of tea will be served in the Staff Canteen

Readers are asked to apply to the Editor prior to their intending visit for tickets for the party on the day which they select. We give herewith brief particulars of the tours.

PROGRAMME OF LONDON VISITS.

JUNE—SEPT., 1927.

1. TUESDAY, June 21 ..	**The Temple.** Temple Church, XIIth-XIIIth Century. Middle Temple Hall. Inner Temple Hall (Associations with Chaucer, Shakespeare, Dr. Johnson, Goldsmith, and Dickens).
2. WEDNESDAY, June 29	**St. Clement Danes** (Dr. Johnson's Church). No. 17, Fleet Street, XIIth Century. "Old Curiosity Shop" (escaped Fire of 1666). Dr. Johnson's House, Gough Square.
3. TUESDAY, July 5 ..	**St. Bride's, Fleet Street** (the Printer's Church). "Bridewell Place" Remains. The River Fleet. "Daily Telegraph" or "Daily Mail" Offices also.
4. WEDNESDAY, July 13	The Royal Courts of Justice. Record Office Museum (containing Domesday Book). Lincoln's Inn.
5. TUESDAY, July 19 ..	Priory Church of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield, XIIth Century. St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
6. WEDNESDAY, July 27..	**The Charterhouse.** Ancient Carthusian Monastery. Smithfield Market.
7. WEDNESDAY, Aug. 3	Central Criminal Courts. Christ Church, Greyfriars.
8. TUESDAY, Aug. 9 ..	St. John's Priory Church. St. John's Gate, Headquarters of the Crusading Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.
9. WEDNESDAY, Sept. 7	St. Paul's Cathedral.
10. TUESDAY, Sept. 13 ..	St. Martin's, Ludgate. Remains of London Wall. Stationers' Hall.
11. WEDNESDAY, Sept. 21	St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe. Playhouse Yard (site of Shakespeare's Blackfriars Theatre). The Apothecaries' Hall.
12. TUESDAY, Sept. 27 ..	Staple Inn. Furnival's Inn. "The Old Houses on Holborn." St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill. (Dickensland.)

No charge will be made to subscribers and friends who join these City parties.

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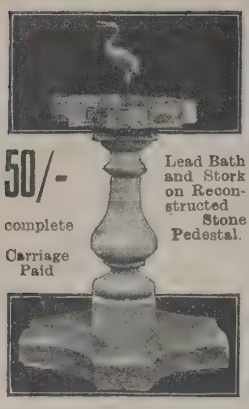

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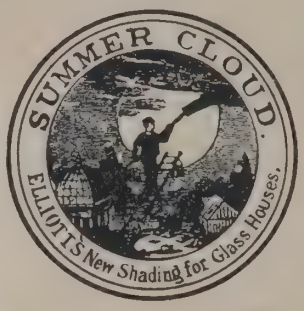

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2520—Vol. XLIX. JUNE 25, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 13/-

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Notes from Cornwall

eturning home I found the damage n frost among the new Rhododen- n shoots was even worse than I had , and had to look forward to spend- odd moments usually occupied in g dead flowers in cutting of the l shoots. Apart from their untidi- certain amount of nourishment must their partially-ruined shoots, so it is hat their removal helps their suc- And in a shop in Lower Regent had found a most admirable tool for pose—a good pruning-knife com- ith a pair of small secateurs which se up with it. Those who have the ordinary secateurs in their know that their points are apt to avoc there, but can carry with- nage, and have at any time for molition of a -placed shoot or uding Bramble. r, it is really and will cut a ver a quarter of n in diameter. vere several ols in that shop I coveted, but ould not run to nd they must ntil the family o give me a as present.

usly enough, the es not seem to rmed the tender Rhododendrons Maddenii, Edge- ii type. R. i itself began early and was very fine whilst Lindleyi, Dalhousiæ, and Vic- n also did well. Perhaps R. supra- was the best of all. Buds on a bush north wall had, indeed, been ruined arly frost last October, but two big feet high under a south wall, but rom the sun by the house, were one bloom.

owers are 3½ inches across in threes, lobes deeply cut and prettily waved dges, white with green shading and th yellow shading in the interior, the riety being quite pink in bud. It is to say which is the most beautiful. em is growing the little yellow a tall member of the Campy- series, deep in colour, but rather in constitution. Some time ago I the Himalayan R. triflorum with so far, although the seedlings have set flower-buds, they have never opened.

Would that I had time to grow Primulas properly. Unfortunately, they need more attention than I can give them. One very lovely species, P. Reidii, which has hanging globular white bells from a 3-inch stem, and is reputed difficult, has come through the winter unprotected, flowered well, and set seed. It is planted on a very steep bank on the side of the drive amid Ferns and Moss, and facing north. I have just put some of the omphalogramma section (25,452 F.) near it, and 25,566 F., which I am told is P. Angleniana. Three plants of this species have already come through and flowered, two under a north wall and one near a tree-stump, both in almost pure humus. And a very lovely thing it is. Five or six large white open bells on long pedicels hanging from a 6-inch stalk, the individual flowers being 1¼ inches across, with a green centre. I learn that Forrest thinks this the finest species he has ever found, and that in most places it has failed and is, therefore, very scarce. One of my plants, at any rate, has got fat pods of seed, and pace slugs and rabbits one ought to be able to raise a good stock therefrom. P. 25,698 F. aff. Vittata has grown like a Cabbage, flowered luxuriantly, and is evidently easy.

A group of P. helodoxa about 50 strong promised well, but just as they opened came a rabbit or rabbits and nipped off almost all the heads, and they treated my few remaining plants of P. burmanica in like manner. P. spicata and P. nutans I have, alas, lost altogether, and but one remains of P. Littoniana and P. sino-purpurea. The former is now throwing up two flower-spikes, but so far the latter has not moved. Not only do these require attention, but they are apt to go off suddenly at the crown when apparently in the best of health. Perhaps planting horizontally may prove a cure for this. P. Menziesiana, a beautiful little indigo plant, came well from home-saved seed, but slugs have played havoc with it in the frames—another instance of insufficient attention.

Primula Littoniana now throwing up flower spikes in a Cornish garden

Of late I have spent a few days in one of the most famous Cornish gardens, where flourish many rare and beautiful plants which cannot be attempted here, and where I saw in full flower an old bush of Azalea speciosa, an uncommon red species from America. From there I visited a neighbouring garden quite unlike most others in Cornwall, in that it was devoted chiefly to large herbaceous beds. But there were many young shrubs in it, too, and a number of Echiums, several of the blue sorts and one pink. These break up the monotony of the borders most effectually, especially if they are as well placed as they were here; and this will be understood when I say that I was told that one of them had attained the height of 17 feet. Most of them, I understand, are biennials, of the shape of giant Foxgloves as regards the stem, and at a distance they somewhat resemble colossal dark blue Delphiniums. How they stand the wind I cannot imagine. The seed came from Tresco in this instance, but I believe the crosses were originally made by Dr. Perez, of Orotava, who was working at them there when I met him some 25 years ago.

PETER THE HERMIT.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Forthcoming Rose Show

THE summer show of the National Rose Society will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 1st and 2nd. For the first time this event will take place in the Royal Hospital Gardens, Chelsea. Rose growers, both amateur and trade, are keen in their support, and a record show of Roses is antici-

pated. To add to the enjoyment of the occasion the band and pipers of the Royal Scots Guards will be in attendance.

Prohibition of raw Cherries from France

In view of the discovery of consignments of French Cherries heavily infested with the larvæ of the Cherry Fruit Fly the Ministry of Agriculture has made an Order prohibiting the landing in England and Wales of raw Cherries grown in France. The Order comes into force on the 24th of the present month, and operates for the remainder of the season.

Greenhouse white fly

The greenhouse white fly is known only too well to most cultivators of glasshouse plants, and the Ministry of Agriculture has issued a leaflet dealing with the insect, the nature of the damage caused by it, and the methods of its control. Emphasis is laid upon the need for caution in bringing fresh plants into the greenhouse to see that none are infested with white fly, as the pest will very quickly spread in suitable environment. Spraying with the ordinary insecticides is of little use against it, and the methods of control recommended are those of fumigation. The two insecticides used for the purpose are hydrocyanic acid gas and tetrachlorethane. Full particulars of the methods to be adopted in the use of these fumigants are given in the leaflet and the great need for care and caution in their employment is fully stressed. Carelessness in use may easily lead to fatal accidents. The number of the leaflet is 172, and single copies will be supplied post free on application to the Ministry at 10, Whitehall Place, S.W. 1.

Iris chrysographes

This Chinese species is not seen as often as one would suppose, considering its distinct rich, deep red-violet flowers and graceful form. In shape the flowers come nearer to those of the 5 feet high I. Delavayi, but instead of the veins being white, as in the latter, they are golden, and enhance its beauty. The foliage is narrow, after the manner of I. sibirica, and it is evidently a lover of moist positions; indeed, where I. sibirica thrives this fine, rich-coloured species will luxuriate. E. M.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Training Sweet Peas

WITH reference to the training of Sweet Peas on netting, I have adopted this practice for many years and with good results.

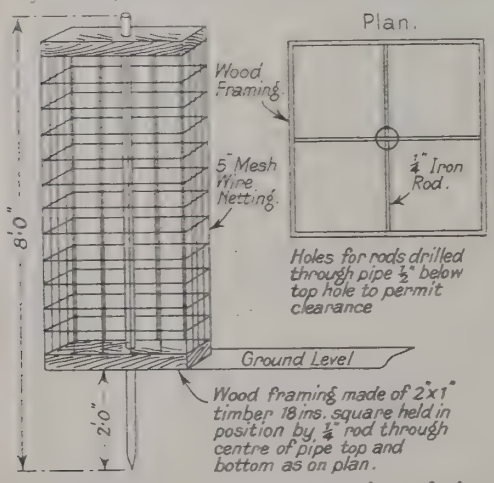
For clumps I much prefer the netting to the ordinary sticks, as I find the results are not only much neater, but in the end is cheaper.

The system which I adopt for clumps is more clearly explained in the sketch which I enclose herewith, and if 5-inch mesh wire-netting is used, is practically everlasting, as at the end of the season the guards are simply lifted, cleared of the old haulm, and stored for the next season.

The position for the clumps is prepared on the sites chosen some weeks before planting.

The earth is removed to the depth of 4 feet, the subsoil at bottom thoroughly stirred to provide for ample drainage.

The hole is then filled with a mixture of turfy loam, well-rotted manure, soot and



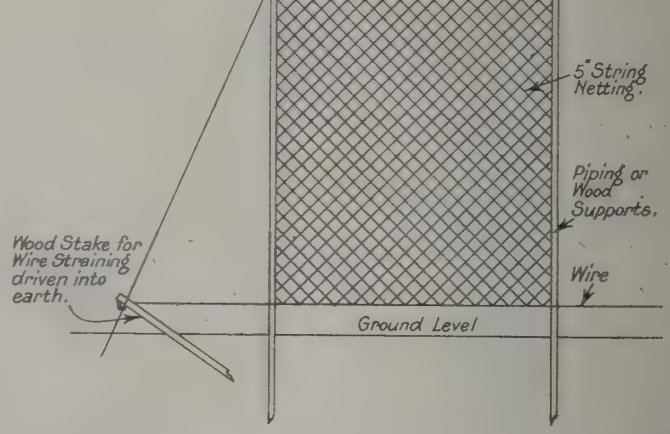
lime-rubble, together with a portion of the soil removed when digging the hole.

When this has settled and in fairly firm condition the pipe supporting the netting is inserted in the centre of the clump site to the depth of a couple of feet.

All is then ready for the reception of the young plants, which have previously been thoroughly hardened off, and in the system which I adopt two plants on each side of the square are firmly planted.

As these make growth their tendrils are carefully given support for the first few weeks, when single stem or bushy cultivation can be adopted as desired.

With ordinary care in the already well-prepared bed growth is rapid, and if the first few buds are nipped out strong haulm is made and quickly covers the guard, the final result being a profusion of large blooms with plenty of length of stem.



I have not yet aspired to the show bench, but have always found this system gives all that can be desired for size of bloom and neat decorative effect, far beyond the somewhat stiff and formal Bamboo canes or the comparative untidy appearance of ordinary Pea-sticks.

I have also grown garden Peas for a number of years most successfully by means of tarred string netting of 5-inch or 6-inch mesh of whatever height is desired, as described in the accompanying sketch, and find that this has the advantage of being cheaper and neater than sticks, as the netting can be used quite well for a number of years.

At the end of the season the haulm is removed, the netting disconnected and easily stored in a small space, whilst the square wired guards used for the Sweet Peas, after removal of dead haulm, are simply and neatly stored away ready for another season.

It will be seen from the sketch that the main support for the Sweet Pea guards is made from discarded galvanised piping of 1 inch diameter, which I secured fr metal merchant for a few shillings, u wood substitute would do equally as g of 2 inches square and coated each yea wood preservative to the depth to be into the earth. R. L. STI

Shirley, Southampton.

—— Having seen several suggestio training Peas in your pape nearly all being the tedious an fashioned method of sticks, wooden f and string, I wonder if your correspo have used the string Pea netting sp made for this purpose?

It is simplicity itself to fix, and ce more economical than either of the methods, as, if a good quality of net used, it will last many seasons, as m done. I obtained it from an adverte Manchester and would not go back to e methods for anything.

I use a row of netting at each side Peas and find them perfectly rigid in weather. I am sure those of your a who have tried the netting will agre me, and strongly advise those who h too much time to spare on their gar save themselves hours of needless labi

Hull. "KIN

Paulownia imperialis

Re the notes, issue June 18th, pa we have two trees here, both some 14 16 feet high, and I believe have bee shrubbery for some 16 years—we ha here seven years—and this is the fi Paulownia has bloomed during our re It is a most beautiful bloom, and the all out before the leaves began to sho are on clay soil, which appears to su

the branches spread out beautifully n leaves are very large and trees lo healthy. W. HUNT FEH

Burgess Hill, Sussex.

The influence of ultra-violet rays on plants

Listeners-in amongst your reads have heard me speak at one time o about the value of sunlight may be je in a novel and arresting piece of inde testimony. It has just come to Kew.

Some weeks ago two boxes, each o ing six Lettuce, were sown on the s one beneath ordinary glass, the o neath the special glass which ad sun's ultra-violet rays. They h tended in exactly the same manner have been plucked on the same a weighed.

And with what result? The weig end of six weeks of the six grown ure nary glass was 8½ lbs., of the six gro vitaglass 9¾ lbs.; that is to say,

rays and any others of value which ass may transmit have added 1¼ lbs. to eight of six Lettuce in six weeks. them they grew up much sturdier, of er shade of green, and with bigger

authorities, very naturally, are now ding to test other plants of economic etetic value on the same lines. I for ould be very much surprised if the re- o not give added proof of the value of iolet rays in the cultivation of plants nimals and children.

V. SALEEBY, M.D., F.Z.S., F.R.S.E.

The porosity of flower pots

as been interesting to observe this old n being ventilated in GARDENING RATED once more. It is many years first took an interest in it, caused by ing the wonderful results of the late avid Thomson, of Drumlanrig Gar- As was well known at the time, Mr. on was a great advocate of glazed pots, and the results he achieved with grown in such were quite enough to his advocacy of the glazed pot and the glazed flat. Mr. Thomson was in it rank of growers of pot plants in his nd a visit to Drumlanrig was a real on to anyone who grew them (this re- ay well apply to all branches of horti- as practised by that able gardener).

n I first visited Drumlanrig in Mr. m's time I was deeply impressed by f the plants there, and these were all in glazed pots in the most successful . In those days the writer was more ed in pot plants than he is now, and re and then, resolved to purchase a of glazed pots and flats for his own This he did, and had no reason to loing so. It made a tremendous dif- in the labour of washing pots and d a simple rub over was frequently t to make them quite presentable to The question of the relative of glazed and unglazed pots and the derived from the greater porosity of r is another one, and I feel convinced greater porosity of the latter, if kept a great asset in their favour. But ed pots, if rather better drained than rs, appeared to give as good cultural I always made a point, however, of he glazed pots a greater amount of than the others. Against the ad- of the glazed pots there may be set gher cost, and I must say that in them I preferred crocks composed of unglazed ones. This was, pro- ly a fad on my part, due to a linger- udice in favour of the unglazed pots. e of experience may be of value to considering the question. Where f labour and cleanly appearance are t important factors I advise glazed ere it may be said that there are es of unglazed pots and wretchedly . Some of the former are little in- the glazed ones in respect of cleanli- ide, but they appear to me to be less han the inferior ones. My candid s that drainage and careful watering equal results in both classes of pots.

S. A.

Mosquitoes and midges

colm (issue May 28th) asks how to these pests, and you advise Musca- on, the effect lasting from ½ hour to . Let E. Malcolm try the artist's plan arf or handkerchief wetted with turpentine, draped over the shoulders rom under the hat. The effect lasts . The wet parts of the cloth must n the skin or it may blister it, but ickly dries.

A. PAINTER.

Comments on Recent Numbers

APROPOS the illustration of the Lizard Orchid (Himantoglossom hircina), issue June 4th, p. 347, I saw this in flower in a small garden in Southampton about three weeks ago. The writer gave the tuber to the owner of the garden, the Rev. Professor E. S. Lyttel, who is to be congratulated on having succeeded with it so far. Personally, I could not at that time detect any smell like that of a billygoat! This garden is only an ordinary-sized villa garden, and yet it contains a collection of shrubs and Rhododendrons of dwarf habit as far as possible, alpines, bulbs, and numerous other subjects rarer and more varied than any three ordinary-sized gardens put together. I am sure of that. Probably there are 1,500 or more species and varieties of the various subjects, and, what is more, they appear very happy in their homes.

The drought in the south still (June 17th) persists, and in the past eight weeks there has been but little more than an inch of rain. A couple of days' rain would do a world of good and help to repair some of the damage done by the frosts at the end of April.

Rosa Moyesii is now in full flower. It is a glorious thing; my only complaint is the short flowering season. Rosa sericea pteracantha is making growth, and no doubt would do better if we had rain. I always prune this back hard every year, sacrificing the bloom, which, to my mind, is very poor, for the sake of the thorns on the vigorous young growths. These are of a rich crimson, very broad, and nearly transparent. When seen with the sun against them they are most attractive, and always remind me of Pears' soap! Plant them so that you can look at them with the sun setting behind them and you will see them at their best.

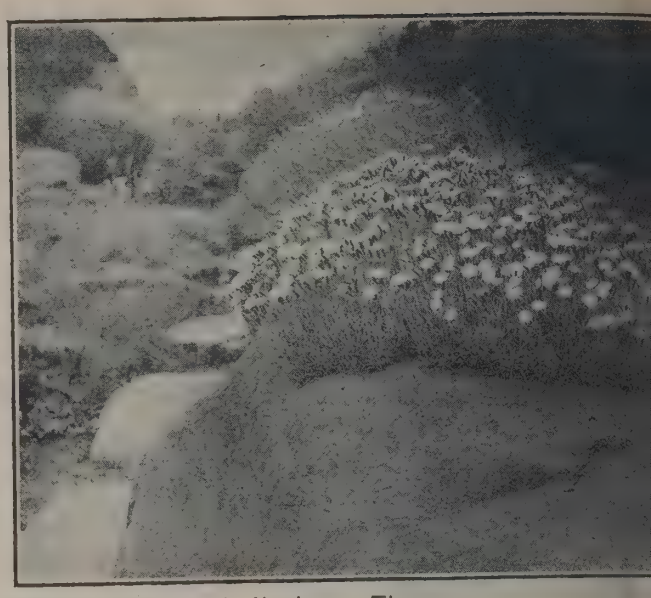
Sir Wm. Lawrence's article on the trees and shrubs at Burford is far from a "wearisome catalogue." It is a very interesting article, and all too short. I only wish more garden articles of this nature could appear. Descriptions of the larger gardens where newer and rarer shrubs and plants are grown are welcome. I was interested to read of an unspotted form of Cistus cyprius. I did not know that it existed. C. cyprius is so often wrongly called the Gum Cistus, and is usually grown and sent out by the trade as such, whereas C. ladaniferus is the Gum Cistus. It is quite easy to distinguish the two plants. C. ladaniferus has narrower foliage, brighter green, and flowers borne solitary. C. cyprius has broader and darker foliage, and flowers borne in clusters. C. cyprius never sets seed, but is supposed to be hardier than the other.

Mention is made of that apparently very rare shrub, Disanthus cercidifolius. I believe there is a very fine specimen at Sheffield Park, but otherwise one seldom sees or hears of it. I have it growing here, and its large and somewhat heart-shaped foliage is quite attractive, especially so when it turns to beautiful shades from pink and rose to crimson in the autumn. I saw two notable plants in flower for the first time recently. One was Meconopsis Baileyi, a glorious blue, and said to be perennial. The other was Primula microdonta apicola violacea. This can be loosely described as a purple P. Sikkimensis. The colour is a very rich deep blue-purple, and the flowers hang down to show the best colour, for inside I was surprised to find a creamy coloured centre with the purple of the back showing through. I understand it has a reputation as an easy doer.

Primula Littoniana is another uncommon species now in flower. There are two forms, the type and the giant form, the latter found in one district by Forrest, and, though a larger plant, is probably less attractive by being paler in colour, and thereby losing the contrast between the rich red of the unopened calyces and the purple of the open flowers. This Primula is not easy of cultivation as a perennial. No doubt our wet-damp-fog-sun-frost-all-mixed-up-together-winter and often dry summer spells are so unlike its home climate that it is hardly to be wondered that many of these Chinese plants do not thrive. I find it best to treat it as a biennial. Plenty of moisture at the roots in summer and dry conditions—if you can—in winter.

Hants. READER.

Cistus cyprius, a hybrid of C. ladaniferus and laurifolius
Each blossom, about 3 inches across, is white with a conspicuous blood red blotch near the base of each petal



Bold masses of Alpine Pinks in the rock garden at Friar Park, Henley-on-Thames

SOME ALPINE AND SAXATILE PINKS

AMONG the Saxatile plants few are more robust and brilliant than the Pinks, and the dwarf ones are certainly the best for the rock garden. In our dry and Continental climate here they give better results than anything else. I am told that they do as well under English skies. They generally want the rock garden, and some of them like a wall. Their reproduction from seeds is easy and quick.

The following are alpine Pinks, or those belonging to high altitudes and are dwarf and creeping:—

DIANTHUS ALPINUS, from the Styrian and Tyrolian Alps; the glory of our alpine garden in the Jura. There, at the station "La Chêvrerie," near St. George, above Nyon (2,800 feet elevation), we grow the D. alpinus in large quantities for the seeds. We keep it in the common gravelly and lime-holding soil, where the plant is luxuriant. It gives myriads of flowers and seeds freely. It is now naturalised and reproduces itself in the garden paths. A form with flesh-coloured flowers is there also, but the white form is a poor-looking thing. Dianthus alpinus seems easy to grow in some English gardens, but wants well-drained, light, gritty soil, and prefers limestone.

D. CALLIZONUS.—Another alpine gem of great beauty, but rather tender with us. It grows in the limestone Alps of Vallachy and Transylvania between the tufts of Rhododendron Kotschyi, and is, even there, rare and difficult to find. It resembles D. alpinus, but has broader leaves, slightly glaucous (those of alpinus are gay and shining green), and its large flowers, on 2 inches high stem, are light pink with a deep bank of carmine peppered with minute points of white. It wants a sunny or half-sunny corner in the rock garden, and likes the wall, too.

In the same mountains where the D. callizonus grows you may find another dear little Pink called gelidus, which is a Transylvanian form of glacialis, with larger flowers and not contiguous petals (by glacialis the petals are contiguous).

D. GLACIALIS is a gem growing on the eastern Alps, from the Engadine to Carinthia and the Carpathians. Near to alpinus it differs at first sight from it by its flower-stems, shorter than the leaves, its flowers smaller, deeper carmine, the petals being narrower and deeper dentate. Its culture is the same as for alpinus, but it is rather a lime-hater, growing only on granitic Alps. In the same group of dwarf alpine Pinks we have

D. ACAULIS, which is the same as frigidus or Sylvestris acaule, and a native of the Carpathian in Hungary. The large flowers are borne on short stems 1 inch long and similar to those of D. sylvestris. Other forms of Sylvestris are tergestinus of Croatia and Dalmatia, with longer stems; brevicalyx, from Bosnia, with shorter calyx; orophyllus, from the central French mountains, with a carmine and purple calyx and four purple bracts; saxicola, from the Jura, with a purple calyx, too, but larger flowers and canaliculate acuminate leaves; Sylvestris albus, with white flowers. They all, as the type Sylvestris, prefer lime to peat, but, as all are very hardy and easy-growing plants, they succeed easily in every rock garden well exposed to the sun's rays. Another very dwarf and nice Dianthus is

D. SUBACAULIS, which grows on the barren summits of the limestone Alps from Mount Ventoux and Montagne de la Chens, in Provence, to the Asturias, in Spain. This is the dwarfest of all, and it makes large creeping patches carpeting the interstices of the moraines or boulders in a wonderful manner. Nothing is more striking to see than these carpets of glaucous or bluish foliage enframing the white chalk pieces of rocks near the top of the Mount Ventoux. I once ascended with a friend the Ventoux from the Carpentras side, and after we passed the last forest of mountain Pines he asked me: "What will you do on that barren top where nothing can grow?" But as soon as we passed the "Fontaine de la Grave" he could enjoy a real carpet of flowers enframing every stone. The road was yellow with Androsace Vitaliana and Papaver pyrenaicum, and the motor drove upon that beauty. And between the stones the Valeriana saliunca, Androsace villosa, Campanula Allionii, and cæspitosa, Silene Saxifraga and Vallesia, Viola cenisia, Alyssum flexicaule, Draba aizoides and tomentosa, Iberis Candolleana and the beautiful I. saxatilis (carpeting the ground with its very dwarf tufts of pure white flowers), Arenaria tetraquetra and mucronata, Erysimum ochroleucum, Oxytropis cyanea, and large tufts of that beauty called Dianthus subacaulis. Here the plant forms often tufts 1 foot to 2 feet broad and not higher than 1 inch to 2 inches, covered with numerous small pink on a glaucous foliage. In our ga likes chalk stones and hard sun, a well on walls.

D. CÆSIUS (Chedder Pink) and its ful form arvernense are well kn English gardens. The last was fou by Mr. Backhouse on the Auvergn tains in the centre of France. It is a miniature, minute and compact, wit flowers on much shorter stems (2 i 3 inches). Very near to it is D. cor which I cannot find any good des but we grow here under that nam lished by Fischer and Link) a very go forming dense carpets of bluish fol exceeding 4 inches to 5 inches high, a May to September the tuft is cove bright pink and sweet-smelling large We grow it here in a very sunny po the top of a wall.

D. FURCATUS is another nice pin Maritime Alps and Apennine, with flowers on slender stems 6 inches hi

D. NITIDUS is a very rare plant h to the Carpathian, Macedonian, an can flora; large, broad, dwarf tuft green foliage and masses of relat flowers of a clear rich pink on 1 i inches high stems, bearded inside D. alpinus and callizonus, and to the edges. Same culture as alpinus

D. NEGLECTUS is well known in It deserves the highest praise as o first of saxatile plants. You may f over the Dauphiné Alps till the Tende. It is one of the gems of t Maritimes. It grows on grassy, st as well as on barren slopes, and is able in its aspect. Sometimes the very short, and the flowers can acaule; in other places the stems 6 inches and still more. As for the goes from the deepest carmine to th rose, and even in the high Piedmon one white flowering. The plant compact and dwarf, and generall with numerous semi-large flower highest pink, the petal being gre underneath, hence its popular name bleu du Dauphiné." Easy to ra seeds and to cultivate in sunny pla have a variety grandiflora and anoth

To the same group of non-flower belong the D. Freynii, of the east microlepis, of Macedonian mountai

oth cæspitose and dwarf, carpeting the nd bearing sub-sessile pink flowers. the group deltoides we have some well- n varieties, fl. albo, glaucus, splendens, Brilliant." The type is largely spread Europe, from Trondhjem in Norway to nd and the Pyrenées, and goes as far pan in the Far East. A variety lifolius is sometimes grown which is nore cæspitose than the type and has em leaves very obtuse.

GRISEBACHII has been lately introduced Bulgaria, which has very bright pink s, but I fear the true type of it has en introduced, as none of those I have om several gardens corresponds to the ption given by its author, E. Boissier. he centre of France, on the granitic of the Provence, Aveyron, Cantal, ay find a fine Pink called graniticus. a carpeting kind with not very big s of deep carmine colour. It is a lime- and we must grow it here in peat in unny places.

late friend, Dr. Petitmangin, of the rsity, Nancy, found, 25 years ago, on ountains of Greece, a new Dianthus is called pyridicola, and of which he e seeds. The plant is rather thin, not rilliant, but it flowers late in the sum- rom July to October), and has bright lowers on leafy stems 5 inches to 8 long. Wants full sun. Of the group sianorum we have, beside the type, a number in our rock gardens. The bens, with short stems and bright ; a plant from the southern Alps is often called vaginatus; Knappii, a ic and Hungarian plant with lemon- flowers in relatively large herds of 10 together; and Cruentus, taller than sianorum, with very brilliant red in large heads. Another yellow Pink well-known but seldom seen

ARIDUS, from Eastern Rumelia, with s to 8 inches long stems bearing two e pale yellow flowers.

he west of France, from the Biarritz o Bordeaux, one can find the sweetest he smelling Pinks. I mean

ALLICUS. It grows in the sand of the strand and between the rocks of the It gives, from May to December, of lilac-rosy, fringy, very fragrant on leafed stems from 6 inches to 10 running over or under the sand. At e it is one of our best plants for the r time.

ONSPESSULANUS is well known as one best rock plants, growing freely in position, forming dense tufts of ent foliage with numerous pale lilac very fragrant, and with deep incised

ows all about the mountains of South and has many varieties—D. alpestris Sternbergi, one alpine form of it higher flowers and one flowering stems. In the Pyrenées its flowers n deep carmine.

RENARIUS is another creeping Pink ought to be in every garden. Large slightly bluish foliage, light pink, t flowers with fringy petals. It n the sandfields or on some hills of urope. HENRY CORREVON.

ire, Geneva.

Violas

s the seeds and old flowers are re- many of these will cease to bloom. herefore, advisable to remove such o days or so. Violas are moisture and should on no account be per- o suffer from lack of it. They will ay any time spent in applying light its.

The Pot Culture of Annuals for Autumn Blooming in the Greenhouse.

(Concluded from page 382)

(7) CALENDULAS

A HARDY annual in which garden lovers showed only a negative interest has, within recent years, achieved great popularity. "How do you account for it?" someone asked me last summer when standing before a bed of Calendulas in my garden in which there must have been 100 or more flowers opens, and I could only answer that it was due to improved strains and to the fact that seed would spring up in the commonest of soil and the plants would thrive.

But it is open to those who can give the plants frame room or space in a greenhouse with very little heat to have the blossoms quite late in the autumn, and the following is the method I adopt. In August I fill a number of 6-inch pots with soil taken for the most part from the garden, but mixing with it a little leaf-soil and sand. In these pots two, or sometimes three, seeds are sown. They are then stood outside on garden paths, and, when the seedlings appear, the weakliest are removed and only the one strongest left. As the plant grows it is given weak applications of manure-water once or twice a week as soon as the roots have got round the pot. Calendulas will stand a deal of cold, so that there is not the need to hurry them under glass much before the end of September. Should the weather appear at all frosty a few sheets of stiff brown paper will ward off the danger. When removed to the house the plants ought to be kept as near the glass as is possible and air given. Buds will soon begin to show, and with the merest suggestion of heat enough to dispel damp one may have flowers well on to Christmas. They provide a very cheap and bright display. The two sorts I grow are Orange King and Lemon Queen. The raising of plants in this way is better than lifting old plants whose flowering season has been spent.

(8) SCHIZANTHUS

During the summer and early autumn there is hardly a flower show of any importance, from Chelsea in May to the great provincial shows like Shrewsbury, Southport, and Wolverhampton, where wonderful specimen plants in pots of Schizanthuses are not staged. Needless to say, much interest is aroused in them, and one has only to visit an exhibition to notice the throngs which gather round the stands.

I do not wonder at folk wanting to grow them in their gardens, but I think sometimes that those who have greenhouses and leave these "butterfly flowers" out of their purview miss a deal of beauty. They have been improved beyond the wildest dreams of the old florists, surely! Their colours are so varied, their output of flowers is amazing, and their continuity is well known. Further than this, the culture is comparatively simple. What more could one say to urge those who have houses and who have not yet tried them to do so?

There are several species and many varieties, and these are frequently being added to. One of the most popular is the Wisetonensis type, which give a wide range of colours. From a May sowing (and plants can be purchased) one can have plants that will bloom into autumn, and if stood in cold frames can be brought into the house as needed. One method which is being followed a good deal is to sow seed in September and winter the plants in a house from which frost can be kept. These will bloom the following spring. Fibrous loam with leaf-mould and coarse silver sand meet their requirements. One plant in a pot should be the rule, and they can be grown in any size from 5 inches to 8 inches. The Wisetonensis type have nice foliage and make splendid pot plants.

Dianthus plumarius in the rock garden

The flowers are solitary and large, pink, deeply cut, and fragrant. Said to be the origin of the garden Pinks

(9) BALSAMS

Notwithstanding the fact that the flowers of Balsams are of no service for cutting, their beauty cannot be denied. It is a handicap in these days when flowers, especially annuals, are valued because of their use when gathered, but so attractive are the plants, studded with their waxy-looking blossoms, that they are worth the attention of all who have a greenhouse. If seed is sown in June in a light compost in shallow pans, either in a frame or house, it will not be long in

germinating. Seedlings ought to be potted off in small pots as soon as they have got well into their second leaf, and removed finally into 5-inch or 6-inch pots. For the final shift the soil should consist of old loam, leaf-mould, and spent Mushroom-bed manure, or old cow dung, with enough sharp sand added to keep the whole open. A cold frame which can be screened from scorching sun will meet all they require in the matter of accommodation until it is time to transfer them to the greenhouse, which should be early in September, by which time buds will appear. Plants can be helped by weak stimulants given once or twice a week after the usual watering. Their sappy nature will indicate to the grower when plants are once established and making progress that watering is an important item and one which cannot be deferred without ill-results showing. For some weeks after the plants are housed in a temperate atmosphere one may enjoy the beauty of Balsams.

(10) Statice Suworowi

Amongst the family of Sea Lavenders, one, Suworowi, is an annual worthy of culture under glass, for its rosy-tinted flowers, which, owing to the "everlasting" character, last in good condition for quite a long time. If seed is sown in the greenhouse during June in pans of light soil and the young plants potted off singly when they are large enough and finally into 5-inch pots, using a compost of sandy loam, one may, by keeping the plants under glass, have the flowers by September.

(11) Celosia

The Celosia, better known as the Cockscomb, is an annual which, like the Balsam, suffers a similar handicap, in that it is an ornament and of no use for the lover of cut flowers. In C. cristata, however, we have very dwarf plants about 8 inches in height with combs embracing white and yellow, crimson and rose. Seed can be sown in the house in June, and the young plants resulting grown on under glass for blooming in early autumn. A similar compost to that advised for Balsams will suffice for these showy flowering plants.

(12) Dimorphotheca

The Dimorphotheca is one of the grown as well as one of the showiest of annuals, and yields masses of orang yellow flowers varied with buff and s Any light sandy soil suits it, and the p should be a sunny one. It is not know well as a plant for indoor blooming, seed is sown in July in pans one ma the bright flowers in plenty in Sept A few pans about a greenhouse in a have a pleasing effect.

W

A Tuscan Villa and Garc in Surrey *(Illustrated)*

The gardens of Hurtwood Edge, Ew Surrey, will be open to the public on S afternoon, June 26th, between the ho 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. The house is on the side of the Surrey Hills overlooking the S Weald. It is of interest as being a cop Tuscan villa. The garden is over 8 ac extent, and contains an unusual collect rare trees and shrubs. There are te Rose gardens, Heath gardens, rock and gardens, a Bamboo avenue, and many collections of plants.

The charge for admission, in aid of Hospital, is 5s. a head, which will in tea and biscuits. There is ample ro the grounds for parking motor cars.

isley Awards to Daffodils

ollowing awards have been made to lermentioned flowers by the Council Royal Horticultural Society after trial ey :—

OF MERIT.

ur, sent by Mr. P. D. Williams; le, sent by Mr. Cranfield; †H.M. Alexandra, sent by Messrs. W. A. *†Treskerby, sent by Mr. P. D. s; *Sunrise, sent by Messrs. W. A. *†Duncan, sent by Mr. P. D. s; Mavourneen, sent by Messrs. Watts; ‡Beryl, sent by Mr. P. D. s.

COMMENDED.

d Gold, sent by Messrs. J. R. Pear- W. Tait, sent by Messrs. Barr; s Delight, sent by Mr. G. L. Wilson; sent by Messrs. W. A. Watts; te, sent by Messrs. Barr; *†Jubilant, Mr. P. D. Williams; Amber, sent by nfield; Nanny Nunn, sent by Messrs. orah Pearson, sent by Messrs. J. R. St. Ilario, sent by Messrs. J. R. Venetia, sent by Mr. Cranfield; us, sent by Mr. J. Richardson; sent by Mr. L. de Rothschild; Cheerfulness, sent by Messrs. J. B. Schoot.

DED.

ter, sent by Mr. P. D. Williams; , sent by Messrs. Barr; Mendip, Messrs. H. Chapman; Parth, sent by . Williams; White Conqueror, sent G. L. Wilson; Hawthorn, sent by H. Chapman; †Breila, sent by W. A. Watts; †Yellow Standard, Messrs. Barr; Steadfast, sent by J. R. Pearson; Owen, sent by W. A. Watts; †Tunis, sent by Mr. Williams; †Vega, sent by Messrs. rson.

vards to Bearded Irises

great collection of Bearded Irises have been under trial at Wisley everal years have been judged, and ing awards made by the Council of l Horticultural Society on the re- he Joint Committee of the Royal ural Society and the Iris Society. ieties in the trial are still awaiting and the following is to be re- a preliminary list :—

AWARD OF MERIT

NEARLY WHITE VARIETIES.

a collected form from Mr. W. R. ent by The Orpington Nurseries,

Knight, raised by Mr. Saunders, and he Orpington Nurseries, Kent. sent by The Orpington Nurseries,

ANDARDS, COLOURED FALLS.

Nixe, raised by Messrs. Goos and n, sent by Messrs. Barr, of Covent Perry, of Enfield, and Waterer and Bagshot.

COLORS.

June, raised by Mr. G. Yeld, sent . Lowe and Gibson, of Haywards

, raised by Sir Arthur Hort, sent Wallace, of Tunbridge Wells. de Mme. Gaudichau, raised by illet, sent by Messrs. Wallace.

c. for market. † For garden. ‡ Rock

Titan, raised by Mr. A. J. Bliss, sent by G. L. Pilkington, Esq.

Imperator, raised and sent by Messrs. Cayeux and Le Clerc, of Paris.

Kharput, sent by Messrs. Barr and Perry.

PURPLE SELFS.

Corrida, raised by M. Millet, sent by Messrs. Wallace.

Mars, sent by Messrs. Barr.

Kochii, sent by Messrs. R. Veitch and Barr.

Kurdistan, raised by Mr. W. R. Dykes, sent by Messrs. Wallace.

STANDARDS OF SHOT SHADES.

Mary Gibson, raised and sent by Mr. A. Perry.

Alcazar, raised and sent by Messrs. Waterer and Crisp.

Tenebrae, sent by The Orpington Nurseries.

Troades, raised and sent by Mr. A. Perry.

Billia, raised and sent by Mr. A. Perry.

Cardinal, raised by Mr. A. J. Bliss, and sent by Messrs. Wallace.

Prosper Laugier, raised by M. Vardier, sent by Messrs. Barr.

Ambassadeur, raised by Messrs. Vilmorin, sent by Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux, of Paris.

VARIETIES WITH YELLOW STANDARDS AND COLOURED FALLS.

Marsh Marigold, raised by Mr. A. J. Bliss, sent by Messrs. Lowe and Gibson.

AWARDS TO BEARDED IRISES

Four varieties to gain the Award of Merit

Top: **White Knight and Corrida**

Middle: **Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau**

Bottom: **Leonato**
Purple bicolor, a giant of its race with silvery lavender flowers

Fro, raised by Messrs. Goos and Koenemann, sent by Messrs. Waterer and Crisp.

YELLOW VARIETIES.

Amber, raised and sent by the late Mr. W. R. Dykes, of Worplesdon.

Linaria alpina

This is assuredly one of the daintiest of alpine plants, the delicate blue-grey foliage affording an ideal setting for the tiny purple and orange flowers. L. a. rosea is, perhaps, even more delicately lovely, the pink and orange blossoms being in delightful harmony with the pretty foliage. These little plants enjoy a warm position on the rock garden with a root-run of gritty soil. They are easily raised from seeds, and will seed themselves freely under congenial conditions.

L. alpina is a native of the Alps of Europe, and is worthy of a place in the most select rock garden. Grown in a pan it is a beautiful ornament for the alpine-house.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Bearded Iris Launce

THIS is typical of the bicolor Irises which Sir Arthur Hort has raised. The flowers are very large; most, if not all, of his varieties are remarkable for size and strength. Another characteristic of Sir Arthur Hort's varieties is that many flowers are open at the same time. A normal spike of the variety Launce would carry four open flowers and three or four flower-buds. Without exception all the seedlings are first-rate plants for garden effect. The flowers of Launce are broad at the haft and of perfect Amas shape. The variety is strong in growth and rather late to open. The colour, which, after all, is most important, is very pleasing and effective. The standards are bluish-lavender, while the long, drooping falls are dark violet. It is one of the finest of that large class of bicolor Irises which includes such well-known forms as Lady Foster, Cypriana, Lord of June, Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau, and Trojana. Some of Sir Arthur Hort's latest seedlings bid fair to excel all known varieties of the purple bicolor type, notably Dionyza, with enormous flowers on Caterina lines, and the magnificent Shylock, pale lavender overlaid with a pink sheen. The magnificent pure white Bolingbroke was also raised by Sir Arthur Hort.

This variety has for its parents Regan and Miss Willmott. In many respects it resembles the parent Miss Willmott, but Bolingbroke, with its noble pure white flowers on branching stems, has the better habit and a more robust constitution. Perhaps the best-known varieties which Sir Arthur Hort has raised are Ann Page, Hermione, Regan, Speed, Leonato, which has just gained an Award of Merit at Wisley, and the striking Launce, which prompted this little note. All of Sir Arthur Hort's seedlings have Shakespearean names. H. C.

VEGETABLES

Potato blight and its prevention

POTATO blight is a disease caused by a parasitic mould or fungus that not only destroys the haulms and foliage of Potato plants, but also attacks the tubers and causes them to rot. The fungus is propagated by means of "spores," the equivalent of the seeds of higher plants; and the spores produced on the blighted foliage fall or are washed down into the soil beneath and are the source from which the tubers become infected. Carried from plant to plant in a crop, or from one Potato field to another, by the wind, the spores are the infective material by means of which epidemics of blight arise and spread. The fungus is extraordinarily sensitive to weather conditions, its development being strongly furthered by moisture and a moderate degree of warmth. Under dry conditions the disease makes little or no headway.

For as long as 40 years after Potato blight made its appearance in this country no satisfactory method of control was forthcoming. Then it came in this way. In the South of France it had been customary to sprinkle Vines adjoining public footpaths with verdigris to render the Grapes less tempting to passing pilferers. In 1882 a mixture of bluestone (copper sulphate) solution and lime was substituted for verdigris, and it was observed that those Vines sprinkled with this mixture remained free from attack by the so-called Downy Mildew, a destructive fungus parasite closely allied to the Potato blight fungus, which had arrived from North America about four years previously, and had caused very serious damage in the vineyards. This was a lucky accident, for that discovery resulted in the birth of the most important of all present-day fungicides now known as Bordeaux mixture, consisting of lime and copper sulphate. This mixture was first tried on Potatoes as a blight preventive in 1885 with marked success. Since then spraying with it has become the standard remedial treatment not only for Potato blight, but also for a large number of other fungus diseases of a similar character.

A second mixture was evolved a few years later in which the place of lime is taken by ordinary washing soda. This one is now commonly known as Burgundy mixture. Burgundy mixture is just as efficacious as Bordeaux mixture, and in several ways it is preferable to the latter. It adheres to the plant rather better, and is free from the grit that tends to choke the spray nozzles when lime is used.

The preparation of Bordeaux and Burgundy mixtures by combining a solution of copper sulphate with milk of lime or with washing soda is not a difficult matter, and full details of it are to be found in the Ministry's Leaflet No. 23, entitled "Potato Blight and its Prevention," and obtainable free on application to 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1. This leaflet contains a full description of the disease and is illustrated with a photograph in colour enabling diagnosis to be made with ease, and has also full particulars about the mixtures.

Iris Launce

The question may be asked, "How does the application of these mixtures to Potato foliage prevent blight?" The answer is that the mixtures contain an insoluble compound of copper in gelatine form. When this is sprayed on the plant a protective film is formed over the surface of leaves and stalks. When spores of the Potato blight fungus reach this film and endeavour to germinate they are poisoned, and the fungus cannot enter the plant. It is of th importance to realise that spraying *tective* measure, and not an immec direct death-dealer to the fung already established. Hence it portant to have the spray on the pla the blight comes. After an interval weeks or a month a second applicat be made, partly to replace some o film which may have become wash rain, and partly to protect the new foliage that has developed since the plication. A third application is quently desirable, especially in pe damp summers.

The date of the first appearanc blight varies from season to season, to some extent from place to plac country. During the last 10 years of its first appearance has varied fro 17th to July 25th, but, as a rule, i expected any time between mid-May June. On account of the milder a climate in the West of England, Pot usually shows itself there first, but t invariably the case. Last year, for it appeared in Kent and Bedfordshi night or so before it broke out in a Western Counties. In the North, cooler conditions, it usually appea later than in the South.

Instead of using Bordeaux or mixtures for the prevention of bli are sometimes dusted with a po stands to reason that no powder, small the particles may be, can pos vide the same protective coating secured by a film of liquid containi tinous precipitate, and it is therefor prising to find that "dusting" doe results equal to spraying. Moreov using a dust or powder farmers a mercy of the makers of the particul used, and know nothing of its com fungicidal value. Some of the p the market are by no means above for, in addition to the copper salt, the fungicidal material, they co siderable proportions of inert mate plays no protective part at all, an looked upon as a mere diluent or terant.

The ingredients of Bordeaux gundy mixtures can readily be ob pure condition. The copper sulph have a purity of at least 98 per there is no difficulty in getting eq washing soda, although occasiona brands are met with. The lime u be of the very best quality. materials the farmer knows what hi which is not the case where powde cerned. Only where there is diffic taining water, or there is shortage should dusting Potatoes replace Dusting is better than doing noth vent blight, but spraying is the cedure.

As to cost of spraying, this will by the increased yield of the crop reduction in loss from diseased t spray an acre of Potatoes once req 100 gallons to 120 gallons of mixtu materials required will cost prob thing between 5s. and 7s. 6d., to to be added the cost of labour. Thi value of the crop may be reckoned lent, on the average, to the selli an extra 1 ton to 2 tons per acre.

Potato purity certific

Potato growers will realise the of planting only true stocks of It order to avoid the disappointmen which results from the growing

A recent view of the seedling Irises in Sir Arthur Hort's beautiful garden at Hurstbourne Tarrant, Andover, Hants

he demand for seed Potatoes from ks is undoubtedly rapidly increasing, order to assist farmers who grow in England and Wales for seed pur- e Ministry of Agriculture has made ents for the inspection of growing h a view to the issue of certificates are true to type and reasonably free ues.

e identification of Potato varieties is ible by means of a careful examina- ne plants during a certain period of it cannot be undertaken after the died down. Growers who apply for n late in the season thus run the their crops cannot be inspected be- ntification is not possible at the time pection can be arranged.

tion for inspection for certificates nerefore, be sent to the Ministry now s possible in the case of First Early and, in any event, not later than nning of August. Inspections are any variety of Potatoes, and the fee s at the rate of 2s. 6d. per acre.

Sowing Endive

ne who has to meet a large and emand for saladings is aware of the Endive, and to have abundant stocks for August and September planting should be made without delay. Drills 12 inches apart are preferable casting the seeds—the plants get n and develop well, being stout and d when transferred to their growing Generally speaking, Endive seeds be sown on a warm border with, if a slope to the south, and planting nilar conditions is strongly recom- A sloping surface enables super- oisture to be carried readily away heavy autumnal and winter rains those who grow the rather coarse Batavian Endive ought to put the plants out in lines 15 inches apart, allowing an equal distance between the plants. The dwarf curled Endive may be given less space—the lines 12 inches apart and allowing the plants 9 inches in which to develop. The Batavian Endive may be blanched by tying, similarly to the practice adopted in the case of Cos Lettuces; the curled varieties can be blanched by placing a tile or flower-pot over each plant. A supplementary sowing can be made in a fortnight's time. A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

INDOOR PLANTS

Francoas (Maiden's Wreath)

THERE are but three distinct Francoas known to the writer; each one is worthy of cultivation either in the cool glass-house or on a warm border, while many a sheltered nook on the rock garden in the warmer counties would prove an ideal spot for the two hardiest—*i.e.*, F. appendiculata and F. sonchifolia, pale pink or red respectively, with a dark blotch near the base—although it is F. ramosa, the pure white variety, that I am wishful to laud the praises of, specially to the amateur gardener possessing little or no artificial heat. Flowering in mid-summer, when a number of other plants are at their best, possibly accounts for the scarcity of the plant; it cannot be that it is difficult to manage. Easily raised from seed sown in a pot in autumn, duly pricked off and potted up betimes, quite nice decorative little plants may be had the first year. Re-potting into a size larger in the autumn yield good specimens the following summer.

Further, each variety lends itself to division if secured with a bit of root after they pass out of flower; possibly the best way to maintain a stock for those not having a heated structure to push along seedling plants in the early spring. F. ramosa pushes up numerous slender spikes of pure white flowers 2 feet or more in height and much branched, thus lending itself of much value as a cut flower for table decoration or the making of bouquets, while for grouping, the plants may be stood close together, the foliage being so compact, taking up but little space. F. appendiculata has proved itself quite hardy in Devon and Cornwall. Of F. sonchifolia I cannot write of experience, but as the trio come from Chili it should be as hardy as the other. Soil such as used for Fuchsias or Begonias will grow this plant quite well, and it may be stood outdoors from the end of May, removing under glass as the flowers expand. J. MAYNE.

Impatiens Sultani

Although this plant is not often seen in these days it is a useful and easily-grown plant for the warm greenhouse or stove. I have found it succeed in both structures, and throughout the summer keeps up a continuous display of its grand scarlet flowers. It may easily be raised from seed in spring, so there is no difficulty in raising a stock, and as the cultivation is easy there is no reason why a few flowers should not be in evidence the year round. It is a very succulent plant, and therefore requires careful watering in winter.

A good place for it is along the edge of a border or bed, where it may obtain plenty of rich soil. Here it will send out quantities of flowers continuously which, if care is taken not to damp them, will last some time and so increase the value of display. Those grown in pots never seem to have freedom enough to do well, liable to get drawn, and so lose much of their beauty. If grown in pots along the front of the stage a few pots of Panicum or Tradescantia should be associated with it, the two forming a pretty effect.

Devon. F. H.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Malmaison Carnations

As these pass out of flower it will be advisable to select the cleanest and best from among the youngest plants for potting on into larger pots to form specimens. Cold frames will suit them admirably, plenty of air being admitted at all times until the shift has been actually carried out, when a little closer atmosphere and a light dewing overhead with the syringe following hot days will prove beneficial and speed up root-action in the new soil. A good, open, loamy soil to which has been added a free addition of well-pounded mortar-rubble in place of sand is much enjoyed by these plants. Potting should be firmly carried out, every particle of soil being thoroughly pressed home with the potting-stick, the plants, when finished, being stood on a bed of ashes and treated as above.

Layering

Select also the best of the remainder for layering, planting these out in cold frames, preferably those frames which can be shaded from direct sunshine for a fortnight after layering. See that the top layer of fine soil over which the layers are to be spread contains a free addition of sharp grit or sand, placing a little of this material over the point of incision. This is not always done, but I consider it an advantage. Dew the layered plants over lightly for the first 10 days if the weather continues hot and dry, and as soon as movement is observed admit a little air, gradually increasing same until the sashes are removed altogether.

Outdoor Chrysanthemums

Generally known as border varieties, these are now growing freely, and a final stopping should be made. At the same time do not allow squatting to take place before applying light supports.

Briar suckers on Roses

These are very troublesome at this season, and, unless kept severely cut away, will weaken and ultimately destroy the true Rose. Caterpillar and green fly still continue to give trouble, and must be kept in check by weekly sprayings. Watering and feeding may, with advantage, be freely indulged in where established beds exist. Ramblers on walls and fences should be cleansed by spraying before the buds burst.

Wallflowers, Canterbury Bells, Sweet Williams

These and similar subjects sown last month are ready for pricking out. They should be put out at 4 inches apart and supplied with plenty of moisture until root-action is in evidence. In this way nice plants are formed for planting in lines at a foot apart later.

Autumn Crocuses

Some of these should be obtained and planted now. I would specially recommend the following:—C. speciosus and its varieties, C. pulchellus, C. Tourneforti, C. Scharojani, and C. Salzmanni.

Colchicums

For planting at the present time few will be disappointed with C. speciosum and its magnificent white variety album, C. Bornmulleri, with beautiful cup-shaped, long-tubed, rosy-lilac flowers, and C. giganteum, with handsome soft rose blooms.

Irises

Remove the flower-spikes immediately the plants cease blooming, as these place a heavy strain upon them in the development of undesirable seed.

Orchard houses

Remove those trees which have ripened their fruit to the open air in order to give the permanent overhead occupants the full benefit of light and air, syringe freely, and ashes piled up round large pots and tubs will prevent premature drying.

Melons

Those swelling heavy crops must be liberally fed until colouring commences. Half a tablespoonful of Clay's Fertiliser or guano to a gallon of water, or diluted farmyard drainings applied weekly will prove most beneficial. Support the fruits with nets as they attain the size of a cricket ball, and keep all laterals pinched out.

Plums

Those growing on walls must now be netted against birds, and the same applies to trained Gooseberries, Currants, and Raspberry plantations.

Early Peas

Varieties as Peter Pan, Primo, and Green Gem, if sown now will furnish supplies during late September and early October.

Spring-sown Onions

Thin out overcrowded rows, but unless extra large bulbs are desired, severe thinning is quite unnecessary. Follow this with a light sprinkling of sulphate of ammonia between the rows.

Swedes

Make a sowing of Giant Purple Top, which will provide nice small roots for use during the late winter days. A good breadth of Turnips may also be sown now.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Border Auriculas

With a return to popular favour the "Dusty Miller" has been considerably improved of recent years, a bed of robust-growing "border" kinds being a very pleasing spectacle in any garden. Like all members of the Primula family, the Auricula requires to be transplanted at fairly short intervals. In some soils this has to be done every second year, while, usually, three years is as long as it is safe to leave these plants without disturbance. In every case the new plantation must be into fresh soil, so if it is essential to retain the same site it will be necessary to remove the top spit and replace with fresh soil from one of the vegetable quarters.

Primulas in the rockery

It is well to lift, divide, and replant every second year such members of the Primrose tribe as may be growing in the rock garden. Such gems as P. nivalis, P. helvetica and its varieties, and others are only preserved by having this little attention at times. If the plants are to be replanted on the same spot, then dig out a fair-sized hole and refill with nice fresh compost, the Primula very soon becoming sick and stunted if condemned to the same earth year after year. See that the newly-planted are not starved for want of water.

Among the Roses

The ground should be well hoed at frequent intervals, not only for the destruction of weeds, but even more for the aer the soil and the checking of evaporat really dry weather a weekly drenc water at the roots is very benefic which, if followed next day with a of liquid-manure, will act as an e The day following the application manure the ground must be well ho to prevent the surface getting crus hard.

Trim the rock garden

The great majority of the plants interesting and beautiful part of the are now gone out of flower, so it is to give the whole rock garden a gene up. All faded flower-stems and foliage should be removed and an present pulled up and carried away. the stronger subjects that may be ing to crowd out the finer plants s drastically cut back.

Cucumbers in frames

As it is usual to build hotbeds for bers in a sunny spot it will now be afford the plants a little shade du brightest parts of the day. A mois atmosphere is necessary, and the sl help to produce this and prevent an spider and thrip.

Swede Turnips

Thin the earlier sowing, and sho necessary there is still time to sow n if this is done at once. The bulbs, c from this late sowing cannot attai great size, but are, usually, of fin and keep quite well.

White and yellow Turnips

Another sowing, according to ments, should be made of these use tables, young, fresh roots of med being more in favour in the kitchen large specimens. Earlier batches s thinned in good time, and have th tween the rows frequently stirred Dutch hoe.

Maincrop Celery

If not yet planted, no more time lost in having it seen to. Should th be dry well water the bed the day p planting, and immediately planting i give another soaking. Before li plants, too, it is well to water cop that the soil may cling well to the little temporary shade, if it can be is a great help to newly-planted Ce

Nerines

These have now finished their gr should be tested. As soon, ther the foliage begins to turn a little y tirely withhold water and set the p sunniest shelf available. Here th stand until autumn, not a drop being given, but abundance of air.

Late decorative Chrysanthemum

Even the latest lot should now in their flowering pots, and these in their summer quarters. It is to place suitable stakes to the plan time, less damage being caused than if this were deferred till later

Herbaceous Calceolarias

Seed of these gorgeous subjects n sown and set in a cold frame anc shaded from all sunshine. At all s plant demands the coolest of treat liking a warm, dry atmosphere. C

Preston House Gardens, Linlithg

Sandringham gardens

nation-wide movement for the throw-open of gardens in aid of the Queen xandra Memorial Fund has more e simple good will of the King, since led the way to his subjects by regu-rmitting visitors to see the grounds dens of Sandringham House every lay and Thursday that the Court is sidence.

fee of sixpence anyone can go in, funds thus obtained are divided be-e Queen Alexandra Memorial Fund l charities.

yal permission is a most generously ed one, too, since visitors are trusted o damage, and are left to wander hindrance over most of the royal

s are allowed in the royal kitchen which is surrounded by Rose trees ers, and approached by the loveliest as made of heavy curving beams on pports, so that it looks like the ined body of an old ship.

is at Sandringham a circle of trees y many European sovereigns, the the trees being the woodland Beech y King Edward 55 years ago.

n islet of trees in the centre of the be seen the green copper and gold Sandringham, which used to recall Alexandra the towers and domes of e land.

UIT GARDEN

ns in the open ground

Y readers of this journal, when y see the above heading, will at once lare the production of Melons in the to be impossible. All practical men if you wish for a crop of Melons have glass, and to have them of quality a brisk hotbed or a properly-t is essential. Quite true, for the ke the Cucumber, is tender, and in part of the year a brisk temperature to push them along and bring them ty.

f they would confine their remarks rops and the most tender varieties I rtainly agree with them, for per-ne knows better than myself, after years' experience, the value of n the cultivation of this delicious cause the Melon is tender do not with the idea that it cannot be thout the protection of glass. Are ls so tender that the least frost will estroy them? Yet with a very -ready system of management they heavy crops to maturity. Again, eans are very tender and soon cut st, and when grown under glass re-igh temperature, yet they can be plenty in the open air. It is not urse, to compare Gourds and Beans ns. I have simply made the com-show that many tender plants may fully grown in the open air. Now, amateur, and even the gardener, e much success in the matter they st their minds of much they have to the cultivation of Melons, be-ey act upon the rules laid down for agement under glass there is only —utter failure.

nly the hardiest kinds for sowing. the plants are strong and well by planting-out time. The ground specially prepared for them, and, in exceptions, they must be allowed nchecked.

cting varieties reject all tender kinds that are largely grown in pits and frames with the aid of artificial heat.

We must turn to the sorts hardy enough to withstand unfavourable periods of weather so frequently experienced during our summers. One of the best varieties for the purpose is the Early Cantaloupe, with scarlet flesh of good flavour. There is also an Open-air Green Flesh and an Open-air White Flesh, both of which are good. I have also grown Monro's Little Heath, the hardiest of the frame kinds, and with good cultivation its fruits attained a good size, but its quality is not first-class.

To bring the crop to maturity there are only about four months, therefore it is most important to have the plants well established and ready for planting out as soon as it can be safely done, which, in all ordinary seasons, will be about the middle of May. After that time the frosts are not severe, and as the plants will be covered with handlights it is easy to shut them down at night, and if frost is likely to be rather sharp a mat can be placed over the lights.

If the seeds are sown at once in small pots and placed on a hotbed the seeds will germinate quickly. When the young plants are well up and have developed one rough leaf remove them to a rather cooler temperature. At this stage the best position for them is a warm pit or house, but not so hot and close as a hotbed, where they are fully exposed to the light.

If they are kept in a high temperature and moist atmosphere they grow freely, but are so weakened in constitution that they are quite useless for the purpose required.

When the roots are running freely round the sides of the ball of soil shift into 6-inch pots. For a week or more previous to planting out, the frame in which they are placed should be more freely ventilated to harden them. Amateurs who have no frame available for raising the seeds may place the pots on a warm, sunny shelf in their greenhouse and keep the soil in just a nice moist state. The seeds are longer in germinating, but the plants are nice and stocky from the very first, and usually start vigorously soon after they are planted out.

A warm, sheltered position is necessary to afford the plants a fair chance of bringing their fruits to maturity. A border on the south side of a wall is the best possible position to be found.

The situation determined on, form hillocks on which to insert the plants. They should be 2½ feet above the surrounding level, 2 feet in diameter at base, and should be in line 5 feet apart. When forming the hillocks remove the soil to the depth of 5 inches and build up the hillocks with two-thirds of well-rotted manure and one-third of good turfy loam. In the course of formation make the hillocks firm and finish off by a covering of about 6 inches of nice friable soil. Just before planting level the tops of the hills, forming a platform about 8 inches in diameter to receive the plants.

On the top of each hillock insert three plants rather close together, give a good soaking with tepid water, and cover with hand or bell glasses. For the first 10 or 12 days keep the glasses rather close to establish the plants quickly, then increase ventilation. When the shoots extend beyond the limits of the glass support the hand-glasses on notched sticks or by other means over the plants, and let them remain for the summer. This is to protect the collar from injury from excessive moisture of heavy rains and night dews. The height of the glass from the top of the hillock must be regulated according to the weather.

The pergola of Vines, Clematis, and Roses in the Royal Gardens, Sandringham

When Melons are grown in the open the severe stopping required in frames is not necessary; it is, in fact, injurious. When the shoots are furnished with five leaves each pinch out the points. A shoot will then most probably push from each of the axils of the leaves, and these, when they have made six or seven leaves, pinch back to the fifth leaf. After this no more stopping.

The flowers will not require fertilising as the bees and flies will see to this. Do not thin the crop unless it is very excessive, as heavy crops hasten maturity. Water rather liberally in hot weather with soft water. No liquid-manure will be required, for Melons planted on hills prepared as stated will have sufficient vigour to bring their fruit to maturity without the aid of stimulants. There is no difficulty in knowing when the fruit is ripe, but any half-ripe fruit at the end of the season may be cut and finished off in a warm room.

F. H.

The Parisian Chelsea

ON the banks of the Seine—squeezed, in fact, between the river and a busy thoroughfare near the Place de la Concorde—there opened on May 25th the great spring show of the Société d'Horticulture de France, which not only is the counterpart of our Chelsea, but this year celebrates the centenary of the founding of the French Society.

Odious as comparisons are, one could not help being struck by the fact that the time was not yet in sight when the French growers would be able to challenge the supremacy of our own nurserymen.

Although it was a magnificent display, and intensely interesting as giving one some insight into the standard and ideals of French horticulture, yet it also served to make it clear that gardening was an art the French had not yet brought quite to the degree of perfection that is every year to be witnessed at Chelsea.

Furthermore, just as the formal gardens exhibited in London cannot really be said to live up either to the proportion and harmony of English garden architecture at its best, to the plant-standard one finds in the tents, or to the artistic level which, increasingly every year, characterises the rock gardens, so it must be admitted that what little architectural detail or element of design went to the making of the Exposition d'Horticulture seemed hard to reconcile with the strong yet graceful beauty, the perfect symmetry, or the exquisite proportion of the architectural glories of Paris.

Although there were no complete individual gardens outside, one passed first of all through neat beds of clipped trees and cut-leaved Maples flanked by exhibits of garden furniture, sundries, and trellis-work for pergolas. Many of the arbours and pergolas were rather crude, with highly-coloured and apparently flimsily-constructed pillars, but in a group of really beautiful life-size bronze figures that formed one exhibit the hand of the artist was very evident.

All these composed the practical part of the garden architect's section, the highest award amongst them going to Dorléans et le Page. Next, one came to an extremely interesting collection of shaped fruit trees pruned, presumably, on the Lorette system. There were fans trained to a trellis and wire fence, the spaces between them exactly filled by conical espaliers—bowls formed of bushes whose main branches had been kept symmetrically apart by hoops, so that the centre of the tree became an invaluable reservoir of light and air—a Mushroom standard formed of a geometrical flat circle, itself a grid of fruiting spurs on a 3-foot stem, and other widely varied shapes all extraordinarily symmetrical for fruit trees and perfectly cut and kept.

Before entering the light, apparently temporary building in which the chief exhibits were staged, there was a glasshouse to be seen domed in section and well calculated to catch every ray of sun. On the staging inside there was a remarkable collection of artificial fruits and vegetables, for which Vilmorin and Andrieux obtained the Society's Diploma de Médaille d'or. Although rather grotesque for a flower show, it was interesting as containing models of every kind of fruit and vegetable, from ordinary garden Peas and Strawberries to exotic Capsicums, Egg-fruits, and Pumpkins.

In the building itself one of the first things that impressed one was the supremacy of Vilmorin and Andrieux. While the backbone of the show was florists' flowers and annuals as opposed to shrubs and species generally, Vilmorin and Andrieux were clearly the French Suttons and Carters rolled into one. As a centre-piece to the show they filled a large square with a wonderful if rather Victorian annual garden densely bedded out in intricate designs and a blaze of colour.

Sunk in the centre was a square of grass on which stood a bowl of Ranunculus asiaticus surrounded by ranks of purple Stocks; then, mounting up behind these in huge masses banked highest at the corners was every kind of annual and bedding plant, generally, intricately interwoven into a gorgeous blaze of colour—Petunias, Antirrhinums, Silenes, Stocks, Marigolds, Nasturtiums, Poppies, Schizanthus, Verbenas, etc., all edged with a pretty little yellow Marigold, Gomolepis Tagetes. One of the most interesting things in the group was a Chrysanthemum called C. à carène blanc, with finely-cut, fleshy foliage and large, snowy, orange-centred flowers.

Not content, however, with having the central feature of the exhibition the same firm staged Irises and Sweet Peas opposite their square on one side of the hall and a mixed group of plants on the other. The Irises were effectively arranged, in conjunction with Ferns, in plain, green, almost cylindrical jars which showed them off well, and if some of them did look a little sad one had to remember that the exhibition was kept open for 10 days, which must have sorely tried Irises and have necessitated one or more renewals.

Some of the more distinct varieties were Vega, with buff standards and purple falls; Princesse Victoria Louise, with lemon-yellow standards and attractive reddish-purple falls; Ambassadeur, purple with brilliant orange beard; and Aussard, a charming deep shade of lavender and the bluest of them all.

The Sweet Peas were not brilliantly good—almost exclusively English varieties, many of them looked a little tired and none were the huge sturdy blooms one sees at Chelsea. They were in plain vases of different heights placed on the ground, and in the background were arranged spirally round pillars made of pale green slabs of wood.

The mixed group on the other side consisted of a bank of stellate Cinerarias in the middle, with Foxgloves, Antirrhinums, Canterbury Bells, and a variety of other bedding plants at either end.

For their *tout ensemble* Vilmorin and Andrieux took the highest award of the show, the Grand Prix d'Honneur.

Next to them came Defresne with the deuxième Grand Prix d'Honneur for Roses, by the side of which they flaunted a medal recently won in London. They, too, had a wonderful display. Running some 100 or more feet down one side of the hall was a long row of tall weeping standards—fine specimens of such things as White Dorothy, Hiawatha, Excelsa, and Mrs. F. W. Wright, the former the pick of the whites and the latter a large-leaved variety with large flowers, too, of a pretty pale blush-pink. Behind these were pillars of some climbing varieties, and in the front newly-grafted specimens in pots and some dwarf Polyanthus. Quite a feature of this group was a "parasol" of Paul's Scarlet Climber, a flat-topped standard, like the "Mushroom" Cherry already referred to, with the flower-stems standing quaintly erect on the roof and the flowers themselves rather top-heavy and drooping.

After these two premier awards came three Médailles de Vermeil, four Médailles d'or, and two Médailles d'argent, besides a number of Objets d'Art, all presented, not by La Société d'Horticulture, but by Le Ministère d'Agriculture and a variety of Corpo Societies, and private donors.

The vista down the hall was impr terminated by a garden of scarlet Po Roses and blue Hydrangeas attracti out in beds cut in grass and bac another of these flimsy pergolas. obliquely in the centre was a bold, Lily tank coped broad, plain flag whole exhibit was well-proportion tastefully designed, except for a figure behind the pool, which, how mirably it completed the vista, ye with an unduly shining whiteness a one's eye restless, which is hardly t tion of garden statuary.

Perhaps the most artistic group of one near the middle of the hall, fo La Section Hollandaise received t award of the Médaille de Vermeil. sisted of a large oval space over w sprays in vases and plants in pots o Lilacs, and Cherries were cha arranged in conjunction with Ma Ferns and a few fibrous-rooted Begor the centre was a beautiful old pot filled with great flowering sprays of Hisakara. In addition to this th people had an extensive exhibit of dendron Doncaster—bushes some apart interspersed with Azaleas, Irises, and Ferns. Rhododendrons w shown by Croux et Fils, who ob Médaille d'or for two great masse one another from opposite sides of with a central group between then were packed closely in banks, with so bushes of Kalmia latifolia alba at and all were well flowered. Ma English varieties, and though none w ticularly distinguished-looking, the were well shaped and well filled. Croux had as large a truss as any, let paling inside the trumpet; Mme on the other hand, was noticeabl small trusses and very small leave ever, it was extremely prolific, flowers a delicate shade of mauve-p claret spots. Mme. Carvallo wa white with the faintest possible pinl the edges of the petals and pa freckles at the back.

Shrubs, apart from the most ordin greens and conifers, were, as we hav seen, conspicuous by their absenc was rather disappointing, and the of the other exhibits were compose of Roses, Hydrangeas, Rhododend bedding plants.

Georges Truffaut obtained a Mé for an admirable group of dwarf Roses and Hydrangeas, evidently a combination, artistically arranged i Palms. Les Jardins Monte Carlo Objet d'Art for an interesting gro house plants. Vases of Anth D'Andreanum in pink and salm from scarlet to white stood in fron and Ferns, among which Bou made further splashes of colo especially noticed Asplenium Ni whose glossy, perfectly elliptic vividly green and often a yard were held erect by an immensely t brown midrib. Platycerium gr striking, too, its huge fronds cu strap-shaped tips and the bases tig ing the outside of the pot like pad

There were several rather qu Japanese gardens with stunt grotesque figures, and a few roc perhaps a lantern and sometimes archway of scarlet-painted beams.

La Maison Ferard (M. Laumon Médaille d'or for a very original h den at the opposite end of the ha white figure. A high ridge of p

tcrops of rock was backed by an in- snow-peak higher up still, while on es leading up to the ridge was a f Foxgloves in full flower, and below, with water plants and rushes, and ockwork round it. Although too and over-planted to be natural, it a departure from the ordinary types its, and contained some good plants ort turf and rockwork. There were, nce, a charming group of Lilium nd some first-class L. umbellatum; illiant patch of Trollius and a young tree of Robinia hispida, with its blush-pink Pea-flowers.

Low sent over a characteristically tion of Orchids which won an Objet d a similar award offered by our H.S. went to L'Union Horticole er for Roses.

Finally, some mention must be made of the garden architects' section, for although the show was much smaller than Chelsea, this department of it was given more attention, and the plans were far more numerous and more enterprising. The Prix d'Honneur for garden design, with the congratulations of the judges, went to M. Deny, while M. Duchêne and M. Vacherot were awarded Objets d'Art for plans, and no less than 15 other diplomas and medals were presented to competitors in the same section.

The French, in fact, clearly give wider recognition to landscape gardening as a profession in itself than we seem to in our own country, and at this show paid special attention to that branch of gardening which approaches most nearly their national art of architecture.

F. C. SURTEES ROBINSON.

Answers to Queries

s—Queries and answers are inserted in ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre- follow these rules: All communications clearly written on one side of the paper addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. business should be sent to the* PUB- *e name and address of the sender are n addition to any designation he may e used in the paper. When more than is sent each should be on a separate per, the name and address being added* ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

Irises

ow Irises—quite a common, hardy rted to grow in the spring and then turned brown and the buds died in th. Finally the plants became en- wn and dead. The roots appear lthy, and I have divided and re- em. Other Irises have done well ld have blamed the cold, frosty ould the drought be responsible?

LADY EDWARD GLEICHEN.

rather difficult to give a definite the Iris. We assume the plant adly frozen, as many varieties are climatic conditions. A very good curred during the past season. A new varieties were imported from and in one particular trial bed were to 20 plants. There was quite a t on May 13th, and the whole of in the bed escaped the frost with ion of one or two in the centre on which every flower was killed liage badly damaged.]

nting Oriental Poppies

tumn I divided my Mrs. Perry The plants have made very little d hardly flowered at all this sum- ght Poppies to be left undisturbed, rge and crowded the plants seem

LADY EDWARD GLEICHEN.

very dangerous practice to trans- stock of Papaver orientale. Mr. us that he has made a practice of ng a plant more than two years m past experience he has found and four year old plants will sulk or two. It would have been ad- you to have taken off a number of ts and planted these in their per- itions, and they would have made in a year.]

ROSES

curling sawfly

r I sent in to you some specimen which were badly curled and you enough to inform me that the curled foliage was due to an attack of the Rose-leaf curling sawfly. You advised me to apply naphthalene to the Rose bed during winter at the rate of 2 ozs. per square yard. This advice was followed, but I find that the curling has commenced again. Can you again advise me what to do?

ROSE LOVER.

[You could not hope to kill all the chrysalis stage of the Rose-leaf curling sawfly by an application of naphthalene during the winter months. It would kill many of the pest, but some would come through unharmed. Your best plan now will be to pick off and burn the curled foliage as soon as it appears, and so continue the good work you commenced during the winter. If you continue to apply a dressing of naphthalene during the winter months and follow this up by picking off and burning the affected foliage as it appears in early summer you should have no difficulty in keeping this pest in control.]

Pruning Rose species

Is it too late to prune same, which ought to have been done during March?

W. B. C.

[Yes, it is too late, and your plants should not be touched until the end of March next year.]

FRUIT

Apples not setting their flowers

I should be obliged if you would help me to solve the cause of my Brownlees Russet and Scarlet Nonpareil not carrying their fruit—*i.e.*, they bloom wonderfully well from top to bottom, but they drop off or do not set. They are good standards, have been well cared for, and there is no sign of any disease or fungus whatever. They are quite clean and growing amongst other varieties too numerous to mention. Soil a medium loam, gravel subsoil.

BEKON.

[Your trouble is, probably, due to the blooms having been frosted. Even before the flowers actually opened, the interior of the buds were destroyed in many instances this year. We can see no other reason which should cause the trouble you speak of, especially as your trees are freely mixed with other varieties. The writer is acquainted with a handsome row of trees of Lane's Prince Albert, all of which bloomed profusely this year, but only a tree here and there set its fruits. One tree is laden with fruit, while another of the same kind growing by its side has cast all its flowers. This is probably due to the wind having caught one tree more than the other when the temperature was at its lowest point.]

Plums dropping

I have a friend who has Plum trees which had this year a fine show of blossom, but, after setting for fruit, have dropped wholesale on to the ground. The tree from which I picked up enclosed seems perfectly healthy, shows no blight or mildew. Will you kindly let me know if there is any remedy for another year?

WALTER LEE.

[The reason of the young Plum fruits dropping is due to imperfect fertilisation. Plums, above all other fruits, are very prone to raise the hopes of their cultivators and then dash these hopes to the ground. They appear to set their fruits, swell up a little, and then drop off. The Plum crop has failed in many districts this year, owing to late spring frosts, and this may be the cause of your friend's crop failing. On the other hand, if the tree flowers every year and fails to set it is probably a self-sterile variety, and requires the pollen of another variety before fertilisation can be effected. If this is the case and you can send us the name of the Plum in question we may be able to help you.]

VEGETABLES

Leaf-curling Tomatoes

Will you kindly inform me the cause of the enclosed Tomato leaves curling? They are from the bottom of the plant. The plants seem healthy otherwise, and are showing the eighth set of flowers. The variety is Ailsa Craig. Other varieties growing in same house seem all right at present.

CONSTANT READER.

[We can find no trace of disease in the material you have sent in for examination. Green fly was present and have been feeding upon the foliage to some extent, and this may have caused the leaves to curl. You should try and clear up the aphis by several light fumigations with nicotine. Be careful not to overdo the plants with nicotine, because in our experience we find that an overdose of nicotine will cause curling of the foliage, similar to that you have sent in. Give the plants a good soaking with a solution made up as follows:—4 ozs. sulphate of potash well stirred into 25 gallons of water. Write us again if this does not stop the spread of the trouble, giving details of temperature and feeding.]

Tomato plants in boxes

I am growing in my greenhouse about two dozen Tomato plants in boxes, all very sturdy and strong trees with fruit already forming. These plants are making very healthy leaves and branches, and I should be glad of your opinion and advice whether it is advisable for me to cut off most or all of these (undergrowth) branches up to those bearing the fruit, or how far.

ERNEST LESSER.

[You should have removed *all* side shoots while still quite small, but, seeing you have permitted everything to grow, you must remove every one, but do this gradually, for to denude the plants of these growths all at one time would cause a check which might result in the later flowers failing to set. Begin at the bottoms of the plants breaking out, or (if they are very strong) cutting the whole of the shoots about one-third of the way up the

main stems. Three days later remove about half of those remaining, and a few days after that the rest. Afterwards rub out every side shoot as it shows. It is quite easy to distinguish between the flower-carrying shoots and the others, the former, of course, being carefully retained. After the plants have reached the height you wish them to go nip out the point one or two leaves above the last bunch of fruit.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

The best time to prune hardy flowering shrubs

(W. B. C.).—Deciduous shrubs may be pruned, with few exceptions, any time during the winter months. A few of the exceptions are Forsythias, Corylopsis, Stachyurus, Pyrus japonica, and Jasminum nudiflorum, all of which flower very early in the new year and are best pruned immediately after flowering. Evergreen flowering shrubs may be pruned at any time during winter, but are, in most instances, best dealt with immediately their flowers are over.

Parasite on roots of Buddleia variabilis

(E. S. P.).—The parasitic plant is the Lesser Broomrape (Orobanche minor). The parasite occurs on a great variety of plants, including Hawkweeds, Sea Holly, and Ivy. We have not before met with it on Buddleia, but it is not surprising. The Great Broomrape (Orobanche major) confines its attention to shrubby Peaflower plants. Not uncommon on Broom and less common on Furze.

GREENHOUSE

Petunias from cuttings

I have some special Petunias which, I am informed, will not come true from seed. Please state the best time to take cuttings.

W. B. C.

[Cut back a few of your plants in order to induce them to break and form strong cuttings, which may be taken at any time, although February and March are good months for this; but if you propagate during next month and grow the plants on they will bloom in a warm greenhouse during the winter months.]

Perpetual flowering Carnations

Would you, please, advise what is best to be done with Carnations (Perpetuals) just getting over their flowering? When the few remaining flowers are cut they are just bare of growth. Should I cut them down and syringe them and get them to break, and then shake out and repot? I have got about 60 plants (old) and a few young ones, which I have to try and get on in a frame. I cannot seem to get any vigour into the plants like the nurserymen do. I get a lot of red spider also. Could you advise what is the best mixture to grow them in? I have a fairly light loam, but very poor, the sods are full of Moss in the grass side. I have used about 4 feet loam, 1 foot manure, a little bone-meal, and some burnt earth, but the plants do not seem to thrive.

West Somerset.

[With the soil you are using it is, really, no wonder your plants make no progress and are smothered with red spider. To give it a chance the Carnation must have the very best fibrous loam, sweet flaky leaf-mould, and silver sand. All the best growers fight shy of farmyard manure, using, instead, one of the special Carnation foods offered by the various manufacturers. We think that your best plan would be to burn your entire stock of plants and make a fresh start with clean, healthy plants. We presume you grow your Carnations in a house by themselves, but, if not, you will always have trouble, these plants seldom succeeding in a mixed house. If you do not want to destroy your plants the best thing to do will be to plant them out in the open garden and secure cuttings from them in August. These would not flower in winter, but would begin to do so by spring. To destroy the spider spray with a solution of Gishurst Compound. The best compost for Carnations is made of three parts best fibrous loam, one part flaky leaf-mould, one-quarter part wood-ashes, one-quarter part lime-rubbish from an old building, and about half a part coarse silver sand. Pot firmly and water with great care.]

Hibiscus with disfigured leaves

I enclose some leaves from a collection of Hibiscus which I brought from Jamaica some six years ago. These are grown in my conservatory, which is heated in winter, and the original plants are now from 4 feet to 8 feet high. They have, of course, been repotted from time to time. Up till six months ago they have been perfectly healthy, since when this defect has appeared. They are regularly watered and syringed about three times a week in the evening. The conservatory is fitted with spring outside blinds and is well ventilated every day. They are in flower and are constantly making new leaves. Nothing else in the conservatory is affected in this way. Can you kindly tell me what is wrong?

E. J. C.

[Your shrubs are attacked by fungus, and your best remedy is to spray them with a weak solution of Bordeaux mixture. The plants should be placed in the open and laid on their sides during the spraying, as this is liable to stain woodwork. Use this weak at first, increasing its strength with successive sprayings, at intervals of 10 days. Do not syringe the plants with clear water for a time; water only with clear water and admit air more generously to the house in which they are growing.]

Meconopsis from seed

Can you inform me the best time to sow, also subsequent procedure?

W. B. C.

Maidstone.

[The seed should be sown in pans made up of fine loam, leaf-mould, and sand in equal parts, as soon as ripe or as soon as it can be obtained from the seedsmen. The pans should be made moderately firm and well watered through a fine rose half-an-hour before the seed is sown. The seed should be sown thinly and covered with a very light sprinkling of fine sandy soil, following which the pans should be lightly dewed over. Stand the pans in a cool and closed, shaded frame, preferably on a bed of cool ashes, place a sheet of glass over the pans to prevent evaporation, and do not admit the strong sun's rays until the seedlings are growing freely. The sheets of glass, however, must be removed immediately the seedlings are through the soil and a little air admitted, increasing this gradually as the plants strengthen. When large enough to handle prick off into 3-inch pots or boxes at 3 inches apart filled with the same, but slightly coarser, mixture and grow on in a cool frame as before until the plants are moving freely, when the sashes may be removed altogether. The ideal site to grow these fine plants in is one approaching the conditions one finds in woodlands composed of summer-leafing trees which provide shade during the hottest months only, and if plenty of moisture is available—not stagnant moisture—it is astonishing how they thrive. The beds should be broken up to a depth of 2 feet, abundant leaf-mould being added to sandy loam, into which these plants root freely, requiring very little after-care other than that of being kept clean. Where such natural conditions do not exist it is generally to provide similar accommodation, bu case partial shade is most important of them. The planting into perman or flowering quarters is best carried o during October or in April.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Destruction of ants

Can you kindly suggest any mean ting rid of ants, which are doing a g of damage to my plants? I ha "Tipulite," which only seems to ants to another place. Boiling w paraffin do not seem any good, as stroy the plants.

Mrs. E. N

[There are at least two methods b of which you can destroy the ants w damaging your plants. (1) Inje quantities of carbon bisulphide into t Carbon bisulphide is a highly volatil flammable liquid and should be u care. It gives off a vapour which i than air and tends to sink into the s than rise. There are several sui jectors on the market by means carbon bisulphide can be applied little calcium cyanide placed in the the ants would destroy the creatur placing either of the above chemi the nests it would be well to cover with a damp sack.]

Book of reference

David Williams, Dolgelly.—Y scarcely better "The English Flo den," by W. Robinson. This bo with trees, shrubs, and flowers aspects. Its price is 24s., and it c tained from John Murray, Albema London.

NAMES OF PLANT

Shrub.—1, Weigela rosea; 2, (Diervilla) Eva Rathke.

L. H., Otley.—1, Pieris florib Viburnum Tinus (Laurustinus).

B. M. Horner.—Eriogonum su A native of Western North America and Coast Ranges.

Constant Reader (Loxwood). bergia rivularis (the Pearl Cup). of Argentina.

M. S.—1, Mme. Jules Grave Marie Van Houtte.

David Williams, Dolgelly.—1, chinensis var. alba; 2, Aquilegia Pyrus japonica; 4, Papaver oriental

A. Donovan.—White flower, Sneezewort (Achillea Ptarmica). flowers in clusters on end of st clustered Bellflower (Campanula g Both are natives of Great Britain, on chalk or limestone formations proved varieties of both are commo in gardens.

E. A. H.—Large-leaved specie yellowish twin flowers between bracts, Lonicera alpigeria (Che bine). Small-leaved specimen w pink trumpet flowers in pairs is Honeysuckle (Lonicera syringanth.

F. W. A. Fovant.—1, The (Eleagnus brevipes). The berrie fine jelly, and in Turkey and Gree largely used for making the swee "Turkish Delight"; 2, Rhamnus angustifolia (Evergreen Buckt Erigeron philadelphicus; 4, mucronatus.

GARDENING APPOINT

Mr. J. Smith, formerly gardene gwynant Hall, North Wales, h an appointment as head garden borough.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Exhibiting Roses

the time these lines appear in print se shows will be in full swing, and no bt there are many readers, after gone to great expense in purchasing rieties and studying how to grow them, e eager to try their hand at showing. r useful an article may be on ex- Roses, the exhibitor will learn more e subject when he enters the arena first time than he will from reading . Like many of our notable exhibi- he present day, he will probably not essful the first time, but will have a valuable practical lesson which will ly lead him to victory.

irst thing of importance is ction of varieties suitable ibition. At many shows have remarked that they ch larger Roses in their than are seen in the ex- True, they may have, is not always quality. vn Roses of Hugh Dick- others 6 inches or 7 inches ter would, if staged at a now, cause considerable nt. Roses for exhibition grown well. Not only do d plenty of good fare, but st have constant attention e time the shoots com- grow until the blooms d upon the stage.

lding of the shoots must led to, leaving only a few strongest on each plant. all those that show the injury from grubs or he shoots retained should l out so that air and sun e all round them as well nting injury from strong A watchful eye must be nsects, and it is only this prevent the leaf-rolling n damaging leaves and veral times I have seen tor lose the prize by dis- liage when the blooms otherwise equal. There aphis and cuckoo-spit to vith, the latter being a tructive pest and will ud.

ling is the next thing to ion to, leaving only the l on each shoot. In the aiden shoots, however— ose from a dormant bud ar's budding—two buds left, as the centre one is often deformed, owing to a superabundant flow of sap. These maiden shoots should be tied to stakes when they attain 4 inches or 5 inches in length, for, if not, they are very likely to be blown out and all previous work lost.

As soon as the buds begin to show colour, protection must be given them. In warm, dry, and settled weather this is not of so much importance, but it is in showery weather that the sun is fiercest, when both rain and sun spoil the best blooms. The most effective shelters are cardboard shapes made in the shape of a hat. These should be fixed to stakes and placed in such a position that they shade the buds that are likely to be at their best on the morning of the show. During fine, genial weather turn the shades round and allow the buds to receive the warmth of the sun. The shades can also be arranged high enough to prevent rain falling upon the blooms, but allowing the sun to shine upon them.

The blooms most injured by the sun are the dark-coloured varieties, and those by rain the light ones.

As show day draws near, a watch must be kept on those blooms that seem likely to get too forward. Arrange the shades in such a manner that the sun cannot shine upon the buds, but do not place them close under the shades, as the sun makes them very warm, causing the blooms to open quicker than if unshaded.

A box of six perfect blooms of Rose Mrs. Foley Hobbs

At what stage the flowers of the different varieties should be cut, practice only will tell the exhibitor. The weather also plays an important part, for, if very hot, they must be cut in a much younger state than in cooler weather. Also the distance the flowers have to travel will have to be considered.

It is advisable for the exhibitor to take two sets of blooms for each box—one at what he thinks the right stage and another set of much younger flowers.

Blooms that are opening too fast before the time to cut them should have a piece of worsted tied round them about three parts up the bud. On no account cut the blooms some time before the show with the idea of keeping them, for this can rarely be done without considerable loss of colour.

About 6 o'clock in the morning of the show is a good time to cut the blooms, as a fair estimate can be made of how much the blooms will open before they come under the eyes of the judges.

When cutting the blooms it is as well to have a vessel of water handy in which to put the stems immediately they are cut. This will be found to make a considerable difference in the keeping of the flowers when the tent becomes hot later in the day. The blooms should be cut with longer stems than are required, leaving on only those leaves that are absolutely needed, as leaves evaporate the water so necessary for the flowers. The boxes should be prepared the day before, and well cover them

with Moss, and see it is in a nice damp condition. Wire supports should be used to hold the blooms in position. Do not try to open a Rose by bending back the petals; a gentle blowing will sometimes help the outer petals to unfold, but it is an operation requiring great care and judgment.

A very useful dozen for exhibition are:—Gorgeous, deep orange-yellow; Betty Uprichard, salmon; Capt. K. Stuart, crimson; Henriette, fiery orange-crimson; E. P. H. Kingma, apricot; K. of K., intense scarlet; Mme. Butterfly, pink; Mrs. Henry Morse, rose; Lord Charlemont, crimson; Padre, coppery-scarlet; Pilgrim, pink; and Premier, deep pink. F. H.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Dahlias at Southport

BETWEEN the old-time Dahlia and the modern types there is so great a difference that those who have not kept pace with the improved varieties of this popular flower do not always recognise them as belonging to the same family. The stiff, formal shows and fancies, and the Cactus varieties which, like blushing beauties, shyly hung their heads, have largely given place to graceful flowers in many shapes and colours, freely produced, and carried well above the foliage on strong, wiry stems. The adaptability for garden decoration and for cutting is evident at a glance, and that they are gaining favour rapidly is easily understood. In order to give the public an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the various sections of the Dahlia, the National Dahlia Society has arranged with the Flower Show and the Parks Committees of the Southport Corporation to devote a large border to them in the South Marine Park, adjoining the Southport Promenade. This border will be about 200 feet long by 15 feet wide, and will contain a representative collection, embracing the large Decorative, small Decorative, large Pæony, small Pæony or Charm, Star, Collarette, Single, Mignon, Pompon, Cactus, and also the Show sections. Altogether there are some 750 plants of the best varieties in cultivation, contributed by 11 of the leading Dahlia firms. For purposes of comparison, plants of the original species from which all have been evolved will be grown alongside them, these being sent by Mr. Thomas Hay, V.M.H., M.V.O. The different sections will be planted in separate blocks, each distinctly labelled, and with due regard to the varying heights and colours. It will thus give the border both an educational and a decorative character. From July or August until frost it will be a great attraction, and during the period of the Southport Flower Show (August 24th, 25th, and 26th) will be seen by many thousands of visitors, who will be able to judge for themselves of the "infinite variety" of the modern Dahlia. This is the first time an experimental display of this nature has been made in a public park, though some 35,000 Dahlias are grown annually in the Southport parks.

Blackpool Flower Show

The organisers of the first annual Blackpool Flower Show, which is to be held in the new Stanley Park on July 20th, 21st, and 22nd, have been successful in compiling a schedule of classes and prizes for amateurs sufficient to induce them to exhibit there in large numbers. Included in the 324 classes are 200 specially for amateurs, with over 600 substantial cash prizes and a number of silver trophies, and gold, silver, and bronze plaques of an original and unique design. Traders are keen in their support, and we are assured that there will be a record number of entries in the rock garden classes, whilst the non-competitive entries comprise several entirely new features never before seen at any provincial show. We a minded that the latest date for receivi tries is July 9th.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

The Maiden Pink

DIANTHUS DELTOIDES, the Maiden Pink, although a native plant, has long been a favourite in British gardens, and, despite the many newer flowers of the genus in cultivation, is practically indispensable on account of the profusion of its flowers and their high beauty, comparatively small though they are. In the rock garden, in the front of the border, or hanging over a stone edging, the Maiden Pink deserves, and receives, the admiration of all lovers of this "Flower of the Gods," as the Pink has been called. On old walls, also, it is very beautiful. The typical D. deltoides is very pretty indeed, with its tufted habit, and is only about 3 inches or 4 inches high and spangled freely over with small, bright, rosy-purple flowers with a darker ring at the base. There is also a lovely white variety, D. deltoides albus, which is beautifully marked on a white ground by a dark ring and pretty freckle-like spots beside it. A variety called D. d. glaucus, which was found on Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh, does not appear to be now in cultivation. Then there is one with very bright deep crimson-rose flowers, and this is fittingly termed "Brilliant." An allied variety, also with very bright blooms, is called D. d. superbus, and an especially fine form is named D. d. carmineus. It is claimed with much justification that it is the finest of the forms of the Maiden Pink on account of its bright carmine flowers. The type may be raised from seeds, and seeds of the white variety generally produce a large proportion of seedlings which give white blooms. The others, as well as the foregoing, may also be raised from cuttings or by division of established plants. A light loamy soil will grow D. deltoides and its varieties quite well, either with or without the addition of a little leaf-mould or peat and some sand. It likes sun. S. ARNOTT.

Porosity of flower pots

Re the correspondence on the respective qualities of "hard" and "soft" flowerpots, I have always found that Orchids appreciate the latter, a fact which is now proved and followed by the trade growers.

Although, as Mr. Blair remarks, soft pots soon become unsightly, I am with him that the plant comes first. As a matter of fact, I have known when the washing of the pots, especially those containing seedlings, has been to the detriment of the plants.

Keighley, Yorks. B. P. DUNSTER.

A patent hedge clipper

A most excellent report of the Chelsea Show was given in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED dated June 4th, and amongst the many miscellaneous items mentioned was the patent "Hansen Hedge Clipper." Although, apparently, this machine was demonstrated on an imaginary hedge, I can vouch for its excellence from practical use. Leaving aside the motor lawn mower, I consider this machine the greatest boon the gardener who has a quantity of boundary and other hedges to keep in order has yet had put before him. It is quite simple to use and most economical. I have a 40-inch size in use in these gardens, and if any interested reader who lives in our radius cares to write to me I should have great pleasure in arran demonstration of the machine. It is "Little Wonder" and a machine th come to stay. W. E. WR

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Transplanting Oriental Popp

There is a note on this subject on which does not make the matter qui to me. Lady Gleichen says she "di Mrs. Perry, but your reply is tha dangerous to "transplant" old stock dividing and transplanting are two v ferent things. I should never dr transplanting an old Poppy, but have them quite successfully. I find they it after three or four years, at least garden, though in former ones th seemed to last for ever. A Mrs. divided about two years ago in the sense of division; that is, by cutting stock with a spade downwards from and planting the pieces. Last year I a bracteatum, but of this I divided t only, chopping the main roots into which I replanted just as one w Anchusa. Both methods have given satisfactory results. It is not cle your reply whether you are advisi some of the fat outer roots be dug out disturbing the rest (which, to m would mean the loss of the "res digging up the whole plant and re some of the main roots as I have do A. H. WOLLEY

Turning blue Hydrangeas p

Mrs. Nicholas Wood, The Blue Bi Hythe, Kent, presents her complim the Editor and would be so ver obliged if he would kindly tell her use to make Hydrangeas the new d colour, as none of hers will keep pin N. Wood has some most lovely v deep blue ones, as the soil is iron a loam, but she cannot grow even p except in one or two places, and s so like to grow some deep pink one of the outdoor Hydrangeas are out

[We have many times told reader turn pink Hydrangeas blue, but w contemplate that we should be calle turn blue Hydrangeas pink. We d can be done on a soil described as "sandy loam." Suggestions from would be welcome.—ED.]

Iris Alcazar

I regret to say an error occurr report of awards to Irises recently s June 25th, page 393). The raise Alcazar were Messrs. Vilmorin, of Messrs. Waterer and Crisp as stat note. FRED J. CHITTE

Royal Hort. Soc. Gardens,
Wisley, Ripley, Surrey.

Pronunciation of Geum

Will you, please, answer, throg columns—Geum: is the "G" ha like "J"?

We referred this inquiry to I. Hampton, who replies:—

For English pronunciation the standard of correctness except p

so by all means let us say "Geums" soft "g"; or, better still, call them Jeans" and "Yellow Jeans" after ample of an old Scotch gardener I Words borrowed into the language ther tongues soon make themselves at and it seems a pity to delay their lisation by a schoolmasterly insistence original pronunciation of the word. neither vulgar nor illiterate to call easters "Cotton Easters," but an ex- of the philological process which "Guthanasia" into "Tansy," é" into "Pansy," "Caryophyllus" Gillyflower," and has given us many r good English word. It is really a at the printed word should command ch respect nowadays, for it gives r people a little brief authority in to correct the pronunciation of other and it tends to make the language ess and stereotyped. Let us therefore e pronunciation that comes most lly to our tongue and ask those who n our correctness how they pronounce asthenia."

Hens and Chickens Marigold

sending you what seems to me to be sual growth of a Calendula. I have bed of these plants, and just at one this bed several of the dead heads ap- be sending out numbers of small fresh . I do not know if this is a common nce or what is the cause. There are e or two plants which are doing it, hought, possibly, it might be of some . . MRS. VIVIAN I. LEWIN.

ort.

thank our correspondent for the inter- Hens and Chickens Marigold. Curi- nough we have since seen others (see e following). We are unable to ex- e nature of the monstrosity, but the nd Chickens Daisy seems to produce kens only when very liberally fed. y rich cultivation may have something ith the exuberance of the Marigold.—

The illustration is that of a Marigold bloomed in the usual manner, but would not die. Instead of seeds form- he pod, it took on a new lease of life, t out seven other blooms. Some of ere perfect in form, although not up- Here is an interesting botanical study ich some readers may care to go.

ARTHUR E. WITTY.

rwood, S.E. 25.

ll Creeper (Sollya heterophylla)

eautiful fragile evergreen climbing s this, from Australia, which, though mostly under glass, is now being at- l by many in the open air, and with . It enjoys a warm nook in a wall, such a position I saw a nice plant , 3 feet high, not only well sprinkled ooping Bluebell flowers, but carrying pods of seed, each spindle-like and ½ inches long. E. M.

markable Rose: Alberic Barbier

dible as it may appear, I saw a speci- f this lovely Rose on June 17th at ick Park, Horsham, which had at- the extraordinary dimensions of 30 diameter and 10 feet in height. It perfect specimen and absolutely laden llow buds and creamy-white flowers. was not a single weak place in this us specimen, which had developed e huge mound of beauty. It had, ap- , been planted in its present position owed every freedom since, there being to indicate pruning or training of

Hens and Chickens Marigold

any kind. The graceful wreaths of bloom spread out over the surrounding grass rendered this charming Rose the subject of general admiration. How many of us appreciate the possibilities of some of our Roses when permitted to expand in this unchecked manner

This Rose, with its glossy foliage and semi-double flowers has long been a favourite of mine for clothing fences and training up the branches of old trees, but it is quite clear that when planted entirely in the open in grass land, where its branches may reach out at will, it is capable of producing marvellous effects, beyond the dreams of the average Rose grower. E. M.

INDOOR PLANTS

Perpetual Carnations

Summer cultivation

THERE is something about the summer cultivation of Carnations which is very symbolic of gardening in general. As we sow, so we reap. As we grow, so we cut.

It is not always understood that the result of our methods of growing Carnations now is reflected as much, if not more, in the winter crop than the immediate attention that we give them at the flowering period. These remarks apply, of course, to the young stock that we are growing on. They should be in their flowering pots at this date, and the time is at hand when the question of the final stop has to be considered. The grower has to ask himself the question when the new crop of flowers is required. Clear thinking on this point is not only the best policy, but can be fruitful of much added interest, for the difference of habit and the output of plant varies to such an extent that it is quite worth while to note down our friends which are so productive through the autumn and at their best at Christmas.

Christmas flowers are the direct result of the methods employed now more than at any other time. It is a good plan, in order to secure plenty of flowers at this date, to cease stopping by the middle of July. Some varieties of slow growth should not be stopped (except those running prematurely into bloom) later than the end of June.

Stopping has a three-fold use. Firstly, it gives a plant more shoots, and consequently more flowers; secondly, it keeps a plant dwarfer than it would be; and thirdly, it retards the period of flowering. These may all be desirable ends which fit well the grower's point of view, but the process cannot be indefinitely extended; indeed, it must be strictly limited. If we make too many growths the plant becomes weakened, and, equally serious, the flowering period can be retarded as late as the spring, so that we lose our winter blooms.

Generally speaking, a plant should not be stopped more than twice for the whole of the shoots, but this operation should take place first by removing the top of the young plant four to six joints up when the young plant is about 8 inches high.

The second stop to all the resulting shoots is not given at one operation. Supposing that the first stop is given in April, some of the resulting shoots or breaks are 4 inches to 6 inches long during June, one or two of the longest are broken at about the fourth joint, the later ones at succeeding weeks until the middle of July.

The exceptions to these remarks are the slow-growing varieties, such as Laddie. This sort produces fine flowers, but is slow in doing so. Shoots stopped as late as mid-July will not, as a rule, bloom before the spring, and so for Christmas flowers we must be content with a taller, thinner plant which is produced from the one stop only, unless we can get a second stop into some of the shoots by the end of May. Such shoots are not often available as early as this.

Plants which have been in their flowering pots for a few weeks are being carefully watered until the new roots have penetrated the fresh soil, but as soon as they reach this condition, that is to say, with roots around the pot, more water should be given to encourage more growth, which will absorb considerably more. If a liberal compost were used at the final potting, feeding should not yet be necessary, still the aim should be to keep one's plants soft at this period of the year, and a little weak soot-water once or twice a week during July and August is not amiss if the plants are established.

An altogether urgent precaution for July is to secure young shoots as soon as they are large enough, either by a suitable plant support or by sticks and raffia. Young shoots quickly break out unless secured early. Each one so lost means a Christmas flower the less.

Hot weather is due in July. During spells of this, following the dual object of keeping the plants soft and growing, and the prevention of red spider, they should be sprayed under the foliage with force twice daily if possible, bearing in mind to discontinue this practice by the end of the following month in order then to commence to harden the plants.

It will be noticed that I have referred almost in the same breath both at aiming to keep plants soft during the growing period from spring until late summer, and then to a gradual hardening or ripening process towards the end of the summer. I consider these two processes, if successfully carried out, are two of the secrets in growing Carnations, and it may be noticed that each is, in a way, counteracting what would take place if the plants were left to take their chance.

We commence to ripen them at the end of August or early in September by removing the shading from the glass if they are growing under glass, or by bringing them inside if being grown in the open.

Bush Hill Park. LAURENCE J. COOK.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Philadelphus season

THESE are now almost at their best. The number of varieties has increased considerably, and, like many other things, much of this is due to the firm of Lemoine. Some people complain of the overpowering scent of certain varieties, but happily this is not evident in the newer hybrids. Personally, I prefer the single flowers to the double, excepting one which, I think, is the best of the doubles. This is Virginal; the flowers are very large and very double, and the habit of plant is rather slower-growing than some and yet very free-flowering.

Three varieties appeal to me very much on account of the beautiful form of their single flowers—Voie Lactée and Norma, both of large-sized, well-opened flowers with yellow stamens, and Velleda, of smaller habit which appears to be of more spreading growth.

Amalthea is another fine single variety with large open flowers with just a suspicion of colour round the base of the anthers.

Mock Orange, with yellowish-white flowers and a very strong scent; too strong for many people.

Of the doubles I have mentioned Virginal, and would suggest the following:—Albatre, Argentine, Gerandole, and Glacier as the best of the newer varieties. All have very double flowers, none quite so large as Virginal, and are very free-flowering, but they do not appeal to me nearly as much as the single varieties.

Pruning should be done as soon as the flowers are over, cutting out the old flowering wood and inducing strong new growths to break. These will flower the following year.

P.

Sarcococca ruscifolia

Those who value shrubs which bloom in the depth of winter in the open air should make a note of the above. All through the winter this shrub is laden with milky-white flowers of the most delicious fragrance. These appear in clusters in the axils of the leaves for a foot or more from the tips of the rather stiff, slender growths.

The bush I have in mind is about 3 feet in

Trillium grandiflorum (the American Wood Lily) in the rock garden

Favourite is, I think, the largest of all. It is very free-flowering, and now and again a flower appears trying to be semi-double. It is a very fine variety.

Coupe d'argent is quite as good as any. The habit is very graceful, as the branches arch over and are covered with very large pure white flowers of perfect form.

Atlas follows Favourite as regards size and is very nearly as large.

Of the coloured-eyed varieties three stand out alone in my opinion—Bicolor (large flowers of perfect form with a purplish eye), Sylviane (large, well-opened flowers and pink eye), and Belle Etoile, which has a purple eye and is very free-flowering.

The purple-eyed varieties all seem smaller in habit, the foliage is smaller, and no doubt one of their ancestors was P. mexicanus var. Coulteri.

Of the singles there are Lemoinei, which should be included on account of its delicious scent; Grandiflorus, which, botanically, is unscented, but in the trade is scented. So far as I have experienced it it is a very vigorous grower and a useful shrub for the back of a border.

Coronarius is the common Syringa or

height and the same through, resembling, to a certain extent, a good bush of Danæ Laurus, but of a slightly stiffer character than the latter.

It is evergreen in character, the lustrous green leaves being from 2 inches to 3 inches in length and finely pointed, and a good bush, when flowered as in the specimen referred to, is a decidedly pleasing and distinct subject. The sprays of bloom are most acceptable in a cut state, as are also the berry-laden sprays which follow.

Of Chinese origin, this pretty shrub flourishes in partially-shaded positions as well as in full sunshine, emitting its delicious fragrance to such an extent that the air around becomes charged with it. E. M.

Xanthocerus sorbifolia (Chinese Chestnut)

Let no one think that this exceedingly distinct and pretty subject grows to a large tree size, for it does not, in spite of its latter name. Here, in May, it was laden with white flowers, each stained with carmine at the base and borne in erect panicles about 8 inches long. The shrub—for such it is—

measures about 7 feet in height and 4 through, and is laden with these attr flowers, which are somewhat in advan its graceful pinnate leaves.

It is growing near a south wall, but way trained to it, and although it has pied this position for several years i never displayed its great beauty to su extent as this year, a condition excell few other shrubs.

It has fruited here, but not matured seeds.

In its own country it is said to att height of 20 feet. E.

Sussex.

Salvia Grahami as a wall pl

This fine old Mexican shrub is seen greatest advantage when growing on south walls, where it becomes a feast o liant crimson flowers from the midc May onwards. I saw a few hanc bushes in the East Grinstead (Sussex trict recently, each from 5 feet to 6 feet with an equal or even larger spread covered with their bright flowers, whic mediately attracted the eye from quite tance. These shapely bushes had not pruned back to the wall, but stood c large rounded specimens 3 feet fror latter. I noticed that the unripened t the branches had been killed back durir past winter, but this did not affect beauty or interest, which was unusual. a striking, free-flowering, and easily-p gated shrub should find a larger place gardens of to-day. E.

Rhododendron impeditum

It is doubtful whether the sterling ties of this dwarf and compact Rhododel have even yet been fully realised by th dening public. It was, in mid-April, f ing so freely that its little leaves were p cally obscured by its mantle of blue fl These dwarf Rhododendrons are b means difficult to grow if the right soi positions are chosen. Shelter from seems of less importance than in the c the larger and nobler kinds. A garde taining all the known dwarf kinds would provide not a little interest, should not be surprised to see such g develop in future after the same pl manner as the charming Heath garden done. E.

ALPINES

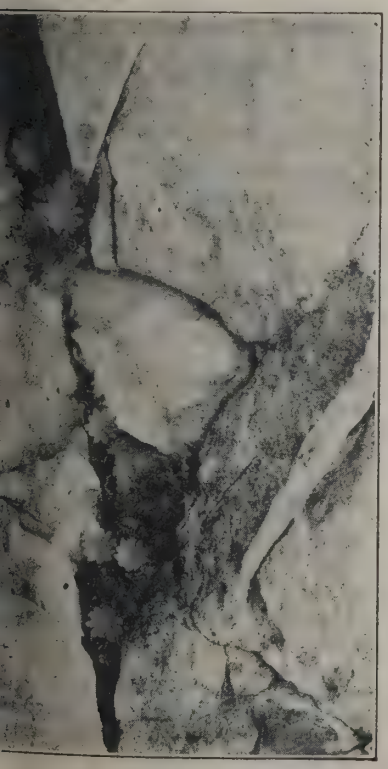
The American Wood Lily, Trinity Flower (Trillium gra florum)

THIS beautiful dwarf plant has be ceptionally fine this season, bloomed with even more than its freedom. It is not a plant, one gather visitors, that is at all widely cultivate yet it is easily managed, thriving, as i in any good garden soil. Naturally, likes a very dry position, so that those light, hot soils must endeavour to find rather shady spot for it to occupy. quite easily increased by division in just as growth starts. When thrivin the Trillium increases at a fairly rapi but it is well not to disturb it too ofte is much more effective as a biggish The only unsatisfactory feature with to this plant is the comparatively shor it remains in flower, and there is b crop of bloom in the year. C. Bu

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow

'wo Tyrolean Primulas

MULAS are a big subject and one to roach with awe, for their species are on; but who would have a garden them represented in it? The rock and bog garden are the homes for the , and may a word be added here in of Farrer's dictum that they should e consigned to shade. Not many of ke scorching sun, but very many hate dark, drip-ridden spots, where ger till a wet winter finishes them off. wandering over some high and un- ed spots in the Tyrol last summer in f plants and possible plant photo- and came across beautiful members rimula family, such as P. longiflora, nosa, P. minima, P. tirolensis, and ermediate hybrids. One of the ac- ing photographs shows a colony of nsis in a typical situation, jammed evices of rocks where there seems to ot-hold and peeping out inquisitively dren at the nursery window when the aravans go by. The plant is very e in growth, tiny leaves and large ut of all proportion to the size of its As often happens in the tribe, the of individuals vary both in colour n from broad petals to narrow, and d pinks through reds to dirty lilac. them we even found a dingy white. e localities I found P. tirolensis on slopes as P. minima, but each kept n particular allotment—tirolensis to ices and minima to the turf, the n small tufts, the latter in broad ke the turf itself. Here and there, ey were near enough together to ex- greetings, we found stray plants of ermediate offsprings in the form of ibella. One real treasure we found, hite P. minima, not the unbleached rt of white, but pure and clean, paint-box would classify as Chinese Of this we reverently took up half and brought it home to my nursery, sits happily in a pan; the other half vith a dressing of rich humus added



la tirolensis peeping out of the al face of a cliff at 7,000 feet

Primula minima at 8,000 feet

to its roots, and with injunctions to grow and prosper with renewed vigour.

P. minima is a plant more often offered in catalogues than P. tirolensis, and rock gardeners are, perhaps, more familiar with it. This, again, has leaves out of proportion to its large flowers. The leaves are somewhat strap-shaped and end in three pronounced teeth or prongs like a doll's toasting-fork. The flowers give one the idea of a Ragged Robin which has forgotten to have any stalks. It is reputed to be a lime-hater, but I found it as often on calcareous slopes as on granitic; but in the mountains where there is a good depth of soil between the turf and the underlying rock I think the heavy rainfall prevents lime from percolating upwards, and so allows foothold to plants that are calcifuge. I have found Loiseleuria procumbens growing where the formation was limestone, and a more pronounced lime-hater than this is hard to find. I must admit that in this case there was a granitic slope not far away. The plants I saw were evidently escapes from their proper home, nevertheless they grew in soil that had a substratum of limestone, which should help to prove this theory. GAVIN JONES.

Letchworth, Herts.

FRUIT GARDEN

Propagating the Gooseberry

THIS may be propagated either from cuttings or by layering. The average person will usually get the best results from layering, as cuttings are often unsatisfactory. To propagate by layering, the bushes should be pruned severely in the autumn or early in the spring to get the best results. This will induce a strong growth of young shoots the next season. When these have made most of their growth, which will be in July, the earth is heaped up around and through the bush until only the tips of the young shoots are left uncovered. The soil is packed down and then a covering of loose soil thrown over to retain moisture better. Few varieties will have rooted well by autumn, and the young plants may be detached and planted in nursery rows either the same autumn or the following spring, to be grown there for one season. Most varieties take two years to root, and the soil must be left about the bushes for that time.

Cuttings give satisfactory results if made from well-ripened wood and treated as Currant cuttings. The cuttings are made 6 inches to 8 inches or less in length and buried in the soil over winter. In spring they are set out in nursery rows, planting deep enough so that only one or two buds are above the ground. It is not generally known that Gooseberries may be propagated from green wood cuttings in a greenhouse, or hot-bed with bottom heat.

Young Grape Vines

The best time at which to plant young Vines propagated earlier in the year is, I think, during the first fortnight of July. If these young rods were raised on turves these can be removed entire as soon as it is seen that the roots are working through the sides, placing them in the prepared border, surrounding them with fine soil, and watering them home with tepid water. If the sun be bright it is advisable to shade for a few days till the roots take hold. Then the shade can be removed, and the atmosphere ought to be kept moist and warm. By the end of the summer, and under favourable conditions, the young rods ought to be almost at the top of the house. Cut well back when the foliage ripens and take up a strong cane during the next year, allowing it to bear a bunch to "prove" the variety. For quality Hamburghs and Muscats will be planted—those who desire bulk and weight may rely upon Alicante and Gros Colman. Foster's Seedling and Buckland's Sweetwater will also crop heavily when grown in company with Hamburghs. A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Strawberries

Avoid treading upon the runners when gathering the fruit, as these must now be placed into alternate rows in readiness for layering into 60-sized pots filled with rich soil. The pots should be stood as close together as possible for convenience of watering and to protect each other from rapid drying by wind. The stoutest and best layers should then be pegged firmly to them and all growth beyond the first bunch of leaves cut away.

A Garden of the Saints

By Mrs. Stanley Wrench.

WELL, and why not? We have friendship gardens, blue gardens, moonlight gardens, wild flower gardens, so why should not all the blossoms associated with the Saints be gathered together in one corner, with the legends and lore connected with them?

I thought of this the other day when my small daughter and I planted corms of St. Brigid's Anemones, for a plant of St. John's Wort was flourishing as well as a root of Shamrock sacred to St. Patrick. In the wall was a tiny reddish-leaved plant, Herb Robert, or Wild Geranium, and although some folks say this flower was christened after Robin Hood, I am inclined to believe it is from St. Robert, after all, it gets its name, the Saint who cured the disease known in Germany as Robert's Plague. For he cured it with the flower known in France as "Robin des bois," in Germany "Knecht Ruprecht," a sort of Robin Goodfellow. It is easy to understand why this tiny cheerful blossom has been linked up with goblin and woodland lore as well as its patron saint.

Nearly all the saints in the calendar may be represented in the garden if one takes the trouble, and so many delightsome stories are connected with them it is well worth while. Think of those rainbow-coloured blossoms, St. Brigid's Anemones, and the story of St. Brigid of the Isles. Legend relates that she was the foster-nurse of Christ. Immediately, then, one recalls the flowers of Our Lady—Marigolds, or, as I like them better, Marybuds; Madonna Lilies, Lady's Smock, Lady's Mantle, Lady's Slipper, Clematis, or Virgin's Bower, Rosemary, Our Lady's Bedstraw, and almost a score beside. An old gardener told me, the other day, that Solomon's Seal is also called Our Lady's Signet, so that must be one of Mary's flowers, too.

Michaelmas Daisies are the flowers of St. Michael, the Rose the blossom of St. George of Merrie England, St. Patrick and St. David have their plants, although for the latter the Daffodil is now given place of honour to the Leek, and St. Andrew has the Thistle, of which we find varieties worth growing in a garden. The Sea Thistle, for instance, with its blue-grey foliage, so beloved in the herbaceous border, will represent the patron saint of Scotland.

How many people know that the Crocus is the flower dedicated to St. Valentine, the common Laurel to St. Lucian (January 8th), the Strawberry to St. Hilary (January 13th), and the Avens or Herb Bennett to St. Benedict, whose anniversary falls on March 21st? The delicate flowers of the Christmas Rose belong to St. Agnes, although Tennyson associated her with "the first Snowdrop of the year," and St. John's Wort (magical golden blossom) is the flower dedicated to St. John the Baptist, whose day is June 24th. A whole host of legends and superstitions have grown up concerning this plant, and I have always been delighted to find it will grow in my garden, for they say, in Sussex, if you have this near you that "never will you lack health, healing, and happiness."

St. Genevieve, patroness of all flowers, has that most lovesome blossom, the Iris, as her emblem; St. Peter claims the Cowslip, which the Germans call Heaven's Little Keys (Himmelschlüsselchen). The story goes that one day St. Peter, up in heaven, got very flurried and flustered because he found that some people were getting into heaven by a back way instead of coming to be admitted at his great golden portal. In his excitement he dropped his keys, and where they fell a patch of golden Cowslips appeared. In Norsk the country folk call Cowslips "Mary's key-strings."

St. Joseph has a Lily associated with his name, the Amaryllis goes to St. James, whilst the lightsome Harebell is allotted to St. Dominic. Canterbury Bells belong, of course, to Thomas à Beckett, and the saintly William of Rochester has the Sweet Williams for his own.

The Camomile, with all its healing virtues, is the flower of St. Anne, "Love in a Mist," or Nigella, is St. Catharine's blossom, the Daisy is sacred to St. Margaret (July 20th), and the ordinary Royal Fern is dedicated to St. Christopher. The Crown Imperial, whose calyx always holds crystal tears, which bees are said never to touch, is the flower dedicated to St. Edward, King of the West Saxons. Legend says this flower grew by the tomb of Lazarus, and that when our Lord wept, His tears fell upon it, and that the blossom has ever since guarded jealously the drops. But there is quite another story told about the flower. It is said that when Christ came into the Garden of Gethsemane all the flowers in the garden bowed their heads except the proud Crown Imperial, which held aloft its white cup with its crown of green leaves. Christ rebuked it for its vain glory, and the flower then blushed red and hung its head with shame, tears gathered in its eyes, and the tears have remained ever since.

One might wander on and on, to the Juniper, blessed by the Virgin Mary because of the protection it afforded the Holy Family on their way to Egypt, and to the Broom which she cursed, hence its place of "ill luck" in a garden. Sussex people say that if there are children in the house the Broom must never grow in the garden, and I well remember an old gardener uprooting in horror a most lovesome bush of golden Broom which I had planted. "Do you want to bring death into the house?" he cried, and although I could not then find out why it is regarded with such superstitious awe, I believe the legend harks back to the story told of the Holy Family and their escape into Egypt. It is said that when Herod's horsemen pursued them, Mary and the Holy Babe hid in a Juniper bush, the thick branches concealing them. All around grew golden Gorse, and the Gorse pods kept bursting open and popping, and wild peacocks screamed, too, and woke the Child, who cried. So, in fear of being discovered by the soldiers, Mary cursed both Broom and peacocks, and that is why they have been unlucky ever since.

In a saint's garden there should be the Hawthorn growing, since it was this bush yielded the pilgrim staff of St. Joseph of Arimathea, the Lily of the Valley, sacred to St. Leonard, who gave his name to St. Leonard's Forest in Sussex, the Star of Bethlehem, associated with the Holy Shepherds, the Veronica or small Speedwell, the flower of St. Veronica, who handed her kerchief to our Lord, the markings on the bright blue blossoms being said to represent that same handkerchief and its marks, and I think I should most surely plant the Lilac there, for that blossom was chosen by the pilgrim women of Puritan days when they left in the "Mayflower," to remind them of the homely gardens they had left behind. It is Oriental by birth, but I always feel it has a saint somewhere to its name.

The making of a garden of this kind is particularly interesting, especially if the children help you with its fashioning, for as one legend or bit of quaint superstition to your share, connected with the bloss shrub planted, there are bound to be So you go on until making a garde comes a pastime with as many aspect seven-pointed star.

"A garden is a lovesome thing," but how lovesome one never knows until legends and superstitions are unearthe one way of doing this is to make living, glowing Garden of the Saints.

Heuchera brizoides

Most lovers of hardy perennial plan acquainted with that rather difficult s Heuchera sanguinea, but comparativel I notice, know, even by sight, the les liant but much more accommodatin brizoides. While the former is very well flowered, the latter, with only mo attention, is, annually, a mass of very ing spikes of small coral-pink flowe much value for garden decoration marked excellence for dinner-table ment. Although, as I have just rem the colour is less brilliant than in the H. sanguinea, it is yet very pleasing t people, while the quantity of spikes pr by a well-grown plant is astonishing. also possessed of very beautiful and bronzy foliage, while the thin wiry stems are stiff and erect, making then for cutting. This plant is of easy c thriving in any good garden soil. It increased by division in spring, but t method of propagation is by means tings in autumn. Insert in boxes of compost and winter in a cold frame. out in April. Although the young plan bloom all right the first summer after ing they are much finer the followin subsequent years. Heuchera brizoides a pleasing clump near the front of the border, but is more effective if plan small beds by itself or in conjunctio Nepeta Mussini. Many ladies consid these two plants when mixed make a combination, as also when mixed in state. H. brizoides continues decorati several weeks and is much sought a bees. Altogether a very desirable pl any garden. C. B.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow

Nemophila insignis

Although this is one of the best annuals, it may be well to remind who value cut flowers of the strong that it makes when autumn-sown. middle of May we were cutting it fr accompany bowls of Choisya and ol Lilac. As with all hardy annuals t sown in early September, the growth three times as vigorous as that of th plants sown in spring, and the bl nearly twice as large. The lovel flowers are 1¼ inches across and of the colour; the bluntly-toothed leaves, f freshest green, stand up boldly; whole can be cut 9 inches long, so enabling be used with rather large effect. The should be drastically thinned, for ea spread over 18 inches of ground.

Onosma tauricum

This delightful Golden Drop is one most useful plants for wall gardenin position on the wall seems to suit i better than on the rock garden, flowers are seen to more advantage. evergreen perennial soon forming tufts and bearing in early summer d clusters of sweetly-scented clear flowers. It requires a good depth composed of sandy loam and grit to One regrets that Kingdon Ward Onosma is not as hardy as this one.

THE JUNE BORDERS

The June borders, looking east

lways an ad-
e if spaces can
nd in gardens
nts that bloom
ar the same
n be grouped
This was
ne case of the
ns, which
views of a
rder for the
June. In the
l is a mass of
rple Geranium
the best of the
s. A well-
sh of Olearia
to the left,
ore of the
followed by
hite Oriental
rry's White, a
e white with
urple blotch.
e Irises, both
l purple and
followed by
e Lupins and
s, this yellow
inating in a
a fine hybrid
Verbascum,
a big bush of
. The yellow
of the Privet
and distinct
ne of the best

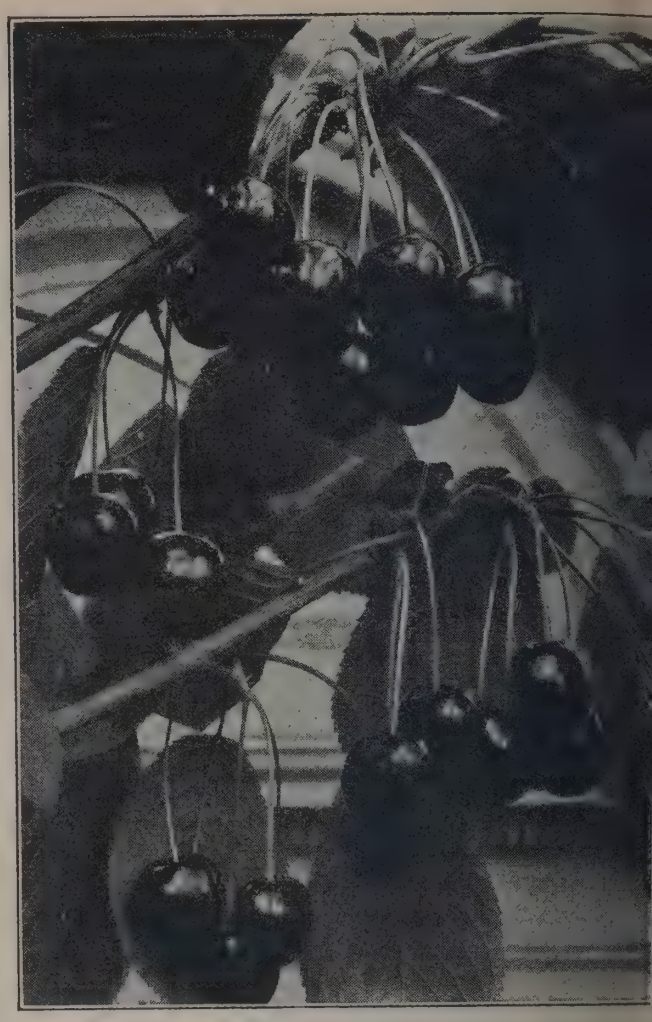
The June borders, looking west

things in a flower border where a good yellow is desired. Among the groups of white and yellow flowers, and elsewhere in the borders, is a useful plant, Peltaria alliacea; not so well known as it should be, for it is just right as a filling plant in a June border. In habit it is something like an Alyssum (it is also a crucifer), but the foot-high growth is upright, and the corymbs of white bloom form fairly close masses between plants of taller growth. The specific name will prepare the observer for the smell of garlic that the plant gives off if handled or disturbed.

The second picture shows the same double border from the other end, with Nepeta on the right, followed by yellow and white Tree Lupins; on the left are groups of the fine Lupin, Munstead Ivory, and on both sides bordering drifts of pink and white Pinks.

G. J.

Kestrel, a first early Peach



A fine black Cherry: Ursula Rivers

POT FRUITS AT VINCENT SQUARE

Royal Horticultural Society

An imposing display of Delphiniums, Pæonies, Sweet Peas, and pot fruits—but very few Strawberries

WHERE are the Strawberries? This question was asked by many visitors to the Royal Horticultural Society's Show held at Vincent Square on June 21st and 22nd. Strawberries were scheduled as the special feature of the meeting, and visitors came from afar to see them.

There was only one small group of Strawberries, those of good quality from Laxtons, Bedford, comprising a few appetising baskets of the new varieties King George and the Duke and Duchess of York.

Some say that the lack of Strawberries is due to drought, others put it down to spring frosts or a cold June. Whatever the cause may have been, it was a most unusual Strawberry show.

Happily, there were excellent pot fruits—Cherries, Peaches, Nectarines, and Figs—shown by T. Rivers and Sons, Ltd., and a very fine collection of Melons sent by Lord Leconfield. The best of the Peaches were Peregrine and Kestrel. The Nectarines included Early Rivers and Lord Napier, whilst the Cherries comprised the splendid varieties Ursula Rivers, May Duke, and Belle d'Orleans. The variety Ursula Rivers, above illustrated, is black-fruited and is in season in early July. It gained an Award of Merit in 1921. The well-fruited pot Cherries had been grown in a cold house.

Delphiniums and Pæonies

Blackmore and Langdon's Delphiniums were the talk of London. An imposing array of exceptionally tall and well-grown spikes towering heavenwards formed the chief feature of the show. It was a splendid collection of Delphiniums, and the only exhibit to receive the gold medal. One countryman who came to see Strawberries gazed at the well-fed Delphiniums in amazement, and was heard to remark that they had been given "copious supplies of dirty water." The following Delphiniums were particularly good:—Mrs. Townley Parker (lavender-blue), Phyllis (pale blue), Blue Boy, Purple King (of rich colour), Mrs. A. J. Watson, and Constance (sky-blue with white eye).

Some glorious Pæonies came from Langport, including Globe of Light, a pretty single pink with apricot centre, which gained an Award of Merit. Other notable varieties were Smoke of War and Langport Triumph.

Major G. Churcher and Sir William Lawrence were runners-up for the Mrs. Edward Harding Cup for Pæonies, which was again won by Mr. W. B. Cranfield. His exhibit contained Orion, a ruby-coloured seedling from Emperor, which gained an Award of Merit.

An interesting collection of shrubs came from the Donard Nursery Co. This collection included a large specimen Olearia semidentata, the new Escallonia Donard Gem, which received an Award of Merit, and Lithospermum Boscaweni, illustrated on the page opposite.

Among the new plants to gain the Award of Merit was Cistus cyprius immaculatus, a pure white form of this hybrid, show William Lawrence.

Lilium regale and L. Martagon all both well shown by R. Wallace and

Old-fashioned Roses, some of th fragrant, were shown by George and Co. Perhaps the most fragr Apothecary's Rose, Coupe d'Hebe, cristata.

Promising novelties in Sweet Peas Prince of Orange (vivid orange-re eagles (lavender), and Camellia (pu

Carnations and Pinks were wel especially Dianthus Allwoodii, an Pinks by C. H. Herbert and W. We The last named also showed the Gypsophila Boston Fairy.

Barr's fine show of English Irise Blue Giant, Duchess of York (rich Prince Mauritz (rosy-purple).

A new and very attractive Icela named Coonara was shown in grea by Messrs. W. J. Unwin. The col in pleasing tones of yellow tinged w

Figs

These are now ripening, and sy the foliage must be withheld fo This, however, should not prevent ing down of borders and footpaths day if the weather is hot and dry. should be permitted to hang unti fully ripe and a tear is seen falling eye, as, unlike most fruits, they do up well or retain their flavour when prematurely. As soon as the first been gathered a close atmosphere, syringing, damping, and feeding n sumed in order to develop the se already swelling.

NOVELTIES AT VINCENT SQUARE

ra Jamesoni Mrs. Carl Holmes, intense scarlet-vermilion. mos Perry.

sutschuenense as a pot plant with fifteen flowers, orange-colour, turning to scarlet-vermilion. Shown by L. R. d.

3. Mr. Unwin's new Iceland Poppy Coonara, yellow tinged with pink.

4. Cypripedium californicum, flowers greenish yellow with white labellum. Shown by Amos Perry.

5. Leptospermum Boscaweni. Shown by the Donard Nursery Co.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Water Lilies

The cleaning of the water's surface must be continually attended to, otherwise the various water weeds will eventually embrace both Lilies and other aquatics, coating the whole area of water with a solid mat of growth. The present is a good time to remove all such objectionable matter from lakes and ponds, where these handsome flowers are often grown in a large way. It is of equal importance where such plants are grown on a smaller scale. Pond weeds should be cut either with a knife attached to a barge or boat, which can be raised or lowered at will according to the depth of the water or with a short-bladed scythe. The weeds should be cut as low down in the water as possible, but such strong-growing subjects as the Great Reed Mace (Typha latifolia) and the Sweet Flag (Acorus Calamus), which usually present themselves in the centre of a group of Lilies, are best when drawn out by the roots. In moving water it is wise to commence cleaning at the lowest end and work up stream, otherwise the stirring up of the water will prevent the worker seeing what has been done and what has not; also the cut weeds will then float away from his work and collect at the sides, where they can be more conveniently collected and disposed of. The water vole is very troublesome here, cutting off the heads of blooms, and, after transporting them to the edge of the water, eats out the centre of the flower. The water hen picks out the centre of the open blooms and stabs every leaf through with its claws when running over the surface. Both are kept under control by the use of spring traps placed beneath the surface of the water.

Bella Donna Lily (Amaryllis) and Sternbergia lutea

Those who desire to grow these fine autumn flowers should place their orders without delay, and those who wish to divide up existing plantations may now do so. Well-drained and prepared soil at the foot of a south or west wall suits these Lilies admirably.

Watering

This must be freely indulged in should the dry spell continue, for if plants which were at all root-bound when planted in the beds get really dry leaf-dropping will set in. Soak climbing plants growing at the foot of sunny walls and all summer-flowering plants. Tufted Pansies must not be permitted to get dry at any time, to avoid which a light mulch will prove effective.

Gladiolus

Stakes should be applied to these when the plants have reached 1 foot in height, and those grown in the reserve garden for cutting purposes may be secured to cords strained along the lines.

Roses in beds

A dusting of guano or approved Rose manure between the bushes during showery weather will improve both the vigour of the bushes and the quality of the flowers. Soak this in if the weather proves dry or prolonged.

Narcissi

Lift and separate the bulbs in crowded borders, and after thoroughly preparing a fresh site replant only the best specimens in lines at 1 foot apart. A little well-decayed manure should be worked into the soil.

Strawberries

Plants which were used for forcing should be planted out in lines at 2 feet 6 inches apart after having been dipped in a good insecticide. These will require frequent waterings until they have taken well hold of the soil. Keep all layers cut away; they will then make fine, strong, fruiting plants for next year. Continue layering on the open beds and guard against the pots containing the layers becoming dry.

Peaches and Figs growing on walls

Trees in the open must be constantly supplied with moisture at their roots and be freely syringed daily. Tie in the shoots regularly in order that the fruits obtain the full benefit of sunshine, and where the latter are set too thickly remove half their number.

Apples and Pears

Continue to stop the side shoots of those trained to walls and fences, and thin the fruits, which have, in many instances, set too thickly. Water newly-planted trees and spray them late in the afternoon.

Parsley

A sowing should now be made to provide the winter supply, and if a few lines are sown at 1 foot apart on a narrow border a frame may be placed over them during the winter months.

Carrots

A stump-rooted variety sown now will provide nice roots in the autumn, such roots being often preferred to the larger specimens.

Celery and Leeks

Make further plantings of these for late use. Keep these and early lines freely supplied with water and liquid-manure, with an occasional dusting of the foliage with soot.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Double Arabis albida

The snow-white spikes of bloom of this dwarf plant are, early in the season, very welcome, not only for their help in brightening garden and rockery when there are but few other plants in bloom, but they are also useful as cut flowers, and great aids in wreath-making. Cuttings secured now and dibbled firmly into a bed of sandy compost in the open will soon root, and in a few week's time may be transferred to their permanent quarters.

Aubrietias

These delightful trailing plants are not nearly so widely grown as their merits demand, for in late April, throughout May, and well into June they brighten the garden wonderfully. In autumn they are not very easy to root, but if strong, fresh shoots are secured now and inserted in boxes of very sandy compost they are, usually, much more certain to succeed. There are now quite a range of colours, every taste being capable of being satisfied. Set the boxes of cuttings in a shady, cold frame, but do not keep too close or the leaves turn yellow.

Border Pinks

One can hardly have too many of these delightful dwarf plants, and the present is a suitable time for increasing stocks by means of cuttings. In the more favoured districts cuttings root quite readily if inserted in a shady corner out-of-doors, but in many places it is safer to use well-drained very sandy compost, make the cuttin firm in the soil, and set in a sha frame. While the soil must never mitted to get dry too frequent, water be carefully avoided.

Dahlias in summer

Growth is now rapid, and frequen tion is necessary in the way of tyin shoots. Do not permit overcrowdi cut away all unnecessary growths. the weather continue dry, copious of the soil at the roots is imperativ an occasional soaking of liquid-ma very beneficial where any lack of present.

Finish planting Celery

There should not be much more having the main crop of this importa table transferred to its permanent Should the weather be dry well w trench a few hours previous to plan ing carried out, and again in the after the plants are in position. A li porary shade for a week is very h getting the plants established.

Saving seed Potatoes

As is now well known, the best " that where the tubers are dug befo fully ripe. It is a good plan, ther have a box handy while digging supply for the kitchen, and droppin suitably-sized tubers and leaving th exposed to the sun's rays.

The main crop of Leeks

As soon, now, as the plants att decent size they should be plante their permanent quarters. Very rich worked ground is essential for Leek good results be desired. While t numerous good varieties in cultivat doubtful if any one of them can c general utility, the old "Scotch burgh." It is very hardy, grows t size, and does not readily "bolt" in

Feed Onions

Being a gross feeder, the Onion supplied with the requisite nou more especially where large bulbs mand. On light, dry soils a little salt sprinkled between the plants is helpful, while sulphate of amm guano are very good for this cro water and moderately strong liqu are also excellent.

Sow spring Cabbages

In most of our northern district sowing Spring Cabbages until the e or early in August is just to ask fo plants raised so late having not th chance of being fit for use before April. The first week in July has b to be the best time. Sow in dri apart, choosing a sunny, fully-exp tion for the seed-bed. Velocity, Marrow, and Flower of Spring I hardy and reliable in every way.

Harvesting Shallots

Nothing is gained by permittin remain out after they are ripe, but reverse, as the Shallot begins almo ately to throw out fresh roots. therefore, as they part easily fro have them up and spread thinly i shine until perfectly cured, when t be placed in net bags and hung in place for the winter.

Preston House Gardens, Linlith

tour round the Temple

RGE number of guests assembled in Publications Hall of Bouverie se, Fleet Street, E.C., the offices of others, Ltd., publishers of GARDENSTRATED and associated journals, on June 21st, for the first of the series which are being arranged for suband friends. The tours are being en to beauty spots and places of interest in London under the of Mr. Allen S. Walker, who is a University lecturer and whose broads on English Antiquities have been lar with listeners-in.

ests were welcomed by the Chairne Company, Sir Ernest J. P. Benn, said that the firm was proud of and that there was all too little de to get to know it, to study it, vel in it. Mr. Walker had devoted a wonderful way to the study and of the treasures of art and history had at home in England, and it ed to the Board of Benn Brothers proper that, the Company being in its new home in Fleet Street, it vite its friends to share some of its n City life.

ty, on leaving the building, crossed et and stopped for a moment while er pointed out the austere modern the office building from which they g to see the antique loveliness of le. Passing down Fleet Street the ered the Temple, first visiting the Church, which, said Mr. Walker, of the most architecturally satisfyndon. Originally the Temple was n house of some of the Crusaders 185, decided that they would like to n Holborn closer to the waterside. perty eventually passed to the f St. John of Jerusalem, who, in , let it to the Society of the students for £10 a year. In the course of came the seat of two law societies, he Inner and the Middle Temple. rch was built somewhat in the style after an eastern church re- e on the site of Solomon's Temple, name. The round part was not othic, but the latter part of the church showed Gothic architecture in its perfection.

Fountain Court, the Temple
The buildings are as they were in Dickens' time. The trees since then have been renewed

Temple Garden from the Hall
he steps lead to the Library

Leaving the church the visitors were shown the quiet seclusion of some of the courts of the Temple, and passed into the hall of the Inner Temple. One of the most interesting portions of which was a small chamber reputed to have survived from the time of Chaucer, who, they were amused to hear, was while a student at the Inner Temple fined 2s. for fighting with a friar in Fleet Street. After leaving the Temple Gardens, where Shakespeare laid the scene of the plucking of the red and white Roses, a move was made to No. 3, Crown Office Row, the reputed birthplace of Charles Lamb, and to No. 2, Brick Court, where Oliver Goldsmith died. A magnificent view of the Middle Temple Library was seen from the Plane tree-covered Fountain Court. After enjoying the dignified beauty of the Middle Temple Hall, with its superb Elizabethan screen, the guests were privileged to see the Parliament Chamber of the Benchers of the Middle Temple.

A return was then made to Bouverie House, where an excellent tea was enjoyed in the Staff Canteen.

That the visit was a great success may be gathered from the following extract from a letter received from Mr. Arthur G. N. Launder, who writes from Brixton Hill, June 22nd:—"The visit to the Temple yesterday was most enjoyable, and I feel sure the whole of the company was enraptured with the lecturer's marvellous description of the place. His prodigious memory and ready answer to any inquiry show us how closely he had studied his subject. He is certainly an authority on architecture, and, withal, most humorous. In a word, it was one of the most interesting accounts I have ever heard—those that missed it lost a treat."

The next tour will be on Tuesday, July 5th. Readers and their friends should assemble in the Publications Hall, Bouverie House, at 2.45 p.m., to meet us and Mr. Walker, and to then take a tour of the neighbouring City under Mr. Walker's guidance, the tour ending up at Bouverie House at 5.30 p.m., where a cup of tea will be served in the Staff Canteen.

Readers are asked to apply to the Editor prior to their intending visit for tickets for the party on the day which they select. We give herewith brief particulars of the tours.

PROGRAMME OF LONDON VISITS.

WEDNESDAY, June 29 ..	**St. Clement Danes** (Dr. Johnson's Church). No. 17, Fleet Street, XIIth Century. "Old Curiosity Shop" (escaped Fire of 1666). Dr. Johnson's House, Gough Square.
TUESDAY, July 5	**St. Bride's, Fleet Street** (the Printer's Church). "Bridewell Place" Remains. The River Fleet. "Daily Telegraph" or "Daily Mail" Offices also.
WEDNESDAY, July 13 ..	The Royal Courts of Justice. Record Office Museum (containing Domesday Book). Lincoln's Inn.
TUESDAY, July 19 ..	Priory Church of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield, XIIth Century. St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
WEDNESDAY, July 27 ..	**The Charterhouse.** Ancient Carthusian Monastery. Smithfield Market.
WEDNESDAY, Aug. 3 ..	Central Criminal Courts. Christ Church, Greyfriars.
TUESDAY, Aug. 9	St. John's Priory Church. St. John's Gate, Headquarters of the Crusading Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.
WEDNESDAY, Sept. 7 ..	St. Paul's Cathedral.
TUESDAY, Sept. 13 ..	St. Martin's, Ludgate. Remains of London Wall. Stationers' Hall.
WEDNESDAY, Sept. 21 ..	St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe. Playhouse Yard (site of Shakespeare's Blackfriars Theatre). The Apothecaries' Hall.
TUESDAY, Sept. 27 ..	Staple Inn. Furnival's Inn. "The Old Houses on Holborn." St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill. (Dickensland.)

No charge will be made to subscribers and friends who join these City parties.

FORM OF APPLICATION

To the Editor of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED,
BOUVERIE HOUSE,
FLEET STREET, E.C. 4.

A VISIT TO THE CITY.

I should be glad to have tickets to join your Visit to the City under Mr. A. S. Walker at 2.45 p.m. on

If your party for this date is full up, please book me for one of the following dates:

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Water Lilies

(*Concluded from page* 311.)

LILY pads! Whence *pads?* No other leaf is identified with that singular monosyllable. Has our floating Lotus leaf any connection with padding, or with a footpad? With the ambling pad of an abbot, or a paddle, or a paddock, or a padlock? with many-domed Padua proud, or with St. Patrick? Is the name derived from the Anglo-Saxon *paad* or *petthian?* All the etymologists are silent on the subject; Tooke and Richardson ignore the problem; and of the innumerable pamphlets in the Worcester and Webster controversy, loading the tables of school-committeemen, not one ventures to grapple with the Lily pad. The Sanscrit name for the Lotus is simply *Padma.* The learned Brahmins call the Egyptian deities Padma Devi, or Lotus gods; the second of the 18 Hindoo Puranas is styled the Padma Purana, because it treats of the "epoch when the world was a golden Lotus"; and the sacred incantation which goes murmuring through Thibet is "Om mani padme houm." It would be singular, if upon these delicate floating leaves a fragment of our earliest vernacular has been borne down to us, so that here the schoolboy is more learned than the *savans.* This lets us down easily to the more familiar uses of this plant divine.

By the Nile, in early days, the Water Lily was good not merely for devotion, but for diet. "From the seeds of the Lotus," said Pliny, "the Egyptians make bread." The Hindoos still eat the seeds roasted in sand; also the stalks and roots. In South America, from the seed of the Victoria (Nymphæa Victoria, now Victoria regia) a farina is made, preferred to that of the finest Wheat—Bonpland even suggesting to our reluctant imagination Victoria-pies. But the European species are used, as far as we know, only in dyeing. Our own Water Lily has some strange peculiarities of structure. So loose is the internal distribution of its tissues that it was for some time held doubtful to which of the two great vegetable divisions, exogenous or endogenous, it belonged. Its petals, moreover, furnish the best examples of the gradual transition of petals into stamens—illustrating that wonderful law of identity which is the great discovery of modern science. Every child knows this peculiarity of the Water Lily, but the extent of it seems to vary with season and locality, and sometimes one finds a succession of flowers almost entirely free from this confusion of organs.

Our readers may not care to know that the order of Nymphæaceæ "differs from Ranunculaceæ in the consolidation of its carpels, from Papaveraceæ in the placentation not being parietal, and from Nelumbiaceæ in the want of a large truncated disc containing monospermous achenia"; but they may like to know that the Water Lily has relations on land, in all gradations of society, from Poppy to Magnolia, and yet does not conform its habits precisely to those of any of them. Its great black roots, sometimes as large as a man's arm, form a network at the bottom of the water. Its stem floats, an airy four-celled tube, adapting itself to the depth, though never stiff in shallows, like the stalk of the Yellow Lily; and it contracts and curves when seed-time approaches, though not so ingeniously as the spiral threads of the European Vallisneria, which uncoil to let the flowers rise to the surface, and then cautiously retract, that the seeds may ripen on the very bottom of the lake. The leaves show beneath the magnifier beautiful adaptations of structure. They are not, like those of land plants, constructed with deep veins to receive the rain and conduct it to the stem, but are smooth and glossy, and of even surface. The leaves of land vegetation have also thousands of little breathing-pores, principally on the under side; the Apple leaf, for instance, has 24,000 to a square inch. But here they are fewer; they are wholly on the upper side, and, whereas in other cases they open or shut according to the moisture of the atmosphere, here the greedy leaves, secure of moisture, scarcely deign to close them. Nevertheless, even these give some recognition of hygrometric necessities, and, though living on the water, and not merely christened with dewdrops like other leaves, but baptised by immersion all the time, they are yet known to suffer in drought and apparently to take pleasure in heavy falls of rain.

The Royal Water Lily

We have spoken of the various kindred of the Water Lily, but we must not leave our fragrant subject without due mention of its most magnificent, most lovely, relative, at first claimed even as its twin sister, and classed as a Nymphæa. We once lived near neighbour to a Victoria regia. Nothing, in the world of vegetable existence, has such a human interest. The charm is not in the mere size of the plant, which disappoints everybody, as Niagara does, when tried by that sole standard. The leaves of the Victoria, indeed, attain a diameter of 6 feet; the largest flowers, of 23 inches—less than four times the size of the largest of our Water Lilies. But it is not the mere looks of the Victoria, it is its life which fascinates. It is not a thing merely of dimensions, nor merely of beauty, but a creature of vitality and motion. Those vast leaves expand and change almost visibly. They have been known to grow ½ inch an hour, 8 inches a day. Rising one day from the water, a mere clenched mass of yellow prickles, a leaf is transformed the next day to a crimson salver, gorgeously tinted on its upturned rim. Then it spreads into a raft of green, armed with long thorns, and supported by a framework of ribs and cross-pieces, an inch thick substantial that the Brazil Indians gathering the seed-vessels, place thei children on the leaves—yrupe, or platter, they call the accommodatin But even these expanding leaves are glory of the Victoria; the glory is in t ing of the flower.

We have sometimes looked in, for ing moment, at the greenhouse, its d place, during the period of floweri then stayed for more than an hour, u leave the fascinating scene. After the flower-bud has reared its dark head f placid tank, moving it a little, uneas some imprisoned water creature, it pa a moment in a sort of dumb despair trembling again, and collecting all its it thrusts open, with an indignant j rough calyx-leaves, and the beauti robing begins. The firm, white, cone, first so closely infolded, quivers and swiftly, before your eyes, the fir hundred petals detaches its delicat and springs back, opening towards th while its white reflection opens to n from below. Many moments of re low—you watch—another petal trem taches, springs open, and is still another, and another, and anothe movement is so quiet, yet so dec living, so human, that the radiant r seems a Musidora of the water, almost blush with a sense of guilt i on that peerless privacy. As petal y slowly opens, there still stands th cone of snow, a glacier, an alp, a j while each avalanche of whiteness s last. Meanwhile, a strange rich o the air, and Nature seems to concer fascinations and claim all senses jubilee of her darling. So pass the e moments of the evening, till the f pauses at last, and remains for h changed.

In the morning, one by one, th petals close again, shutting all the in, and you watch through the sh for the period of waking. Can th transfigured creature appear again same chaste beauty? Your fancy car

Scotney Castle and lake, where Water Lilies thrive

fearing some disastrous change; and ncy is too true a prophet. Come fter the second day's opening, and t at the transformation which one s secretly produced. Can this be the Victoria—this thing of crimson this pile of pink and yellow, relaxed, l, voluptuous, lolling languidly upon r, never to rise again? In this short y tint of every petal is transformed; geous in beauty, but it is "Hebe Magdalen." But our rustic Water innocent Nymphæa, never claiming nothouse glory, never drooping into lush, blooms on placidly in the quiet ill she modestly folds her leaves for ime, and bows her head beneath the or ever. Next year she lives for us er children, fair and pure as herself. alone in them, but also in memory. vision will not fade from us, though le has dipped its last crystal drop waves, and the boat is drawn upon e. We may yet visit many lovely ely places—meadows thick with r the homes of the shy Rhodora, or ping forest-haunts where the slight hangs its twin-born heads—but no l linger on our vision like this annual he Lilies. A. M.

Pyrethrums

r fancy intuition was the cause of to Salisbury during the Whitsun . True, I had always wanted to district, but why I should have his particular season of the year I the faintest idea. The thoughts and the horticultural lover usually turn ies particularly rich in flora, and each county has its own special type there are, naturally, some which ore than others. This as it may be, myself at Salisbury, Sunday morn- like all lovers of the beautiful, lost n viewing the magnificent Cathedral. g the Cathedral Close, with its re- well-kept lawns, I wended my way ld bridge, and there, in the shadow athedral spire, I viewed, with no ll and enthusiasm, a veritable feast .

ums, not by the dozen, not by the but by the thousand. It being he gate was locked, but I noticed n busy cutting, and one (whom I s learned was the proprietor) came d very kindly asked me if I would closer inspection. Needless to say, the opportunity with alacrity, and re and then another horticultural Mr. Gullick (for it was his nursery h I had stepped) left his men, who y cutting for Truro Show, and ound with me.

,000 plants, and each a specimen. ve I seen such a wonderful display rums. Standing out like a giant, ns 3½ feet and large vivid crimson wonderful substance, was a bed of obinson, without doubt the finest of . Close by, three large beds of ueen were in evidence, a double, e variety, raised by Mr. Gullick, a mpanion to Harold Robinson, while ich merited special attention were ay Robinson, delightful shade of , single; Dainty Queen, pale pink m centre, double; Deese, very large double flowers; J. N. Twerdy, full wers of crimson and gold; Queen y free-growing, deep pink, double; rey, bright crimson, single; Mrs. Brown, vivid crimson, single; Moore, silvery-pink; Princess of ft pink; Snow White, pure single white; Agnes Mary Kelway, bright rose; Dr. Bosche, small, but grown for its real salmon-pink flowers; and numerous others, which time and space will not allow me to describe.

As border plants they are in the front rank, and for house decoration no other hardy perennial is their equal. Their long slender stalks with graceful Fern-like foliage, and delightfully charming flowers in shades of white, cream, pink, red, and crimson provide a display surpassing any other hardy plant. The lasting quality of the flowers when cut is remarkable, petals rarely falling, even after a period of eight or 10 days.

It is a mistake to transplant Pyrethrums during the autumn and winter months. The end of March and the beginning of April is best. Select an open sunny position, and see that the soil is well trenched, and well-decayed manure incorporated. A good loamy soil is preferable, but not essential, as they will grow successfully in practically any kind of soil that is well drained and not of a cold, damp nature. Lovers of the Pyrethrums (and they are many in number) are often troubled with slugs and other garden pests, especially in the early stages of growth, and to prevent the destruction of plants a light dressing of Vaporite will prove efficacious.

Many experts favour transplanting in July (after flowering), and providing that care and attention is given in the matter of watering until the plants have taken a thorough hold, very successful plantings can then be made.

F. T.

VEGETABLES

Celery blight

SPRAYING should commence when the plants are in the seed-bed, but it is not too late to check old infection of late blight or prevent the new. As this disease is so widespread and prevalent, it seems folly to hope for the possibility of having a crop free from the disease where preventive measures are not used. Every grower who has been growing Celery is familiar with the disease, but for the beginner we may add a word or two of description. The disease first appears as light yellow spots on the leaves, which later turn to brown and the areas die. These spots tend to be circular in outline on the leaves, but where one or more spots have enlarged and joined they may be very irregular. The diseased areas on the stems are more elongated.

Some growers are under the impression that seed treatment should be effective in the control of this disease, but, while it is effective in eliminating some possibilities of infection, it is far from being an efficient means of control, because the disease will winter over on all Celery refuse material. It is important that spraying or dusting should be carried on throughout the entire season, because the diseased areas on the plants which are placed in storage provide a good place for other diseases to get in. Where large quantities of nitrate or manure are present the plants seem to be more subject to this disease, so just because you have good soil and big healthy plants now is no reason for hoping for them to be free from the disease throughout the season.

WHAT SPRAY TO USE.—When spraying, a 5-5-50 Bordeaux mixture should be used. The lime and copper sulphate should be dissolved separately and then each diluted to 25 gallons and then mixed together.

If dusting is practised, a 20-80 copper-lime dust is quite satisfactory, or a combination of 50 per cent. each of Bordeaux—dust and sulphur, may be used.

The plants should be given two applications when in the seed-bed; the first when they are about an inch high, the second just prior to planting out. The next application should be made when the plants are 6 inches to 8 inches high, and then each week following until a week or 10 days before harvesting. When spraying, about 100 gallons of the Bordeaux will be required per acre when the plants are nearly full-grown, and smaller quantities in proportion to the size of the plants on earlier applications. From 25 lbs. to 35 lbs. of the dust will be required per acre, depending on the size of the plants. If a good coating is not secured by going over the row once it should be repeated, commencing at the opposite end. Where the blight has obtained a good start it is frequently advisable to repeat the treatment after three days.

Trials of Autumn-sown Onions and Cabbages

The Royal Horticultural Society will, during the coming season, carry out a trial of autumn-sown Onions and Cabbages. Seedsmen and growers are invited to send a packet of each variety of these two vegetables which they desire entered for the trials to The Director, R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey (from whom the necessary entry forms may be obtained), to reach him on or before June 30th, 1927.

Insect pests

ONION ROOT MAGGOT.—Onion root fly is now very busy egg-laying, and in some cases maggots have already appeared. If this pest has not yet made an appearance in the spring-sown Onion crop the bed should be at once dressed with a good soil insecticide or with creosote. The soil insecticide should be used according to the maker's instructions, while the creosote should be made as follows:—Take 4 ozs. of creosote and mix with 12 lbs. of fine dry garden soil. The creosote should be well stirred into the soil and the mixture covered with a damp sack for 24 hours. Apply the mixture broadcast at the rate of 1 lb. per 10 square yards. If the maggot has already appeared in the bed the plants should be gone over, and any that show signs of wilting should be carefully lifted and burned. The bed should afterwards be treated with a soil insecticide.

CARROT ROOT MAGGOT.—The Carrot fly is now on the wing, and if root maggot is to be prevented, the dressing advised above for Onion maggot should be applied to the Carrot bed.

BEAN APHIS.—The Black Fly, or Black Dolphin, will be arriving on the Broad Bean very shortly, and two methods of control are open to the cultivator. (1) When the plants are well forward and have a good crop of flowers already set or in the process of opening it is a good plan to keep a sharp look-out for the arrival of the aphis, and then pinch out the growing points of the plants. (2) As soon as the aphis arrives spray the plants with a good plant wash containing nicotine. Note.—When growing points of Broad Beans are taken out they should be burned and not thrown onto the ground.

TRADE NOTE

A ball of green raffia tape

A ball of green raffia tape in handy form is prepared by the blinded soldiers of St. Dunstan's. The string net-container is arranged to pin on to one's coat or to hang on a handy branch. The container, complete with 250 yards of raffia tape, is sold for 2s., *plus* postage 2½d., and it may be obtained direct from St. Dunstan's, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, N.W. 1.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

GREENHOUSE

A Syrian Arum

I should be grateful for any information you can give me as to the culture of a Syrian Arum which was sent home a few days ago. I was told the flower was almost black, but it has never flowered with its late owner, to whom it was sent from Syria. At present it is in a pot in a cold greenhouse.

"REDBARNS."

[Your plant is, probably, Arum palæstinum, a tender species with a spathe from 7 inches to 11 inches long, purple and blotched on the outside, velvety black within. These should be produced in May in an ordinary greenhouse. Good cultivation is essential if you wish it to flower, and plenty of moisture is needed during the growing season. Some old, well-rotted manure, rich loam, and sharp sand make a good compost for it. When the leaves turn yellow, water supplies should be shortened, and stopped altogether when the leaves have died down. They must be kept dry in their pots all the winter, and shaken out, re-potted, and started into growth in the spring, and kept growing on rapidly without a check to induce them to flower.]

Treatment of Lilium longiflorum var. formosum

Last autumn I purchased a bulb of Lilium longiflorum formosum. It has now a great, strong stem showing seven large buds, and it has also two smaller stems, also showing buds. Would you tell me how to treat it when it goes out of blossom, and if, when repotting, I should remove small bulbs or place all in a larger pot? A READER.

[When the flowers are over, water should be sparingly applied until the leaves turn yellow, when it should be withheld altogether. The pot may then be laid on its side in a cool place until the end of August, when the bulbs should be shaken out and repotted into good open soil containing a fair proportion of sharp sand. The largest bulbs should be potted singly and the smaller bulblets planted together in a separate pot at about 2 inches apart. Do not fill the pots more than three parts full. You will then be able to give a liberal top-dressing when the plants are in full growth. A cool frame is the best place for the newly-potted plants for a time.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Primula chionantha

Will you kindly tell me what sort of conditions suit Primula chionantha? Does it need shade or heavy soil? I had one which, after doing well one season, seemed to melt away at the root as though attacked by fungus. Is it liable to this? "REDBARNS."

[Primula chionantha belongs to the difficult Nivalis section, of which it is the most tractable. It is, however, very liable to collapse as you describe, especially after flowering and ripening seed. The ideal spot for it is a partly shaded position in good loam, with a liberal supply of cow dung well below its roots, amply moist in summer and well drained during the winter months. Dryness at the roots after flowering or too wet winter conditions are apt to cause the rotting off of the crowns where they join the roots.]

"Fire" in Tulips

I should very much like to know why this Tulip bulb has grown like this. It was raised from a mixed bed, and several are like this. They are Darwin Tulips. The blooms were poor. A. J. MACMILLAN.

[The small portion of leaf included with the Tulips sent has been affected with "fire," which invariably results when Tulips are grown in a damp atmosphere or during dull weather, when the sun strikes the moisture lying on the leaves and causes the tissue of the structure to burn. "Fire" is, of course, a fungus, but it may always be counted to follow such conditions. If the plants were badly affected it would cause the flowers to be poor, because the leaves under such conditions cannot fulfil their functions. Our correspondent sends three small bulbs which have obviously been lifted before they are ripe, and the query may be read as an inquiry why the bulbs should split up in this way. This is, of course, only the natural increase, and the reason the bulbs are small is unquestionably the fact that the foliage became affected by "fire" and was unable to afford nourishment. The bulbs may be regarded as quite healthy for all practical purposes. Large bulbs will flower next year, but bulbs of the size sent will not bloom for two years. All the bulbs should have a little powdered sulphur dusted over them while they are out of the ground. Where the spores of disease are known to exist it is quite a good plan to immerse the bulb 1 per cent. solution of Formaldehyde hour before planting and then sprinkl with a little flowers of sulphur while th wet.]

Balustrading of reconstructed Bath stone

MISCELLANEOUS

Low stone balustrading

(B. W., Merstham).—We suggest t of the stone balustrading here illustrat answers all your requirements for t closed garden. The balustrading "Bathite," a reconstructed Bath stor is supplied by Bathite, Ltd., 24, High Bath. This stone is made chiefly c Bath stone from the old and original Down beds, crushed and ground to powder, afterwards prepared and ca blocks, slabs, or ashlar for buildin poses, of all sizes. In addition to balus it is used for other ornamental work, dials, vases, garden seats, and other a to any shape or pattern required. balustrading here illustrated was exhi Chelsea and at the Royal Cornwal this year.

When to mow a spring sown la the first time

Can you kindly tell me how soon it ble and advisable to mow a lawn April of this year? The grass is no an inch high, but is very ragged and in places. The lawns have been hand weeded and rolled.

[Much depends upon the preparatio surface before sowing and the seaso instance, it has been abnormally d April this year, and except in cases layer of good garden soil was placed surface, newly-sown grass has ma progress this year so far. It is perfe to run a sharp-cutting mower over lawn when the grass has reached inches to 2 inches in height. The should be set rather high for the mowings and be of the roller typ most important to keep young g short once it becomes firmly rooted wise it fails to tiller out and cover the

vn should be rolled with a light roller ne grass is cut for the first time or

FERNS

Ferns

d you name the Fern of which I send rond? I have a strong clump of it. bear dividing, and, if so, at what time ? Will you also give me the names or four good hardy Ferns suitable for g in a chine which forms part of my

PHILIP B. HALCOMBE.

Fern is Polystichum (syn. Aspidium) e var. proliferum, one of the hand- of the hardy Shield Ferns. The best divide an old clump would be in the when the new fronds begin to push before these have grown any length, hilst they are still tightly curled. ood Ferns to plant in your chine will l in the generas Lastræa, Polypodium, ndrium, and Aspidium, of which us fine selected forms are offered by a ecialists. We advise you to ask Amos Perry, Hardy Plant Farm, Middlesex, for their list of hardy nd select from that. They stock an us collection of all the finest forms, ot-grown. If obtained soon you can nt your chine to good effect and have rns firmly established before winter

TREES AND SHRUBS

grown leggy

e some old outdoor Azaleas which own leggy. Can I cut them down one flowering? The Azaleas are d I do not want to part them. They all for their present position.

A. WOOLSEY BITTER.

may prune your Azaleas down to ny extent at the present time, even a foot of the ground; and in quite a ne they will break away again and te themselves. To make a complete of this, however, you must cut the the stems down—not part of them en done. After the cutting back is ly a light mulch of some kind and ld bloom again from the young fresh two years' time. We have success- ated specimens 12 feet high in this

ROSES

anche Moreau not flowering

you kindly tell me what is the with the enclosed Rose Blanche I bought six bushes about 18 ago and planted them in my new den. The leaves curled up as they and they did not flower last year. anted them to another and more place last autumn and the same occurred. All the other Roses in bed were transplanted and are y well.

C. L.

oots you send appear to have been state of things which would follow f an overdose of artificial manure. ildew or fungus appears to be pre- the leaves. To prevent mildew ushes with green flowers of sulphur p, as the latter will not adhere to leaves so well; also prune less indeed, it would pay to thin out the hoots only next year, and merely ngest remaining growths. Do not bushes to suffer from lack of mois-

DENING APPOINTMENT

. PENTON, formerly head gardener Sir ARTHUR PAGET, Warren House, Wood, Kingston Hill, now head r to C. HOLMES, Esq., The Node, , Herts.

Royal Horticultural Society's Amateur Show

THAT the Amateur Show of the Royal Horticultural Society has come to stay there is no doubt. Sweet Peas were well in evidence with some exhibits, evincing the highest quality in their character, comparing favourably with any seen at the leading professional shows. There were two or three groups of stove and greenhouse plants exhibiting great taste in their arrangement and in the quality of the plants. Delphiniums did not appear to be so numerous as last year, but there were several exhibits showing these plants to perfection. Cut sprays of hardy shrubs were beautifully shown, the subjects being pleasingly diverse and charming in their character. Hardy flowers have always been well shown, and the display on this occasion well maintained the excellence of other years.

Hardy annuals, to the surprise of many, were shown in quite satisfactory character considering the early period of the show. Antirrhinums were also good—a very distinct improvement on last year, notwithstanding the boisterous weather of late. Hardy Pinks, though not numerous, were charmingly displayed, being very dainty and noteworthy. There were also some good Border Carnations set up attractively and generally of splendid quality. Violas, mostly of the exhibition kinds, were shown freely, as usual—a great improvement on last year's heterogeneous display. Pot plants of such subjects as Zonal Pelargoniums, Fuchsias, Begonias, and Gloxinias were quite well done, and there were also window-boxes—four of them of varying merit. There were 10 hanging-baskets—a pleasant feature—none, however, particularly noteworthy. Collections of Ferns were interesting, and several very handsome foliage plants, of such subjects as Crotons, Dracænas, and Caladiums. A few of the more noteworthy competitions were the following:—

In the open-to-all amateur section, class 9, for 12 vases Sweet Peas, 18 sprays each of 12 varieties, Mr. F. W. Franks, Loampits, Tonbridge (gardener, Mr. W. Humphrey), led the van with superb examples of Youth, Magnet, Guardsman, Coralline, Picture, Mammoth, Constance Hinton, Daventry, Olympia, Royal Pink, Powerscroft, and Warrior. A good second was Major C. B. Krabbe, Calcot Grange, near Reading (gardener, Mr. A. W. Gower).

The three entrants for 12 vases annuals in not fewer than six kinds found Mr. J. B. Crosfield, Undercroft, Reigate, Surrey, leading (gardener, Mr. P. Sherlock). He had excellent vases of Chrysanthemum Coronet, Clarkia Vesuvius, Nigella Miss Jekyll, Candytuft White Spiral, Chrysanthemum Coronet Improved, Linaria grandiflora, Cornflower (blue), Scabious (mixed), Larkspur (blue), Godetia Rose Pink, and Shirley Poppies.

The six exhibitors in the class for six spikes, each of 6 varieties of Antirrhinums, were most interesting. First prize was awarded to Mrs. M. Hamilton, King's Head, Claygate (gardener, Mr. W. G. Smith). The varieties shown were Sutton's Crimson, Giant Yellow, Dawn, Pink, Primrose Queen, and Maize Queen.

Twelve varieties of Irises were shown by two competitors. The leading lot came from Earl Beatty, Reigate Priory (gardener, Mr. A. Barrett). They were a beautiful series.

The class for 12 kinds hardy flowers, distinct, was very popular. In this instance there were seven competitors. First prize was awarded to Mr. Lionel de Rothschild, Exbury House, Exbury, Southampton (gardener, Mr. A. Bedford). His subjects were Campanula lactiflora, Hedysarum conorarium, Lilium umbellatum, Eryngium amethystinum, Oreocome candollii, Richardia Æthiopica, Clematis integrifolia cœrulea, Funkia Fortuneii, and Rayzia orientalis—a fine lot. There were other very fine exhibits.

The class for a group of flowering and/or foliage plants was well contested, the five entrants being led by Mr. A. P. Brandt, Bletchingly Castle, Bletchingly (gardener, Mr. J. W. Barks). This was a superb arrangement, and included well-grown and highly-coloured Crotons, Dracænas, Palms, Acer Negundo, Hydrangeas, Lilium longifolium, and Tydæa amabilis. The arrangement left nothing to be desired.

There were only two entrants in the class for 12 vases in not less than six varieties Delphiniums, three spikes of each variety. The first prize was won by Mrs. M. Hamilton, who has several seedlings and the following varieties:—Mrs. Townley Parker, Robert Cox, Willie O'Brien, and Blue Bird.

Equal first prize was awarded in the class for 12 vases of cut sprays of hardy shrubs in flower, 12 varieties, additional points being awarded to those exhibits which included several genera. These equal prizes were awarded, respectively, to Mr. G. W. Loder, Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, Sussex, and Mr. Lionel de Rothschild. The exhibit of the latter was rather the more attractive, the more noteworthy subjects being Buddleia alternifolia, Olearia semi-dentata, Grevillea rosemarinifolia, Kalmia latifolia, Magnolia macrophylla, Carpenteria californica, Rhododendron Griersonianum, Escallonia Donard Seedling, Philadelphus Virginal, Leptospermum Chapmanii, and Azalea Optima. Mr. Loder's exhibit contained such subjects as Leptospermum ericoides, Olearia semidentata, Abelia floribunda, Veronica amplexicaulis, Leptospermum scoparium var. Nicholsii, Cæsalpinia japonica, Callistemon salignus, Carpenteria californica, Zenobia speciosa, and Kalmia latifolia. There were fine exhibits in this class.

There were only two entries in the class for 24 blooms of Roses, not fewer than 12 varieties, shown in exhibition boxes. First prize was easily won by Mr. C. H. Rigg, Tetley Lodge, St. Albans, who had a nice even lot of flowers. The better varieties were Bessie Chaplin, Mrs. E. J. Hudson, Mrs. Henry Bowles, Edel, Lieutenant Chaure, Mabel Morse, Mrs. Chas. Lamplough, and Lemon Pillar.

Exhibits in Divisions B and C were of a high order of merit generally, proving most conclusively how this amateur show has caught on and how enthusiastic are growers in each of the three sections.

The Garden Club Cup

Mr. F. W. Franks, Loampits, Tonbridge, Kent, of Sweet Pea fame, was successful in winning the silver cup presented by the Garden Club for the best exhibit in the R.H.S. Amateur Show on June 28th. The Sweet Peas shown by Mr. Franks included superb vases of Magnet, Youth, Mammoth, Picture, and Guardsman.

Garden Lovers' Dinner

Mrs. Stanley Wrench presided at a garden lovers' dinner at the Lyceum Club, 138, Piccadilly, W. 1, on June 27th.

This was the first event of its kind, although both agriculture and horticulture have long been represented in the Club.

The hostesses were Miss Abraham Countess de Ammil, Mrs. Alfred Baines, Miss MacGregor Davies, Mrs. Furmage, Mrs. Lamburn, Miss Joan Kennedy, Mrs. Leonard Rees, Miss Wilhelmina Stitch, Mrs. Stand-

field, and Mrs. Edmund Waller. The guests were Miss Kate Barratt, D.Sc. (Principal of the Horticultural College, Swanley), Mr. Walter Brett, Mr. G. B. Burgin, Mr. W. Hales, A.L.S., of the Physic Garden, Chelsea, Mr. Andrew Soutar, Mrs. Philip Runciman, and Mr. Herbert Cowley.

The spirit of the newly-formed Guild of Garden Lovers is expressed in the following verse from "The Soul of a Gardener," by H. M. Waithman:—

"Give me a fork and let me go
To dig within my garden plot,
Then all the things I needs must know
But would forget are soon forgot."

Miss Wilhelmina Stitch wrote the following verses for this pleasant evening:—

FLOWERS IN THE WINDOW.

Thank you, Madam Neighbour; thank you, madam kind! I can see your Tulips when I raise my blind. I can see Narcissi, glowing starry white, when I draw my curtains shutting out the night.

Bright red are your Tulips, yellow ones as well; they cheer me every morning more than words can tell. Hyacinths (your growing?), wax-like bells, bright blue; Crocuses are showing—very kind of you!

Very kind, dear neighbour, to plant your window-sills for Passers-by and Stay-at-Homes, with golden Daffodils. Stay-at-Homes and Gad-Abouts bless you time again, sharing all your lovely flowers seen through the window-pane!

WILHELMINA STITCH.

In explaining the objects of the movement the President quoted Hudson, the naturalist, who loved the great open spaces of the world, "We are all questing a lost Eden." All garden lovers are dreamers, said the President, but this Guild hoped to be of practical value—they would talk of the gardens of the world and discuss their own gardens. Moreover, it was thought that the Club might be made more beautiful by the greater use of flowers and window-boxes.

Wadhurst Rose and Sweet Pea Show

The Wadhurst Gardening Association are to be congratulated on the success of their second Rose and Sweet Pea Show on June 22. The Courthope Perpetual Challenge Cup for Roses was won by Mrs. A. V. Drummond, of Bassetts, Mark Cross. The Sharp Perpetual Challenge Cup for Sweet Peas was won by Mrs. Wellington Williams, of Shernfold Park, Frant. The National Viola and Pansy Society's Bronze Medal was won by Captain and Mrs. Norman Snelgrove, Marling Place, Wadhurst, and the Certificate of Merit by Mrs. R. Sharp, of Woodhill, Mayfield. The GARDENING ILLUSTRATED Medal, awarded to winner of the highest number of points, was won by Mrs. Drummond. Other prize winners were Mrs. Ll. K. Jones, 1st for Rambler Roses, arranged on miniature pillars, and 1st for table decoration; W. Franks, Esq., of Tonbridge, 1st for Sweet Peas in vase; G. H. Shakerley Akers, of Doddleswell Manor, nr. Uckfield, 1st for hardy flowers; Sir Austen Chamberlain, K.G., M.P., 1st for Lupins, and 3rd for Violas; John L. Reid, Esq., of Maplesden, Ticehurst, 1st for Irises, and Sir Derrick Watson, of Burwood, Groombridge, 2nd for Irises, and 3rd for Rambler Roses. The Hon. Secretary, Miss Moutray Read, exhibited a fine plant of Primula Florindæ in a non-competitive class, which was highly commended. Very fine exhibits were staged by Messrs. Allwood, Carnations; Bunyard, Charlton, miscellaneous groups; Fielden and Crouch, rock garden; Hollamby, Campanulas, and an outside exhibit of ornamental shrubs; and Whitelegg, rock garden, which added greatly to the interest and beauty of the show.

The Horticultural Club

Thursday, July 14th, has been fixed for the annual outing, when the members and their friends will visit the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Wisley. The journey will be made by charabanc, starting at 10.30 a.m. from the Embankment outside Charing Cross District Railway Station, and thence to the Hut Hotel, Ripley, for lunch. Tea will be provided, and the return journey will be made about 6.30 p.m. The price of tickets, including all charges, will be 10s. 6d. Applications for tickets should be made to G. F. Tinley, Hon. Secretary, not later than Saturday, July 9th, addressed to 855, London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex (Telephone, 357, Leigh-on-Sea), or 5, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, W.C. 2 (Telephone, Gerrard 1543).

National Rose Society's Show, July 1st and 2nd

At the Royal Court Hotel and Restaurant special luncheon and dinners will be served on Rose Show days for the convenience of visitors and exhibitors in this well-known restaurant in Sloane Square, but a moment's distance from the Hospital grounds. Visitors can rely upon excellent service and cuisine. Hotel Belgravia, Grosvenor Gardens, is conveniently near the show, and has a very moderate tariff. Table d'hote, a la carte, and special business man's luncheons are served daily in this renowned restaurant.

LATE REPLIES

Leaves of Peach tree blistered

I have a newly-planted Peach tree. It was put in last year, being moved. It is 9 feet wide, 10 years old. This cold spring made the leaves go as enclosed blister. Now new leaves have grown, but what treatment must I give the tree for it to be free next year? I am picking off the blistered leaves.

BROADWAY.

[Your tree is suffering from what is known as leaf curl, a very common trouble among Peach trees early in the year. These will all be shed eventually and new clean foliage take their place, the disfigurement being of a temporary character. To avoid this next season spray your trees the second week in February and again in March before the buds burst, with "Medela," at the rate of 1 pint of the latter to 2 gallons of soft water. This can be obtained from Messrs. Bunyard, The Royal Nurseries, Maidstone, in quart drums at 3s. 6d. each.]

Grapes scalded

(A. T. W. T.).—Your Grapes are badly "scalded." This is caused by moisture gathering on the berries during the night, and while they are in this condition the morning sun striking the house causes a rapid rise of temperature and the evil is done. To prevent this leave a chink of air—an inch or so will do—on all night, or else see that air is given before the sun strikes the house. Remove all "scalded" berries or they will damage the others. Although less likely to occur, the shutting of the house too early in the afternoon will also cause scalding.

Rock plants for sunny bank and waterside

I should be so much obliged if you would give me a short list of rock plants suitable for growing in very light sandy soil on the top of a bank in a sunny position, and also water plants that would be capable of holding their own with Couch Grass on the margin of a sunken tank and in the marshy ground below it. I suppose there is no of eradicating Couch except by con weeding, which is out of the question.

"BELMON

[(1) The following should succeed your sunny bank:—Eriogonum umbella E. alpinum, Linum alpinum, L. arbor Scabiosa alpina, Linum narbonense, Æ nema grandiflorum, A. persicum, A. W hybrid, Geranium grandiflorum var. alpi Achillea tomentosa, A. serbica, Ver incana, Acantholimon glumaceum, venustum, Alyssum spinosum var. ros A. saxatile, Anemone Pulsatilla, Anten tomentosa, Helichrysum bellidioides, trinerne, Helipterum anthemioides, Th serpyllum album and T. serp. var. coccin Verbena chamædryoides, Tunica Saxif Zauschneria californica, Rosa pyre Erigeron mucronatum, Silene sc Sedum spathulifolium, S. spurium splen S. dasyphyllum, Scabiosa Pteroce Saxifraga (encrusted section) in va Rosmarinus prostrata, Saponaria ocyn splendens, Raoulia australis, R. gla Potentilla Farreri (shrub), Geum B Plumbago larpentæ, Dianthus deltoide cæsius, D. hybridus, Gypsophila m Coronilla cappadocica, Convolvulus oides, and Helianthemums in variety.

(2) Waterside plants.—Iris sibiric variety, I. aurea, I. Delavayi, I. ochro I. pseudo acorus, Senecio clivorum, anthemum maximum, Zizania latifolia, fraga peltata, Lysimachia vulgaris, F subcordata grandiflora, F. For Butomus umbellata, Acorus cal Ranunculus lingua, Phragmitis com Caltha polypetala, Lythrum salic roseum. Many of these plants will hol own with Couch Grass.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

Notcib.—Lychnis viscaria splendens plena; Double-flowered Catchfly.

F. W.—The leaf of your plant ce favours Paul Crampel, but we do not a pink variety of this famous bedding The flower, we should say, is Mrs. Wi

J. M. C. Moville.—Iris ruthenica.

W. E. Cox.—1, Mesembryanthemum forme; 2, Viola Apricot.

Miss Jessie Stratton.—Iris sibirica B

G. G. E.—1, Phlomis fruticosa, na Spain, commonly known as Jerusalem 2, Hieracium aurantiacum (Orange weed), native of Scotland; 3, Helich bellidioides, native of New Zealar Lysimachia vulgaris (Loosestrife), na Britain.

T. S., Bury St. Edmunds.—1, Centr ruber variety coccineus (Red Valeri Thalictrum flavum (Meadow Rue).

C. Clark.—1, Crambe cordifol; Ranunculus acris fl.-pl. (yellow Bac Buttons); 3, Allium fragrans syn. cordium fragrans; 4, Alchemilla (Alpine Ladies' Mantle); 5, V rupestris.

C. D., Yorks.—One of the many forms which occur in the well-known of Primula Asthore Hybrids, P. Bee P. Bulleyana.

S. H. B.—Crucianella stylosa Phuopsis stylosa), Nat. Ord. Rubia native of the Himalayas, perfectly ha easy to grow. It proves a ramper soils and should not be planted near small plants. Many people object strong, foxy smell exhaled by thi after rain or when disturbed. The form with brighter red flowers than t men you sent, and we should adv form rather than the type if you r cultivate this plant. It is fine in masses on a retaining wall, and many butterflies.

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More About the Rose Season

Rose season has come round once . Some nurserymen and many ners complain that the drought rosts have cut down the new tender d they have, in consequence, had right down to the ground. What ormal heat early in January, cold since pruning, with sudden sts, insect plagues galore (insects s worst in adverse seasons), so ots rendered blind, the long overdue -needed rain at last, accompanied wind and gales, this cannot be ood year for Roses. In many garrand period of bloom was past be- Rose Society's Show at Chelsea. f all that has happened in one of trying of seasons, astonishing ex- cultural skill were to be seen at show. Early in May thinning out less shoots helped considerably to se that remained, and with careful d management the first ve been exceptionally thinning out, a blind oot should never be re- at the axil of each a secondary shoot de- produces good Roses. e greatest importance in ing to look after all , as they can be ruined caterpillar, maggot, or sawfly. Once the entre is destroyed the one, and is irreparable, these even now, for wer-buds are bursting n, these tiny, tender growing and must not for upon them the sum- s depend. While at ime, when the foliage ck that it gave an im- all's well, but rather nal as regards size of s seemed all right, yet useless, weak, damaged e removed, letting in t and air, it was found harm had been done by s of insects, yet this actually has a very ect on what remains, s the roots had to sup- e leaf area, now that less the remaining l their functions with e competence, and the ich remain build up exceptional size and standard of Château ougeot has 16 flower-buds. While one flower, a large and splendidly coloured one, is fully out, all the others are long behind in development, though they will mostly be out all together. This irregularity of blooming marks the Rose season of 1927. A standard of Independence Day shows 18 flower-buds which will bloom fairly closely together. The illustration shows just what words cannot convey. The first required very little thinning, the latter had as much cut away as was left, so it can be judged by results.

The colours of the singles are particularly good. The Adjutant, in addition to perfect colouring, has developed an Otto de Rose scent, almost identical to true Attar. The Queen Alexandra Rose is not typical to its colour, because it has had no old cow manure and lacks the depth of brilliant red, and the gold is fogged and faded. Nothing, on the other hand, could be more perfect than Mrs. C. Lamplough. The General and Golden Emblem are grand; better could hardly be possible. There are many flowers not yet out, but sufficient to tell that they are going to be good. Rain and wind storms will ruin Roses, which a little attention at the right moment in tying up will save and give endless pleasure.

C. A. J.

A standard Independence Day with 18 flower buds developing well together

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Actinidia chinensis in bloom

In addition to its handsome leaves and fruits, a well-grown specimen such as we saw recently in a neighbouring garden is quite attractive in bloom. The plant in question was trained to a cool wall and bore quite a crop of its pleasing buff-yellow flowers, each 1½ inches across.

Abelia floribunda

Trained to a greenhouse wall, this handsome Abelia is attractive at the present time, its slender growths, draped with glossy green leaves and pendulous rosy-red, funnel-shaped flowers, producing a bright effect. It comes from Mexico, and therefore requires a low, warm, and sheltered wall for its successful culture in the open air, even in the south.

Senecio clivorum

While I do not consider this Senecio a plant to stimulate one to raptures of admiration, it is, nevertheless, fine in a large border of hardy flowers, or, better still, in the wild garden, especially by the side of a pond or stream, where the moisture it so much enjoys is present, without its feet being actually in the water. In the choice border it is rather out of place, even though its bold leaves and orange-yellow flowers are effective in their way. It has a failing in some places of sending out suckers to a short distance, thus affording means of increase for those who desire a group, but this is a trait many do not appreciate. It will even sow itself, although not very freely, so far as my experience goes. Its height varies greatly, and I have seen it as dwarf as 3 feet in poor, dry soil, and up to 6 feet in moister and richer ground. Its late flowering, continued over a long time, is a decided point in its favour.

S. Arnott.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

The problem of the use of aluminum sulphate in treating Rhododendrons

SOME time ago I read in the columns of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED an extract from a paper published by the "National Nursery" in which Dr. F. V. Coville, of the U.S.A. Department of Agriculture, recommended the use of sulphate of aluminum for making ordinary garden soil suitable for Rhododendrons.

He set out the proposition that the native Rhododendrons required an acid soil, and that they did not thrive, or died, if the soil was neutral or alkaline.

His experiments had been conducted under glass. Dr. Coville was careful to point out that his experimental work might lead to difficulties, such as the formation of hydrogen sulphide, or other compounds of sulphur, injurious to this type of plant.

In the middle of April I opened out my country cottage garden after it had been closed for the winter. I found that about a score of Rhododendrons planted 18 months previously were looking exceedingly sickly and dejected.

The condition I put down to the soil being unsuitable, and that the plants had not a sufficiency of protection from the wind at 700 feet above sea-level.

It was somewhat difficult to form an opinion as to their power of recovery—possibly "fifty-fifty" would be about correct.

I determined to remove 16 of the plants to a more sheltered position, and had them planted in a new bed of virgin loamy soil just made from a road-widening site near by.

Half the plants were given a slight coating of rotten farmyard manure, along with ½ oz. of aluminum sulphate to the roots.

To the other eight plants no manure was given, but what I considered a full dressing of 2 ozs. of alum to each plant, and allowed to be washed in slowly.

I may add that in another batch of Rhododendrons planted early in the year in not too good soil some appeared seedy. To each of these about ½ oz. of alum was applied on May 15th. These have all recovered their condition and are now looking well, many having flowered satisfactorily.

Speaking generally, alum contains double sulphates, aluminum, along with potassium, ammonium, and iron.

As to how these chemical constituents act on the soil I cannot say, except, perhaps, they neutralise any latent lime that may be in the soil.

Whilst, of course, Nature supplies much of the food necessary for plants, there is little doubt the constituents of alum when they become dissolved in water assist the plants in the assimilation of their food, and so we get from its use improvement in the foliage, fruit, seed, and root, acting similar to the potash manures.

At the end of a fortnight there was no difficulty in detecting the difference in the two sets of plants. Those dusted with the heavy dose of aluminum sulphate had already begun to show considerable improvement.

At the termination of eight weeks the whole of the 16 plants were looking very healthy, all showing new wood growth, and it would be difficult to say which plants were doing the best.

The result of the test is not conclusive, but perhaps enough to show that nothing was gained by the full alum treatment over the smaller dose and manure, except, perhaps, that it acted as a quick stimulant in the early days of the removal of the plants to their new position.

The general result of the experiment would appear that alum may be used advantageously when Rhododendrons appear sickly and out of condition. YORKSHIRE TYKE.

Black spot in Roses

I read, with great interest, "Rosarian's" article on "Black Spot in Roses," in your issues of last March.

I have used lime very freely on my Rose beds for two years past, dressing them heavily with unslaked lime at Christmas. The results have been excellent, with a marked diminution of Black Spot.

I want to know whether there is any reason against continuing the use of lime annually. Our soil here is quite devoid of lime. *I should value "Rosarian's" opinion.*

I have also used Ferry brand "Phos Lime" with good effect at pruning time and in August. G. O. TURNBULL, Lt.-Col.

Big shows

Are the big shows any practical use to the ordinary gardener? Perhaps some of your readers will express their opinions. "Marvellous, wonderful, gorgeous," and we marvel in the beauty of form and colour, and the exquisite grouping. We must try this and we must try that, then "the tumult and the shouting die," and the next morning the cold light of reason brings a revulsion of despair. Never with our soil, and our staff, and our climate can we grow such blossoms. I am not thinking of the show gardens of England with a horticultural expert head and an unlimited staff under h of the one-to-three-man garden. W have been behind the scenes know care and preparation are required f wonderful blossoms as for the prize at the fat stock show. Another t one show not one single blossom sh the stand could be found in the ex catalogue at ordering time. We th enjoy the big shows, and despite o reasoning, over and over again we or frail and gorgeous plant, but I th fortnightly shows are really much m ful. We see the flowers and plan natural conditions, grown most of the open, and we can judge how far suitable to our gardens.

TWYSSENDEN M

Meconopsis Baileyi in a Perthshire

I ENCLOSE photo of Meconopsi which is growing in my garden i shire. These plants were rais seed sown in 1925, and a few flowered last summer.

I understand this species is a p and hope this will prove so, althoug plants which flowered last year and died. The plants which did not flo summer made a number of side shoo of these having flowered this ye species appears to have the same ha grandis, which is a true perennial, a flowering, throws up a number of si which flower the next year.

Meconopsis Baileyi in a Perthshire garden

The plants shown by photo are p full sun. I have it also growing shade, but there is little or no di the growth.

The flower-stems are about 4 fee the flowers on same a lovely sky-b with golden-yellow anthers.

ANDREW A

Blinkbonny, Kirkcaldy.

Salvia Candelabrum

alvia is now in full bloom and is one ot often seen. It is a native of the Spain, growing on the Sierra de la ove Yungnera, about 2,500 feet -level, where it is known as Selima Here it has made large plants throw- ndreds of spikes bearing flowers all up the stems, borne on stems oppo- other in pairs and each pair alter- the opposite sides of the main stem. ers remind one somewhat of an um in appearance and are of a rich uve with a white blotch on the lip. ge is fairly broad, thick, dark sage- d strongly scented. Apparently the not set seed, and most of the old ave dropped off close to the stem. he prolonged drought may account o some extent, but as the stigma ome way out from the mouth of the would appear as if there is very nce of fertilisation unless bees, awled into the mouth of the flower, llen on their backs and pollinate the the way out.

noment of writing there are no bees ere, but there may be no attraction ers for them. The calyces are very d strongly scented. Possibly the may deter insects. The plant y hardy, having withstood up to of frost in winter and 12 degs. at f April. [Nicholson gives it as a native of Mexico.]

nly seen this plant in botanic gar- never see it catalogued.

G. H. Dalrymple.

Flowers of the Saints

Wrench's interesting article on n of the Saints" two "saintly" e omitted which I seldom see a o, but which are yet as beautiful as any that I know. I refer to s and St. Bernard's Lilies. These the same group as the Asphodel rus, and have fleshy fibrous roots, narrow leaves, and leafless racemes ite flowers in May and June. The s of St. Bruno (Paradisea) are 2 feet to 3 feet high and re- iniature Madonna Lily. Those of d (Anthericum) are about the same the flowers are smaller and star- o more numerous. There are two this, A. Liliago, with erect, un- stems, and A. ramosum, with and looser stems, the latter ew weeks later than the first. All ly hardy and do well in any light in a sunny position, but where the es not get dried up. If left un- hey form thick clumps and are ed from seed. J. K.

Heuchera sanguinea

from Mr. Blair concerning the e as a surprise to me, having nd it a most easy plant to cultivate n a light soil and here in Kent on growing and flowering profusely ances, even young plants carrying rom cuttings put in last August, six dozen failing to root. These d as an edging about the middle Previously I had increased the by seed or division of the root- it occurred to me they ought to readily, so chose firm pieces and n in under a wall where a particle d not reach them, keeping them ith a rose can several times daily, ult chronicled above. Next sum- e plants increase in size, they should yield double that number of spikes, and, to my idea, H. sanguinea is the cream of the family. J. Mayne.

New hybrid fruit "Jamberry"

I ENCLOSE a photograph of our new hybrid fruit, "Jamberry," from which delicious jam is made without any cooking. When we first began to experiment, in 1919, we wished to get a berry intermediate in sweetness between Raspberry and Loganberry with which to replace Red Currants in an old and more tedious recipe for making jam without cooking.

One out of the original 55 seedlings was Jamberry, the result of crossing Loganberry with Yellow Antwerp Raspberry.

Not so rampant as Loganberry, it still makes a vigorous and prolific plant, and its large white blossom, or, in their season, plentiful sprays of red fruit, make it an ornament to any garden. J. R. McCormick.

Paddyberry Nurseries,
Kells, Co. Meath.

[At the York Gala held on June 29th, 30th, and July 1st Miss J. R. McCormick was awarded the Gardening Illustrated medal for her new hybrid Jamberry, together with an Award of Merit. The judges were obviously greatly impressed by the Jamberry.—Ed.]

The Jamberry, a new hybrid fruit that is said to make jam without cooking

Turning blue Hydrangeas pink

I have a fine collection of blue Hydrangeas which usually come blue without anything being introduced into the soil, which is ordinary loam and leaf-mould. I also have a few *beautiful* deep pink cuttings from one plant I bought which always come true to colour. I suggest Mrs. Nicholas Wood should get a plant of this colour and try it. I regret I cannot remember the name, but I would be pleased to give her a cutting.

(Mrs.) E. Malcolm.

The Holt, Harrow Weald.

Veronica cataractæ var. diffusa

In his "English Rock Gardens" the late Mr. Farrer gave a high verdict of admiration for the New Zealand Veronica named V. cataractæ. He says: "It is no less a treasure" (than V. linifolia), "and no less indestructively hardy." He only names the variety diffusa, which is at present in bloom in my garden and which is quite an attractive and charming little shrub. It is of looser habit than the type, and forms a neat little bushlet about 6 inches or 8 inches high, with narrow toothed leaves. It bears quite a host of bonny little flowers of white lined with pale pink or lilac, and is very charming indeed. This variety of V. cataractæ (or "catarractæ" as Farrer spells it) appears to be very little known. I have not yet tested its hardiness in winter in my garden, but my plant came from a nursery in a cold, elevated position, where the plants are treated in such a way as to prevent them from being weakened by coddling, and I have every confidence that V. c. diffusa will prove as hardy as the type. It requires no special soil, but it ought to be light and well drained.

S. Arnott.

Hens and Chickens Marigold

With reference to the "Hens and Chickens" Marigold, discussed in your last issue, this is a fairly common form of monstrosity in plants with composite flower-heads. Certain Heleniums, for instance, sometimes produce this as well as other weird monstrosities in the same flower. In my garden I have a tall yellow Scabious which also does the same thing. The botanical explanation is, presumably, that the axis of a flower is the extremity of a stem, and normally completes its function with the development of the seed-vessel, but in these "monstrous" forms the axis, instead of producing a seed-vessel, continues to grow and produces another flower. In composite flowers the so-called flower is a flower-head of many florets, and more than one of the florets may behave in this way. The double-flowered white Arabis is an example of a solitary flower producing the same abnormality. Here the stamens are converted into petals as in so many double flowers, but instead of a seed-vessel in the centre the axis is produced which then develops a succession of similar double flowers. J. K.

Alpine Pinks

There are two errors in my article, issue June 25th, page 390. (1) The station at which we grow Dianthus alpinus is St. Cergue-upon-Nyon, not St. George. There we have a lovely garden. Sir Austen Chamberlain paid it a visit last week and was enthusiastic about it. (2) On the same page, at the end of third column, read "short flowering stems," not non-flowering stems.

Floraire, Geneva. Henry Correvon.

Hepatica triloba, single blue

Hepaticas, Single and Double

THE Hepatica is, of course, an Anemone, and is ranunculaceous, which seems a hard word to use about such a simple flower. The species grown in gardens are two in number—H. angulosa and H. triloba. Of these, the first-named is a plant with leaves lobed and somewhat frilled at the edge and with white, rose, or lilac flowers, much like those of H. triloba, but twice the size. So far as I know there is no double form of H. angulosa. H. triloba, since it has attractive double forms and greater variety of colour, is a more interesting subject than H. angulosa. The specific name "triloba" has, of course, reference to the characteristic lobes of the leaf, three in number and entire, clusters of which leaves, either in their delicate spring green or in their later Ivy-like shade and texture, are such a familiar sight in rockwork or garden border. To many a child, as, indeed, to many an adult, the visible incarnation of spring and of the home garden is a clump, blue or red, of this same Hepatica. The reason for the popularity of the flower (which, after all, has only its simple prettiness and its associations to recommend it, for it has no perceptible fragrance) and the explanation of its frequent presence in old gardens may lie in the fact that for its healing virtues it held a place in the British Pharmacopœia. In the dark days of medicine, when as yet healers were feeling their way to cures, and gathering "simples" for this or that complaint, an infusion of Hepatica (Greek *Heepar,* the liver) was held to be a specific for hepatitis, or, in simple English, liver complaint, whence the flower's seldom-used name of Liverwort.

The typical single H. triloba, white, blue, or red, grown from seed will give seedlings that vary to some small extent in size and colour. But, besides these ordinary single-forms, there are two fixed forms not so frequently seen in gardens. One of these, Lilacina, is a pretty thing with lilac flowers, as the specific name indicates, and with greyish marbled leaves somewhat resembling those of certain hardy Cyclamens. The other, the finest of all the single Hepaticas, I cannot definitely name, though I know it well and possibly possess it. Messrs. Barr and Son, from whom I had the variety in question years ago, think it is the Hepatica triloba var. Barlowii, now on their list, which it may be and very likely is, though my plant of Barlowii is not in sufficiently good form to enable me to identify the variety This desirable form is a blue of a dark shade, approaching to purple, has a less distinctly lobed leaf, and is larger and more robust in all its parts, leaf, stem, and flower, than the typical blue.

Those who have the necessary time and patience will find it interesting work to raise seedlings of these little Windflowers. Desirable variation in colour and size of flower may be expected with confidence; besides that there is the always possible contingency of a new double, for, after all, the doubles we already possess must have originated from seed either sown and grown by chance or manipulated by some florist hybridist, though the florist, if such florist there was, who achieved this pretty miracle deserved something better than oblivion at the hands of the flower-growing fraternity. H. triloba, under favourable conditions, will sow itself, but those who prefer not to trust chance in the matter must gather the seed for themselves before it falls, which it does whilst yet green, and must sow the granules at once, covering the space sown with a slate or slab of some kind till the early spring, when the covering must be removed. If the seed has been gathered in the right state a fine "braird" (as they say in Scotland, there being in English no single word for the simultaneous appearance above ground of germinating seed) will be the result, and, just within the limits of possibility, a new double.

As to the doubles, is there or is there not a really double white H. triloba? This question was asked and dubiously answered by Philip Miller, who lived full 200 years ago, and who was a gardener of distinction, and, botanically at least, a learned man, for, besides being "Gardener to the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries" at Chelsea, he was a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Member of the Botanic Society of Florence. With a proper distrust of universal negatives Miller would not deny that a double white might exist, but it is clear that he doubted whether any such did exist. "I have seen," says Miller, "the double white kind often mentioned in books, but could never see it growing, though I don't know but such a flower might be obtained from seeds of the single white or blue kinds." Miller proceeds to suggest how a belief in the existence of such a flower might possibly become current, even though no such flower existed. The double blue, it appears, has sometimes the habit of producing, in autumn, albino flowers, which superficial observers might regard as the normal form, and so might maintain that there must be a double white Hepatica since they had actually seen it. I confess that until recently I shared Miller's doubts, and regarded the double white Hepatica as a mythical "Roc's Egg," extremely desirable, but fabulous. My doubts, however, on that head have been removed this spring, since, thanks to Mr. Amos Perry, I have bloomed the double white in my own garden, where it produced flowers about the whiteness and complete doubleness of which there could be no doubt. Assuming the double white Hepatica to be a find of Mr. Perry's, it would be interesting to know the facts of the discovery. In what old garden did this little flower grow and blow for centuries, unmarked by appreciative eyes, so that Philip Miller, whose cue it was to know every plant of hepatic or other healing virtue, doubted its very existence? Most of us know gardens where it might, for years untold, have led a hermit existence, un by meddlesome gardeners. But th refuge—one wonders whether it wa south or in the cooler north. My ow would be the north—Ulster possibly, very likely, some weaver's garden i shire I shouldn't wonder—where P Pansies, Auriculas, and Gooseberri as they thrive not in less eager atm I hesitate to ask Mr. Perry for parti this interesting find, fearing to ap curious, but what may not be don good grace by the casual inquirer may do with perfect propriety, cur ing, as everybody knows, an editor ing virtue. Further, two bites to being proverbially a wasteful exper energy, Messrs. Barr and Sons mig same time be approached as to the o history of H. triloba var. Barlowii these firms may conceivably, and reasonably, argue that this seems ra taking two cherries at a bite.

There has been more joy, I dare the recovered double white Hepa over ninety and nine equally valuab that needed no recovery. In sober cheerful spring beauty this flower, it is, is quite eclipsed by the double the double blue, between two whic subjects it is impossible to choose, t that is most in evidence having al preference. Those who are highly to colour may object to the dou Hepatica, that its colour verges too magenta. Perhaps it does, but magentas *and* magentas. It is tru this Hepatica neighboured a gay Poppy or Begonia these flowers m its neighbourhood trying, but its sp temporaries—the Snowdrops, Croc Winter Aconites—seem to find flower companionable enough. In it strikes a cheerful note in the sp ture, and has the further advantage the easiest and most vigorous o Hepaticas, single or double. If th blue has not the sunny cheerfulne red it has a gem-like beauty all "Gem" is a word that has been, overdone in connection with flower sumption being that the complimen

Anemone blanda scythinica se with Erythronium Hartwegii

hough it cuts both ways. Regarded vel, the double blue Hepatica is a cut flat, so that if you came acci- upon a disc with its petal facets you ke it for an escape from the bezel of

I could lay down with the authority ence the exact treatment as to soil, and so on that should be given to s in order to have them at their the only thing I feel positive about hey should have a *deep* soil, the esses of their root-fibres being four imes the length of the leaf-stalk. n to prefer a soil on the light side— but a gritty and fairly loamy soil— probably flower more abundantly in medium, provided it contains the nutriment; but they will leaf more ly and persistently in a heavier soil, is sufficient calcareous or gritty keep it open and sweet. Once d, the Hepatica will bear as much nd ill-usage as most things, though, t things, it responds to generous , which, however, it too often get, a superstition being prevalent s that anything is good enough for atica. However, I prefer not to or supply any counsel of perfection correct treatment for Hepaticas, but er give Miller's advice in his own You should be careful not to them into very small heads, nor ey be parted oftener than every third year if you intend to have them hey delight in a strong loamy soil eastern position, where they may the morning sun, though they will lmost any aspect if they are planted moist ground, and they are never y cold "—about which words of visdom I will only say that Miller s, perhaps, a little too much the e of a "strong, loamy soil."

ts of Hepatica triloba are so long, rate to such a depth, that their ips can never come in direct con- vegetable mould. But I have seen ica in its native home, and have e how Nature provides the surface st with a dressing of mould, chiefly shreds. And this is the last thing say about the Hepatica—to me a ing to say, because it is a pleasant that I once found the homely little wing in the clefts of one of the ous of rocks—to every pious THE most famous rock in all m, namely, the earthquake-riven f La Verna, high up in the by the sources of the Arno, the retreat of St. Francis, and the agiologists tell us, where he re- stigmata. As guest for a red- and night of the kindly monks in built monastery I was permitted to will over the Beech-covered roof of rna crag, where my profane feet wers lineally descended from those been touched, seven centuries be- e bare feet of Saint Francis—trod , not wantonly I hope, but be- were sometimes so lavishly abun- it was impossible to avoid them. h a sensation little less than shock me there upon flowers growing in on which one had hitherto planted lanted as the tame things of a gar- ones (apennina and ranuncu- omon's Seal, Orchises (white and Mossy Saxifrage (hynoides, as I other acquaintances of old stand- es things that were new and But in a succession of pleasant he electric thrill was to discover, s of a bluff facing north, a prosper- of Hepatica triloba. ALPHA.

Inchmury, a fine garden Pink

THE middle of June is the time of Pinks, some of the most welcome and delightful flowers. The growing demand on the part of amateurs is now being met by the activity of growers. I do not know the origin of this pretty Pink, Inchmury; its name suggests a Scottish provenance, but it is one that should be in every garden. It has all the merits of a good garden Pink; it is of fair size, a free bloomer, and sweetly scented; in colour an even pale pink. The Allwoodi Pinks are well known, and their raiser is to be congratulated on the number of beautiful flowers he has given to gardens. But however good the newer Pinks may be, there are some of the older ones that should never be lost sight of. The sweet old white Pink of early June remains the very best for scent. For this delightful quality as well as for its general charm it is really a better thing than the larger white Pinks that have so largely caused it to be neglected. The old Pheasant-eye, also, with its dark centre, must also remain one of the best of Pinks. The very old Anne Boleyn, one of the largest of its kind and now rare in gardens, should be preserved at all costs. G. J.

Inchmury, a fine Pink

Sweet Peas

THE present season has been very trying to the Sweet Pea grower. The cold winds and wet weather during spring kept the plants from making a good head-way, whilst the drought of May and early part of June has also been against them, and it is only during the last week or so that the plants have made any kind of free growth. Blooms are now opening freely on long stems that are not of the usual stiffness and are apt to be blown about by the wind if not supported in some way. The colour and shape of the blooms leave nothing to be desired, but up to the present fours and fives have been lacking. One of the most striking we have had is Magnet, a most beautiful Sweet Pea and one of the first to open. The colour is a very rich salmon-pink on a cream ground, and is one of Messrs. Unwin's novelties. Another beautiful flower I am much taken up with is Mrs. Horace Wright. This is a rose-pink of charming shade with just enough cerise in it to make it delightful on its white ground. A real gem for table decoration. Heavenly Blue is one that is going to take the place of Mrs. Tom Jones. It is more distinct in colour, without any trace of purple,

Two blooms of Magnolia macrophylla shown by Mr. Lionel de Rothschild in his First Prize collection of hardy shrubs at the recent R.H.S. Amateur Show

The expanded flowers are over 1 foot across—the sixpences are shown for comparison in size. The flowers are fragrant and creamy white and devoid of the dark markings in the centre that we have seen in other flowers of this species. The leaves are the largest of all Magnolias—some over a yard long and a foot wide. This remarkable species comes mountains of S. Carolina. It is one of the most interesting of the worl

strong, robust constitution, and a decided acquisition. Wistaria is another novelty that will become popular when better known. The colour of the flowers is bluish-lavender that has not the tendency to run as is the case with many of the blue shades, and the plant is a strong grower. Mermaid is the best lavender I have yet grown, and is all that can be desired. Ivory Picture is a charming old ivory variety with all the good points of that well-known variety Picture. Queen of Rumania is another novelty worthy of distinction; cream-pink with well-placed flowers on long stems.

Sybil Henshaw is certainly an advance on the crimsons and one that will be largely requested by exhibitors when better known. Constance Hinton, although not so pure a white as some of the others, is still the leading white as far as perfect blooms on strong plants are concerned. Channing, a universal variety that shows up so well on the exhibition stands, is one of the best, and the colour, which is rosy-cerise, is very telling. Hebe is the best rose-pink I have yet grown and very vigorous in growth.

Feeding and watering the plants.—From now onwards the plants should be liberally assisted by means of watering and feeding at frequent intervals. Where the trenches received a good supply of animal manure in autumn I find it best to rely on artificial manures rather than liquid-manure made from animal droppings, as I believe too free use of this is the cause of many plants becoming blind, and also tends to the introduction of streak, which, up to the present, there is no cure for this dreaded malady. Mackereth's Sweet Pea Fertiliser is excellent, and if used according to directions is one that can be relied upon to produce the very best results. Two ozs. of superphosphate and 1 oz. of sulphate of potash stirred in a 3-gallon can of water and used to the yard run of trench I find a splendid stimulant if given once a week. This does not promote rapid growth, but creates striking results in the colour of foliage and blooms. When watering it is advisale to give a thorough soaking and not mere dribblings, which does more harm than good during hot weather. The trenches should be mulched with short manure 1 foot from either side of the stakes. This conserves the moisture and chills the water before reaching the roots. Gentle spraying with water in the evenings after hot days is beneficial to the plants and also keeps a check on insect pests.

Do not neglect the tying and disbudding where the plants are grown on the cordon or single stem system. Pinch out the shoots when small and keep the growth upright by tying at least once a week. Where the tendrils are troublesome by clinging hold of the flower-stems these may be snipped off. In fact, some growers remove all these without any injury to the plants. Keep the blooms gathered regularly and do not allow any to go to seed or growth will soon deteriorate. When the plants reach the top of the canes they may be taken down carefully and taken along the canes horizontally and retrained again. This, though tedious, is well worth the trouble where the flowers are desired as long as possible.

W. E. Wright.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

INDOOR PLANTS

The edible Passion Flower (Passiflora edulis)

Few greenhouse or conservatory climbers are more beautiful than this, and yet it is rarely one meets with it in modern collections. Planted out in a border of rich moist earth it grows rapidly, often making shoots 10 feet and 12 feet long in a single season; and, when in vigorous health, gracefully draping pillars, arches, or rafters, with a profusion of glossy foliage. The flowers, although ornamental, are not so showy as those of many of the other species, but, under good culture, they are succeeded by bright purple fruits, each the size of a hen's egg, and which are favourites with many on account of their fine sub-acid flavour. Although, however, this is undoubtedly the best of all the edible Passion-flowers, P. macrocarpa and P. quadrangularis are by no means useless additions to the dessert, and those who have not acquired a taste for them in a fresh state rarely fail to relish them when preserved. Even, however, in the absence of fruit, P. edulis well deserves culti-

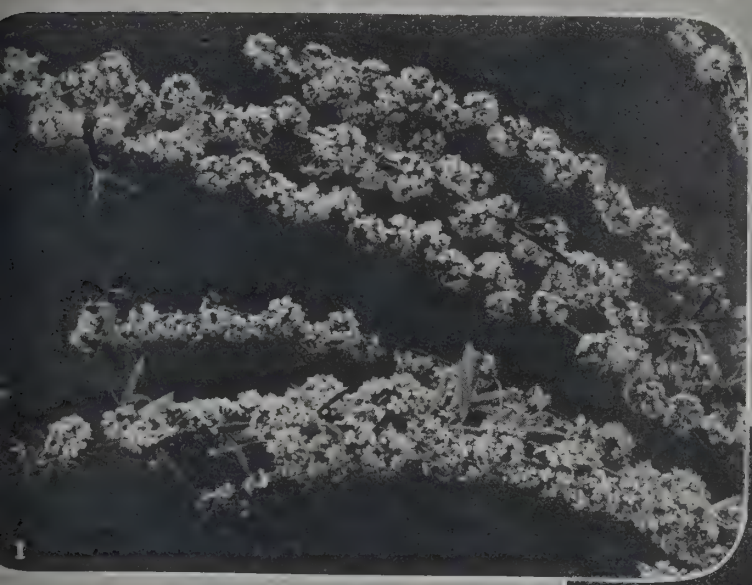
vation, as it is the most beautiful o Passifloras in habit, P. (racemosa) not even excepted. I have often deep glossy leaves of P. edulis for ga fruit, and for toning down bright they are especially valuable, on ac the dense metallic depth of green wh possess. Like most of its congene readily propagated either by means tings, layers, or seeds, and those wh a climber of a deep tint, for the orn tion of a conservatory or corridor, c better than avail themselves of it.

The temperate house

A temperate house is a valuable especially during autumn and wi the cost is practically infinitesim sidering the many flowering pla kindly respond in a varying ten from 40 degs. up to 55 degs., acc the conditions out-of-doors, even i siderable distance from the glass, the same are not set out too thickly crowd each other or the light obst adjacent plants, which came vividly b when inspecting a very large con having several spans and the heigh ing on 20 feet. Here were big Pa Tree Ferns towering up with the lar of a Banana dotted between them, a the picture of health, while as an 2 feet were such plants as Clivias, up stout flower-spikes and make in blaze of colour; Eupatorium ripariu subject, but very floriferous; Sp africana, another old friend too sel with; Peristrophe speciosa, sometim under Justicia speciosa, which has l us a century or more, its purplis probably not lasting long, but co adding a brightness to the su greenery of the foliage plants not It occurred to me if only a few clun Arum Lily had been introduced w plant or two of Euphorbia jacquin wards the front resting towards th work of Maidenhair Fern and Sela would have presented a worthy p the winter months. All the al were thriving so well were planted with the exception of the Justicia mannia, none were above 2 feet in h

J. I

INTERESTING PLANTS AT THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S AMATEUR SHOW



1. **BUDDLEIA ALTERNIFOLIA,** with yard-long sprays wreathed in small bunches of lilac-coloured flowers having the fragrance of honey. Shown in profusion by Mr. Lionel de Rothschild

2. **PHILADELPHUS ATLAS,** a very free-flowering though not overpowering Mock Orange, with large single pure white flowers borne in graceful sprays It is regarded as one of the very best sent out by Lemoine. (See article on "Philadelphus Season," July 2, page 404.) Shown by Sir William Lawrence, Bart. Award of Merit.

3. **VERONICA MATTHEWSII,** a very effective shrubby Veronica bearing numerous racemes of small white flowers faintly flushed with lilac. Very free flowering, of good habit and medium size. There is a great future for this flowering shrub. Shown by R. Wallace and Co. Award of Merit.

4. **THE GOOD PINK BRIDESMAID,** soft pink with dark centre. Raised by Herbert and shown in a First Prize collection by Mr. R. Morton, Woodside Park.

(A descriptive report of the Amateur Show appeared in our last issue, page 415)

Some of the Sweetest Roses

IT may be assumed that all who are acquainted with the old garden Roses will agree that none excels, or even equals, the old Cabbage Rose (R. centifolia) in charm of fragrance. In its variety the Moss Rose, with its curiously crested calyx, a close, mossy growth with a viscous exudation that has its own special sweetness—a scent that recalls both that of the dying Strawberry leaf and of the young foliage of Sweetbriar—this amalgamates delightfully with the perfume of the flower. There is another Rose which has distinctly that wonderful and mysterious scent of the dying Strawberry leaf, an old kind called Gloire des manes. It is only half double and of deep red colour, and of rather thin, s growth. The foliage points to its bein a China. There is an old Tea Goubault, that should not be lost s for the sake of its remarkable and d scent, which is like that of a ripe Ne I have not had an opportunity of r with any of the Roses that have bee in competition for scent, but their fra must, indeed, be remarkable if it better than that of Parfum de l'Haye, loosely double Rose, whose colour, such a pronounced magenta that it posely planted where it is not muc But the scent is wonderful, strong and purest Otto of Rose. It is a hy Rugosa, the dark green, polished, leaves showing its nearness to that From what other parent it can have its unfortunate colour and its incom scent I do not know; perhaps some re the paper may be able to say. The of Sweetbriar is less distinctly fragra the leaves, and these are at their s when quite young in May. At that year one cannot pass near a bush of briar without being aware of its w greeting. Of modern, well-scented the merit of Zephyrine Droughin sh remembered. It is a Rose that sh in every garden. It does well in a the flower is a fair size and well shap colour is a good full rose that does n purple, it is pleasant to handle as it h few prickles, its scent is one of the s and it seems to bloom better and bette season advances. It does well as a p pegged, or growing free among shru the garden where this note is writt trained to Bamboo rods that are horizontally on to short stumps abou high, a convenient device both for see cutting.

One of the sweetest smelling Roses: the old Hybrid Bourbon Rose Zephyrine Droughin

NATIONAL ROSE SOCIETY

MANY chills were caught at the Rose Society's Show held under canvas at the Royal Hospital Gardens, Chelsea, on July 1st and 2nd. On the opening day it rained heavily, and Chelsea can be a dreadful place on a wet day. Owing to unfavourable weather some would-be exhibitors were compelled to cancel their exhibits, and among them Messrs. S. McGredy and Son, of Ireland.

The Queen, prevented by the inclement weather in the morning from paying her customary visit to the Rose Show, made a sudden and unexpected appearance during the brighter weather in the afternoon, and received a warm welcome from the crowd.

Her Majesty stayed about half-an-hour, and made a quick tour of the tents. As she was driving out of the grounds her car was stopped, and she signed the distinguished visitors' book of the Women's Farm and Garden Association.

Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll presided at the annual meeting of the Women's Farm and Garden Association held at the National Rose Society's Summer Show.

New Roses shown in competition for the Gold Medal were the centre of attraction. Of the numerous new varieties on view only two have won the Gold Medal. These were Lady Forteviot, from Messrs. B. R. Cant and Sons, Colchester, a large showy bloom of apricot colouring (it is a Pernetiana showing the colour influence of Austrian Copper and the shape of Golden Emblem), and Everest, an immense cream-white variety, shown by Messrs. Easlea and Sons, Eastwood, Essex. The latter is a heavy flower with very slight fragrance.

New Roses which have obtained the Certificate of Merit are Elizabeth of York, a lovely bloom of cerise colouring, from Messrs. Dobbie and Co., Edinburgh; Sunshine, a low bush smothered with small copper-yellow flowers, from Messrs. Cutbush and Son, Highgate; and Chin Chin, a delightful rambler, from Messrs. Frank Cant and Co., Braiswick, Colchester; the large single flowers are rose with white centre.

Despite the unfavourable season the Roses were of high quality, the amateur exhibits being especially good. The championship trophy for the best group of Roses, and the Mawley Medal for the best nurseryman's exhibit, were awarded to Messrs. A. Dickson and Sons, Newtownards, Co. Down, for a magnificent lot of blooms.

The Champion Trophy for nurserymen's exhibition blooms was won by Messrs. B. R. Cant and Sons, Colchester, and the Challenge Cup for a basket of cut Roses by Messrs. Morse Brothers, Woodbridge, with that fascinating Rose, Shot Silk.

The Polyantha Rose, Golden Salmon, shown by Messrs. Wm. Cutbush and Son, was one of the most remarkable of the new Roses.

NURSERYMEN'S SECTION

GROUPS OF ROSES

Class 1.—This is always a most interesting class and one in which leading honours are keenly contested. It is a competition which seems to increase in importance as time progresses. The competition is for the pionship Trophy for a representative of cut Roses on a table space 10 8 feet. The exhibit must not be mo 7 feet above the level of the table. were no fewer than eight entrants.

Premier honours were secured by A. Dickson and Sons, Ltd., Newto Co. Down. This was a most strik hibit both for its arrangement and and its break away from the orthodo most striking Roses were Shot Sil Queen Alexandra Rose, Mrs. Henry K. of K., Betty Uprichard, Lady Hill Emma Wright, Lady Pirrie, S Kathleen Harrop, and Red Letter Da

Messrs. Chaplin Bros., Waltham were a splendid second, their grou most artistically set up and the Roses could well be desired. Noteworthy were Mrs. Atlee, Mrs. Tresham Pearl White, Mabel Morse, Betty Up Los Angeles, Lady Inchiquin, Me Herriot, and Princess Elizabeth of Third prize was secured by Messrs. B and Sons, Ltd., Colchester, and fou by Messrs. Waterer, Sons, and Twyford, Berks, both showing ex well.

Class 2, for a similar group on space 8 feet by 6 feet, was another e competition. In this instance the four exhibits, leading honours, secu De Escofet Memorial Cup, being aw Mr. Geo. Prince, Longworth, Berk had a fine exhibit. Emma Wrigh Henry Morse, Shot Silk, Allen Chandr

nchiquin were noteworthy sorts in this . A striking exhibit secured second or Messrs. Walter Easlea and Sons, on-Sea, who had flowers of good and form in excellent condition. Their es of Emma Wright, Prince Henry, Queen, Golden Emblem, and ne were grand. Third prize was d to Mr. John Mattock, Headington, . President Bouche and Padre were rthy sorts here. Fourth prize was d to Dowty's Nursery, Workingham, d a quite good group.

3, also for a representative table on a space 6 feet by 6 feet. This is a most pleasing competition, bringing r, as a rule, many trade growers who rking their way into notoriety. Here ive exhibits, all most interesting. rize was won by Messrs. Jarman and nard, who made a bright and useful in their group. Mabel Morse, Shot ngele Pernet, Independence Day, and nus Budde were noteworthy sorts. orge Lilley, Cippenham, Slough, had display tapering up to a point. Shot etty Uprichard, and Golden Emblem ood sorts in this group. Third prize varded to Mr. David Long, Great ey.

ORATIVE ROSES IN BASKETS

hree classes arranged under this head ays a source of much interest to both men and amateurs, and the general lways take especial interest in these tions. There were fewer exhibits r, probably owing to the bad weather ly experienced.

4 provides for seven baskets of cut n seven distinct varieties, and not an 36 stems of each variety, and each shown in a separate basket. On the occasion there was only one exhibitor, ng Mr. Henry Drew, Longworth, don, Berks. His exhibit was awarded e and was represented by the following eties:—Red Letter Day, Mrs. Henry Lady Inchiquin, Mrs. C. V. Haworth, prichard, Mrs. Courtney Page, and

5 was a competition for three baskets ree distinct varieties on similar lines of the preceding class. In this in- again, there was only one exhibit—a e, and was shown by Messrs. A. and Son, Boxted, Colchester. The shown were Mrs. Henry Morse, nus Budde, and Golden Emblem.

6 was a most interesting class and

w Polyantha Rose Golden Salmon, own by Wm. Cutbush and Son

regarded as one of the finest novelties y virtue of its remarkable colour

A splendid basket of that fascinating Rose Shot Silk

was for three baskets Polyantha Roses in three distinct varieties, not more than 24 stems of each variety. Again there were only three exhibitors, but Messrs. W. Cutbush and Sons, Ltd., The Nurseries, Barnet, put up an exhibit that may be regarded as one of the most attractive of the whole show. They showed Golden Salmon, Frank Leddy, and Locarno, three of the most beautiful of the dwarf Polyantha section. Second prize was awarded to Messrs. Morse Bros., Woodbridge, Suffolk, for an interesting series. Third prize went to Mr. Elisha J. Hicks, Hurst, Berks, for a poor series.

ROSES IN VASES

Class 7 was a beautiful break-away from the orthodox method of exhibiting. It was a class for 36 distinct varieties, not less than three or more than seven stems of each variety, arranged on a table space 14 feet by 3 feet. Unfortunately, there was only one exhibitor. This was Messrs. A. Warner and Son, who set up a quite attractive exhibit in five tiers on a black velvet background. The better sorts were Golden Emblem, Queen Alexandra, Shot Silk, Clarice Goodacre, Padre, Emma Wright, Betty Uprichard, Independence Day, Angele Pernet, K. of K., Lady Roundway, Mrs. Herbert Stevens, Red Cross, Los Angeles, Pharisaer, Cheerful, and Capt. Ronald Clark.

Class 8 was a similar class, but in this instance was for 24 distinct varieties. There were three competitors, all showing well. A beautiful series gained first prize for Messrs. Morse Bros., Woodbridge. We had a distinct liking for The Queen Alexandra Rose, Admiration, Shot Silk, Lord Charlemont Marcia Stanhope, Isobel, Mrs. Henry Morse, Emma Wright, Etoile de Hollande, Mme. Abel Chatenay, and Mabel Morse. Second prize was awarded to Mr. Frank Spooner, Horsell, Woking, for a bright series, and third prize went to Mr. Henry Street, West Chobham.

EXHIBITION ROSES IN BOXES

Class 9.—The championship for exhibition Roses, for 48 blooms, distinct varieties. The winner takes the China Challenge Trophy, Silver-gilt Medal, and a money prize. There were only three exhibitors, premier honours being secured by Messrs. B. R. Cant and Sons, Ltd., Colchester. Noteworthy examples were:—Mrs. Henry Morse, Archie Gray, Mrs. Courtney Page, Lemon Pillar, John Russell, Lady Roundway, Holt Hewitt, Ruth, Mabel Morse, St. Helena, Edgar M. Burnett, Mme. C. Martel, Cleveland, and Lady Ashtown. Second prize was awarded to Messrs. Frank Cant and Co., Ltd., Colchester, who had a bright and even series of blooms. We especially noted Princess Victoria, Lady Inchiquin, Rev. F. Page Roberts, Mrs. B. J. Walker, Betty Uprichard, and Mrs. Henry Morse. Messrs. George Longley and Sons, Rainham, Kent, were third.

Class 10, for 24 blooms, distinct varieties, was contested by only three firms. First prize and the John Hart Memorial Cup was won by Messrs. Jarmon and Co., Chard, who staged a nice even lot of blooms. Noteworthy sorts were Mrs. H. Bowles, Mrs. John Laing, Mr. B. Walker, Lady Inchiquin, Ethel Somerset, E. M. Burnett, and Nellie Parker. Second prize was won by Mr. Elisha J. Hicks, Hurst, Berks, who had some blooms of exceptional excellence in his stand. His George Dickson was awarded the Silver-gilt Medal for the best Rose exhibited by a nurseryman. Other good Roses of his were Earl Haig, Ethel Somerset, and Aug. Hartmann. Third prize went to Mr. Henry Drew for a very bright series.

Class 12, for 12 new cut Roses distributed since January 1st, 1923, distinct varieties, found only three competitors. First prize was won by Mr. John Mattock, who had, among others in good form, Maud Cumming, Bettie Hulton, and Shot Silk as his best flowers. Mr. Elisha Hicks was second and Messrs. George Longley and Sons third.

Class 13 was for 12 blooms of any new Rose distributed since 1923, and there were two entrants. First prize was won by Messrs. B. R. Cant and Sons, Ltd., with beautiful blooms of the yellow Mrs. Beatty. Second prize was awarded to Mr. Elisha

Hicks, who staged the pretty pink variety, Clovelly.

EXHIBITION ROSES IN BASKETS

Class 14, for one basket of cut Roses, one variety of H.P.'s, not more than 14 blooms, produced only two exhibits. First prize was awarded to Messrs. Jarman and Co. for a pretty lot of Frau Karl Druschki and second prize to Mr. Elisha Hicks for the same variety.

There were four entrants in Class 15, for one basket of cut Roses, one variety of H.T.'s, not more than 14 blooms. With good examples of Mrs. H. Bowles Messrs. Jarman and Co. were again a good first, and with excellent blooms of Mrs. Henry Morse, Messrs. G. Longley and Sons were second. Quite a good lot of Admiration won third prize for Mr. George Prince.

Of the three exhibitors in Class 16, for one basket cut Roses, one variety of Teas or Noisettes, not more than 14 blooms, Mr. George Prince led the van with good examples of Mme. Jules Gravereaux. Second prize was won by Mr. Elisha Hicks with Maman Cochet, and with dainty blooms of Mme. Hoste, Messrs. G. Longley and Sons won third prize.

Class 17.—The Brayfort Challenge Cup was offered for one basket of Roses, one variety only, 14 blooms of any H.P., H.T., T., or N. put into commerce after January 1st, 1921. A grand first prize lot was that of Messrs. Morse Bros., who showed their grand variety Shot Silk in perfect condition. A good second was found in Lady Inchiquin, shown by Messrs. A. Warner and Co. This competition was a noteworthy one.

Class 23 was the Nickerson prize for the best new Rose of British or American origin sent out between June 1st, 1920, and December 31st, 1925, 36 stems of any one variety. There were seven exhibits. First prize was awarded to Messrs. A. Warner and Son for Shot Silk represented in magnificent form and condition. A most striking exhibit. This variety well merited the Nickerson Cup, value £30, as it stood out distinctly from all others for all-round good quality.

LADIES' ARTISTIC CLASSES (AMATEURS)

Class 64, for a decoration of cut Roses for the dinner-table, on a space 6 feet by 4 feet, was contested by six ladies, all of whom showed well. A very lovely decoration well won first prize for Mrs. L. Colston Hall, Virginia Lodge, Warminster. This lady used most effectively Cupid and Irish Fireflame, which proved to be a most charming combination. Five small bowls arranged crosswise in the centre and four corner bowls made a really pretty decoration. For second prize Mrs. Oakley Fisher, Egremont House, Sudbury, used her namesake Rose, and made a pretty display. Third prize went to Mrs. Courtney Page, Enfield, Middlesex, who used, effectively, Dainty Bess in pink bowls and vases. A good table of Irish Elegance won fourth prize for Mrs. A. D. Ruff, Sharnbrook, Beds.

In Class 65, for a similar class, in which any Rose except single-flowered may be used, there were seven very charming table decorations. A beautifully refined table of Roselandia secured leading honours for Mrs. Courtney Page. An oblong bowl in the centre of the table made an effective display, and the six other dainty receptacles were most deftly arranged. A most refined decoration in which superb blossoms of Mme. Butterfly were used well won second prize for Mrs. F. Charlton, 11, Edgar Road, Yiewsley. Every flower was in its proper place. Another charming table, very lightly and elegantly arranged, secured third prize for Mrs. A. D. Ruff. This lady also used Mme. Butterfly. Fourth prize went to Mrs. A. F. Barton, York House, Chappel, who used Rose Betty Uprichard.

In Class 66, for a basket of cut Roses lightly arranged with Rose foliage only, there were six baskets of varying worth. An interesting basket of Roselandia of good colour won first prize for Miss M. Woolven. Second prize was awarded to Mrs. Courtney Page for a beautiful basket of Mme. Butterfly. The flowers were superb and the arrangement artistic. With a brilliant crimson-coloured Rose, Richmond, third prize was awarded to Mrs. F. Charlton and fourth prize for American Pillar of uncertain worth was secured by Miss J. B. Langton, Raymead, Hendon.

Class 67 was for a vase of cut Roses lightly arranged with Rose foliage, vases to be about 11 inches high. Of the seven entrants only one was below the usual standard. First prize was awarded to a beautifully-arranged vase of Mme. Butterfly arranged by Mrs. Courtney Page. Second prize was won by Miss M. E. West, Firth Dene, Reigate, with a pretty vase of Richmond, and with the same variety Mrs. F. Charlton was third; and, again, with the same variety Mrs. A. D. Ruff was placed fourth.

Class 68.—The Nickerson prize for a decoration of cut Roses for dinner-table, lightly arranged with Rose foliage only. There were no fewer than eight tables, most of which were very charming. A very striking table in which the exhibitor used blooms of Betty Uprichard won first prize for Mr. E. Griffith, The Nook, Dollis Avenue, Finchley. This was a distinctly artistic exhibit. Second prize was awarded to Mrs. Courtney Page for a pretty table in which she utilised flowers of Emma Wright, of good colour. This was a striking exhibit, and the centre bowls were arranged low with Roses Lady Hillingdon and Mrs. Oakley Fisher. Mrs. Oakley Fisher was placed third, and with a beautiful table of Isobel Mrs. A. D. Ruff was placed fourth. The exhibit deserved a better position.

Class 69.—The seven entrants in this class, for a bowl of mixed cut Roses, not less than six varieties, lightly arranged with Rose foliage only, but small buds left on the added foliage, brought out seven beautiful exhibits. Leading honours fell to the lot of Mrs. Courtney Page, who, in this class, did not show up to her usual standard. An excellent exhibit secured second prize for Miss J. B. Langton, whose arrangement was the best in this competition. Third prize was awarded to Mrs. A. F. Barton for a bright bowl, and fourth prize to Mrs. Oakley Fisher.

Open to amateurs who have never won a first prize in the Decorative section at an exhibition of the National Rose Society.

Class 70.—For a table decoration on a space 6 feet by 4 feet there were only three competitors. With a daintily-arranged table of Roselandia Miss M. Woolven was a good first. Her centre bowl was distinctly good. With better flowers of the same variety second prize was secured by Mrs. G. W. H. Carrs, 14, Ridge Road, Winchmore Hill, N. With these flowers she could easily have done better. Third prize went to a dainty table of Mme. Butterfly arranged by Mrs. E. Y. Cooper.

Class 71.—This was for a bowl of cut Roses lightly arranged with Rose foliage. Again there were only three competitors. A beautiful bowl of Mme. Butterfly secured first prize for Miss M. Woolven, Wadlands, East Grinstead. With a paler form of the same variety second prize was won by Mrs. E. Y. Cooper, Windridge, Warlingham, and third prize was awarded to Miss Robins, Margaretting.

ARTISTIC CLASSES (NURSE MEN'S SECTION)

Class 20.—For a decoration of Cut for dinner-table, lightly arranged with foliage only on a table 6 feet by 4 feet. were six entrants, a very lovely table of landia winning first prize for Mrs. Tisdall, Woodford Green. We thin was the best table decoration in the It was most artistically arranged an without a blemish. Second prize wa with a table decorated with I. Zing very striking colour, and was put up b A. Bide, Farnham. The colour may scribed as Nasturtium-red and old go pretty table of Roselandia, also arrange daintily, secured third prize for Mrs. May, Oakhurst, Waltham Cross, and prize was awarded to Mrs. A. F. Chapl York Road, Waltham Cross, with a b ful decoration of Mme. Butterfly.

Class 21.—For a bowl of cut flowers ar lightly. There were five magnificent ex which stood out for their beauty and ar ment from all others in this fine show. Tisdall again excelled, winning first with a grandly-arranged bowl of Rich at its best. This was very fine. S prize was secured by Mrs. May with a did bowl of Mme. Butterfly, and wi same variety Mrs. A. Bide was third. A. F. Chaplin was fourth. These ex were a centre of interest.

In Class 22, for a basket of cut there were four entrants, Mrs. Tisdall winning leading honours with Rich charmingly disposed. Mrs. Bide was with Mme. Butterfly. The third prize was missing, but fourth was awarded H. Drew, Longworth, Berks, with Elegance.

VEGETABLES

Vegetable notes

THE rain through the latter part o in and around London was pretty ral. Let us hope it reached c districts as well, for it was badly in ne good soaking in many parts. Here one can see the good effect it has h growing crops, especially the Brassica f Lettuce, Turnips, Peas, Beans, etc. prepared the ground for the reception cession crops of Broccoli, Cauliflower bage, Savoys, Leeks, and a few other are best got in without delay. Furt will have favoured the opportunity paring sites for late Carrots, Turnip Spinach, each of which may follow P Potatoes that may have been cleared, d the ground deeply and working in lime, soot, or wood-ash, whichever thought deficient of.

Peas have not filled well, owing to t weather and absence of sun, but with moisture in the ground and increased w which we look for at this date a vast in ment should soon be noted.

Early Potatoes are very small in ma tricts, owing to the May drought, a scarcely worth lifting in some places, 1 main crops in fields begin to look ve mising since the good soaking they h cently had. Runner Beans are very ward, the cold nights and lack throughout June being all against which revel in real hot weather in thei stage. The Marrow, another sun plant unless it has been sheltered wit is bound to be late. We must look cessional sowings for the bulk of the Last year the markets were glutte them towards autumn, and not a payi for those who grow for that purpose.

The 82nd Anniversary Festival Dinner of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution at the New Princes' Galleries, Piccadilly, W., on June 29th

st things, whether vegetables or fruit, liest products command the best Lettuce have been fairly plentiful ing the season, and Cucumbers as Tomatoes from under glass een for some weeks selling well, er at 10d. per lb. the first week but this is not the weather for plants unless against the warmest wall, ess the weather quickly alters for the e returns are sure to be small. We summer similar to 1921 for such half-nnuals, as it were, to be a success.

J. MAYNE.

Celery

p this crop growing freely abundance ure is necessary, and an occasional f liquid-manure. Remove weeds and d leaves, and in order to keep the er at bay spray the plants every fort-ith quassia extract. The earliest will benefit from a light top-dressing p to 3 inches in depth, which should ed down firmly about the stems.

on Condition of Horticultural Crops on June 30th, 1927

VEGETABLES

(Broad).—Slow in maturing, but proved with rain.

(Kidney).—Backward, owing to and cold; fair promise.

(Runner).—Good progress after re-s; require warmth.

-Plants greatly improved.

li.—Young plants small and some-naged by pests; planting out now in

ls Sprouts.—Early plantings grow-further plantings now being carried r favourable conditions.

ge (spring-sown).—Plants making gress.

s.—Backward.

ower. — Poor; growth retarded drought and lack of sunshine.

—Planting out almost completed.

bers (under glass).—Crop well up to

bers (outdoor).—Progress very slow.

-Planting out in progress.

—Planting out in progress.

e.—Much improved with rain.

ws.—Backward; growth slow; re-rmth.

s.—Plants are patchy in the rows.

Parsnips.—Healthy and showing good promise.

Peas.—Early sowings below average; late sowings growing well and showing better promise.

Savoys.—Planting out in progress.

Sea Kale.—Sets have started well and show strong growth.

Spinach.—Average.

Tomatoes (under glass).—Very good crop.

Tomatoes (outdoor).—Backward; progress slow, owing to lack of warmth.

Turnips.—Generally unsatisfactory, but showing improvement in places.

FRUIT

Apples (culinary).—Variable, but Bramley's Seedling poor almost everywhere; Newton Wonder, Lane's Prince Albert, Lord Derby, and Emneth Early carry fair crops; cider varieties generally will be below average.

Apples (dessert).—Worcester Pearmain, Blenheim Orange, James Grieve, and Allington Pippin carry fair to good crops, but Cox's Orange Pippin and Beauty of Bath only fair.

Cherries (culinary).—Patchy; Morellos and Flemish show fair promise in Kent.

Cherries (dessert).—Generally below average; much dropping; Napoleon, Early Rivers, Black Heart, and Waterloo fair.

Currants (Black).—Variable; some running off reported; Boskoop light, Victoria and French very fair; Baldwins bear good crops.

Currants (Red).—Fair to average crop.

Gooseberries.—Crop quite up to average in most places.

Pears.—Very light crops of most varieties, owing to frost damage and dropping; Hessle, Fertility, and Conference bear more fruit than others.

Plums (ordinary).—Below average; Czars very fair; Monarch, Early Prolific, and Pond's Seedling fair; Victoria and Pershore poor.

Plums (Gages).—Very light everywhere.

Plums (Damsons).—Patchy; fair in places, but poor generally.

Raspberries.—Much improvement after recent rains, and there are prospects of an average crop; require sun.

The Parisian Chelsea

The observations on the Paris Exhibition, issue June 25th, page 398, are very true, although severe. I agree with the criticisms. I was a judge for the jury, and had the same impression. The French nurserymen *retard* very much.

EXPEDITEUR.

Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution

MAJOR-GENERAL THE LORD TREOWEN, C.B., C.M.G., presided at the eighty-second Anniversary Festival Dinner at the New Princes Galleries, Piccadilly, W., on June 29th.

The guests and visitors on the right of the Chairman were The Lady Treowen (seen standing in the illustration), Lord Lambourne, Miss Lawrence, Sir Henry Webb, Lady Webb, Edward Sherwood (Treasurer, G.R.B.I.), Mrs. E. Sherwood, Capt. Noel Sutton, Miss Carwardine, C. Graham White, Mrs. Graham White, Col. J. Francis, Lady Slade, and Sir James B. Slade.

On the left of the Chairman were Lady Lawrence, Sir William Lawrence, Col. Sir John Smith Young (Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners), Leonard Sutton (Chairman, G.R.B.I.), Lady Lobjoit, Sir W. G. Lobjoit, Herbert Greenwood, Mrs. H. S. Clogg, H. S. Clogg, Mrs. E. Manwaring, and E. Manwaring.

It was a very successful evening, and over £2,500 was subscribed to this most worthy Institution. Full particulars of the work of this deserving fund may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. George J. Ingram, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

Royal Horticultural Society Wisley Trials, 1927

The following awards have been made to the undermentioned flowers by the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society after trial at Wisley:—

AQUILEGIAS

AWARD OF MERIT.

A. cœrulea Mrs. M. Nicholls, sent by Messrs. Zwaan and van der Molen and Messrs. Carter; A. glandulosa, sent by Messrs. Barr.

HIGHLY COMMENDED.

Rose and pink shades (long-spurred), sent by Messrs. Carter; long-spurred blue hybrids, sent by Messrs. Carter; Mrs. Scott-Elliott's strain, sent by Messrs. Watkins and Simpson, Messrs. Daniels, and Messrs. W. H. Simpson; selected, sent by Messrs. Blackmore and Langdon; Diadem, sent by Messrs. Webb; selected hybrids, sent by Messrs. Zwaan and van der Molen; cœrulea, sent by Messrs. Watkins and Simpson; olympica, sent by Messrs. Barr; pyrenaica grandiflora, sent by Messrs. Barr; long-spurred mixed, sent by Messrs. Stuart and Mein; long-spurred hybrids, sent by Messrs. Watkins and Simpson.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Vegetables to sow now

If often happens that vacant plots become available at this time of the year which may be turned to considerable advantage if dug up and manured without delay. On such plots sow early dwarf varieties of Peas, Carrots, Onions, Lettuces, Beet, Cauliflower, and summer Cabbage of an early maturing kind, such as Express or Glory. The two latter, however, must not be transplanted, but thinned out to 12 inches in the case of the former and 14 inches in the latter, therefore sow thinly. The seedlings so left will make rapid headway and reach maturity in early autumn, when they will be found to possess the same rich and tender quality of those of early spring. Sow also Spinach, Radish, Turnips, Endive, dwarf Beans, Kohl Rabi, and Parsley. The roots from this sowing, if not large, will attain a very useful size and be much appreciated by those who prefer quality to mere size.

Peas

Do not allow the plants to squat before applying the stakes, for these later-growing varieties need all the assistance we can give them. Dust the lines frequently with soot, and if mite becomes troublesome, as it too often does, with disastrous results, spray the lines with quassia extract and nicotine, which will hold this pest in check. Keep the rows well supplied with water, and an occasional application of liquid-manure will prove most beneficial. Should birds attack the pods netting must be resorted to.

Scarlet Runners

Where plain stakes are used for supporting the bind it will be found necessary to train a percentage of the plants at the start, otherwise several will cling to one stake, while those at its side are empty. These troublesome growths should be lightly tied with matting.

Winter Greens

All planting of this description, even for late batches, should now be completed. Encourage growth by the free use of the hoe among the plants, and apply light stakes to large Brussels Sprouts which are inclined to fall over.

Fruit trees

Apply a mulch to all trees carrying heavy crops, and continue to water freely those trained to sunny walls. Peaches and Figs need constant stopping and training in order to admit sunshine to the fruits.

Plums

Regulate the growths of young trees which are growing freely, as failure to do so while in this young state will render it almost impossible to do so later. Any leading growths inclined to ramp away at the expense of the slower side branches must be stopped now. A good deal will depend upon the method of training adopted, but an even balance of the tree should be the first consideration.

Strawberries

Continue to put down the layers as they become available, and water freely during fine weather. Pay special attention to those intended for pot culture, as the sooner these are ready for transferring to 6-inch pots the better.

Vineries

Those containing ripe fruit must be kept cool and airy, and, should black varieties begin losing colour, slight shading during the hottest part of the day should be resorted to. This, however, must not apply to white varieties, which need all the light possible.

Seeds of Alpine and other hardy flowers

Where desirable these should be saved with a view to raising additional plants. In many instances it will be advisable to sow straight away, placing the pots containing the seeds in a cool frame. Primula, Auricula, and some Gentian seeds germinate more freely if sown immediately they are ripe.

Polyanthuses

Those sown earlier in the year should now be pricked out in lines at 4 inches apart and growth encouraged by frequent waterings.

Heath garden

Any cutting in of those species which have finished blooming and which at times encroach upon the paths may be done at the present time, growth at this period being free. Any sore effect resulting therefrom will be quickly obscured.

Herbaceous plants

Young plants from seed should be planted out in lines in the reserve garden to furnish strong material for autumn planting. Beds and borders filled with these plants are now very attractive, but require constant attention in the matter of careful staking and watering.

Flowers from seed

Sow colonies of Rhodanthe in variety, Phacelia, and Nemophilas for flowering during the early autumn. The result is generally very fine.

Bulbs

Those lifted from the beds to make way for tender plants and laid out to dry should now be collected, sorted, and, when thoroughly dried, stored away in a cool, dry shed.

Wet days

Prepare fine soil in readiness for layering Carnations. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Leeks

In most kitchens there is a constant demand during autumn, winter, and spring for this hardy vegetable, so the main batch should now be planted. This should be carried out, if possible, during showery weather, but if the ground is dry abundance of water must be given both before and after planting is carried out. Richly-manured and deeply-worked ground is necessary for success. Probably the best and hardiest variety is a good stock of the old Scotch Musselburgh.

Spring Broccoli

There is still time to plant this valuable vegetable, but the sooner this can have attention the better. Very rich and soft ground must be avoided or the growth will be so rank and soft that the plants will never survive the winter. A piece that was well manured for the previous crop will suit well and need not be dug, but merely cleaned and made level. If the planting can be carried out immediately after heavy rain the dibber will work much more easily. For northern gardens Methvens June, Leamington, and Evesham Giant are very reliable.

Spinach

Where this is in demand a further sowing should now be made. At this season rich, rather moist ground gives best results. a good plan to sow a small quantity 10 days or so should there be a likely de for this vegetable.

Border Chrysanthemums

If not yet done, the staking of the should now be given attention. Stout boos of suitable length make excellen ports, although perhaps an even method of supporting these plants is by of stout posts and wires or strong tar Drive in the posts at suitable intervals the rows and stretch on three rows of or twine at suitable distances apart, f ing securely with small staples. To the securely tie the shoots, and a satisf method of support is provided that save siderable time in the long-run.

Bedding plants

All beds and borders occupied by the mer and autumn flowering plants shoul frequent attention in the way of ren spent flowers and weeds, while the hoe be used for stirring the soil as long a possible to do so without damagin plants. Any kinds that require su should be neatly and securely staked i time so that they may not be bent and t by wind and rain.

Calceolarias

The large-flowered or herbaceous C laria is never happy in a dry, warm sphere, so the seedlings must, during mer, be accommodated in a cold under a north wall to keep them co comfortable. An ash bottom should b vided, and this kept moist by frequent ing between the plants.

Cinerarias

These useful decorative plants are a patient of hot, dry conditions, and have similar treatment to that advis Calceolarias. Do not permit the pla get really pot-bound in the earlier sta growth. Water carefully and keep greenfly, their greatest enemy.

Cyclamens

A genial atmosphere, not a too war is what this rather difficult subject r throughout the summer. Water with care, as dryness at the root is certain sult in attacks of vermin, while too water will cause sourness and subs crippling, or even death, of the Spray overhead twice daily, shade fr bright sunshine, and give abundance c air.

Begonia Gloire de Lorraine

Remove all flower-buds at frequen vals. Give gentle feeding in the sh clear soot-water and weak liquid-m Stake neatly and in good time. This very beautiful when grown as a h plant. Plants that are accommoda 7-inch pots are very suitable for this of culture. If set in wire baskets a shoots permitted to fall down all rou make very striking objects for an mediate house. They must be shade all direct sunshine.

Late Chrysanthemums

Staking, tying, and disbudding n constantly attended to. Keep a shar out for earwigs and greenfly. The la easily kept under if the points are o ally sprayed with a "one in forty" of XL All liquid insecticide, while t wigs must be trapped. C. E

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow

Answers to Queries

ions—Queries and answers are inserted in NG ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre- ts follow these rules: All communications e clearly written on one side of the paper d addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. on business should be sent to the* PUB- *The name and address of the sender are in addition to any designation he may be used in the paper. When more than ry is sent each should be on a separate paper, the name and address being added As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

GREENHOUSE

ent of Carnations, Narcissus oms splitting, and compost for um Lilies

uld be very glad if you would en- me on the following subjects. Last ne) I bought some young Carnations ts. I have grown them on, and at ent time I am cutting an abundance nice bloom, and shall for some What I should like to know is what reatment when they have finished g? Is it too late to propagate from what is the best thing to do? I ention this is the first time I have Carnations, and these are doing so hould like to increase the quantity. uld you inform me the cause of Iarrisii blooms splitting open before eloped, and what do you consider the ing medium for Arums in pots?

J. HARDING.

lo not say what type of Carnation to, but from your account we pre- m to be of the perpetual flowering ttings of which should have been March and struck in a propagating a warm greenhouse. Your best ider the circumstances is to give ther shift into larger pots imme- ey cease to bloom, or, at the latest, iddle of July. After potting, stand on a bed of coal ashes in the open them over once each day should er prove hot and dry. Cut the old alks back to within five buds of and pinch out the tops of any ich develop a flowering tendency, t being bushy plants for blooming ch onwards next year. Syringe once each week with soapy water ed spider and thrip.

ge growth by watering carefully, the plants in the open air until the September, when they must be ced under glass. No pinching done later than the first week in ou could, if you have a few plants mber of flowerless growths upon t them out in a cool closed frame them, but these will be small, and be expected of them during the inter. To do this make up a the frame, of any open free soil, out the Carnations, tilting them order to bring the shoots as near possible, cut clean away all weak flower stalks, and after surfacing he shoots will cover with fine commence to layer them into it. shoot up to the top four or five with a sharp knife make an in- way through, drawing the blade the joint immediately above; or wire with a hook in it and to the fresh compost just above so that as the peg comes down h the tongue and peg it securely th, cover it with a little more of l. With the layering completed, ient water to settle the whole sur- h a fine rose, and keep the plants close and shaded from bright sunshine until growth is apparent, when air must be gradually admitted, and in about a month's time the layers may be severed from the parent plant and potted up into small pots. Border Carnations growing in pots may be treated in exactly the same way, also Malmaisons.

(2) Lilium Harrisii blooms splitting. This is probably due to overfeeding the plants.

(3) The best potting medium for Arums is three parts of good turfy loam, and one part (made up of) well-decayed cow manure, bone meal, wood ash, and sharp sand.]

Zonal Pelargoniums

(W. B.).—You must be keeping your plants in too close a house, and also, probably, too much in the shade. The Zonal Pelargonium is a sun-lover, and must have abundance of fresh air. Syringing the foliage is also bad for this plant, as is too much feeding, especially with liquid manure.

Disbudding Chrysanthemums

I have a stock of the undermentioned Chrysanthemums, and wish to grow them to one large bloom. Please tell me when to disbud. The plants have not been stopped:—Nina Blick, Yellow Valet, Mrs. G. Denyer, Mrs. Hamilton, Bronze Goacher, and Marie Masse.

London. E. F. S.

[The variety Yellow Valet would flower somewhat late outside and Mrs. G. Denyer is quite unsuitable. This is an indoor kind of tall growth. The last you name, again, is not suitable for large blooms, but is good when allowed to bloom at will. The other three may be allowed to produce side growths, then thin these down to from six to nine according to strength of plant. Bud selection would be the first that appear, and, of course, one only to each branch. Bronze Goacher has this peculiarity, it may show a lot of flower-buds at the expense of leaf growth. Simply remove the former for a time and fairly long branches should follow.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Narcissus bulbs for examination

I enclose bulb of "Emperor" Narcissus which is affected by some kind of small worms. I grew a bed of these, also several other kinds, including St. Brigid Anemones. They were doing well when suddenly they wilted and died rapidly, and, on lifting, found them infested with these small worms. They are also attacking young Cauliflower plants; in fact, the ground seems infested with them. Could you kindly tell me what they are and means of eradication? E. F.

[The bulbs sent by our correspondent are attacked by the small snake millipede. It is very unusual for this pest to attack Narcissi, and our correspondent must have them in considerable numbers. We wonder if he has been employing natural guano as a manure? This material seems to create an attraction for millipedes and wireworms. Remedies: For land which cannot be cleared, the best thing to do is to fumigate with some such material as Kamforite. Punch holes in the ground a foot deep and as far apart with a dibber, sprinkle in the fumigant and close them up. In order to clear the pest from land which is clear from crops sow Mustard *heavily*. Let it grow to a foot or 18 inches in height and trench it in, sprinkling a little fumigant in each trench during the operation. The Mustard not only forms a valuable fertiliser, but in its decomposition it generates a crude form of Mustard gas which, in sufficient quantity, will clear the land without further assistance.]

Feather Hyacinths deteriorating

I have a border of Feather Hyacinths, a beautiful sight always in their season. Three years ago I noticed one or two what I thought were *freaks* amongst them, but this year I realise I am losing my border. All the Feather Hyacinths are turning into ugly brown seed-boxes. I enclose a couple of blooms. Can anything be done?

MAUD THESIGER DANIELL.

[It would appear that the bulbs have become somewhat exhausted, owing to their having been grown for a number of years in the same soil. It would be well, therefore, to have the whole of the bulbs lifted as soon as the foliage turns yellow, the top spit of soil removed, and fresh earth from one of the vegetable quarters put in in its stead. Treated thus, and only the finer of the bulbs replanted, even the first year there ought to be plenty of good flowers.]

ROSES

Abnormal Rose

I shall be much obliged if you will be kind enough to tell me what is the matter with an old-fashioned white Rose plant which I have in a greenhouse. It was given me about a year ago as it would not bloom out-of-doors. This year (indoors) it is blooming and looking well, but the centre of each blossom has quite a large, hard, green growth in it. This must be some sort of disease, and I am anxious to know if I can do anything to prevent it another year. E. M. T.

[This is not a disease, but a sort of abnormal growth, the cause of which is not at all clear. We are inclined, however, to think that, in your case, the plant may not have quite got over its transference to the greenhouse. We would pick off the majority of any buds again forming and next season top-dress with, say, Thomson's plant manure, just when growth is starting. This is all that can be done, but we cannot guarantee that it will be effective.]

Blind shoots on Roses

I have a lot of blind shoots on my Roses, both dwarf and climbers, this season. What is the reason and the cure? I see in your admirable paper an answer telling a correspondent to cut the blind shoots away and manure tree. Does this mean cut back into the shoot the blind shoot started from, or only take off the blind top? Will this cure the bad habit, and when must the manure be put on, if now? I have some old climbers—ramblers I should think—very old. Lots of flowers and small wood, but very few long rods. Never been manured, I hear, for seven or eight years. What can I put on them now? A BEGINNER.

[A pity you did not send us a sample of the "blind" shoots, as these may be caused by different conditions. For instance, many shoots are so deformed by a grub that burrows in the centre of the shoot, and is only discovered after the damage has been done. Want of vigour and over-luxuriance are also, at times, responsible, so you must decide as to the probable cause by examining

the bushes. The last named will adjust itself in time if you refrain from giving further manure. The want of vigour will yield to generous treatment in the way of occasional soakings of liquid-manure, while the first-mentioned will be corrected by cutting off the affected shoot as far back as the grub has burrowed and close to a plump bud. The neglected ramblers should also have copious drenchings at the roots of liquid-manure, and as soon as they have ceased flowering the oldest of the wood should be cut away and as many of the young rods as are available trained in their place.]

Marechal Niel and Lamarque Roses

Would you kindly tell me if either a Maréchal Niel or Lamarque Rose would be likely to succeed if planted in a warm south border against a brick wall next autumn?

S. R. COOKSON.

[Yes, both these Roses are a success if well cared for on a south wall. The border should be in good heart and the plants liberally fed during their early-growing season; that is, from May to September, and both Roses should be pruned early in April. Though unrivalled for the splendour of its golden blooms, Maréchal Niel is rather a shy bloomer. There is no such drawback to the sweet-scented Lamarque, whose clusters of lemon-white blooms are free and continuous.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Shrub to name and when to prune it

(R. B., Norfolk).—The shrub you send is the English Tamarisk (Tamarix anglica), common in places on the Suffolk coast. Pruning.—If it is light pruning only that your shrub is in need of it should be carried out immediately the flowering season has passed, but if the shrub has grown lanky and you want to considerably reduce its size, which means cutting back to old wood, then defer the work until the third week in April next year, which is just before the shrub commences to make its growth. You may then cut hard back, but you will lose most of that season's bloom.

Glaucous conifers for a lawn

(Sandringham).—For a lawn the best glaucous conifer is Picea pungens glauca. It grows in a narrow columnar form, and does not take up so much room as others. Another Picea that is, perhaps, even as good is Picea pungens Kosteri. It is probably the finest variety in existence of the Colorado Blue Spruce. Pyramidal in form, with stiff horizontal branches, the leaves are thickly covered with a blue-white bloom, giving the tree its distinctive appearance, and is an exceedingly handsome plant. Where there is space where the tree can be looked at from a distance Cedrus atlantica glauca is most effective.

Pruning a standard Broom

I have a standard Cytisus (gold and brown hybrid Broom) planted last winter and now in full bloom. Can you tell me how this should be pruned in order to keep its shape and yet preserve its free-flowering habit?

LANCASHIRE.

[Unless in the earlier stages the Brooms require no pruning. For the first year or two after they are raised from seeds it is desirable to cut back rather drastically so as to induce a good foundation being built up for the future plant. Afterwards these Brooms, as a rule, grow quite shapely and need no pruning. In the event, however, of a branch growing in such a way as to destroy the symmetry of the bush, then it should be cut back a little so as to permit of the other branches recovering their balance.]

FRUIT

Big Bud on Black Currants

(Mrs. E. S. Gooch).—The Black Currant shoots sent for examination are attacked by Big Bud, caused by a mite, Phytoptus or Eriophyes ribis. This pest, which is only too well known, attacks and feeds upon the unopened buds, and completely destroys them and the prospect of fruit. The presence of this mite was apparent in autumn and winter by the much swollen and abnormal condition of the buds. All swollen buds should have been removed at an early date. We suggest that they are all taken off by hand now without further delay, and the bushes should be sprayed with nicotine and soft-soap wash, using 1½ ozs. of nicotine to 10 gallons water with 1 lb. soft-soap. As your bushes appear to be very badly attacked by this pest it might be the best policy to grub them up and burn them. The soft-soap and nicotine wash referred to is best applied in early summer when the female mites are depositing their eggs. In future we advise you during spring to dust the bushes about every fortnight with lime and sulphur after rain or while the dew is on them.

VEGETABLES

Tomato leaf spot

Will you kindly let me know, through your paper, the cause of the brown spots on the Tomato leaves? I have over 100 plants with three trusses set, and only two are infected at present.

J. G.

[We have carefully examined the specimens you have sent, and can find no fungus which would be likely to cause the leaf spots. It appears to us as if the leaves have been burned by the sun or by an insecticide. To be on the safe side we should advise you to pick off and burn all the affected leaves, and the spray fluid advised in our reply to "W. J." in connection with Tomato Rust would be a good fungicide to use if the trouble appears to spread. Give the plants a good soaking with a solution of sulphate of potash, using 4 ozs. to 25 gallons of water. We notice that the foliage you send is badly infested with white fly, and unless you do something to check it will cause you serious trouble later on. Fumigation with a good white fly fumigant or with calcium cyanide would be your best plan. Write us again if we can assist you further.]

Tomato Rust

(W. J.).—Your Tomatoes are very badly affected with Tomato Rust, which is caused by the fungus Cladosporium fulvum. In the case of such a bad attack as yours appears to be we do not think you can do much to control the disease. It has now got such a hold upon the plants that we are afraid spraying would have little effect. The best thing you can do is to burn the badly-affected plants and to spray the rest with a solution of ammonium polysulphide. You can buy concentrated ammonium polysulphide from any nursery sundriesman, and you should make up your spray fluid by using 2 lbs. of soft-soap dissolved in 50 gallons of water, and then well stir in 1 pint of the concentrated ammonium polysulphide. Try and get a coating of the spray fluid upon both sides of the foliage. As soon as you have cleared the crop, but before you remove the haulm, you should fumigate the house with a 40 per cent. formaldehyde solution. The best way to do this is to vaporise the formaldehyde in naphthaline lamps at the rate of 10 ozs. per 1,000 cubic feet. After this has been done carefully remove all the haulm and any rubbish from all parts of the house and burn it. Keep a sharp look-out for the reappearance of the disease next season, and use the ammonium polysulphide as soon as yo detect the disease; in fact, it would be use the fungicide as a preventive. fumigating with formaldehyde no other than the old Tomatoes should be house, and you should arrange that y air the house from outside after the have been kept in for 48 hours. nothing wrong with your soil mixtu you added more sand it would keep th post open. Perhaps your loam is heavy side.

Cabbage root maggot

Could you, please, advise me how Cabbage and Brussels Sprouts fro maggot? I have found nothing to cu yet. I have used lime, soot, and salt. none is of any use. The plants keep and as I pull them up I find from on 20 maggots at a plant. I have never this take place so early before. My s a light nature, but I always tread wel 1 plant.

E. A. M

[It is almost impossible to save which are already attacked by Cabba Maggot. From time to time earlier season we have given in our colum ventative measures for this pest. If o deners would realise that with all pe diseases of plants it is far easier to than cure they would have better You should take up and destroy maggots you can find, because in a ve period the maggots you are finding n have completed their life-history and emerging from the soil as another l flies, start egg-laying, and another a the root maggot will result. All pl already attacked should be dressed creosote mixture advised on page 41 issue for July 2nd. Instead of broa the mixture it should be applied 2 oz collar of each plant. The creosote effect if the eggs are already prese Ministry of Agriculture, in their le Cabbage Root Fly, state:—Corrosi mate.—In America a solution of sublimate has been used with succe rate of 1 oz. to 10 gallons of water. count of the intensely poisonous n corrosive sublimate (bichloride of the question of this method findin (or being desirable) in this country to doubt. The method should be av gardens and allotments, but it n tested by commercial growers with acreage.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Inspecting competitors' gardens

Do you consider it advisable fo spection Committee to visit the g intending competitors before the sh place, or would it be the best plan any complaints are made, and vi gardens before the prize money is This is a much-disputed point with mittee, and I should like to kn opinion.

SEC

[This is a rather difficult qu answer. We usually find that the sportsmanship and the competit sense of honour render such visi cessary, except on somewhat rare Naturally, the Committee reserves to investigate the *bonâ fides* of an and in any case of doubt or suspi right would be exercised, but we do such investigations need be regar regular part of the procedure. S of course, a Committee finds its position of a "Court of Inquiry," consider evidence of various kin apart from a visit to the garden but, fortunately, such cases are ra

mpetitor's garden may not be of much It is so difficult to prove anything. stance, if an exhibitor's garden con- patch of, shall we say, King Edward es, who could possibly say that the Edward Potatoes exhibited by him were own there? We cannot prevent dis-, but it will be a sorry day for the now when such investigations become ry as a general rule. As a direct to the question we should say that isits should be made after the show fore the prize is awarded, but only in here the Committee has good grounds pecting dishonest practices. Needless any exhibitors found guilty of such an should be subjected to the severest penalties.]

edes and Millipedes

ier).—Centipedes, as a rule, do good arden. They are yellow or orange-in colour and are entirely flesh-eating es, living on leather-jackets, snails, er soil insects. Do not destroy them, e among the gardener's best friends. d be easy to remember that creatures rapidly in the ground live on other s and are harmless to plants. It is gish insects that live on plants. The sect to which you refer is the milli- They are generally black or brown e a hard exterior. They are fre- found curled up inside vegetative They should be destroyed.

garden lime

enclosing sample of material sold by of manure merchants as "ground lime." My contention is that it is , has never been burnt, does not react ure, and is insoluble. In fact, I be- o be crude chalk as dug and passed a mill or crusher. The price charged per cwt. I purchase best *stone* lime per cwt. delivered.

H. M. HOLDSWORTH.

ave examined the sample of material it appears to be ground carbonate of is very finely ground and appears to l sample. The price charged is that btained for this material. We take it term "*Stone Lime*" means quick- this is so and you can obtain it at er cwt. it is much better value than nd carbonate at 6s. Our views on ion of the various forms of lime were out in two articles published last They are to be found in the issues NING ILLUSTRATED for October 30th, November 13th, 1926.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

Nutfield.—Fremontia californica, l in California by Col. Frémont, m it is named.

S.—Gladiolus communis, native Europe.

mer.—Thank you for your exact Your plant is Helicodiceros Corsican plant of the Arum family. , the flowers smell most objection-

.—Yellow: Bartonia aurea. Mauve : Pentstemon glaucus.

on.—We regret to say that the it had all fallen to pieces in transit. e to send one or two half-open buds damp Moss and enclosed in a small ill gladly do our best to name the ou.

s, Leeds.—1, Ribes aureum; 2, pentagyna; 3, Cratægus pruni- otoneaster frigida.

man.—Cratægus orientalis. onicera Standishii. Flowers pro- November to March.

Newport and District Horticultural Society

The above Society held their fourth annual summer Rose show on Thursday, June 30th, in the beautiful grounds of Stelvio, the residence of Sir John and Lady Davis, under the presidency of Sir Garrod Thomas. It is amazing what strides this show has made during its short life, which germinated from the efforts of the Newport and District Gardeners' Association. It was started in a very humble way by a few strenuous hard-working men who put their whole mind in it, and it is gratifying to note that the Royal Gwent Hospital has benefited to the extent of £500 during the short period. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Reginald Clarry, wife of Mr. Reginald Clarry, M.P., and was well attended, whilst the Mayor of Newport (Mr. A. T. W. James) presided at the luncheon.

Mr. H. R. Farmer (Cardiff Castle Gardens), Mr. A. Munro (Itton Court Gardens, Chepstow), and Mr. R. Scott were the judges, and their task, which was carried out well, was not a light one, as the various classes were fairly well filled and the standard of exhibits were all that could be desired considering the inclement weather that has been experienced during the spring and early summer.

CHIEF AWARDS

The first prize winners in the open classes were:—Roses, 18 blooms in variety, Messrs. E. Hicks, Wallingford; 12 blooms, Tea or Hybrid Teas, Messrs. E. Hicks; 12 blooms, four varieties, Messrs. E. Hicks; 12 blooms, new varieties, Messrs. English and Sons, Gloucester; 12 blooms of any new Rose, Messrs. E. Hicks; Rambler and Polyanthus Roses, L. Foster Stedman, Machen.

CLASSES OPEN TO GARDENERS AND AMATEURS.—12 distinct varieties, Allan Gibbs, Lisvane, Cardiff; 12 blooms, four varieties, C. Angear, Penarth; nine blooms, three varieties, Allan Gibbs; six distinct varieties, which included the N.R.S. silver medal, C. Angear; best vase of Roses, Allan Gibbs; best bowl of Roses, R. G. Williams, Newport; Rambler or Polyantha Roses, L. Foster Stedman; single roses, L. Foster Stedman; championship cup for the best exhibit, Allan Gibbs.

CLASSES OPEN TO LADIES ONLY.—The best decorated table of Roses, Miss Powell, Barry; the best decorated table, any kind of flowers, Mrs. A. Gibbs; best ladies' spray and gent.'s buttonhole, Mrs. T. Cole.

SPECIAL CLASSES OPEN TO ALL.—Basket of Roses, Basham and Sons, Bassaleg; bouquet of Roses, Miss N. Dennis, Newport; collection of hardy flowers, Allan Gibbs, Lisvane; Sweet Peas, A. P. Thomas, Abergavenny; Delphiniums, Sir Garrod Thomas, Newport; Lupins, L. Foster Stedman, Machen; Violas, C. Basham, Bassaleg; Allwoodiis, C. Angear, Penarth; Perpetual-flowering Carnations, Allan Gibbs.

W. E. WRIGHT.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

J. G. Ballego and Sons, Leiden, Holland.—New and rare Dahlias.

W. J. Unwin, Histon, Cambs.—Seeds for summer and autumn sowing—vegetables, grass, flower.

Nutfield Nurseries, S. Nutfield, Surrey.—Bedding-out plants, flower and vegetable.

Charles Turner, Royal Nurseries, Slough.—Dahlias.

Barr and Sons, King Street, Covent Garden.—Bedding plants and Dahlias, flower seeds for the rock garden, flower and vegetable seeds.

Maxwell and Beale, Broadstone.—Hardy Heaths.

PLANTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Alyssum montanum

This plant forms neat greyish tufts 3 inches high, and in early summer the plant is studded with Wallflower-like blooms which are well set off on the spreading tufts of glaucous foliage. In addition to the golden colour of the flowers the plant is characterised by a dwarf, spreading habit, and by much neatness in the arrangement of its hairy leaves. The flowers, also, emitting a pleasant fragrance, particularly in the evening, should commend it. It is an invaluable plant, and particularly useful in consequence of coming into bloom about the end of May or beginning of June, when the other kinds are fading away. The plant will succeed on any soil, providing it is well drained, and never fail to flower. Rocks, stony places, and walls suit them well, and no plant is so easily established on such places or so quickly clothe them with the desired kind of vegetation. Like all its relations, it should be exposed to the full sun rather than shaded if the best results are sought. The plant may be increased by cuttings or seed.

H. STEVENS.

Hypericum polyphyllum

This is a pretty species, partaking of the free-flowering qualities and habit of H. fragile, and, indeed, only differs from it in having slightly smaller flowers with, perhaps, a more cylindrical form. It is a splendid plant for a dry, elevated position, for it will stand drought and heat with impunity. The plant forms a neat though not too dense cushion of pale green leaves, its slender stems having a decided prostrate habit, and therefore very useful for the rock garden or for dry walls. The small glaucous leaves are oval-shaped, and when the sun is shining on them appear to be full of transparent little dots, a feature not noticeable unless looked for. The flowers are freely produced at the extremity of the stalk, the colour a rich yellow. For hanging over a large rock or for clothing arid places it is excellent. It will thrive in a modicum of soil, and this need only be of the poorest nature. For this reason it is well suited for planting in the upper flanks of dry walls where a plant of great endurance is required. It is increased by cuttings or seed.

H. STEVENS.

Benn Brothers' Other Journals

Cabinet Maker.—The Inside of a Mattress—XXXII.: About Spring Mattresses; Metal Bedsteads: Models for Small Houses; Textile Cleaning; Wycombe Technical Institute: Exhibition of Work.

Chemical Age.—Dyestuffs Monthly Supplement: Some Recent Tendencies in Dyestuffs Chemistry; Annual Meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry, Presidential Address: "Chemistry and the Progress of Medicine," by F. H. Carr.

Electrician.—The Paris High Tension Congress; Report of the Tramways and Light Railways Association's Annual Congress; The Contractor's Advisory Function.

Fruit Grower.—"Summer Pruning of Apple Trees"; Australian Export Fruit Control; Select Committee on Rooks and Rabbit Bill.

Gas World.—Papers Read at Annual Meeting of the Canadian Gas Association; Institution of Gas Engineers' Education Scheme: Pass Lists and Syllabuses.

Hardware Trade Journal.—New Implements at the Royal Agricultural Show; Brass Taps Merchandise Marks Inquiry; Census of Light Castings Production.

Timber Trades Journal.—Forestry and Machinery at the "Royal"; Australia's Timber Trade; Forestry in Canada; The Machine Shop Inventor.

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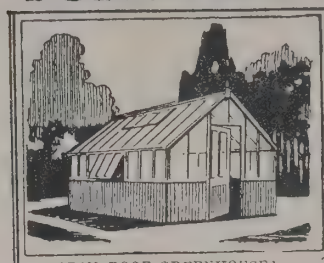

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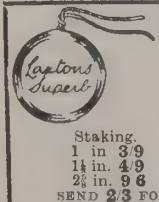

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Some Iris Impressions of 1927

By G. L. Pilkington, President of the Iris Society

the end of June it is my custom to k over in my garden notebook the es which I have jotted down from time during the flowering season on ous Irises which have impressed me wn garden and elsewhere.

notes are generally coupled with ns to be carried out during the forth- transplanting. Unfortunately, like l resolutions, they are not always out when the time comes, and it may two or three entries to effect the de- ange.

propose to set down, shortly, for the nd amusement of my fellow Iris en- s, some of the conclusions which I ne to concerning sundry tall bearded uring the past few weeks. First of ne take the yellows. Everybody I ems to have some wonderful new eedlings; in fact, most Iris hybridists, ing our need for good yellows, seem been working towards this end, and expect a great flush of these during t few years.

stand now I ecome firmly d that the t are Amber and Chasseur Amber is un- ably superior nah, of which eedling, being ightly deeper f yellow, a ower, and also free-flowering. still room for h, too, and it ains "one of ." Chasseur latest of the to bloom, and le in this re- Furthermore, rs are of very n; the colour s, to some ossibly, some- oilt by the blaze on the he unopened with their bases, un- add great nd individual- clump of this f whites, Knight s) is, to my mind, the whitest. Mystic (Bliss) is also good, and may be likened to an improvement of the older form, Mrs. H. Darwin.

Of the Plicatas (*i.e.*, frilled and dotted on light or white ground) I still think that Parisiana (Vilm) is the most effective, though the dotting and frilling is so intense as to almost obliterate the white ground. This is a violet plicata. Of the blue plicatas I fancy Princess Osra (Bliss), which is also heavily peppered. Of the yellow ground plicatas Mme. Chobaut (Denis) is still the best, though one has seen one or two from America which come near to it. For real grace and lightness give me Miss Sturtevant's True Charm.

Of reds (or so-called reds), Evadne (Bliss) is easily the most "telling," and is of a rose-red tone. It is, moreover, a plant of vigour and is a free-flowerer. Next I place Seminole (Farr), which is a violet-red and of a duller tone. Imperator (Cayeux), of recent introduction, is one of the best, and is a robust plant. Opera (Vilm), which is really a wine-purple, should be in every collection. Of the red-purples Pioneer (Bliss) is magnificent, and is in a class by itself. Of the pinks it is more difficult to confine oneself to one or two varieties. There are not a great many to choose from, and they are, none of them, real pink. The pinkest of them all is Susan Bliss (Bliss), but one can hardly be wrong in growing any of the following:—Aphrodite (Dykes), Mrs. Marion Cran (Perry), and Dream (Sturtevant). I have always thought a great deal of Dream, but a well-flowered clump of any of the above sorts is a sight which makes a lasting impression. A new pink which is undoubtedly of very high quality is Thäis, raised by Messrs. Cayeux and le Clerc.

Of the blends and shot colours Asia is still head of my list. True, I have to stake the spikes, which is a pity, but this is its only fault, and, in my opinion, its good points, which are very numerous, quite outweigh this slight disadvantage. We stake Gladioli, Sweet Peas, and practically everything in the herbaceous border, so why not an Iris? To condemn an Iris because it requires staking is merely to check advancement. I am convinced that many of us do wrong in planting Asia in full sunshine, as the beautiful colour shades are largely lost, and the flowers are also apt to fade somewhat in continual sunshine. Asia shows to the best advantage in partially-shaded surroundings, and that is where mine are going to be planted this autumn (after twice deciding to do so in previous years!!).

Mary Gibson (Perry) is another of the really outstanding Irises of the blended colour class, and is a shade quite of its own (light bronze, overlaid rose). I also consider Feronia, Deucalion, and Abenda (all Perry),

A clump of Chasseur, the latest to bloom of the yellow Irises
The flowers are large with broad standards and well rounded falls of a deep rich yellow, whitish in the centre of the fall

three of the best Irises I saw this year, none of them novelties. The most showy of the less tall blended shades is Quaker Lady (Farr), and nothing surpasses a good planting of this in full flower, but keep it out of the full sun. I think that one *must* include Afterglow (Sturt), whose grey-lavender and olive-yellow tones supply a useful foil to the other colours in the Iris garden. In this category also falls Mother of Pearl, which, like all Miss Sturtevant's introductions, is beautifully named.

After all, it is these colours, other than the everlasting blue-purples, lavenders, and shades of purple generally, which we most require in the tall bearded Irises. Again, I could not do without Moonlight (Dykes) (see illustration, page 438), which, though it does not fall under this colour, is neither a yellow nor a white, but is a most valuable break from the general run of colours associated with Irises, and is, moreover, a most dependable plant, producing blooms of great size.

Of the so-called variegatas (*i.e.,* yellow standards, and falls of bronze-purple to mahogany) there are many to choose from. The brightest and best is, to my mind, Flaming Sword (G. and K.). It is of brighter colour and freer flowering than Iris King. Fro (G. and K.) is another most excellent one for massing and is extraordinarily free-flowering. Marsh Marigold (Bliss) is also very brightly coloured. Then there is Knysna (Bliss), which is equally bright and is later in blooming, and should be included on this account. Salonique (Cayeux) is charming and possesses a charm of its own. A novelty from America, called Argynnis (Williamson), struck me as being a distinctly valuable addition to this colour group.

Of the bronze and smoky-bronze shades Alcazar (Vilm) and Ambassadeur (Vilm) remain unshakeable; both are really fine Irises. Prosper Laugier (Verdier), also, is still a very worthy variety. For a really red effect in the "fall" I know no finer Iris than Mrs. H. F. Bowles (Perry), and it has the added advantage of beautiful foliage. This is a much better Iris than Col. Candelot. Of the lavenders, lavender-purples, blue-purple bicolors and their kindred shades, it is hopeless to attempt a detailed classification. There are many good things amongst them, but the "points" this year go to the following.

Queen Caterina (Sturt), pale lavender-violet, better than Mdlle. Schwartz (Denis) in most cases; Ann Page (Hort) and Leonato (Hort), two of the finest Irises we have; Lord of June (Yeld) (you *must* have him in spite of his tendency to flop!); Princess Royal (Smith), violet-blue self, very tall, and very floriferous, one of the first to bloom and one of the last to cease blooming; Sweet Lavender (Bliss), rose-lavender and very distinct; Juniata (Farr), blue-violet self, tall and vigorous; Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau (Millet), the unsurpassed violet-purple bicolor; Corida, by the same raiser, is still the best sky-blue self, and is very free-flowering; Gabriel (Bliss), blooms of fine form lasting a long time in flower; Sir Michael (Yeld), a novelty, a very vigorous grower with tall stems and flowers of good texture and very pleasing colouring; Ballerine (Vilm), an old favourite and, when well grown, takes a lot of beating; Realm (Baker), a really fine blue self of recent introduction; Souvenir de Kœtitia Michaud (Millet), a plant of Riccardi parentage which, if it proves hardy, is the finest acquisition in this colour (lobelia-blue) of recent years.

Of the "whites" with purple or coloured falls Rhein Nixe (G. and K.) is still the best, and B. Y. Morrison (Sturt) is, so far, quite unique, and should be in every collection.

Of the "Dominion" race I am adding separate observations because, after trying most of them, with varying success, I am at last coming to some fairly definite conclusions about them individually. Of the original first seedlings of Dominion I am now convinced that the best for colour effect are Cardinal, Bruno, and Duke of Bedford. For sheer massiveness of bloom you cannot beat Titan. There is no humbug about Titan. About some of the others, however, I cannot say the same. I have never grown Swazi or Dominion satisfactorily. With the exception of Dominion they are all tremendous growers, and increase rapidly, and the growths are of such a fleshy nature that I invariably lose with soft rot each season a great deal of the increase. My belief now is that it will pay to divide them every year in cases where there is excessive growth, and I propose carrying this out forthwith.

As regards the later Dominions, the one which stands out beyond all others is undoubtedly Romola. Majestic and Moa are both fine, but the former is the better of the two. Glamour I have found unreliable. Tenebrae is good, but sombre in colour, and I cannot yet make up my mind whether I really like it. Zulu is one of the best of them. Not quite so rich as Dominion in colouring, but a good imitation, and tall-growing and flowers very late. Any Irises which are late flowering are desirable, and hybridists all over the world have this in mind.

With this object in view we find that the late-flowering Iris, Sunset (Denis), which also rejoices in the name of Ochraceacœrulea, is being much used, and Messrs. Cayeux and le Clerc now offer a charmingly-coloured series of what they term "artist" shades, which come into bloom late in June. The most effective of these is one called Delacroix. We may expect to see other Irises of similar origin produced in this country within the next year or so. I have had in mind for several years past the planting of a "late" Iris border, but the varieties suitable for this purpose are still somewhat limited, though increasing annually.

The list, as far as it at present goes, consists of the following:—Ambassadeur (Vilm), Prospero (Yeld), Zulu (Bliss), Raffet (Vilm), Knysna (Bliss), Chasseur (Vilm), Daniel Leseur (Denis), and Sunset and its seedlings. It will be seen from the above that we have here quite a nice assortment of colour, and there are doubtless quite other varieties which can be added to which have not come under my notice.

NOTES OF THE WE

Rhododendron Association

A MEETING of those interested new Rhododendron Association w at Vincent Square on Tuesday, Ju at 5 o'clock, at which the rules of the A tion were formally adopted, and it w cided that all present at this m together with those who attended th meeting on May 3rd, should be F Members. The following were elec form the first Council of the Associati

Lionel de Rothschild, Esq., *Preside*
Vice-Admiral Heneage-Vivian, *Vice dent.*
J. B. Stevenson, Esq., *Treasurer.*

Members of Council.

J. J. Crosfield, Esq.
The Marquess of Headfort.
G. W. E. Loder, Esq.
The Hon. H. D. McLaren.
Peter Veitch, Esq.
F. Gomer Waterer, Esq.
E. H. Wilding, Esq.
P. D. Williams, Esq.

It was decided that any subscriptions re during 1927 should carry full memb until December 31st, 1928. As a Se has not yet been appointed any comm tion concerning the new Association be addressed to Mr. Lionel de Rot New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, E.C. is hoped to have a book of rules print membership forms prepared shortly.

Buckinghamshire Xmas Potato Pl Society

We have been advised by the Buckin shire Christmas Potato Planting Soc which the Marquis of Lincolnshire is dent, that they have been inform Messrs. Isaac Poad and Sons, Ltd, cultural merchants, of York) that th willing to assist the Society by prepar necessary matured seed Potatoes f coming Christmas season, and for purpose they have put on one side lowing kinds of Potatoes:—Kerr's Up-to-date, Majestic, and British and, as the quantities are limited a season at hand for planting, applica require to advise their requirements w least possible delay.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Life history of the codlin moth

IN your issue June 11th, page 357, there is a note by Edward A. Bunyard on the codlin moth, in which he says the caterpillar usually enters at the eye. I think he is confusing another class of caterpillar with the codlin moth, as the caterpillar of the moth does not enter the Apple as a caterpillar, but it certainly comes out. As to detecting any presence of the larvæ at this early stage it is not possible. I do not believe the larvæ would develop unless the Apple did so as well. J. RUSSELL.

[The life-history of the codlin moth is as follows:—The moths appear at about the time the petals drop from the flowers, and the females deposit their eggs on the young fruits, sometimes at the eye, at others on the side of the fruits. From the egg a tiny maggot appears which eats its way into the Apple, always at the eye. The maggot eats down to the core and then out to t where it makes a fairly large hole which is forced the waste products maggot, termed "frass." When the is nearly fully fed it eats the pips Apple. As a result of the attack the Apple fruits ripen prematurely and the ground. The maggot leaves th at this stage and crawls to the sten tree and spins for itself a tiny silken under the bark of the tree. It rem this position as a maggot until the when it changes to a chrysalis. It as a chrysalis about three weeks a the moth emerges, which commences cycle over again. The above life-hi not always strictly carried out, becau the maggot leaves the Apple before t is ready to fall. In this case the mag itself down by a silken thread, but, as

ters for the winter in the bark of the We are not inclined to think that the ge of an Apple crop affects this pest uch, because it attacks the Crab-apple ertain other fruits of nearly-related]

Salvia candelabrum

ould interest Mr. Dalrymple to know sue July 9th, page 419) that I have d seeds and germinated same from a of this lovely Salvia growing in a hire garden.

plant mentioned was about 5 feet in er, throwing up abundance of flower- which attained the height of 4 feet, owing in a herbaceous border fully l to all sunshine.

seeds collected numbered about 18 (not eed-pod containing seed), but where only one seed in each pod, and re- g that of Salvia patens.

the 18 seeds I raised a dozen strong, plants. I have also raised Salvia brum by means of cuttings of shoots n spring and inserting them in a sandy : under a bell-glass out of doors, and placing the pots containing the cut- n a shelf in a shady part of the stove-

ember one gardener taking me with see his plants of Salvia candelabrum e had raised in a border out of doors, nearing the spot, alas! before me were robust plants of Phlomis fruticosa. e seen Salvia candelabrum growing al Hampshire gardens and also in hire. H. J.

wood Gardens, near Winchester.

en and Chickens Marigold

lustration and note, issue July 2nd, 3, are very interesting and anticipate was about to send to you. The Marigolds, or Calendulas, are very in this neighbourhood. All the varie- nge, lemon, striped, Meteor, whether semi-double, or single, are very nd make a fine show. They flower here throughout the winter, and nes I have been able to pick a nice Christmas time. This year, for the e, I have noticed several malforma- the flowers, and my neighbours are y bringing me similar specimens to e. I have expressed the similarity these and the old Hen and Chickens In explanation I cannot accept the f extra strong cultivation. I attri- o the late spring frosts that nipped n of the flower-bud and checked the n of the flower, and forced out the vths. Most of my specimens have in exposed places near overhanging here the frost would touch them. : interesting to see if the variety can uated and established. I enclose a or two for you to see; also a flower of my Marguerites, which Messrs. nd Sons sent out, annual Chrys- ns Morning Star, Evening Star, last new one, deep yellow, Indian name), to show how well they do

C. ORCHARD.

Wight.

Flowers of the Saints

icle by Mrs. Stanley Wrench, issue reminds me of the legend of the s Rose. When the wise men went able to see the babe on that first s night a little girl followed, but llowed to enter. She stood outside and where her tears fell the Christ- es sprang up. How many of us t Southernwood is a corruption of gan's wood"? "Ringan" is our Scots form of Ninian, the saint who first brought christianity to Scotland. In my childhood days the old women of the village took a bit to church, calling it "appleringie," which is, I understand, the Cymric for "the herb of St. Ringan." ERICA.

A hardy form of Iris fimbriata (syn. with I. japonica)

THE illustration of this Iris (p. 287), while fully representing the pot specimens shown at a recent meeting of the R.H.S., gives but little idea of its value as a garden plant. Three years ago a row of single rhizomes were planted in front of a fruit-house facing south. They have spread by branching above ground, and by rhizomes under it, until each plant is now composed of over a dozen crowns.

This year they have bloomed profusely, the branched flowering stems being about 2½ feet in height, bearing over a dozen branch-lets, producing in succession four flowers each. These, examined closely, would shame many exotic Orchids. They are of the most delicate lavender, marked with violet-blue, and stained with orange centrally. As the whole inflorescence is being constantly rejuvenated by successional flowers, the dis-play is a lasting one, the flat fan-like tufts of rich, dark green foliage forming a good background. There would appear to be two varieties in cultivation. The one described above is hardier and the inflorescence is taller and more branched than the type.

J. COMBER.

—— The hardy form of Iris fimbriata you inquire about is, apparently, the plant found by Sir Frederick Lugard growing in the gar-dens of the British Legation at Tokio and brought home by him in 1912. A plant of it was given to me that year by his brother, Major Lugard, and in course of time I dis-tributed it to friends. I remember that Sir Arthur Hort admired it and told me it did well in his garden at Harrow-on-the-Hill, but here in my garden at Wimbledon it has not proved really hardy, and I have all but lost it.

A hardy form of Iris fimbriata, known as Ledger's Variety

I do not know how it has come to be styled "Ledger's Variety," it is none of my doing. Possibly friends who had it from me passed it on with that description to distinguish the form from the type plant.

WALTER E. LEDGER.

45, *Wilton Grove, Wimbledon.*

Big shows

I was very interested by the letter of "Twyssenden Manor" in your issue of the

9th inst., page 418. I think the big shows are of some use to the ordinary gardener, in that they give him an ideal to aim for. If the nurseryman can produce large quantities of any flower for a show, surely the amateur, if he takes the trouble, can produce a small number of blooms nearly as good. But, and it is a big but, it is no use hoping to produce blooms as fine as the nurseryman's if his are from plants grown under glass and yours from plants in the open. Could not, therefore, the Committees responsible for shows make a rule requiring exhibits of flowers normally grown in the open, such as Roses, Sweet Peas, etc., to bear a label stating if they have, in fact, been grown under glass? I feel sure that this would save amateurs from a great deal of disappointment. P. R. B.

Turning blue Hydrangeas pink

In reply to the query on p. 402 of your last issue, referring to the treatment of Hydrangeas to obtain pink flowers, it seems likely that a sufficiency of lime in the soil, by preventing acidity, should have the desired effect. J. B. WARD.

—— In your correspondent's garden this may be difficult, owing to the lack of humus and the presence of iron in the sandy soil. I think our experience will throw some light on the matter. As soon as the roots of any pink Hydrangea planted in this garden reach the subsoil the flowers at once turn blue. For the first few years the flowers are pink or deep pink, according to the variety. It follows that the deeper and richer the upper soil the longer they remain so. A large plant in the kitchen garden in front of my house has never borne anything but pink flowers. That is not a matter for surprise, as the black soil, full of humus, has been made up to nearly 3 feet in depth, having been a garden for nearly 100 years.

The "rich deep pink colour" referred to is due to the variety. A few of the best are Parzival (A.M.), rich deep rose, almost red, described as "blood red"; Triumph (A.M.), deep rose-pink; Helge, rich, deep rose; Lovely, carmine-red.

These new varieties produced far finer trusses and larger flowers than the older varieties. J. COMBER.

Heuchera sanguinea

I wonder if Mr. Mayne (see issue July 9th, page 419) has the true H. sanguinea or merely seedlings? I have never known anyone who considered this plant at all a free bloomer. Here it grows all right, and on one occasion I had a bed with a fair quantity of bloom, but since then—now several years ago—only very meagrely does this Heuchera flower.

The late Mr. Mungo Chapman, one of the finest hardy plantsmen of his time, happened to see the bed above mentioned, and declared that it was by far the best he had ever seen, and that, usually, this plant flowered but sparsely. These facts make me wonder, therefore, at Mr. Mayne's statement, and prompts me to ask if he refers to the true plant.

H. brizoides behaves exactly in the way described by Mr. Mayne, and although the colour, a pinkish-coral, is less striking than is the pretty red of H. sanguinea, it has very much finer foliage and the flower-spikes are larger and held upright, making it a distinctly decorative object in the garden, besides furnishing some splendid material for cutting.

Incidentally, a vase filled with well-grown spikes of Nepeta Mussinii and H. brizoides gives a most chaste and charming effect.

C. BLAIR.

The Origin of Tall Bearded Iris

By Sir ARTHUR HORT, Bart.

VISITORS to the first show of the Iris Society, on June 2nd, cannot have failed to be struck with the wonderful development of the tall Bearded Iris which has come about in the last few years. Whereas a large proportion of the Irises of this class which were grown a generation ago had small and rather shapeless flowers of nondescript colouring (there were, of course, some bright exceptions which still hold their own in any collection), one sees now a multitude of tall stately plants, many of them with finely-branched stems to show off the flowers. Moreover, the individual blooms are, for the most part, beautifully shaped, with well-held standards and falls, and exhibit an amazing variety of rich colours, every shade of purple, mauve, lilac, violet, lavender, brown, copper, yellow, and white in all sorts of striking combinations. The amateur who wishes to have a small selection of the best is embarrassed by the wealth presented to him for choice, and is, perhaps, not much relieved when he looks through the catalogues of the nurserymen who specialise in these new splendours, or learns that the American Iris Society has published a list of over 3,000 named varieties, with their comparative merits indicated by percentage marks.

It may interest some readers to hear a little discourse on the history of this extraordinary development, and it should be possible at the same time to clear up some puzzles of nomenclature. All garden plants are, of course, derived ultimately from wild originals, though in some cases the history of derivation may be obscure, as when the garden form has been long cultivated and no record of its origin has been preserved. The whole host of tall bearded forms (with an exception to be noted presently) are traceable to three wild species, each of which has many forms in the wild state—germanica, pallida, variegata. Each of these names covers a large group, and it should be said at once that, as to the first, germanica, though several forms which come under that name are to be seen in our gardens, these are all *collected* plants, not garden hybrids, for the simple reason that this species (if it *is* a species) rarely sets seed. This Iris is absurdly named as it certainly is not indigenous to Germany, and the absurdity is increased by calling all tall bearded Irises "German Irises," a term which, it may be hoped, is nearly obsolete. Iris germanica is extremely common in France, especially on railway banks and old walls, but it is very doubtful if it occurs really wild anywhere. Mr. Dykes surmised that it is of hybrid origin, but its parentage is mysterious. I once obtained a pod of seed of typical germanica and raised three plants, all dwarfs and all different, and Mr. Dykes had similar results from seeding another form. I have spoken of Iris germanica as "it," but the name is merely a convenient description for a group of early-flowering Irises with a distinct branching habit. The colour is generally blue-purple or red-purple. There is a common albino variety called florentina and other less familiar white forms. By the mere accident that one very robust blue-purple form is very widely cultivated in England, *e.g.*, in the London parks and squares, this form has come to be regarded as the type. It is not the most attractive, being of rather dull colour. Finer forms are known as Fontarabie, Kochii, Purple King, Cretan.

Germanica, then, is our first "group," but, let it be repeated, this Iris has not, except in quite recent experiments, been used at all for hybridising. It is a popular fallacy that the so-called "German" Irises are derive it. The real parents, ancestors, of host of garden forms (excluding, of the germanicas) are two very variable s pallida (lavender) and variegata (yello brown). The names invented for sub- of their progeny, such as amœna, sq lurida, neglecta, and plicata, have no cal authority.

Sir Michael Foster about 50 years a experimental sowings, showed that garden forms then grown were reduc four wild originals. Subsequent inv tion has shown that the ultimate pare probably not more than *two*, the other wild hybrids. To pallida, then, and gata, in infinite combinations, we owe bearded Irises (except germanica forn albicans, of which a word presently) in our gardens till Foster's time. To portations, sent him mostly by missi and political agents in the Near and East, is due the fresh blood which has in the last 30 years or so such an asto improvement in the garden hybrids. I portations in this class consisted of forms of germanica and pallida.

Some of the Eastern germanic Trojana and Amas, have, unlike their W relations, proved fertile. The impro in stature and carriage is largely Trojana, which has a much-branched c brum-like stem. The Eastern pallidas Cypriana and Mesopotamica, whose o have enormous flowers. Thus, by c Cypriana with a Western pallida, raised Caterina, a fine plant, but r robust. Further generations, howeve shown increased vigour. I may, p mention two seedlings of my own have received the R.H.S.'s Award of Ann Page, a daughter of Caterin Leonato, a granddaughter.

Mention was made above of a This, which is pure white and tota tinct from the tinted florentina, is in by itself, being an albino form madonna, a purple Arabian species. A as Mr. Dykes showed pretty concl owes its early introduction to Weste dens to the fact that the Mohamme vaders brought it with them from A plant in their graveyards. It is foun the Mediterranean wherever the S settled.

Iris tuberosa

Sometimes called Hermodactylus tu and commonly the Snake's-head I early-flowering bulbous plant is char quaint; the flowers are velvety-bla apple-green, and are produced in sometimes even in February. The tu easily accommodated in a well-drained the rock garden or in the border, a not of necessity be subjected to annu ing." The tetragonal, erect leaves a autumn, and the height of the plant 1 foot.

A fairly well-known species, I. tub well worth a place in every gar always evokes admiration and inter the flowers are delightfully pretty state. They are occasionally off Covent Garden Market.

Quite an old plant, I. tuberosa w duced from the Levant so long ago The tubers should be planted in Aug tainly not later than September. A massing of this reasonably-priced pl prove most effective in the early spr den. RALPH E. A

The Old Rectory Garden at Hurstbourne Tarrant, Andover, Hants, the home of Sir Arthur Hort, Bart.

. A strip of the bearded Iris bed. 2. Hurstbourne Tarrant Church from the Old Rectory garden.
ises and Helianthemums. 4. Fabiana imbricata. 5. Lilium pyrenaicum. 6. Violas.

June-Flowering Irises

By G. P. Baker, Past President of the Iris Society

THE time has arrived when those of us who are interested in the culture of the Iris break up the clumps of such varieties we wish to retain in our collection, which may have overcrowded themselves in their existing beds. The sooner this replanting is done the better, and to justify this opinion one has only to examine the roots of a plant soon after it has finished flowering to find that new roots are just beginning to form. One is less likely to damage the roots at this early stage than later, when the plant is full of long fibrous roots. In the case of new plants to be acquired from nurserymen, they prefer to send out their plants later in the season. Of the two methods I prefer the former, as I am more certain of the plants blooming in the following year. I have experienced sad disappointment with some of my highly-priced purchases being sent to me too late in the year, and rather than run the risk again I now make it a rule to insist on an early delivery of any new varieties, whether they come from an English nursery or from abroad.

To the beginner who has not yet added the culture of this very fascinating genus to his garden certain principles may be laid down to help guide him how to begin.

In the first place he must not expect even the good-natured Iris will grow anywhere and in any odd place. It will grow, but it will not flower as it would do if planted where the sun may reach the plant and rhizome. An ideal place is an oval or oblong bed, not too wide, surrounded by a path, round which one may view the beautiful transparency of colour which is so noticeable in these attractive and wonderful flowers—like so much stained glass of the very highest merit. An Iris flower when viewed with the sun at one's back very often disappoints one—it may look dingy and smoky; but when viewed from the opposite quarter, with the sun shining through its large surface of colour, the delicate and transparent texture gives one quite another impression. Particularly noticeable is this variety of colour in all the darker-toned forms, with their many colours, composed of burgundy reds, warm tints of lakes, dark blues, violets, browns, yellows, and old golds, all in many hues. Towards evening, with a golden atmosphere one gets again from a lower angle of light other tones, though the Irises may be the very same one may have observed in the earlier part of the day.

A seedling on its trial may be condemned to the rubbish-heap when viewed in an unfavourable light. The same flower under more favourable atmospheric conditions gives one quite another impression. The plant seems to appeal for a further extension and trial; but whilst colour plays a very important part in one's selection of a new seedling,

Moonlight, neither yellow or white, but a most valuable break from the general run of colours associated with the Iris (see page 434)

The clump here illustrated is in Mrs. Dykes' garden at Bobbingcourt, nr. Guildford, Surrey

there are other equally sound consid required to help one, such as form dard and fall, each flower well space stem and not in clusters close to th The plant must be robust and the sword-like.

Another fascinating feature connec Irises is the fun one gets as the r hybridisation. From a pod of seed c grow in the second, but more often th year a colony of young plants wh blooming, possess the characteristics parents, some from one parent, othe the other, and some from both. If t cedents of former generations are kn may even trace the eccentricities or p ties in their offspring. No two plants as my experience goes, produce exa same result; some slight variation parent, more often in colours, and I one may take it that all the well-kno old-established Irises, such as Amba Magnifica, Alcazar, Lord of June, A the later Irises of the Dominion ra all come to us from one plant, thou may have been 30 seeds in the one po

But I am wandering from the task set myself, that of giving advice amateur what he should do, and should go about the business of Irises. If I have gone off the beat he will forgive me, for I have, at a indicated some of the pleasures in s all who follow this alluring pursuit.

My next point of advice is to en that good drainage is essential. A g high ground with stones in its con has a natural drainage and cannot proved, unless it is to see that there i ture of ground limestone added to th not already there.

If by good luck one has a bank sunken lawn with a path just bey bank, here, again, one has another id tion to make an excellent display. in this case may be of a heavy loa nature, to which should be added a of mortar-brick rubbish to help give to the soil. In all cases, wherever tion, a fertiliser as recommended authorities at Wisley, of 3 ozs. basic 2 ozs. of bone-meal to every squa should be added.

If it happens that one's garden low and of a heavy clayey nature it necessary to make a raised bed a f The ground must be lightly trenche mixture of old mortar and brick rubb but wherever one plants Irises see t is a good mixture of lime in some fo

Having prepared the beds or plac are to be devoted to this new ven next stage is to acquire the plants may be given from some friend who ing up his clumps. Failing this, s catalogues of some nurserymen w specialise in Irises. The prices now within the means of everyone. See get decent-sized plants. Buy the c cheaper varieties, such as Pallida D Alcazar, Kharput, Lutescens, Queen Lord of June, Pallida odoratissima, Laugier, Neptune, Gracchus, an others it would be unnecessary to na

At the recent show of the Iris Soc in the hall of the R.H.S., Vincent S was gratifying to have seen some favourites in the collections of prize and, furthermore, from the results i trial grounds at Wisley some of varieties which I have mentioned been displaced, in the opinion of th by any of the more recent introducti

Lastly, do not plant deeply. The or root-stock should be on the surf soil. Spread out such roots as the

ossess, plant firmly and about 18 inches

have failed to propagate the gospel of s perhaps the following couplet from Persian sage may whet the appetite of my reader to take up the culture of the best matured plant the gardener may possess :—

"Let him who has two loaves sell one and buy Irises. Bread may be the food of the body, but Irises are the food of the soul."

The Iris Trials at Wisley

HEN the Iris Society decided to take advantage of the hospitality of the Royal Horticultural Society and in- a series of Iris trials at Wisley there good deal of discussion as to the suit- of the soil, etc., for the purpose. If h difficulties did exist they have been overcome by the excellent work of sley staff, and the results have more stified the decision. Various mem- the joint committee appointed by the cieties have expressed their surprise

One of the most striking examples of successful culture was a bed devoted to such modern varieties as Duke of Bedford, Cardinal, and other hybrids of Bliss and other raisers. Both varieties mentioned more than justified the high opinion formed of them at the time of their introduction in stature, size, form, and colour. Another hybrid that was outstanding was Tenebrae, bearing five, six, and seven flowers, all open at the same time. There was a clump of Chasseur, a yellow variety of French introduction, of medium height, with a very pronounced brown haft. It was flowering very freely, and the colour combination is very attractive and unique amongst Irises. At the time of the inspection it was the best yellow in flower, and must certainly take front rank for the present. A careful study revealed the fact that amongst the many hundreds of varieties there was not one with the rich velvety texture of the fall of Dominion, despite the many very fine things that have descended from it; and despite its very serious faults the time has not yet come for it to retire as a hallowed memory of a wonderful achievement. Souv. de Mme. Gaudichau was, for its rich deep colour, certainly unsurpassed—probably unequalled. Dream, growing side by side with Susan Bliss, gave an opportunity for comparison of two of the best of the so-called "pink" varieties, but it is really difficult to pronounce between them. The frilliness of the standard of Susan is a dream of delight to some, but to others the idea of bliss is represented in the cleaner, neater form of Dream. Personally, if I had to plant only one I think it would be Dream, but I should want both. In colour there is little to choose between them.

One fact was very noticeable. In such a huge number of varieties there was a pronounced scarcity of really good yellows, and indicates the direction in which hybridisation should go in the near future. Incidentally, it is obvious that some raisers have realised this. I think Amber is the best yellow in commerce at present. W. R. Dykes (not included in the trials) is too scarce to be considered available, but since the visit to Wisley I have seen in a raiser's garden at least two really good new yellows, one of them standing 44 inches to 46 inches bearing five flowers open at once and very freely branched, the form of the flower being that of the beautiful-shaped Aphrodite, and the colour, although not so deep as either Amber or W. R. Dykes, is certainly a very clear and real yellow. This was a seedling flowering for the first time, and I am looking for great things from it next or the following year. It is one of the things we want badly.

Irises at Wisley

vonderful growth and flowering of rieties, and raisers and introducers n their own varieties in better con- an ever before. It is easy to say sley exists to prove that gardening s *can* be overcome, but great credit the staff that has turned a possible nto a brilliant success. Perhaps an anything else, the trials have at the bearded Irises can be grown tion even in soils that may not be r ideal if a little trouble is taken in ration. This trouble the Wisley taken, and has more than earned ude of the Iris Society.

ral meeting of the Society was held on June 3rd, when upwards of 40 inspected the trials, and were d at the wonderful display of excel- ers and vigorous growth the trials The accompanying illustration e idea of the wealth of blossom to n that occasion.

To return to Wisley. The arrangement of the trials is very advantageous for comparison purposes, as so far as practicable those varieties that come within a similar colour classification have been planted together.

One fact struck me as rather curious. Generally speaking, the American varieties planted at the same time as those of European origin appeared to be a year behind in growth and quality of flower, and it was difficult to see how the Committee could fairly judge them this season. Certainly, any opinion formed at present could hardly be just to them. Probably another year of acclimatisation will reveal their true merits.

GEO. DILLISTONE.

Iris for Moist Places

THE number of plants available for planting by the water's edge are almost innumerable. There are many ornamental and flowering shrubs of medium height, also herbaceous plants which tend to give the natural surroundings a more pleasing and decorative aspect. The water's edge is never so beautiful as when planted with suitable plants, with flowers of varied tints and hues, forming, as it were, irregular groups or lines of such as Spiræas, Lythrums, Astilbes, Poterium, and Dictamnus, intermixed with some of the graceful grasses, with bays of the beautiful species and varieties of Irises. Few families are so well adapted for the waterside as the Beardless section; these are always attractive. Their foliage is of luxuriant growth and decorative, and it is almost impossible to adequately describe the charm and beauty of the varied combination of colour of their flowers.

The following are very desirable for planting at the waterside or in very damp or wet places. Many are also handsome subjects for planting in the ordinary flower border:—

I. ACROIDES.—Bold sheaves of foliage and soft primrose flowers in June; waterside.

I. AUREA.—Well-known yellow-flowering species with handsome foliage; desirable for banks or water site; June-July.

I. DELAVAYI.—One of the most effective of the Chinese species; the tall spikes of rich violet flowers are very handsome; 3½ feet to 4 feet; moist or a few inches of water.

I. LÆVIGATA.—A Japanese Iris for shallow water; rich violet-blue; very rare.

I. LÆVIGATA ALBA.—Also rare; flowers snow-white; shallow water.

I. LÆVIGATA ROSE QUEEN.—Pretty soft rose flowers; a great beauty and exceedingly attractive; thrives best in a few inches of water; 3 feet to 4 feet; June-July.

I. MONSPUR and varieties all make a bold appearance during June; their tall spikes and foliage are very attractive by the waterside or border.

I. MONSPUR A. J. BALFOUR.—Rich violet flowers with yellow blotch; 3½ feet to 4 feet; June.

I. MONSPUR DOROTHY FOSTER.—Soft violet standards, distinct light blue falls.

I. MONSPUR PREMIER.—Handsome violet flowers; 4 feet; June.

I. OCHROLEUCA (syn. Orientalis).—A well-known species and very effective wherever planted; flowers snow-white with bright yellow blotch on the fall; 4 feet to 5 feet; June; waterside or border.

I. OCHROLEUCA GIGANTEA.—Larger and more robust than preceding; 4 feet to 5 feet; June; waterside or border.

I. MONNIERI.—The bold, broad foliage and handsome spikes of rich canary-yellow flowers are extremely effective; 5 feet; waterside or border.

I. SHELFORD GIANT.—One of the beauties wherever grown, whether on the herbaceous border or by the waterside, the handsome, tall spikes, 5 feet tall, bearing numerous creamy-white flowers with orange spot on the fall.

I. PSEUDACORUS.—The common Water Iris; is well known for its golden-yellow flowers and tall, sword-like sheaves of foliage, and at home in any situation. This and the following varieties thrive in the border or in 6 inches of water:—I. p-a. alba (white), I. p-a. Bastardi (creamy-yellow), I. p-a. fol. var. (charming for its beautiful variegated foliage).

I. SPURIA.—Species violet and purple; 3 feet; June-flowering; I. spuria alba, white, with yellow blotch; I. spuria lilacina, a pretty lavender; and I. spuria Notha, deep violet, are very accommodating and may be planted in the border or by the waterside. I. versicolor (syn. Virginica), gracefully arching grass-like foliage, the type purple, veined white; I. v. Fosteri, lilac and violet; I. v. lilacina, lilac; and I. v. purpurea, rich purplish-blue; 2 feet; June and July flowering; all are well adapted for waterside or border planting.

THE SIBERIAN IRIS (I. sibirica) and the numerous varieties are indispensable for waterside or herbaceous border. When planted in isolated positions or by the waterside and become established they quickly form one of the features of the garden. Their grass-like foliage mixed with innumerable stout spikes of delicately-coloured flowers in all shades of blue, purple, rose tints, and snow-white are extremely showy during June and July. All grow luxuriously in any well-worked moist soil, and revel in a full sunny situation. The following are the most distinct:—Duchess of York, violet and blue, 3 feet; Emperor, a form of Orientalis, from Japan, large rich deep violet, 3½ feet, June flowering; Lady Northcliffe, a uniform shade of violet, fall reticulated white, 3½ feet, June-July; Mrs. Rowe, medium-sized flowers, silvery-white, 3 feet, June; Nora Distin, uniform shade of rich violet, falls China-blue with white picotee edge, much enhanced by a white-lined base, 3 feet, June; Perry's Blue, well known as one of the best sibirica forms extant, large flowers, a delightful shade of Old China blue, 3½ feet, June; Snow Queen, of snow whiteness (this should be in all collections), 3 feet, June; Thelma Perry, a real acquisition S. and F., a soft porcelain-blue with prettily frilled standards, 3½ feet, June-July. Of the Clematis-flowered Iris (I. Kæmpferi), these beautiful waterside Japanese Irises are well known for their intrinsic value and adaptability for planting in moist situations. Their large, flat, single and semi-double Clematis-like flowers in so many various shades are a charm during June and July. W. LOGAN.

Pogoniriditis

YOU will, I daresay, be more sorry than surprised to learn that I am suffering at present from an acute attack of pogoniriditis, which practically confines me to the garden, except when it is necessary to eat or sleep. As you know, it is not the first attack I have had of the kind, but the recrudescence of an old trouble which has been for a year or two in abeyance. You may remember that in the old cottage garden I used to get pretty feverish as June came round, though the attack really began in May with the accelerated pulse and heightened temperature characteristic of what is known to the Faculty as the Pumila Erubescence or Rash, this subsequently going through a whole gamut of phases, amene, plicate, pallid, and what not, and culminating about mid-June in a paroxysm of Delirium squalens (not tremens, which is quite another affair) and tapering off to normal with an ordering and planting fit in late July or early August. The only effectual remedy for the ailment is the abundant perspiration of hard work, which seems to expel the fever by the pores. Similia similibus curantur. Believe me, there is no cure for overheated enthusiasm like the arterial heat engendered by a strenuous bout of digging, manuring, planting, and labelling. When you get a crick in the back you may know that you are on the mend, and by the time that you feel yourself to be ALL backbone, and have to pause occasionally and say "D—mn!" you are as good as cured. So far I am myself not yet at the penultimate, much less at the imprecatory stage. And the curious thing is that such a consumin should originate in the merest speck cause, no bigger, so to speak, than th verbial mustard-seed. You will smile I tell you that all this pother in the c tion proceeds from two somewhat hand or rather—for I hate the pride tha humility—two astonishingly handsome of Pogoniris, one of Alcazar, the ot Prosper Laugier, each with six croc its spire, and each with its own pec rich but lurid tones, simulating the pi of certain tropic Orchids, and, if an out-Orchiding the Orchids.

Fever, of whatever type, is alway and fretful, and one of the outst symptoms of my own case has been a c cavilling at the gardening papers—yo among the number—for going *nauseam* about alpines and mixed b and Sweet Peas and Roses, and fr vegetables, and other things of re slight importance, while they leave s alone the one engrossing subject of Ir if no such Flower of Flowers existed—fi in short, like Nero, whilst all the tim was the burning question of Pogonir was, I confess, a soothing syrup t GARDENING ILLUSTRATED of June 25th find in it a good deal about Iris enough, but a good deal. It was com to find that, after all, the Council R.H.S. had not actually been, as o posed, sound asleep and criminally ol of the Iris, but, on the contrary, was s ing awards with no niggard hand on of varieties, Alcazar and Prosper l amongst them. "H. C.'s" note wa lent as far as it went, but open to jection which Oliver took to the wo gruel, that it came short in quantit camera work also was excellent, and justice to what lay within its range, quisite form and modelling of the flo being, of course, no reproach to the that it fails to do what the artist with paint tubes finds it hard enough to namely, to capture the colour of t But though GARDENING ILLUSTRATED solace and a temporary anodyne, I ar that in effect it rather fed the fla allayed it. Indeed, as one able t from experience, I would advise my iridopaths, when the fever is at the avoid all books or papers dealing flower—such as Dykes's book and F and very specially to eschew the alluring but inflammatory catalog they may rest assured that if, in the condition, they meddle with such li they do so at the peril of their che Further, there is a danger of that anæsthesis supervening which pat term paralysis desiderii, or paralysi will. Philosophers tell us that betw opposite and exactly equal attraction ceases to function. The classic case is that of the donkey who found hi tween two equally inviting bundles o equally attractive that the poor be not make up his mind to either, an of starvation, with the luscious fodd his eyes and its aroma in his nostril is what may happen to any thoughts son who, with the fever in his blo discreet enough to betake himself t those admirable Iris catalogues no about as plentifully as leaves in aut list, for instance, of the eminent firm, R. Bruce and Co., Ltd., so f formation, so scientific in its arra and with a graduated price-list so in its appeal to every kind of pocket

I may cite, in illustration, the ca friend, Jack Scott, which has so mu ested pathologists. Jack is the best the world, and I am very fond of hi

ood deal in common with the harmless ful quadruped above mentioned. He footed, good-natured, and patient, but strong-willed. He maintains steadily, r you say to the contrary, that vulgaris is no weed, but a serviceable ich-maligned composite, and in his borders the Onopordons are a dis- ed and dominant feature. Like the soul he is, Jack was foolish enough, ie ague fit was still strong upon him, idly the leaves of the Bruce catalogue, view possibly to finding a novelty to his collection. Before you could say Robinson" the poor fellow found hopelessly bogged between the ng attractions of two Irises—The and The Caliph of Bagdad. ow The Valkyrie, what a thing it ool and chaste in its purity that you to see the flower without at once of the icicle that hangs 's temple. The domed standards of kyrie are of beaten silver, dusted over st of diamonds. The broad skirt of s a cascade of frozen cream, the haft vith a boa of lemon plush, and the lges netted and hem-stitched with uli. I am not so unwise as to at- detailed description of anything so ent as The Caliph of Bagdad. There is little of Dian or her icicles about ph, a squalens of barbaric splendour, the precious metals of the East and ecious gems to boot seem to have ed into one gorgeous whole. No hat Jack collapsed between two such eductions. Fortunately, just as he elf, to his dismay, sinking to a state he saw that, whereas the one flower a guinea, the other cost ten. That n.

OMEGA.

VEGETABLES

Carrots

AD of sowing in April what is con- sufficient for the winter supply it is o reserve part of the seed until owing roots are always more ten- as the Carrot is well-nigh hardy, the coldest countries, this summer n remain in the ground throughout if a mulch of short manure or half- eaf-soil is spread over the quarter rd frost threatens. The variety other approved Short Horn, is the this mid-season sowing. Ground early Potatoes may not appeal to ocating rotation of crops, but I o reason to complain on that score, n roots always resulting. More- ite has been deeply cultivated. The ot require much preparation, merely lown and making moderately firm to taking out the shallow drills art, scattering the seed thinly a hours after soaking the said drills. sowing will obviate much in the nning of the crop in its early stage, it until the roots are large enough After sowing cover the seed with nd rake down evenly, and as the ome through an occasional dusting l lime late in the evening or in the ing will promote growth and prove to any slugs which sometimes tiny plants as they come through.

C. S.

Shallots

time I did not trouble to grow ow I do, and I find that they can well without entailing much here are some very fine varieties ket now, and I would advise culti- row the best and more of them, as, where Onions often fail, Shallots rarely dis- appoint in this way. The crop, moreover, is harvested at an early date, and the ground is vacant and can be quickly prepared for Winter Greens. Do not lift the clusters of Shallots prematurely; allow them to ripen thoroughly, then, directly they can be raised, without pulling, from the soil, harvest them all. They may be spread out thinly on wooden hurdles, old doors, boards, the thatch on out-sheds, or old bags, but not on the bare soil. Another position for them is in a well-ventilated shed. The central bulb from each cluster should be separated and stored, either for exhibition or for planting out next year.

S. S.

Lettuce

It is now necessary to make weekly sow- ings in order to obtain an unbroken supply, choosing a rich soil on a shady border. It is better to sow the seed thinly and allow the plants to mature in the same position than to transplant the seedlings in hot, dry weather. Frequent waterings are necessary to ensure quick growth.

Viburnum tomentosum plicatum

TREES AND SHRUBS

Viburnum plicatum

THE proper name of this beautiful shrub, commonly known as the Japanese Snow- ball, is Viburnum tomentosum var. plicatum. It is a cultivated variety of the type, V. tomentosum, and for garden pur- poses is a great improvement from the multi- plication of the sterile florets, the wild form having only a few of the white blooms in a flat umbel, with the inconspicuous fertile florets in the middle. It is just the same ornamental modification that occurs in the case of our native Viburnum opulus, a beautiful berry-bearing shrub in the wild state, but that, by the same increase of the white florets, becomes the Guelder Rose of gardens. Viburnum plicatum has usually a rather dense, bushy habit, growing to any- thing up to a height of 8 feet, and it is only occasionally, while a vigorous young one is growing, that it throws out effective but un- symmetrical branches, such as are shown in the picture. It is one of the indispensable flowering shrubs, and all the more to be de- sired because it comes at a time between the Lilacs, Guelder Roses, Ribes, and Laurus- tinums of the earlier year and the compara- tively few flowering shrubs of the later summer.

G. J.

The Cornelian Cherry

This attractive tree or large shrub, botani- cally known as Cornus Mas, is a native of Central and South Europe and Western Asia, and was probably introduced to Britain by the Romans. It has certainly been grown in gardens for several centuries, and is still as great a favourite as ever for its clusters of small mustard-yellow blossoms. These are produced in February and March on the leaf- less twigs of last year's growth, either from the ends or sides of the older wood up to four or five years of age. In conjunction with the Witch Hazels (Hamamelis), the Cornelian Cherry is an effective early-flowering little tree that makes a bright splash of yellow when in bloom. Later on the ovate leaves, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 3 inches long, appear with three to five pairs of veins. There are several varieties, among the best being aureo- elegantissima, the leaves of which are irregu- larly bordered with yellow, sometimes tinged with pink. The variety variegata is some- what similar, but the leaves are bordered with creamy-white. The fruits of the type are bright red, elliptical, but in the variety xanthocarpa or flava are yellow.

Hydrangea paniculata

Among dwarf-growing shrubs which are hardy in our gardens this shrub takes a fore- most place. It is a comparatively easy shrub to grow, as it will flourish in any kind of soil that is well drained, and has been deeply and thoroughly cultivated. For planting in masses in large lawn beds it is excellent, the large and beautiful conical-shaped panicles of creamy-white flowers providing a good dis- play. It is advisable to cut the shoots which have borne flowers nearly down to the old wood during early spring, the young wood made during late spring being the ones to flower. If, after pruning has been done, the beds can be mulched with manure, the plants will be greatly benefited. Spring bulbs and Primula japonica may be planted between them in clumps for early effect.

H. STEVENS.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Indoor Plants—Begonia Gloire de Lorraine

The earliest batch should now be ready for shifting into 6-inch pots or pans. In the latter case the pans may be—and often are—a little larger in diameter, and it is a good practice to put three plants into each pan. In this way the plants quickly establish themselves in the new soil, and if liberally fed later and grown on in a brisk temperature, with the syringe plied freely among the pans, excellent specimens will follow. Later plants may be grown on and flowered in 60-sized pots, such plants, if judiciously fed, making ideal material for indoor decorations in December.

Euphorbias

E. pulcherrima and E. jacquiniæflora must not be permitted to become pot-bound at this stage, therefore pot into larger-sized pots such as are ready, and continue to grow the plants on in a brisk temperature with a fair amount of exposure to sunshine. Those intended to supply very fine large bracts must be kept to a single stem, but where these plants are in demand for effective grouping later those pinched at this date and allowed to form three or four heads are more desirable. The last batch to be struck may be kept in pots not exceeding 4 inches in diameter, and, if liberally fed, will provide very useful material for using in facing up small groups of plants indoors.

Chrysanthemums

These, whether intended to supply large blooms or large bushes of flowers, must now be stood out in lines in the open, where they will obtain full benefit from sunshine and air. To prevent damage from rough winds wires should be strained from each end of the rows at about 5 feet from the ground, each plant being secured to the wire by the supporting stakes. The rows, when possible, should be 6 feet apart and the plants should be syringed daily, preferably towards evening. Watering will demand constant attention, as also will the disbudding and tying in of the shoots. A little soot-water applied to the roots occasionally will prove beneficial, and if earwigs are troublesome insert between cane and stem of plant 9-inch lengths of Bean-stalks, which make excellent traps. These should be blown out each morning into a vessel containing a little paraffin oil.

Peaches

Trees which have been relieved of their fruits may, with advantage, be relieved, also, of all surplus wood; in short, pruned. This will admit of the wood intended for fruiting next year being spread out evenly and more openly to sunshine, and thereby become thoroughly ripened. If the trees show signs of weakness, due either to old age or over-cropping, stimulants may be applied so long as active growth remains, but in the case of very young trees, feeding should be quite unnecessary, even whilst carrying a good crop.

Peaches in the open

These are cropping freely, but should be permitted to carry only a moderately fair number, otherwise the trees will become weakened and crop but sparsely next year. This applies to trees of moderate age, but in the case of young specimens it is often advisable to crop heavily in order to check coarse and superabundant growth. A distance of 10 inches apart is very good spacing for Peach fruits on moderately healthy trees. Tie in the shoots regularly at this period and syringe the trees daily towards evening.

Pinks

A start must now be made with the propagation of these popular flowers by taking cuttings, or pipings as they are often called. Those about 3 inches long should be chosen and detached from the plants with a heel, and after removing the lower leaves dibble them into boxes filled with sandy soil and place in a cool, closed, and shaded frame, where, in about three weeks, roots will have formed, following which they may be gradually inured to light and air. Inchmury, Gertrude, Princess Mary, Coronation, Prichard's Favourite, Dianthus maritimus, Donnizetti, and Allwoodii in variety are excellent kinds.

Delphiniums

If the spikes are cut to the ground immediately the flowers are over, a few new spikes will develop and bloom during late summer. Those who do not wish their plants to bloom a second time, but retain their freshness in the borders as long as possible, should remove the flower-stalks down to the healthy leaves immediately they cease to remain effective.

Sweet Violets

Remove all suckers as soon as they appear in order that all the plant's strength may be diverted to the building up of a strong crown. Do not permit the plants to suffer from want of moisture, and apply the hoe freely and often between the plants.

Autumn-sown Onions

When these have finished their growth they should be lifted and laid on their sides to complete the ripening of the bulbs after being well dried in the sun store in a cool and airy shed. Potato Onions may now be lifted and treated likewise.

Seakale

To provide strong crowns of this succulent vegetable liberal treatment must be given at this season in the form of weekly doses of liquid-manure. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Sowing Onions

In the later districts here in the north it is advantageous to sow this crop several weeks earlier than is necessary in the south. About the 20th of this month will, usually, give satisfactory results, but if ground be available it is an excellent plan to put in another sowing 10 days later, this being likely, in a fine autumn, to be the better of the two.

Winter Spinach

This crop is seldom available in Scotland during winter, it being, as a rule, spring before it is fit for use. As with Onions, it is desirable to sow twice, or even three times. If it is in demand in autumn a first sowing should now be made, a second at the end of the month, with a final batch about the middle of August.

Late Peas

On light soils drought not infrequently considerably cripples the later sowings unless some little trouble be taken in the way of an occasional soaking of water. If a generous mulch on both sides of the rows can be applied immediately after the soil is well soaked with water much benefit will result and much less watering will be necessary. The best mulch is well-rotted farmyard manu leaf-mould is a fair substitute, and e mowings from the lawns need not spised. On more retentive soils a th hoeing of the surface between the ro a week will work wonders, and unl drought is very severe no hand water be required.

Kidney Beans

These look wretched at the mor writing, the prolonged dull, cold wea ing sadly against this rather tender Encourage growth by frequent hoe tween the rows. Thin drastically w the least crowded, a distance of 9 ir 12 inches being none too great betwe plants if best results are desired.

Layering Carnations

The season being so late there ar great number of the plants ready operation, but as soon as they are fi should be made, it being better to this rather tiresome work betimes than to try and have it all carried out If there is any choice select showery for the job, but if necessary to "ca during a dry spell give the layers watering through a rosed can the fir ing after layering has been carried sprinkle overhead each evening for days or so.

Roses

These have had rather a trying tim with abnormally low temperatures a sunless days. Unless a sudden ch the better comes along soon the displ afraid, will be but poor. Keep the between the bushes well hoed, look Briar suckers, and, where necessa water, and, any want of vigour being give a soaking the day following th of the clear water with liquid-manu at moderate strength, rather repeat a week or 10 days should this be n If liquid-manure is difficult to obtain a light dressing of some approved fertiliser between the plants, hoeing then giving a good soaking of clean

Sweet Peas

Give weekly attention to these annuals, tying and thinning out wh sary. Watering must have attentio the ground be at all dry. Any want should be remedied by giving a weel ing with liquid-manure, or else s little suitable artificial manure on of the rows, watering well in an vigorously all over the surface next

Eucharis amazonica

This delightful warm-house subje always the success it might be. T the bulbs to bloom freely it is nec provide them with a resting season. way to secure this is to move the ph a cool house for about four weeks, a that time give water very sparingly not allow the foliage to flag for war

Primula malacoides

There is still time to sow seed charming little plant, but no more t be lost to ensure the plants gaining size before winter sets in.

Statice profusa

This is one of the most useful p have for greenhouse or conservator ing, as it does, over a long period courage the production of succession feed gently with liquid made from guano about once a week. C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithg

cultural Societies' News

Windsor Rose Show

Windsor, Eton, and District Rose Horticultural Society held its thirty-th annual exhibition on Saturday, , in the slopes of Windsor Castle, by permission of H.M. the King. The

ese Irises shown by Waterer and Crisp formed an attrac-eature of the Windsor Rose Show on July 9th.

he varieties shown were Adonis, nley (rosy purple on light grey Helena, Olympus, Attraction and lustrated below. These forms of ipferi comprise exquisite combina-colour in which figure shades of ue, pink, lavender and silver grey tone, and distributed with mysteri-mitable effect. These gems of splendour are suited to the water rticularly where, by means of irriga-can remain dry after flowering until growth recommences.

was not at all promising in the out in the afternoon it cleared up and many people visited the e King's Challenge Cup, which is England for 48 Rose blooms, goes irth year in succession to Messrs. it and Co., of Colchester. The Follett's Challenge Cup for 12 is was won for the third time by lgate, Esq., of Colchester, and for time Messrs. A. Warner and olchester, have secured the Lady iton Cup. R. C. Turnbull, Esq., er, was the fortunate winner of enge Cups, viz., the "Windsor" e blooms, the "Caley" for six rieties Roses, three blooms of ir John Aird's Cup for 12 distinct eet Peas. Another successful ex-; W. E. Moore, Esq., who has late F. A. Govett Challenge Cup for six Rose blooms, the Challenge Cup presented by J. Railton, Esq., for six single Rose blooms, and the Samuel Osborn Cup for six Rose blooms. The Romaine Challenge Cup for 12 Rose blooms was won by Mrs. E. M. Maude, of Englefield Green.

The Prince of Wales' Challenge Cup for Sweet Peas, open to all-England amateurs, was won by Major Krabbe, and Lady Carter's Challenge Cup (the Lady Mayoress of Windsor) for the best honorary exhibit was won by Messrs. J. C. Allgrove and Co., of Langley, Bucks. Mrs. Bevil Fortescue's Challenge Cup for Sweet Peas, 12 distinct varieties, was secured by Mrs. G. E. Naish; also for Sweet Peas, six distinct varieties, C. W. Renn won the Challenge Cup presented by Walter Burness, Esq.

For Carnations, 12 blooms with own foliage, Sir George Peter's Challenge Cup was won for the third time by W. Burness, Esq. The late Lady Dyson's Challenge Cup for the most tastefully-decorated dinner-table, open only to lady amateurs in the district, was won by Mrs. Charlton. In the vegetable section the Baroness Campbell's Challenge Cup was secured by Mr. Alfred May, of Clewer, Windsor, for four distinct kinds of vegetables. For the highest number of points gained in the Cottagers' and Allotment Holders' classes, 43 to 49, the GARDENING ILLUSTRATED Gold Medal goes to Mr. V. Brant.

A new Rose, Angele Pernet, was shown by Messrs. Wood and Ingram. It is orange-coloured and scented, and flowers from early summer to late autumn. Messrs. W. Cutbush and Son, Ltd., were showing some very fine Hydrangeas, and Messrs. Hewitt, of Solihull, Warwickshire, some nice Delphiniums. Some exceptionally fine Japanese Irises were exhibited by Messrs. Waterer, Sons, and Crisp, of Twyford, and Charles Turner, of Slough, mixed plants. Messrs. J. C. Allgrove, Langley, Bucks, exhibited Roses, and a very dainty exhibit of Sweet Peas was that of Messrs. S. Bide and Sons, Ltd., Farnham, Surrey. Messrs. D. Prior and Son, of Colchester, W. E. B. Archer and daughter, Ashford, Kent, and Messrs. Pemberton had fine exhibits of Roses. A very neat and dainty stand was that of Messrs. William Yandell, Maidenhead, who had an excellent exhibit of Pansies and Violas.

The following is a list of the varieties with which Messrs. Frank Cant and Co. won the King's Cup for the fourth year in succession:—Admiration, Alex. Emslie, Archie Gray, Arthur Cook, Aug. Hartmann, Bessie Chaplin, Capt. F. Bald, Capt. Kilbee Stuart, Caroline Testout, Colleen, Col. O. Fitz-

gerald, Comte G. de Rochemur, Coronation, Countess Clanwilliam, Courage, David Gilmour, Dean Hole, Deity (new seedling), Edgar M. Burnett, Edith Cavell (H.T.), E. Godfrey Brown, Fred. J. Harrison, Geo. Dickson, Gladys Holland, Gwynne Carr, H. V. Machin, John Russell, Lady Inchiquin, Leslie Holland, Lord Allenby, Lyon Rose, Mabel Morse, Marcia Stanhope, Maud Cuming, Mabel Turner, Mrs. Amy Hammond, Mrs. B. J. Walker, Mrs. Chas. Hunter, Mrs. Geo. Shawyer, Mrs. Hy. Bowles, Mrs. Hy. Morse, Nellie Parker, Princess Victoria, Red Star, Rev. F. Page Roberts, Shot Silk, The General, and Vivid (new seedling).

The Royal Show, Newport, Mon., July 5 to July 9, 1927

THERE is no doubt that the horticultural section of the Royal Show was pleasing to the vast majority of the thousands who visited the two large tents devoted to plants and cut flowers, but to many it was just an ordinary display of everyday subjects, and there were few plants which the usual well-stocked garden did not already contain. It was the old favourites in massed formation, and, as such, the show was a success. Many complained of little or no business, and no wonder. However, there were some noteworthy exhibits, such as Messrs. Sutton's glorious display of Sweet Peas, beautifully arranged, their fine collection of vegetables, and a group of seedling Delphiniums. These make one wonder why some named varieties are so expensive, as all the seedlings shown were more of average merit, and of real garden value either for the border or as cut flowers. Delphiniums were largely exhibited and were well grown, but with a few noteworthy exceptions, such as Millicent Blackmore, Gladys Cooper, etc., the progress made is hardly in keeping with the host of names before the public to-day. It is like racehorses, many are given a name, but few win the Derby.

A particularly bright part of the show was the Roses. These were good, and many uncommon varieties were on view. Several of the leading growers were represented by groups worthy of a better setting, and among them we noted B. Cant, Barham, of Newport, Waterers, and others. The latter firm displayed some first-rate stands of Lady Inchiquin and Mrs. H. Morse. They were also represented by a group of Iris Kæmpferi of more than average merit.

Messrs. Peeds, of Norwood, put up a tasteful group of stove and greenhouse plants, in which Kalanchol coccinea was a striking feature. A similar group was also staged by Mr. Cypher, and here the master hand displayed his skill in arrangement. It was light and graceful, and a few Odontoglossums judiciously set out added tone to what was one of the most effective exhibits. Mr. W. A. Holmes, of Chesterfield, had another group in which fine Crotons and Ixora Williamsii were conspicuous. Messrs. Cuthbert, of Southgate, N., had a varied collection of the popular Hydrangeas, and in pleasing contrast were Mr. Russell's Tree Ferns. A collection of fruit was tastefully arranged by Studley College and pot fruit trees were displayed by King's Acre, Hereford. Here we noticed well-coloured examples of Apple Lady Sudeley, Plums, Gooseberries, Figs, and Pears—quite a refreshing exhibit.

No show is complete without Carnations, and the perpetual varieties were staged by Messrs. Low, Enfield, who also had a group of Orchids, Messrs. Engelmann, who had fine vases of Red Laddie, Brilliant, and Coral Glow; and Messrs. Allwood, who also put up a few Border varieties; and the much-boosted Allwoodiis.

Hardy Border Carnations came from Mr. H. Lakeman, Thornton Heath, in great variety, and his exhibit was a real joy. He staged excellent blooms of Penelope, Kelso, Salome, Bookham White, and many others. Another praiseworthy exhibit came from Blackmore and Langdon, in addition to fine Delphiniums. They were represented by a well-grown and excellent strain of tuberous-rooted Begonias in great variety, also those suitable for hanging-baskets. Messrs. Ellison had a nice collection of greenhouse Ferns, and alpines were exhibited by Maxwell and Beale and others.

Hardy flowers naturally occupied a lot of space, and it is impossible to mention the whole of the exhibitors, and only a few of the flowers seen.

Messrs. House's Scabious were good, and they also put up the new yellow Primula Florindæ. The giant orange Iceland Poppies were a feature of Messrs. Gibson's stand, and it is said they come fairly true from seeds. Messrs. Carter's had a nice lot of Gladiolus among other good things, and in Messrs. Webb's tastefully furnished exhibit we were particularly struck with their Leviathan Mignonette, Rhodanthe, Viscaria, Crassula, and the orange-yellow Alstromeria lutea.

Bees' Delphiniums were good and especially their rose-pink Pæony, Asa Gray, while Messrs. Prichard, of Christchurch, had alpines in pots, small examples of the pink Lavatera olbia, a large number of herbaceous subjects, of which Kniphofias and the beautiful Thalictrum dipterocarpum were conspicuous.

Messrs. Artindale, Sheffield, staged a meritorious and bright lot of plants in which Liliums and the stately Eremurus played a part. A large number of highly-coloured Astilbes were seen in several collections, while Messrs. Treseder, Cardiff, set up a general collection of seasonable subjects, especially Roses, Pelargoniums, and Delphiniums. T. W. B.

Royal Tunbridge Wells

WHILE the great provincial flower shows attract from far and wide, little or no notice seems to be taken, except locally, of the smaller provincial flower shows, some of which deserve to be better known.

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Horticultural Society's Show, held in the Calverley grounds in lovely and most picturesque surroundings, and under an organisation and management which Chelsea could not surpass, is one which visitors from London and abroad should not miss. A veritable miniature Chelsea Flower Show, which outdid that great show in variety of exhibits, such as the trade exhibit of Tomatoes and Cucumbers in market boxes, grown at Crowborough, was a revelation. Then there was the world's champion band, the St. Hilda, which played delightful music with touch and refinement nowhere equalled in ideal venue, the bandstand being surrounded with a semi-circular pavilion built of Pitch Pine, having glass sides, in which were staged all the amateur exhibits. Such exhibits! Decorated table of fruits, Sweet Peas of the highest quality, Roses, hardy flowers, Carnations, flowering shrubs, fruit (including hothouse Peaches, Grapes, etc.), vegetables, greenhouse pot plants, Irises, Lilies, decorated dinner-tables showing remarkable taste, etc., with sundries besides. While most of these exhibits were, naturally, small in extent, their quality was quite equal to that seen at Chelsea or any of the great provincial shows, and in some instances surpassed them.

The trade exhibits were mainly staged in a large marquee, with smaller tents grouped nearby, all most tastefully arrange premier prize, a coveted silver cu awarded to an exhibit showing the n a small villa with every kind of lawn, and hard tennis court laid o realistically. Gold, silver-gilt, an medals were rightly awarded freely.

Besides some trade exhibits in th tents there were open-air displays of flowering and decorative shrubs, rock etc., excellently arranged at every point. The catering, buffet, lunche teas in special tents, served as we Chelsea, but at half the price. The and freshness of the food could not b Model hygienic and most up-to-da tories—second to none—provided with every comfort. A splendid firew play was somewhat marred in the by rain. This show was a wonderful ment for a small Society, and refl highest praise on the organisers.

All the famous local trade firms presented, but with the exception premier Carnation firm none of t firms had exhibits. Where were the seed firms? Such golden opportuniti garden county of England should ne been missed. The local attendance cellent.

Norfolk and Norwich Ho tural Society

This old Society held its summer Thursday, July 7th, in the charming of Town Close House, Norwich, by mission of Chas. Bunting, Esq. tunately, in the early hours of the of the show rain fell to the exte inches, which made things very u for exhibitors. Roses were very g sidering the hail and rain experienc district lately. Dr. Deacon, an amateur rosarian, of Brundall, sec challenge cup, also the medal for bloom in the show. Mrs. Campbell Saxlingham, was a notable winner, group of various types of Roses wa interesting and educational exhibit. J. H. Mander won for a basket whilst Mrs. Sandys Winsch deserv for her first-prize decorated vase, w composed of Betty Uprichard and R foliage.

Sweet Peas made a most brillian and the several classes were well The challenge cup for 24 bunches by A. E. Lark, Esq., a good win o competitors.

Mr. J. A. Christie, M.P., Fra (gardener, S. High), staged a beau lection of the rarer flowering shrubs ing Magnolia parviflora, Styrax Philadelphus purpera, and Rhod Keysii.

Delphiniums made a bold displa mention being due to Gordon La Plumstead Hall, for his wonderfu Some extra fine Liliums and Iris hibited by J. E. Hoxey, Esq., Fra Hall. This exhibitor also had the lection of tuberous Begonias in some grand Peaches in the fruit sec

Fruit was not so largely display would have wished, though the lack tity was somewhat recompensed b cellent quality of the Grapes and of fruit staged by Major A. L. Bruc House, and other local growers.

Vegetables made a big show a very luxuriant. Never before do w ber seeing such Lettuces. The c aside for allotment holders, we we see, were well contested, and the p flected great credit upon the growe

As usual, the trade growers did

ke the show educational. Messrs. s Bros., Norwich, had a wonderful f Sweet Peas grown from their own their seed farm at Tunstead, in- the best varieties.

s, of Norwich, maintained their re- n in the world of Roses with a choice on. Henry Morse and Sons, Eaton, h, also had a wonderful display of including new seedlings of their own, emp, a sweetly-scented salmon, receiving a Certificate of Merit. A. Reeves and Co., of Old Catton, Norwich, also had a fine bank of Roses, comprising the newest decorative varieties. Regd. Winder, Ltd., Lingwood, displayed Roses in bold masses, which were a source of much attraction. G. Stark and Son, Ryburgh, had Sweet Peas and Poppies in profusion, whilst G. W. Miller, Wisbech, made a feature of Delphiniums and other herbaceous flowers.

AYTCH PEA.

Answers to Queries

ons—Queries and answers are inserted in G ILLUSTRATED free of charge if corres- s follow these rules: All communications clearly written on one side of the paper d addressed to the EDITOR of GARDENING D, Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. n business should be sent to the PUB- The name and address of the sender are in addition to any designation he may be used in the paper. When more than y is sent each should be on a separate paper, the name and address being added As GARDENING ILLUSTRATED has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

VEGETABLES

es disfigured

us).—Your fruits are scalded, which e been caused by too rich feeding or nt ventilation, or the two combined. s used excessively will quickly affect s and should only be applied by ex- hands. Cut off and destroy all fruits, admit air more freely and , and water only with clear water ne. The trouble is not due to in- he airing of the house is important, etion as to this must be used at all For instance, if such a house is left ntil late in the morning, with the ng brightly, everything will sweat ing follow, and if the ventilators are videly and suddenly on such occa- dew is sure to follow.

es in poor condition

you be good enough to let me know he matter with my Tomato plants? ts look thoroughly healthy and are well, but the blossoms do not open, s turn yellow, and the flowers fall plants are in my conservatory and boxes. I keep them well watered water, and under exactly similar nces the plants last year did excel- should be glad if you would let me at to do. H. P. D.

ants may be in a too vigorous condi- may be that the temperature of the ory has during the past few weeks a low point, especially at night. pled with the fact of keeping the ndantly supplied with water, would out the trouble complained of. ter in moderation or just sufficient the plants from taking harm or when, we think, you will have no use for complaint.]

sease of Tomatoes

rwarding Tomato plants for your I have been greatly troubled with ng off as per enclosed specimen, e greatly obliged if you can suggest Other plants not affected are lthy, and vigorous.

NORTHUMBRIA.

omatoes are affected with sleepy which is caused by the fungus n albo-atrum. This is a common the Tomato and is especially preva- ear. The disease first shows in g, when the temperature is low, warmer weather comes along some of the plants often recover. If you have only a few plants affected it would probably be easiest to take them out and burn all portions of stem and root. Wilting plants often recover if they are taken in hand in time. The house in which they are growing should be lightly shaded with whitewash, the temperature of the house should be raised above 77 degs. F. by increasing the fire-heat and by closing down earlier on sunny days, and all the affected plants should be top-dressed with soil to encourage them to send out a new root-system. You should endeavour to get rid of the disease from your house during the coming winter by either of the following methods:—(1) Change the soil of the house entirely and at the same time giving the house a thorough clean-down, and limewashing the walls. (2) As for No. 1, except that sterilisation of the soil *in situ* be substituted for changing it.]

Diseased Tomatoes

Can you tell me what is wrong with the enclosed Tomato plants? The Tomatoes are in a greenhouse without heat and have been planted since the beginning of May. You will see the enclosed specimens are very small; others planted at the same time have made very good growth, but one or two of the larger plants, which are too big to send, have gone in the same way. What steps, if any, can I take to preserve the remaining plants from being infected I have taken up and burnt all the plants that have gone like this. A. C. M. M.

[Your plants are affected with sleepy disease. Please see reply to "Northumbria" above. You cannot raise the temperature of your house because you say it is unheated, but you should keep the house as warm as possible. Be careful of the water supply for the time, and damp the plants overhead on all suitable occasions rather than supply too much to the soil. The plants you sent also showed signs of wireworm attack at the collars, and this may be helping to spread the disease.]

Tomato Rust

I am sending a few leaves of Tomatoes for your inspection. Shall be glad if you can advise me as to the best means of checking the disease. The fruit is just commencing to colour. I have dusted them with sulphur.

H. T.

[Your Tomato foliage is affected with rust, which is caused by the fungus Cladosporium fulvum. This disease is fairly easy to control if taken in the early stages, but very difficult if the attack has developed badly. In the case of a light attack cutting out the diseased leaves and dusting the plants with flowers of sulphur should be repeated until the disease is well under control. Before cutting out the diseased leaves you should prepare a good fungicide, and all the diseased material should be placed into this before being carried out to burn. In the case of a bad attack the whole house of plants should be sprayed with liver of sulphur, 1 oz. to 3 gallons of water, and then the diseased material cut away and burned. This treatment must also be repeated until the disease is under control. When the crop has been taken the plants should be removed and burned, and the house given a good clean down. Watch closely for the appearance of the disease next season, and apply control measures early.]

Cucumbers damping

Can you, please, tell me the cause of the enclosed Cucumbers going off as they have done? I can find no trace of any disease which is likely to cause it. The leaves of the plants have not dropped, and the fruits fit to cut are of a good size and flavour. I have kept a steady night temperature of 70 degs. and have kept the house moderately damp. I should be much obliged if you could reply quickly as I should be able to check it before it spreads. So far only nine plants out of three dozen are affected. L. STEAD.

[We have examined your Cucumber fruits and can find no trace of a fungus that would account for the trouble. We are inclined to think that some error in cultivation or in the structure of the house is to blame. Cut off and burn all the affected fruits, and at the same time thin the foliage. For the time being you should reduce the syringing of the affected plants. Too much dampness in cold sunless weather is to be avoided.]

FRUIT

Damaged Peach foliage

Some of my Peach and Nectarine trees under glass are attacked as sample shoots enclosed. The trees have been planted five years and have shown good growth until this spring. They have been well watered and syringed. There is plenty of lime in the soil. They bloomed and set well, but the fruit is not developing. Can you advise me, please, what treatment is necessary? Some other trees in same house are not affected.

GEO. H. TIMMIS.

[We have examined the specimens sent in and can find no trace of fungoid disease, and we are inclined to think that the trouble is due to insect attack. Examine the trees at night with a light and see if you can catch some of the insects at work. If you can do this and send us along some specimens packed in a little tin box we will advise you as to treatment. The foliage looks to us as though it has been eaten by weevils, but which one we are unable to say.]

Gooseberry mildew

Referring to Gooseberry disease, American Mildew, I thank you for your kind help. The amount of lime sulphur used was 1 gallon to 30 gallons as by directions. This evidently proved too severe. I do not know names of any of my Gooseberry trees, they were in the garden when I took up work, but I am sure all the old trees are the same variety, and a bad one it is, though the trees are laden with fruit, though small. The young trees are grown from cuttings of Amber Gooseberry trees from an old garden; a lovely variety; also some green and red. Neither do I know the name of any of them. The green are of a very dark green foliage and large berry,

and they did not mind the spray one bit. I have continued to spray the small trees. How long should I do this? So far the disease has not spread to the tips. Some of the older trees look very badly. Quantities of fruit and no foliage. Would you advise me to take up and burn them, clear the better ones of fruit and spray them, or shall I burn the whole lot and only work on the small trees? I feel sure with them I can cure them. Can I do anything to disinfect the ground round the trees? The lime sulphur has checked the sawfly caterpillar, which was also making ravages on the Gooseberry trees.

A READER.

[We think that it is always better to apply lime sulphur at rather dilute strength and repeat the spraying operation several times rather than to apply it strong and burn the foliage. We should use it at 1 in 60 for most varieties and 1 in 100 for varieties that are liable to burn. Spraying early in the season is of great importance. It is much easier to prevent disease rather than to cure. You would be wise to increase your stock of young trees and gradually do away with the old bushes. Bush fruits in the majority of private gardens are kept down too long. It pays best to keep young stock to replace worn-out bushes. If your young bushes are now free from mildew you can discontinue spraying, but watch the trees carefully, and should it start again spray again. In any case you must spray early next year. We are glad that the lime sulphur has checked the Gooseberry sawfly. A nicotine wash is the best for sawfly.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Flowering Dipelta floribunda

(J. N. B.).—The flowering of this shrub should not be difficult for you, as it usually bears its fragrant blossoms freely, the year-old shoots developing short side twigs on which they appear in May and June. We would advise you to cease all pruning, and, unless growing in such a position now, transplant in autumn to open, moist, loamy soil.

Rosy Apple Aphis

Will you, please, inform me, through your paper, what the disease is which has caused the red appearance of enclosed leaves of Crab-apple? J. T.

[Your Apple foliage has been attacked by the Rosy Apple Aphis (Aphis malifoliæ). This aphis lives on the underside of the leaves and causes the red appearance which you have noticed. The pest passes the winter in the egg state upon the twigs of the Apple. When the tree is breaking into leaf the eggs hatch into wingless females, which are known as "Mother Queens." These give birth to living young, which again are all females and give rise to living young females. Later in the season a change in the life-history takes place, and winged forms are produced, again all females. The winged forms leave the Apple and migrate to other food plants, where male and female forms are produced. Late in the autumn the aphides return to the Apple and eggs are laid on the buds and wood of the Apple trees. At this time of the year control measures are almost useless, because the aphides are protected by the curled-up rosy foliage. Spray fluid can only kill those that it reaches, hence the majority escape. Your best plan will be to spray all the trees affected with a good tar oil wash early in January next year. You should choose a still day for the operation and aim at doing the job in fine weather. The use of tar oil wash is very effective as "aphis egg killers" if rain does not wash it off before it has done its work. For Apples you should use the tar oil wash according to the makers' instructions for that fruit, generally from 6 per cent. to 7½ per cent. solution.]

Arbor Vitæ hedge

Three years ago I planted a hedge of arbor vitæ, which has proved unsatisfactory. The plants have made little growth, and though an odd tree is looking well, the majority are clearly not happy. My soil is a light sandy loam over gravel, and is almost entirely lacking in lime. The hedge is not unduly exposed to winds, but does not get full sunshine. I should be grateful if you would recommend suitable manures, natural or chemical, and suggest treatment.

BEMAX.

[The dryness of your soil is, we should say, the main cause of the want of vigour. The best way to counteract this would be to give a generous mulch of well-rotted farmyard manure over the roots. It would help, also, if you could give a thorough soaking of water before the manure was applied, and again, occasionally, should dry weather set in.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Sweet Pea buds dropping

I shall be much obliged if you can tell me what causes Sweet Pea buds to develop so far then turn yellow and drop off; also what treatment to give them. JOHN MILLIGAN.

[The dropping of Sweet Pea buds may be caused by several things. One of the principal is dryness at the roots, this plant very quickly resenting this condition. Another frequent cause of bud-dropping is the use of too strong stimulants, while occasionally a sudden drop or sudden rise of temperature has the same effect. You cannot, of course, prevent the latter conditions, but should you fear dryness at the roots a thorough soaking will eventually help matters, while if too much nourishment has been given, this will, in time, adjust itself, providing you stop feeding altogether, or if you have simply made the ground too rich when preparing it the watering will help to counteract this mistake.]

Gentiana acaulis not flowering

I have, among plants of Gentiana verna which flower, several plants of G. acaulis which have been established for four years, have made good growth, but never flower. Can you suggest any way of inducing them to flower? I have, also, a strong clump of Juncus zebrinus growing in a bog round my Lily pool adjoining a bed of flourishing Bulrushes. This Juncus zebrinus grows vigorously, but instead of remaining upright the stems invariably double over about half-way up and the points fall down towards the ground. How can this be remedied?

SUBSCRIBER.

[It is difficult in many gardens to induce Gentiana acaulis to flower. This non-flowering occurs chiefly in town gardens, where the atmosphere is impure, and at least one great authority ascribes this to the dying out of some soil bacteria necessary to the well-being of this Gentian. To test this theory we have imported to several gardens where this Gentian lived, but refused to flower, soil from a garden where Gentiana acaulis flourished and flowered magnificently. In each case, after being transplanted in such soil these non-flowering Gentians produced blooms within twelve months, and to some extent in the year following, after which they rested upon their laurels, probably because the bacteria introduced with the fresh soil had died out again through infiltration of sulphuric acid in minute doses brought down from the air by rain. On one or two occasions feeding with fine bone-meal has induced such plants to produce a few fl but the introduction of soil as advised ferable, and in your case, by introduci bacteria, may effect a permanent Gentiana verna can be induced to flo almost any garden in very gritty and soil, and seems independent of soil ba Your Juncus zebrinus seems to miss necessary constituent in its soil to ma stems strong enough to support them Possibly some silica is needed to stre the stems unless the position in wh grows is so exposed to fierce winds th this would not have the desired effe your soil or mud in which the plant gr very limey, that may be accountable tipping over of the stems. Most Juncus grow naturally on acid, li soils, and a change to a peaty soil with of sand or sandy clay mixed with it ma the desired effect. As we do not kn conditions obtaining in your garden only surmise the cause and advise you the change to an acid, peaty soil in instance, and the introduction of some or windbreak at the side of your mo vailing winds. Judging from your you are near the sea, and wind may sole cause of your Juncus breaking do

MISCELLANEOUS

Book on propagating

(W. Leatham).—"The Propagat Hardy Trees and Shrubs," by G. C. and F. P. Knight, might suit you. It lished by Messrs. Dulau and Co., L Old Bond Street, London, W. 1, a 4s. 9d. post free.

Bluebottles

Will you, please, inform me, GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, if I can thing to prevent the bluebottle fly f tacking the fruit, chiefly Plums and which are generally a great pest i gardens? C. D

[You can hang up bottles conta little sweetened ale, such as is used ping wasps, and will thus greatly pests if not able to do so entirely.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

A. C. P.—Erigeron philadelphicus.

W. P., near Liverpool.—Buddleia hardy shrub, native of Chile and F is easily grown in ordinary garden will attain the height of 16 feet a wall or in favoured situation.

Hortus.—Lilium Martagon.

B. M. Horner.—The white-flower panula seedling is very good, but other varieties of Campanula p alba. We are unable to say if the has been influenced by the variet Star.

Ajax.—Senecio Grayii.

E. R.—Rose Rubin.

J. N. B.—1, Rosa Willmottiæ; 2, Franchetii.

J. Perry, Chelmsford.—Galega (Goat's Rue), a useful plant for the den, as you have observed. Nati Europe. The plant found growing railway siding had doubtless escape garden.

Tetbury.—1, Astrantia carniolica panula grandis (syn. latiloba); 4, C latifolia var. Burghalti; 5, Santolin 2, not included.

E. S.—1, Not recognised; 2, buxifolia; 3, not recognised, pleas flower; 4, Thalictrum aquilegiæfo Hypericum androsæmum.

Alan Sapthorn.—1, Syringa E Olearia macrodonta; 3, Myrtus var. tarentina; 4, Eleagnus pun aurea; 5, Skimmia Laureola.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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The Difficulties of an Amateur Gardener

UT 30 years' experience in several dens with various soils and aspects e led me to two alternative con- to account for my very moderate Either I have been very unfor- my soil and situation or those who otes on the cultivation of various re given to exaggerating the ease of them.

are two main factors which con- success in horticulture—the condi- soil and aspect, and skill or know- Of these two I am not sure that soil s is not the most important one. A be done to improve the soil by culti- nd manuring so as to add the in- which are lacking or to counteract influence of the injurious con- but the ordinary amateur cannot, e, spend much time or money on d has to make the best of such con- s he finds. I have heard two in- t amateur gardeners, both V.M.H., the various prescriptions given for ures for different plants are quite ry, and that most plants worth will grow in any ordinary garden is is no doubt some exaggeration, s often occurred to me that the in- for raising, growing, and propa- ants which are given in our text- d journals devoted to horticulture by highly skilled gardeners and are ng plants to perfection, and that not tress is laid upon the simple and methods necessary to produce and an ordinarily decent garden. So such instructions tell us, for in- w to make and plant a Rose bed, s are written telling us how to ith an illustration showing the fore pruning" and the same "Rose ing." The trouble is that I never ne who saw anything like the fore pruning," and therefore does how to attack it. What we want s how to deal with a neglected gar- as we all have experience of when to a new house. In only one of s have I made new beds. In all it was a question of digging out d not want and importing what I hen solving the problem of getting e into presentable condition by nd moving things into suitable Most books also tell us how to ants, but this, to me, is of far less (unless we are nursery gar- n how to treat them annually and ne of the year. Some plants, such mas Daisies and Heleniums, bene- ion every year, others after two or s, while some resent any form of once they become established. Some divide or move best in autumn, others in spring, but this depends largely upon soil and weather conditions. When we are told simply "increase by division" the inference is that the plant *should* be divided, which, in some cases, invites disaster. What we want to know is whether to divide at all, also how often and at what season.

My father used to say, when he was asked why things did so well in his garden, that he did not attempt to grow things which would not do well. I used to think this was a confession of weakness, imagining that a good gardener could make almost anything grow in almost any garden. But this is far from the case. My own soil is cold and wet, and

The new Pyrethrum Mrs. J. J. Norfolk
Colour lilac-pink

the garden slopes to the north. Nothing can alter these conditions, so I have to be content with things which do not mind them. Another piece of advice my father used to give me was to look into my neighbours' gardens and see what did well with them, and grow the same plants. This I have found not to be entirely good advice. My next door neighbour's garden has about five degrees less slope to the north than mine. Consequently, things will grow there which do not thrive with me. It is also within the experience of most of us that certain species flourish in one part of our garden, but fail in other parts, the conditions being apparently the same. It is no doubt the presence or absence of some soil ingredient which makes all the difference, or perhaps some slight variation in the aspect. I know that less than five degrees in the slope of a garden may make all the difference between success and failure of sun-loving species.

It is for such reasons as I have given that I have learnt not to follow indiscriminate advice too hastily. A correspondent in one of your recent numbers said that Primula denticulata was as easy to grow with him as the common Primrose, implying by inference that it is, therefore, always an easy subject. I wish it were so with me. In spite of my cold, wet soil, which I should have thought favourable, I fail, more or less, with all the moisture-loving Primulas, though the alpine ones do quite well on a moraine. Again, I do not recollect seeing any book or catalogue which said that there is any difficulty in growing Erigerons. But I am not alone in finding some of them very troublesome. They fail owing to something akin to the wilt disease of their cousins, the Asters, and some of them refuse to grow at all. In this particular garden I fail entirely with Antirrhinums and Sweet Williams, which always succumb to some fungoid disease. But I would not deny that generally these two species are easy subjects. On the other hand, Anemone coronaria thrives with me exceedingly, whereas it fails in most other Mayfield gardens. I take no credit to myself about it, the soil does it for me, though I cannot say how or why. But I do not wish to say that Anemone coronaria is absurdly easy to grow, knowing that it is not always so. All the small Daffodils fail completely with me, yet the large ones grow quite as well as in other gardens. I can suggest no reason for this.

Let us, therefore, be told something of the conditions; that is, of soil and locality, before we can judge whether a subject which is said to be easy to grow will really prove so under any conditions. I forbear to discuss the question of taste since I hardly ever read a horticultural journal without being surprised at seeing some plant praised for its beauty which I would not tolerate in my garden. I recommend people to see plants growing before deciding to grow them in their own gardens. I should be sorry to say how many things I have turned out of this garden after trying them on the recommendations of others, and having found that they either will not grow at all, or are the reverse of ornamental.

A. H. Wolley-Dod.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

New double Pyrethrum Mrs. J. J. Norfolk

THIS is a lovely lilac-pink of the richest shade, a most beautiful colour. The blooms are very large and of great substance. The flower-heads are double, borne

on good stems. It is a strong grower, wonderful cropper, and very early. This novelty gained an Award of Merit and the GARDENING ILLUSTRATED Medal at York Show, June, 1926. It was raised by Mr. J. J. Norfolk, of Knaresborough, Yorkshire.

Lilium giganteum

Merton Hall, Norfolk, the reputed scene of the tragedy of the Babes in the Wood, was visited by hundreds of people on Sunday, July 10th. These people, however, were not on a pilgrimage to the burial place of the Babes, but had come from near and far to pay homage to what is considered to be the finest display of this noble Lily in the kingdom. There were hundreds of spikes in the woodland gardens, where the soil is of peat and leaf-soil, in which this Lily revels. Many reached 10 feet and 11 feet high, and the base of the stems was up to 10 inches in circumference. Mr. W. Baldwin, the gardener-in-charge, received many congratulatory remarks for his culture of them.

AYTCH PEA.

Garden seeds and Merchandise Marks Act, 1926

The Board of Trade, after consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Home Office, and Scottish Office, propose to exempt farm and garden seeds from the requirement that imported goods bearing a British name or trade mark must also bear an indication of origin. Any communication on the subject should be addressed to the Secretary, Board of Trade, Great George Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Gall on Rhododendron ferrugineum

A CURIOUS kind of gall has come on some bushes of Rhododendron ferrugineum (the Alpine Rose). It appears at the flowering point of last year's shoots as a dense, blobby, rounded mass, about an inch across, looking not unlike the small white puff balls that come in the lawn later in the year. In some cases gall and flower seem to be struggling for the mastery, but the gall wins. Out of about 30 of the little bushes only three have been affected, as far as we have observed this year, so that it is not, as yet, a serious trouble. Submitting them for examination to the Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society we are instructed that a probable remedy would be to cut off the galls and to use a spray of sulphide of potassium.

G. J.

On alpine gardens

Now is the time to review our alpines and consider what have been a success, and whether we can improve on our present arrangements. I find August is the best month to pull to pieces old rockeries and remake them.

Alpines planted in August take hold in a wonderful way, the ground is warm, and we can generally count on showery weather.

The mistake many make is to hesitate about re-making what may be now a most attractive spot, but which will by next year be a tangle.

Four years, I consider, is long enough, or even too long, for any bank or bed to be left untouched. Every plant ought to be lifted, a quantity of the soil removed, fresh drainage put in, the rocks altered and reset, and fresh soil with plenty of leaf-mould added. I start to plant with young plants and usually throw the old away, though a few may divide satisfactorily.

What many growers fail in is in realising that drainage, and again drainage, is the fundamental need of an alpine. Last year we made a most satisfactory addition to the rock garden. A large bed raised some feet at one end. Foundation a foot or more of cobbles, then broken mortar and brick-rubble, a layer of road chips, more stone, and then a thin layer of sand, loam, and leaf-mould; chips again to finish. In this mixture I have grown many treasures that promptly died in ordinary rockeries. Until we made the scree last year I never realised how little soil nine out of 10 alpines require.

Campanulas, Potentillas, and Dianthus are all ramping, and the rarer treasures for which the scree was made are increasing fast. I shall by degrees try and re-do all the rock garden in the same way.

Some of the newer alpines are very attractive. Veronica cataracti is a delicious tangle of white. The finer Pentstemons, Davidsoni and cristata, do well, and a lovely blue I had never seen before, Pentstemon procurus, has been much noticed. A very fascinating Viola, Crimson Beauty, seems very happy in the mixture. It is a large edition of Bosnaica, and will, I hope, seed itself as Bosnaica does.

Gall on the Alpine Rose

Viola pedata bicolor flowers well and looks healthy. All Violas love lime, which I give in large doses.

It would be very interesting if your correspondents would give their experiences of growing rare alpines, and which they consider the best. It is very difficult to judge from catalogues.

N. S. C.

Godstone.

Felicia Bergeriana

I have been hoping to see a note in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED on this most delightful of little annuals. About 8 inches high, it makes a most gorgeous patch of colour, with its countless blooms of purest Cambridge-blue as brilliant as that of Scilla sibirica. The composite flowers are much like those of Agathæa cœlestis, but not quite so large, and even more striking in colour. It comes very freely from seed and revels in any ordinarily good light soil in a fairly dry and sunny position. It was beautifully grown at Kew last year, and attracted one's a from quite a distance. Though rare it is an old plant, introduced many ye —about 1769, I believe. Mrs. Lou "The Ladies' Flower Garden," g illustration of it under the heading tenellus (Linn.), with many sy amongst others Felicia tenella fragilis. In an article which appe GARDENING ILLUSTRATED in 1880 the given as Felicia capensis, and descri half-hardy perennial to be kept in house during the winter, while in "Botanic Garden," 1839, it is referr Aster tenellus.

C. PR

Posiers, Borden, near Sittingbourne.

Heuchera brizoides

Mr. Blair (p. 406) has done good se writing so favourably of Heuchera b which deserves all the encomiums given it. As he remarks, H. sangui rather difficult subject, whereas H. is very easily grown. I like H. gracillima still better for cutting, and elegant as is H. brizoides it variety gracillima is still more deli its elegance. It is also as easily gr may be propagated by division.

Since writing above I observe tha your correspondents finds H. sanguir satisfactory, but this is not the ex generally.

S. A

—— It was very pleasing to read on Heuchera, which we hope will i readers who have not grown this plant to lose no time in procuring same, which can be planted now vantage. We have for a long tim nised the merits of Heuchera brizoi for cut flowers and borders. H. ti is a charming companion to H. brizo foliage is beautiful all the year, and gives a mass of dainty pink flowers the admiration of everyone.

CHAS. H. I

Tropæolum polyphyllum

This Chilian Nasturtium, beautifu is yet so rarely met with in gard one may wonder why such a pl neglected. Its wreaths of yellow fl seen to the best advantage when fal a ledge of stone in the rock garde sun. I have seen it planted behi wall with Campanula muralis pl tween the stones of the wall and th of the Tropæolum mingled with panula, both in bloom together, i pleasing way of growing it. T tuberous roots should be planted deep in good sandy loam and left un September is the best time for plan carried out.

P.

Hepaticas single and dou

The article by "Alpha," issue page 420, is full of interest. Mr. berg, who has charge of the S parks, told me when he was over they use Hepaticas for bedding much as Daisies are used in this and said they were their chief st the spring, coming into flower as s snow had melted.

WM. I

Chelsea Physic Garden.

Salvia interrupta

While subscribing to Mr. D praise of Salvia candelabrum, a which, however, is rather exacting I should like to mention that an Salvia is S. interrupta, at least for

The flower-stems are 3 feet high, but sprawl uncomfortably. The colour, a lavender, is very attractive. The s easily increased by cuttings, and y sows itself. ARTHUR F. HORT.

Salvia candelabrum

reading G. H. Dalrymple's article on ve Sage I was much struck with its ce to Salvia dichroa, which is at pre- flower here, but S. candelabrum is in flower with me. Unlike S. rum, which has, the above writer very strong Sage smell, the leaves chroa are large, glossy, dark green, and odourless. The flowers are stems opposite each other, mostly though occasionally twos and threes, ced about 2 inches apart. The ems are very sticky and emit a faint ell. The flowers stand out pro- , quite different to most of the nd the flower-spikes go to a height . . M. S. ASHMEAD.

eare Manor Gardens, Devon.

Veronica chathamica

HARMING little Veronica flowered ny garden this summer. It came inally from Kew, and Dr. Stapf tells Veronica chathamica (Buchanan), a Chatham Island. It is a very com- nd, little bush, and, when in flower, e a large snowball. It is extra- floriferous and makes an ideal the rock garden.

KATHERINE DYKES.

al treatment for Japanese dwarf trees

TO VAN TUYLL VAN DER BEKEN.]

indebted to the Yokohama Nursery he following particulars:—During d summer keep the trees in a sunny where the wind passes freely he branches. Water once a day, keep the soil moist, but not too

winter keep in a cold greenhouse nheated conservatory. Water once The soil, however, must not be get dry.

as above the trees are very orna- balconies.

ees are required for indoor decora- should only remain inside a short be placed out of doors as often as Indoors they should never be ex- ry heat, nor be placed near a stove eplace.

and other deciduous trees require reatment as evergreens, but should inside while the new growth is , but as soon as they are in full e used for house decoration when

the trees in spring (April or May), v growth appears, with a little To a jardinière 1 foot in diameter ree or four large teaspoonsful (not this dry manure, and spread evenly e edge of the jardinière. For 3 inches by 6 inches half a tea- ill be ample each time.

g is necessary once in every two ars in spring about May. Lift the the pot, remove about one-third of , and replace it into the same pot; rich, fresh soil.

tain the dwarfness of the trees young growth in spring and sum- in the growing stage so as not to to lose their character. This is uning necessary.

The Cactus Dahlia

IT is a long way back since the first Dahlia was discovered in a South American swamp, a poor, single, Cactus-like type of brick-red colour. Truly the hand of man has worked wonders with this species. Every variation of type and colour has been evolved, until it seems that all its possibilities must be exhausted. One of its most beautiful progeny is the Cactus Dahlia we know so well to-day, still superior, although other varieties are trying to oust it from public favour. Its weakness—the same as in many other varieties—lies in the stem. If the raisers of this type will concentrate on stems as well as flowers no other variety will be superior to it.

Many of the most beautiful flowers of to-day are pendant. More's the pity. No doubt some harm has been caused by mixed exhibits seen at many of our leading shows, where prospective buyers have acquired the names, not knowing the habit; but this is gradually being eliminated, and no doubt the day will come when all exhibits will be shown on natural stems. Obviously amongst the many some can be picked out as being good for both garden and exhibition, and it is with these that I propose to deal. In Albert E. Amos, a recent introduction, we have an ideal Cactus, flowers crimson, flat, on stiff as cane stems, very robust, free-flowering; Edgar Jackson, a beautiful clear cerise, splendid stems, carried well above the foliage; Virginia, clear rosy-pink incurved, very free-flowering, strong stems; Mrs. M. Strudwick, a combination of beautiful pink tints, one of the best; Peerless, a splendid yellow; Frederick Wenham, fawn-pink, an old variety that can still hold its own in any company; Mary Perrier, scarlet, another good old variety; Alabaster seems to be the best white as regards stem habit; Signal, orange-scarlet, strong stems, well above foliage; Doreen Woolman, a 1926 addition, huge rosy-pink flower, very strong stems a trifle short, but shows clear of foliage. There is one point I should like to emphasise regarding thinning and disbudding; whether for the garden or exhibition, this is essential. You cannot get quantity and quality. Keep the plant to about six or eight stems, remove side buds, and you will be rewarded with flowers that will pay for the trouble taken. Let them grow natural then even the best are apt to be disappointing. A. T. B.

Pæonies from Canada

The idea that Canada is a land of snows is being slowly but surely removed, and the consignments of Pæonies which have been arriving in this country should finally dispose of the misapprehension. At the recent Brighton, Hove, and Sussex Horticultural Society's Show was a gift of double-flowered crimson Pæonies sent in cold storage from Canada and presented to the Mayoress, Mrs. Richard Major, by the High Commissioner of Canada. These blossoms were part of a consignment of 100,000 which is being dispatched by the Canadian Government from the Experimental Farm at Ottawa. A feature of the blooms is the intensity of their perfume.

Veronica chathamica in full bloom
A compact, round little bush that looks like a large snowball

A cup for Gladioli

The annual competition for the Foremarke Challenge Cup for Gladioli will take place in 1927 at the Royal Horticultural Society's fortnightly show at Vincent Square, Westminster, on August 16th. The cup is offered for the best 20 spikes of named Gladioli in not fewer than 10 varieties. Not more than two spikes of any one variety may be shown. The competition is open to both amateur and trade growers. Entry forms may be had on application to the Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W. 1, by whom the completed forms must be received not later than by the first post on Wednesday, August 10th, 1927.

Flower seedlings

All the young plants of Polyanthuses, Wallflowers, and Canterbury Bells must forthwith be planted in nursery beds at suitable distances apart from plant to plant, and not left too long in their seedling quarters to become weakly.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Kalmia latifolia

ONE of the many joys of June is the flowering of Kalmia latifolia. Following the Azaleas and the greater number of the Rhododendrons, and allied to them as a member of the great family of Ericaceæ, it is a complete flower feast in itself. The compact bushy growth and polished foliage is good to see at all times of the year, but June brings its triumph of beauty, with its clusters of lovely blooms of tenderest pink shading to a deeper tone, with its rosy buds and tufts of young leaves of freshest green. The flower is interesting to observe in detail. Seen partly in profile it shows as a five-pointed cup standing on a short stem. Each of the five divisions is strengthened by a shallow rib with a projecting knob at the base and with another such knob between each, making 10 in all. Looking at the inner side these projections are accounted for by little cavities. Just above each of these is a dash of deepest crimson. The 10 stamens rising from the short tube arch over outwards, so that the anthers rest in the little cavities. They are sensitive; a sharp touch causes them to fly back to the centre, at the same time flinging the pollen to a distance of 3 inches or 4 inches. On trying this I do not find that each flower fertilises itself; the pollen flies clear of its own bloom, but is sure to reach the pistils of some of its near neighbours. The inside of the flower is further decorated with a zigzag ring of clearest rosy red delicately pencilled round the opening of the tube.

Where the conditions of the garden are favourable no flowering shrub is more desirable. Damp peaty ground is what it most enjoys. Though it flowers well as a low bush 4 feet to 5 feet high, it is seen at its best when older, for it may grow to a height of 10 feet and attain as wide a diameter, and still retain its well-filled and well-dressed appearance. It is a native of the North-Eastern States of America, where it is commonly known as Mountain Laurel. It is said to grow in woods, but here in south-west Surrey it refuses to flower in shady places. As with the Date Palm, it seems to thrive with its head in the sun and its feet in the wet, and though the latter requirement is difficult to establish and maintain on a dry hill, it has been partly met, and wit success, by a specially-prepared bed and the beneficent nearness of a sta It is one of the best of flowers for lasting long in water.

Kalmia latifolia in green pottery and as an effective garden shrub

Notes from a Cornish Garden

A CURIOUS little plant, Euonymus nanus, has been flowering here for the first time. The seed was sent home by Farrer, and I learn that it ranges from Kansu to the Caucasus and Bessarabia. It is a very slender procumbent species with small dull red flowers on long pedicels, and is certainly more of a curiosity than an ornament to the garden.

Quite different is Rhododendron eriogynum, a bloom of which has just been sent me by a friend. This is a magnificent species of the irroratum series, with brilliant red fleshy flowers $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches long by 2 inches across, about 18 to a large round truss. The leaves have a woolly cinnamon tomentum beneath which is shed almost immediately. Unfortunately, it is quite tender, and always gets cut here, so that I have never yet had a flower, though I have hopes of getting one this year. Apart from its tenderness it should be a valuable plant for hybridisation, as it flowers so late; but the difficulty is to find anything to mate it with. Three years ago the same friend sent me its and I succeeded in getting it on Ungernii, a very hardy species fr Caucasus. The cross took, and the s are now over 2 feet high, but we sh bably have to wait some years for a Early in July R. hypolepidotum is bloom. A small-growing plant, at about 2 feet high, discovered in the Mekong divide in W.N.W. Yun Forrest as long ago as 1904. Th would make an admirable rock garde it does not yet appear to have common.

Of the campylogynum series, it rather later than R. brachyanthum, somewhat resembles, but the lea neither so dark a green above nor so beneath, whilst the sulphur-yello shaped flowers are a trifle smaller, and of more substance. The calyx, not reflexed as in brachyanthum, bright a green, but both have the style peculiar to the section. Th flowered R. plebeium, of the heliolepi is full out, and, as the name imp flowers are not particularly showy, valuable for their lateness. R. mi with tiny white flowers in a sm truss, which looks rather like t Privet, is a pretty slender-growing hardly conspicuous enough to bec lar. R. crassum, large white an has been good, but suffered, to a tent, from the late drought, and are hardly as big as usual. On hand, some hybrids of cinnabar crassum have done well, and the be so far, is a very delicate snow-wh faintly scented, and with a little yellow marking in the interior. there was a first flower on a ro came up with Kingdon Ward's This turned out to be a form of cr

lovely even than the type, for the flower very large and its centre was green in- of yellow or orange as usual.

Nuttallii has actually had a single a unprotected and in the open for the and probably the last time, but it only hree bells, and was a very different affair Mr. Stevenson's magnificent specimen incent Square. Seedlings of R. sino- llii have stood the winter well under a wall, and one hopes it may prove er than the original Bhotan plant.

ross the upper pond, on the opposite side valley, are two great bushes of Cornus ita, or Benthamia fragifera as it is ly called in Cornwall, a splendid mass reat cream-coloured flowers. Strictly ing, of course, they are not flowers at ut bracts surrounding them; but no one l guess it who had not examined them. ar from one of them is Cornus Kousa, about 10 feet high, but in this case the escence is much whiter.

king of bracts, Davidia involucrata was asing and curious sight in early June, as it was at intervals all over with of white bracts 6 inches to 10 inches so that it looked as if someone had ked it with fragments of white linen. uit is somewhat larger than a Cherry ery hard, as I found last year when one d struck me a shrewd blow on the head.

of the prettiest shrubs in the garden at ime of year—and, indeed, few excel it time—is Kalmia latifolia. Introduced t 200 years ago, it does not seem nearly ll known as it deserves to be, for it is een and bears large clusters of the most ite pink coral-like flowers which last a erable time. Moreover, it is perfectly and thrives even in the Arnold etum, but, being one of the Ericaceæ, ikes lime and prefers a cool situation.

other day the gardener and his boy, ed in cutting the grass in front of the complained bitterly that the Brambles g a group of shrubs at the edge of the scratched their arms. This goaded me end to a long-delayed and much-needed nce there. And what with these, s, and Roses, my hands and arms d severely. I unearthed Camellia ata and three or four C. sasanqua little orse, but Rhododendron ferrugineum, phia pinnatifolia, and a Tree Pæony or ad been smothered. Chinese Honey- s had something to do with it, and will have to be rooted up as well as ia alternifolia. The last has been commended, and it is doubtless a shrub, but in ordinary soil it takes up much room, and here, at any rate, ave a dry place, poor soil, and nothing le close to it.

glorious dark red Rosa Moyesii is in ce in that shrubbery, and Rosa macro- not far from it, but Rosa omeiensis ccumbed, and I must raise another or two of it, as it is a very graceful

down the drive, by the side of the , is a tall bush of Pterostyrax m, which I got years ago from 's nursery at Pallanza. It has rather ight green leaves which are deciduous, nging panicles 4 inches to 9 inches f sweet-scented white flowers, so that ery ornamental against a dark back- . It is unfortunate that it is en- ng on my best plant of Rhododendron var. magnificum, and has to be y cut back on one side. How in- most of us are in our planting of for we constantly put them too close r, oblivious of the fact that they will nd we shall lose thereby the beauty of ontour in the future.

"PETER THE HERMIT."

Allium nigrum var. album

THIS giant Garlic is a fine thing in the June garden. It is, probably, the largest of its numerous family, with its imposing height of 3 feet and its massive umbels, more than 4 inches across, so crowded with bloom that they look like great white balls. The thick, rather succulent leaves are at first upright, but by the time the flower is well developed they become lax and fall over and take a yellowish colour. It is one of the self-willed plants, appearing here and there where it is quite unexpected, by what agency one knows not. It has established itself close to the root of a tuft of Yucca filamentosa. It is the foliage of the Yucca that shows most prominently in the illustration. A single bulb was there last year, and would have been removed but that it was not thought advisable to make a disturbance at the root of the Yucca. This handsome Allium is a native of Southern Europe. In the type form the colour is a dull purple, sometimes inclining to whitish. This garden form is a fairly good white. The six-divisioned floret is green striped at the back, the stripe showing faintly through on the front. The central boss is dark bottle-green, looking black against the white of the starry perianth.

G. J.

Allium nigrum var. album

Two useful waterside plants

For bold planting by the waterside or in the bog garden Eupatorium purpureum associated with E. urticæfolium make a most excellent combination, the purple of the former contrasting so beautifully with the snow-white flowers of the latter species.

These Eupatoriums are both quite hardy and easily grown, providing, of course, the site is moist. They will grow in semi-shade or full sun.

The soil should be deeply dug and well manured before planting, which is best done in the autumn. Both these plants are in bloom at the same time, which is late July, continuing until October, and are favourite flowers of the Red Admiral butterflies. They are propagated easily from seed or root division.

E. purpureum and E. urticæfolium are both native plants of Canada, where the former is "pet-named" Joe Pye and the latter White Snake-root.

R. MOORE.

A GREAT EXHIBITION OF NEW ROSES

The best new Scented Rose of the Year

The "Daily Mail" Gold Cup was awarded to Mr. W. E. B. Archer and Daughter (also the raisers of Dainty Bess), of Sellindge, near Ashford, for this dark velvet crimson Hybrid Tea. This variety, of medium size, is very sweet scented, having the pronounced quality of fragrance of an old-fashioned hybrid perpetual, is a little darker in colour than General Jacqueminot, and will be known as the "Daily Mail" Scented Rose. The parents of this new Rose are the dark crimson Chateau de Clos Vougeot and the semi-double crimson K. of K.

New Roses of good form and colour, possessing the true old Rose scent, were shown at the National Rose Society's Great Show of New Roses. The variety chosen by the judges and awarded the Gold Cup for its pronounced fragrance is the crimson Hybrid Tea illustrated on this page. Raisers of new Roses are now making use of the old fragrant Roses in cross-fertilisation, and we may expect more sweet-scented varieties of good form and colour

AN excellent exhibition was held at the Vincent Square Hall of the Royal Horticultural Society on Friday, July 15th. It was a vast improvement on the show of last year. Considering the weather of the last few weeks the display was quite remarkable. This year there were 13 competitive classes, and they were generally well filled.

OPEN TO ALL

THE "DAILY MAIL" CUP, VALUE £250,

for the best new scented seedling Rose, to be won outright, for not fewer than six stems of a new seedling Rose grown in the open, was won in keen competition by Mr. W. E. B. Archer and Daughter, Monks Horton, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent, who exhibited a sweet-scented Rose named The "Daily Mail" Scented Rose. The colour may be described as rich velvety-crimson with florets of good substance, building a bloom of moderate size. It is described Hybrid Tea Rose of upright and vig habit of growth, good for bedding and den uses. It is also a perpetual-flow plant.

Two other varieties in this class re gold medals—Flamingo, shown by M Alexander Dickson and Sons, of townards, and Margaret Anne Baxter, s by Messrs. Thomas Smith and So Stranraer. The first-named variety, attracted a great deal of attention, Hybrid Tea of a striking orange-cerise s The other is a white Rose of good form, handsome foliage and stiff stems, rais crossing Harry Kirk with an unnamed ling. In Class 2, for a new seedling Ro a distinct sport, either not yet in comme not first distributed earlier than Ma 1926, a gold medal was awarded to the musk, semi-double, pink variety, For shown by Mr. J. H. Pemberton. Amor new varieties which received Certifica Merit were Frank Reader (a pale cr yellow Hybrid Tea with apricot centr Howarth (cerise), and Portadown (crin

NURSERYMEN

GROUPS OF ROSES

Class 5, for a group of cut Roses, arr on a table 6 feet by 6 feet, no part exhibit to be more than 6 feet abov table, was well contested; there wer good exhibits. A grand group secured ing honours for Messrs. A. Dickso Sons, Ltd., Newtownards, Co. Down. arrangement was superb, quite the be have seen for a long time in these cl The following Roses were grand:- Silk, Mabel Morse, Dame Edith Helen, Worthington Evans, Ophelia, Mrs. Morse, Etoile de Hollande, Scarlet Sunstar, Lady Inchiquin, Red Letter Mrs. Wemyss Quin, Betty Uprichard Los Angeles.

Messrs. B. R. Cant and Sons, Colch also showed well, and were awarded s prize. Especially noteworthy Roses i group were Hortulanus Budde, Bett

Fortuna, Hybrid Musk Rose shown by Mr. J. H. Pemberton, and awarded the Gold Medal (New Seedling, Class 2)

The semi-double flowers are of a very pleasing pink colour with golden anthers. Th flowers are borne freely in large sprays

Margaret McGredy

w Rose of most telling colour—intense deep vermilion gold. The Society's Gold Medal had previously been led to this variety, which was an outstanding feature on occasion by virtue of its intense and brilliant colour

The Gold Medal Rose Margaret Anne Baxter

A handsome white variety of perfect form which attracted a great deal of attention. A seedling from Harry Kirk, raised and shown by Thomas Smith and Son, Stranraer

Irs. Beatty, Mrs. Herbert Stevens, and Mme. Butterfly.

ha J. Hicks, Hurst, Berks, had a ird prize group, Los Angeles, ridge, Betty Uprichard, Mabel gele Pernet, and Lady Inchiquin e of his best Roses. Fourth prize led Mr. J. H. Pemberton, Haver-

for a group of cut Roses arranged back to a wall, 6 feet by 3 feet, the exhibit to be more than 7 feet able and all backgrounds to be an t of 7 feet, brought out no fewer lendid exhibits, which must have udges much trouble in coming to Leading honours were won by haplin Bros., Ltd., Waltham a superbly fine exhibit deftly and arranged. Grand examples of the Roses were noted:—Lady Inchi- Henry Morse, Etoile de Hollande, rt Nash, Mrs. Hy. Morse, Shot Butterfly, Los Angeles, Fascina- Mrs. A. R. Barraclough. This s closely followed by Mr. G. made another glorious display. ine were his examples of Lady Mrs. H. Morse, Angele Pernet, y May, and Mrs. H. Stevens. e was won by Messrs. R. Hark-, Hitchin, for a highly attractive a pleasing finish, and fourth secured by Mr. Ernest Hicks, Berks, for a beautiful group.

TION ROSES IN BOXES

or 24 blooms, distinct varieties, found five competitors, all showing well. A grand series of blooms of large size, good form, and beautiful colour, easily won first prize for Messrs. Frank Cant and Co., Colchester. The most noteworthy blooms were Mildred Grant, Kootenay, The General, Courage, F. J. Harrison, Lord Allenby, Col. Oswald Fitzgerald, John Russell, E. M. Burnett, Lieut. Chaure, Mabel Morse, George Dickson, Gladys Holland, Mrs. Hy. Morse, and Capt. F. Ball. Second prize was awarded to Messrs. D. Prior and Son, Colchester, who also had a good even series. Marcia Stanhope, J. N. Hart, and J. G. Glassford were noteworthy examples in this stand. For a much less meritorious lot third prize was awarded to Messrs. T. Smith and Sons, Stranraer.

ARTISTIC CLASSES

Class 8 was for a bowl of mixed cut Roses, any number of varieties, but no one particular variety must predominate, lightly arranged with Rose foliage, but small buds may be left on the added foliage. The bowl to be 3 inches high and 11 inches across. There were six good exhibits, leading honours resting with Messrs. Chaplin Bros., Ltd., Waltham Cross, who had a really charming bowl of Roses beautifully arranged, and a pleasing diversity of colouring well balanced. Second prize was won by Mr. G. Prince, Longworth, Berks, also with a nice exhibit, and third prize was awarded to Mrs. A. Bide, Farnham, Surrey, for a lightly-arranged bowl, and fourth prize went to Mrs. J. Mattock, Headington, Oxford, for a rather flat arrangement.

AMATEURS

Exhibition Roses in boxes

There were only two exhibits in Class 9, for 12 blooms, distinct varieties, open to all amateurs. First prize was won by Mr. W. E. Moore, Ickenham, Middlesex, who put up a nice, even lot of good blooms. The better sorts were George Dickson, Mrs. Elisha Hicks, Red Star (magnificent), Mrs. Henry Bowles, The General, Mme. La Cerette, Mrs. H. R. Darlington, Frau Karl Druschki, and Mrs. Foley Hobbs. Second prize was awarded to Mr. H. Robins, Margaretting, Essex, who also showed well. His specimens of the following sorts were noteworthy:—Lady Helen Maglona, Mrs. Herbert Nash, Mrs. T. Gilbey, Mabel Morse, and Lady Inchiquin.

There were also only two exhibits in the class for six distinct varieties, first prize being awarded to Mr. L. P. Roberts, Westcott, Dorking, for a good series, and second prize to Mr. G. T. S. Malcolm, Warlingham, Surrey, for a less attractive box of blooms.

ROSES IN VASES

Class 12, for six distinct varieties, not less than three and not more than seven stems of each variety, brought out four capital exhibits. In this class Mr. H. Robins again excelled, winning leading honours quite comfortably with good examples of Arthur Cook, Lady Helen Maglona, Mme. Butterfly, Independence Day, Los Angeles, and Irish Fireflame. With a bright and attractive series Mr. W. E. Moore was a good second, his blooms of Betty Uprichard, Shot Silk,

Marcia Stanhope, Golden Emblem, and Elsa Poulsen being especially noteworthy. Mrs. Oakley Fisher, Sudbury, Middlesex, was placed third.

LADIES' ARTISTIC CLASS (AMATEURS)

Class 13, for a bowl of mixed cut Roses, any number of varieties, lightly arranged with Rose foliage, was again well contested. On this occasion there were six really meritorious exhibits. Premier honours were won by Mrs. Oakley Fisher, who had a very beautiful bowl, lightly arranged, with the colours well balanced. Second prize was secured by Miss E. Griffith, Finchley, N., who also showed well. Third prize was awarded to Mrs. Howard Williams, Claverring, Essex, for a really pretty bowl of Roses, and fourth prize went to Mrs. F. Charlton, Yiewsley, Middlesex, for a rather formal arrangement.

Birds and Fruit

The Chief Enemies of the Fruit Grower

By A. R. Horwood, F.L.S., late of Leicester Museum

BIRDS eat a great variety of food, and it is inevitable that, as they eat both wild and cultivated fruits and seeds, they must come into conflict with fruit growers, farmers, and gardeners in devouring the latter class; whilst the large quantity of fruits (wild) and seeds eaten is liable to be ignored. Their food being also largely animal food, the number of destructive insect pests eaten is not considered as a set-off to the destruction of fruit in farm, orchard, or garden. Prevention is better than cure, and in the discussion of the remedial measures I have included some that are of this nature before advocating repressive measures. There is no doubt that most birds (save the house sparrow, wood-pigeon, and carrion crow) do more good than harm, and as fruit is in season so short a time birds, save in that season, are doing good on the whole all the rest of the year.

Amongst the birds that are the most troublesome to the fruit grower there are over a score that can be included in this category, though practically all but the wood-pigeon and house sparrow do good in other ways.

Only one bird takes serious toll of the Hazel-nut and its cultivated forms, the Cob and Filbert tree. This is the nuthatch, but it does incalculable good by destroying insects. Moreover, it feeds on Acorns and Beechmast in areas where Oak and Beech woods are extensive.

Our common robin is generally considered a harmless bird, and in the country it is considered ill-luck to harm it or the wren, according to the old couplet, which runs :—

"The robin and the wren
Are God's cock and hen."

It has a special fancy for Red Currants. It is also destructive in the vinery. If there are plenty of wild berry shrubs in a garden the robin will be satisfied by such wild fruits, otherwise it is necessary to net or trap it.

No bird is more useful in its way in the orchard than the blue tit, for it devours endless quantities of caterpillars and larvæ of bud and fruit destroying insects. It destroys large numbers of woolly aphis in winter, Apple weevil, thrips, moths, their eggs, larvæ, etc., spiders, red spiders, grubs of wood-boring insects, gall insects, etc. It thus preserves such fruit trees as Apple, Pear, Cherry, and Plum, and bush fruit from insect ravages. Against these benefits placed its fondness for Green Peas, (Pears, and Apples. It is very fond flower seeds. For this reason one (is to grow Sunflowers to prevent da fruit. Where the damage is great ar to counterbalance good done trapping resorted to.

The great tit is also beneficial, a on insects; but it will also eat Ha Acorns, Green Peas, Pears, and which it pecks near the stalks. Like tit, the great tit is fond of Sunflow and if sunflowers are grown less f suffer.

Of recent years the missel thr greatly increased. It is one of t enemies of the fruit grower, thoug a shy bird. It is very fond of Che soft fruits, and will also eat Pears, I Apples, and Plums. It takes both Black Currants. In districts where a plentiful supply of wild berries th less troublesome. Some game abound in these, and in such areas fruit trees do not suffer. There is that the missel thrush does much destroying caterpillars, beetles, and sects, slugs, snails, and worms. however, it proves very destructive plan is to take its eggs or shoot too trap-shy to trap.

As a universal garden resident thrush, besides being popular, do good by destroying slugs, snails, wo ground insects, and eats wild fru however, during the fruit season d to all forms of fruit, its fondness fo placing it in direct temptation mencing with Strawberries, the thr each fruit as it comes into season Currants, Gooseberries, Raspber other fruit as it matures. In addit garden residents other thrushes co fruit from woods and fields. There lar migration of thrushes at certai Where the birds are over-plentiful bi is necessary. But that is not truly nor is shooting, for shot does injur and it is bound to scatter. An eff is to trap them. For this purpos steel traps baited with fruit will p tive. As a preventive measure net extensive scale for bush fruit is oft This is expensive, and orchard fr be dealt with in this way.

Another bird equally at home in and destructive to fruit is the black it is also extremely useful in des the pests that the thrush also hel down. It is fond of Strawberries, Cherries, Gooseberries, Raspberri Pears, and Plums, but especially Where fruit grows in the neighb woods, shrubberies, or plantation tensively plundered by this crafty remedy lies in shooting, trappin struction of nests and eggs. N help to preserve Strawberries and but it is an expensive plan of k these pilferers, which come in lar to all fruit farms, orchards, and the fruit season.

Besides being regarded as ver game preserver, as an inveterate su eggs of the partridges and pheasa makes its appearance in the fruit orchards and fruit farms. Its quality, so far as the fruit gro cerned, is that it eats the eggs o bird and the wood-pigeon, and it le insects, worms, slugs, snails, an voles. It is fond of Peas, I Cherries, and will also pilfer Nut its natural food is Acorns and It also pecks and spoils Apples plan is to shoot the birds, but th wary, and trapping is a more

A useful garden Rose: The new climber Thelma, shown in profusion by Mr. W. Easlea

This variety is as vigorous as Paul's Scarlet Climber. The flowers are pink, and borne in great freedom from the top to the bottom of the plant

d, the bait used being small eggs. Like y, the magpie is a shy and wary bird, st trouble in game coverts, but occa- ly it comes into the orchard to take its f the Cherries. It can be shot or d like the jay, a rabbit being used for nd the trap concealed.

h has been written for and against the which is often confused with the carrion the latter an entirely harmful species. corn and pecks Potatoes, and is thus ce of annoyance to the farmer. It also the eggs of game and young chickens. fruit orchard it will feed on Straw- , Cherries, Gooseberries, Raspberries, , and Pears, usually in a dry . It has a particular fondness for ts, and will take Filberts and Cobnuts. the birds perch on fruit trees they may eak down the branches. They can be l. In grain fields inverted paper cones vith birdlime baited with cockchafer s a common method of taking rooks. he rook does inestimable good by de- larvæ of the cockchafer, wireworm, ong-legs, and eating worms, snails, igs is undeniable. It only becomes a iere it is over-plentiful. Reduction by iooting in May is a method to be en- ed.

laws, often associated with the rook, wise fond of fruit, especially Cherries. chief depredations are in the game and poultry yard. They can be trapped . They destroy farm, field, and gar- ts in the same way as the rook.

emely plentiful and productive of much ce the rook, starlings, however, have ess for fruit, and will eat Cherries in orchards, Raspberries, Damsons, and Pears. They do much good by ng wireworms, leather-jackets, wood- llepedes, and all kinds of insects and -væ. To keep down their harmful pro- s the gun is a useful ally. They can caught in nooses.

who grow Peas know to their cost lisappointment is in store if a pair of hes have taken up their abode in the Netting the crop is an effective The hawfinch also is fond of Apple ar pips, Damsons, Cobnuts, and

nches are great insect destroyers and l seeds. They also pull up seedlings of crops. Where birds eat seeds they grain, and the only remedy is to e grain of farm or garden seeds. In chaffinches do much good by eating ars and insect pests. It is doubtful they disbud, as is said, Gooseberries, s, and Plums, and squeeze the s of fruit trees for the honey. Their ions so far as fruit is concerned are reenfinches also devour large quanti- eed seeds, but also eat grain. Fruit l blossoms are attacked, and they are ve in Hop gardens, pulling the Hop pieces. They can be netted if they oublesome.

s also devour large quantities of ds, and may harm farm seeds. They or no harm to fruit, being fond of ricts.

sparrows, on account of their num- well as their destructiveness, are a menace to the farmer, gardener, t grower. Sparrows eat seeds and b poultry of their food, and pull up in the garden. They destroy the Currants, Gooseberries, Plums, and s. They peck or eat the Gooseberry the honey. They injure the flowers, Plums, Cherries, and Apples. They he fruits of the Strawberry, Cherry, oseberry, and also Cobnuts and especially in fruit-growing areas. d is three parts corn. They can be scared away with a feather Potato or black thread. To prevent their attack on buds the bushes can be wound with thread by a garden webber. Wire-netting guards may also be used for Strawberries. To protect fruit buds they can be dressed. In many districts sparrow clubs exist to protect fruit and other crops. They destroy nests and eggs, use clap and purse nets, and shoot the birds when they are in flocks. Wire cages may also be used.

Tree sparrows are seldom found near houses or gardens, and nest in holes in trees. They do but little harm to fruit.

Buntings are more harmful to corn in agricultural districts than some other birds, and yellow-hammers come under the same category. They seldom or never eat fruit. Skylarks are also grain feeders. They are taken in draw nets and nooses.

A bird that is disliked by all fruit growers is the bullfinch. Some years ago it was rather scarce, but now seems quite plentiful again. It is particularly destructive to buds of fruit trees, attacking those of the Gooseberry, Red and White Currant, Plum Greengage, Damson, Plum, Cherry, Apple, Medlar, Pear, and Black Currant. It takes and rips Raspberries and other soft fruits. Against this it does some good by eating weed seeds. It can be taken in a trap cage with call birds or with birdlime. To prevent it from pecking buds these may be dressed with limewash or Taylor's dressing.

A. R. Horwood, F.L.S.

The new Rose Frank Reader has many good qualities

The large white flowers, borne on stout stems, are of good exhibition form and very fragrant. Shown by D. Prior and Son and awarded a Certificate of Merit. It was also the source of great admiration at the recent Brighton Show

Strawberries: rooted runners

When the young plants are well rooted they must be separated from their parent plants. This work, however, must not be done too suddenly—that is, if the young ones are rooted in the border. First cut off the runner, water the plants several times, and at the end of four days or so carefully lift them with a hand-trowel and plant direct into their permanent quarters. If the young plants are being rooted in flower-pots sever the runner, lift the pots, and place them close together on the north side of a hedge or wall, watering as required.

The new Strawberry bed

It will not be necessary to manure the soil, but it must be thoroughly cleaned and deeply dug or trenched two spits deep. When in a suitable condition break up the soil as finely as possible at least 12 inches deep. Finally plant the Strawberries 18 inches apart in rows 22 inches or 24 inches asunder. Firm the soil round the roots and water, then give a light surface mulch if suitable material is available.

Diseased Apple foliage

(R. J.).—We have examined your Apple foliage and can find no fungus present. There are, however, very many red spiders on the leaves, and we are certain that they are causing the damage. Red spiders are often troublesome to fruit trees, and the shelter of a wall often helps the pest to breed in considerable numbers because they seem able to breed quickly, and flourish only under dry conditions. A wall helps them in this respect. You should spray the tree with a solution of liver of sulphur to which flour paste has been added. Place 14 pints of water in a bucket and add 1 oz. of liver of sulphur, stir well until dissolved, then take 1½ ozs. of wheaten flour and mix into a smooth paste with a very little water; gradually stir in 2 pints of water; the mixture should be then as thin as milk and free from lumps; boil until it begins to thicken, stirring all the while. Add the boiled paste to the liver of sulphur solution and again stir well. Apply the mixture at once, because this spray fluid does not keep. The foliage should be well wetted with this mixture, both upper and lower surfaces. Repeat the spraying at intervals of seven days until the pest is under control.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Late Muscats

Grapes which have now finished stoning should be assisted with an occasional dressing of an approved Vine manure which will produce an immediate effect upon the swelling berries if washed in with tepid water. Where artificial heat has been entirely dispensed with the houses containing mixed late Grapes should be closed early in order that the encased sun-heat may keep such houses at a reasonable temperature throughout the night. If scalding is to be avoided great care must be exercised in the matter of airing, it being a good policy to open the top ventilators very slightly before the temperature commences to rise in the morning, and thus permit of any sweating which may have taken place during the night to clear from berries and leaves before sunshine reaches them.

Melons

A few seeds should now be sown for the last batch. The seeds in this instance should be sown singly in 3-inch pots, and in the meantime a house or heated frame should be cleansed and hotbeds made up in readiness for the plants. Keep all surplus side shoots cut away from those now swelling their fruits, feed the plants liberally, and maintain a brisk temperature both day and night.

Schizanthus

This plant is in great demand for indoor decoration early in the year, and to obtain good plants for this purpose seeds should now be sown. Sow thinly and thus avoid damping off at the start, and immediately the plants are large enough to handle prick them off into 3-inch pots and grow on in a cool closed frame for the first 10 days, gradually admitting air as the little plants are seen to be making headway.

Cyclamens

Many prefer to raise their plants during late summer, and to such I advise sowing the seeds at the present time. Pots or pans are equally suitable, providing they are well drained and filled with suitable soil, consisting of equal parts of sweet loam and leaf-soil with a free addition of sharp sand all passed through a ¼-inch sieve. Before actually sowing the seeds soak the receptacles containing the soil, applying the water through a fine rose. Follow this by sowing the seeds thinly and evenly, and covering them with ⅛ inch of soil. Give a final watering and place the pots in a house where a temperature of 65 degs. to 70 degs. is maintained, shading, until germination has taken place, from bright sunlight.

Border Carnations

Layering must now be commenced, even though a few of the plants may still be flowering. Choose the best examples for this purpose, and after clearing away all weak shoots and most of the remaining leaves from those to be layered break up the surface lightly around the plant, and over this place a layer of sandy soil about 2½ inches to 3 inches deep. The shoots to be layered having been stripped to within 3 inches or 4 inches of their tips are then ready. Insert a sharp knife into the stem about ¼ inch beneath a joint, splitting the stem in an upward direction until the knife has passed above the joint. Press the prepared layer to the soil, opening the incision in doing so in order to admit a little of the sandy compost, and peg firmly down, covering the incised part with a handful of soil. Water the layers periodically, and preferably in the evening, following hot sunny days, as this tends to freshen up the plants and facilitate root-action.

Climbing Roses

When removing the trusses from those which have finished blooming it is advisable not only to cut away the flower truss, but to reduce the growths, also, back to within 6 inches or 8 inches of their base. This especially applies to those of the Wichuraiana and other strong-growing kinds, such as Paul's Lemon Pillar, Zephirine Drouhin, Paul's Scarlet Climber, Day Dream, Cupid, etc. Where the surface of Rose beds is left unfurnished keep the hoe plied frequently among the bushes; also, in order to maintain the beds in a beautiful condition as long as possible, remove dead flowers daily. Roses struck from cuttings should not be permitted to produce flowers the first year.

Wistarias

Where these have covered their allotted space all long, newly-made growths should be cut back to within five or six buds of their base. This will induce the formation of flower-buds instead of the plants using up their energy in the production of undesirable streamers.

Spring Cabbage

Prepare a position and sow the seeds of these about the 25th of this month, and make a further small sowing 10 days later. The following, if sown now, may be relied upon to produce nice hearts in April and May:—April, Harbinger, W. and S., Early Market, Ellam's Early, and Flower of Spring. Sow the seeds in drills at 1 foot apart and protect from birds.

Kitchen garden crops

Apply manure mulchings to all late varieties of Peas, watering and feeding liberally all growing crops, especially the above, Celery, Leeks, Runner Beans, Onions, Cauliflowers, and salads, damping them overhead in the evening following hot weather.

Tripoli Onions

Prepare a piece of ground by deeply digging in readiness for these, and thus enable it to become settled down by the time it is required.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Celery

A little earth should now be worked in round the plants, but, before doing so, make certain that there is no approach to dryness at the roots. If the weather is dry a thorough soaking by hand should be given in the evening and the earth applied the following morning. If this is carried out the roots are kept cool and moist, the slight earthing being as good as two or three waterings. An occasional dusting with soot helps materially to scare off the dreaded Celery fly.

Vegetable garden

In exposed positions much damage is often caused by wind to such things as Brussels Sprouts, Savoys, and late Cauliflowers, so it is advisable to draw up a little earth to the stems, which helps materially to steady the plants. Continue to ply the Dutch hoe on every convenient occasion, as this helps greatly to check evaporation and stimulate the plants, besides killing weeds and disturbing slugs and other vermin. The average amateur does not, I am afraid, grasp the great aid this tool is when kept in stant use.

Tomatoes

To ensure the fruits swelling to a size systematic feeding must be carrie but care must be taken not to over business by applying too strong "Weak and often" should be the mo it is then easy for the plants to assi the food provided, and thus the fruits b larger and finer than they otherwise be. An occasional sprinkling over the of some approved chemical manure excellent and saves much time.

Fruit pickling

This occupies much time at this seas is apt to result in throwing the other bit out of gear, for it is only during dr that it is possible to proceed with this and so weeds grow apace and quickly seed at this season. A special effort be made to keep this from happenin soon as a crop is gathered remove an the net during dry weather.

Strawberry beds

Where it is necessary to lay down Strawberry bed the ground should n got ready by giving a generous dress rich old manure and then digging If strong-rooted runners can be secu the middle of August the bed may be p but should this be impossible for a few yet, then it is better to defer plantin March or April, the "runners," when being carefully lifted and "laid i" nursery rows on some sheltered but border and from whence they can ea transferred to their permanent quar spring.

Late vineries

Constant attention to the stopping laterals is necessary, and care is also sary to prevent overcrowding, it bei practice to permit the leafage to be s as to make the vinery gloomy. Pe finished Grapes cannot be grown und conditions. See that the roots are ne mitted to get the least dry, for, if t vermin will assuredly obtain a secure and will do a tremendous amount of the Vines.

Sweet Peas

Unless the weather be abnormal there is every chance that dryness at t will cripple the Sweet Peas, so to avo an undesirable state to materialise drenchings of clear water at least week are essential, while an occasion ing with weak liquid-manure the day ing the drenching with clean water tainly be very beneficial and che tendency to shortening of the flower-s dropping of buds.

Roses

All spent flowers should be remove quent intervals, as should, of cour Briar suckers, while the surface sh frequently stirred with the Dutch ho Rose greatly dislikes dryness at th so, in case of drought, copious drenc water should be given weekly. A lit able chemical fertiliser should be s around the plants and hoed in befor is applied. Drastically thin out the buds while in a small state, these on ing to weaken the bushes and prev finer buds developing into good flow

C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

The Yellow Perennial Larkspur (Delphinium Zalil syn. sulphureum)

Although it is now a good many years since it was introduced from Afghanistan, when the writer was delighted with a number of plants he had raised from seeds, it is but rarely that we meet with Delphinium Zalil. This is unfortunate and a decided loss to the flower borders of to-day, where a few plants of its distinct appearance and good effect should find a prominent place. It has not the noble presence of the tall modern Delphiniums which give us such glorious spikes of bloom of blue, purple, and even white, but it is of remarkably pretty habit, and its sulphur-yellow flowers are elegantly arranged on a pretty spike, attaining a height of 2½ feet or 3 feet. The colour is fairly well indicated by the synonym of sulphureum, but from seeds I have found it vary, and some plants produce brighter flowers than others. D. Zalil has proved a true perennial, and large plants may be divided when superior forms are to be propagated, but a good stock can be raised from a packet of seeds sown in the usual way in pots under glass. They may be sown in shallow drills in the open in May and June, but a larger percentage of seedlings will be secured by sowing under glass. D. Zalil does not appear to be very particular about soil or exposure, but I prefer a good light loam as the compost and a sunny position. Plants raised from seeds this year will flower next season. S. ARNOTT.

SWEET PEAS AT THE "NATIONAL"

Above: 1st Prize. The vase of Magnet, hat won the medal awarded for the best in he exhibition. Shown by Dr. Boyall, Minehead, in his winning Challenge Cup ollection.

Middle: 2nd Prize. Wild Rose, one of ne most beautiful, at the same time one of ne most difficult of all Sweet Peas to bring o perfection. Shown by Major C. C. Leahlie, Calcot Grange, Reading (Gardener, Mr. A. W. Gown). The stems were of great ength and vigour.

Bottom: 3rd Prize. Grand spikes of owerscourt. Shown by Mr. F. W. Franks, oampits, Tonbridge (Gardener, Mr. W. Humphrey).

There was little to choose between nese three exhibitors for the Challenge up.

Scottish National Sweet Pea, Rose, and Carnation Society

This Society has decided to continue the trial of Sweet Peas not in commerce in 1928. These will be grown on the cordon system, by the Secretary, at Westwood Cottage, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire. Twenty-five seeds of each variety to be sent, and *must* reach the Secretary not later than September 20th, as the last week of that month is the best time to sow in Scotland. A charge of 5s. will be made for each variety, and raisers are requested not to send any but those which they consider are properly fixed.

The Asparagus beetle

Notes on its life history and control

SOME five years ago the writer spent a considerable time investigating the habits of the Asparagus beetle and trying various means to obtain a control. At that time the pest, although very destructive where found, was limited to a few districts, notably Gloucester, Kent, and around London. Within the last few years, however, the trouble has spread, and, because of this, a few notes on its control seem necessary.

It is a pest which, once established, does a great amount of harm, for the edible shoots are rendered unfit for use by the eggs laid on them, and the larvæ, besides eating the shoots, exude a sticky black fluid when disturbed. More serious is the complete defoliation which sometimes the adults and larvæ effect on the foliage in the late summer. All gardeners grumble if the "fern" is cut—as it often is for decorative purposes—because it weakens the roots, yet the writer has seen four large beds with all the green stripped from the plants and the whole presenting a whitish dead appearance.

The beetle is easily recognised because of

Adult. (Magnified.)

Damaged Shoot showing Eggs.

Larva. (Magnified.)

The Asparagus beetle

the dark blue and yellow or dirty white markings on the body, which give it a checkered appearance (Fig. 1). The thorax and outer edge of the abdomen are reddish and the adult beetle is about ¼ inch long. These beetles are seen feeding on the leaves and branches of the Asparagus in early summer, and shortly afterwards the large dark brown oval eggs are observed on the shoots (Fig. 2). The greenish-grey larvæ (Fig. 3) hatch from the eggs in five to seven days, and feed for about two weeks. The pupal stage takes place in the soil, and in two or three weeks the adult appears again. There may be up to three broods in the year—beetles and larvæ having been found feeding in October—and the multiplication of the pest therefore may be most rapid under favourable conditions.

There are several methods of control which are very effective. Spraying is satisfactory as the pest feeds on the outside tissue of the plant, and arsenate of lead paste (3-3½ level teaspoons in 1 gallon of water—the paste being mixed with a little water and then added to the remainder) is found to be the most destructive. This remedy should never be used till all the Asparagus has been cut, because of its poisonous nature. A more practical means of control in a garden would be that often followed in America. The beds are kept cut as hard as possible from the beginning of cutting time, but a few stalks are allowed to develop at intervals in order to act as traps. On these the beetles lay their eggs, which can be destroyed by cutting down and burning the stalks.

Dusting is effective, and for the purpose very finely-powdered lime should be applied when the larvæ are first noticed, and repeated at intervals. The best time to do this is in the early morning when dew is on the foliage, but the dust will always adhere to the sticky bodies of the larvæ.

In conclusion, if the trapping and dusting is followed in the early part of the season, and especially in bad cases, spraying with arsenate of lead is resorted to when the cutting of shoots has finished, the pest should be so reduced that what few escape and appear next season can easily be completely eradicated.

H. I. KINGSTON.

VEGETABLES

The use of the hoe

THE experienced gardener trusts to the hoe when the inexperienced would rely on the watering-can. If plants are flagging from an apparent lack of water it seems self-evident that they must be watered, yet there are many reasons why this remedy should not be adopted except as a last resource.

Even in a dry spell there is still plenty of water in the soil. It is a good rule of gardening that you should begin as you intend to go on, therefore if once you begin watering during a dry spell you must go on watering, and that means a heavy expenditure of labour. When water is given it must be given in far larger quantities than the inexperienced might think necessary. Unless other precautions are taken the effect of water on the surface of the soil is such as to make the soil dry faster than if no water had been given. Therefore it is that the experienced gardener uses the hoe and thereby conserves for the benefit of the growing crop the water which still remains in the soil, whereas the inexperienced gardener, alarmed at the sight of wilting plants, draws the wrong conclusion that there is no water in the soil, and, having drawn this conclusion, proceeds to try to make good a shortage which may not exist.

Once the effect which hoeing has on the soil is realised much anxiety and labour will be saved. One advantage of hoeing is the destruction of weeds, which compete with the crop for supplies of water, but a more important effect of hoeing is to produce on the surface a covering of fine grains of soil, each of which acts somewhat in the way of the cork of a bottle, closing up the minute rents and fissures in the soil and thereby preventing the escape of moisture. This check of the escape of moisture has two advantages. It prevents the soil drying out so rapidly as would be the case if the surface were left rough and lumpy, and since for water to evaporate it must absorb heat the checking of evaporation prevents the undue heating of the soil. Therefore at times such as the present the Dutch or push hoe should be kept going over the ground and a fine tilth obtained. Yet another advantage of hoeing is that, in consequence of the operation, air which is necessary for the growth of the roots of plants finds its way into the soil.

Those who happened to sow French Beans just before the period of drought will have had a good example of the benefit which may be secured by hoeing. In some districts the drought was preceded by violent rain or hail. The hot sun caked the ground and the seedlings found the greatest difficulty in pushing through the hard crust. Where a fin was maintained this difficulty did not and the seedlings came through withc jury. The more the ground is hoed weather the less will be the need for A word of warning is necessary. Wh ground is wet after heavy rain hoeing not be done, for if it is, the treading d the soil may do more harm than the h do good. So soon as it is sufficiently hoe should be kept going until a fine obtained.

Pea Senator

Peas generally are a very poor crop district, and in some cases a failur Senator has been but little affected, a given a good crop with but slight ass in the way of watering. This Pea commended to me two years ago by who needed a plentiful supply all t the season, and who had grown many ties. He said that it was the best had ever grown for his purpose, be reliable. It is certainly a dry-seaso for not only has it cropped well, but been succulent and of good flavour. from 3 feet to 4 feet in height, and all the shoots are double podded. Al owing to the great heat the pods were what bleached, and one would have co that the Peas were tough, they were, contrary, as tender and full-flavoured a be desired. I do think that this is a v Pea for light soils, which quickly f effects of heat and drought. I shoul that it ought to be a good field Pea.

Wilts.

Late sown Carrots

In numerous instances the young s of these were plainly visible in the r first week in June; at the end of the few could be found. In my own cas retaining the few, but intend to sow s Turnips in drills between those Carrots. If the Carrots make a littl way they will be pulled and used in state, the Turnips then fully occupy ground. Purple and White Milan an suitable varieties should be sown at t son. Yellow-fleshed Turnips gener well in the autumn, but be sure that thinned out while quite small.

Overcrowding vegetable

Every year one notices that the in to "slow thinly" is honoured more breach than in the observance, and lack of subsequent thinning-out the have not enough room to develop, a the very first are at a disadvantage in enough support from the soil. This s no exception, especially in the matter Broad Beans, and Runner and French and it is particularly so on many all single rows of Peas containing enoug for three rows.

Helping the germination of

Sheltered borders, where available, best for most late-sown crops, espe the case of the French Beans, wh require a little protection if the ni come cold earlier than usual. Oc frosts at the end of August or begi September are not at all relished Beans, and a little shelter will so carry this useful crop right aw autumn is well advanced. The ad of a quick growth for early J Carrots, Turnips, and Lettuces is recognised, and no plant can con rapidly unless the young roots get a reasonably moist soil. The diffi some places is to secure the necessary of water.

Answers to Queries

ns—Queries and answers are inserted in ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre- follow these rules: All communications clearly written on one side of the paper l addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING *, Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. n business should be sent to the* PUB- *he name and address of the sender are in addition to any designation he may be used in the paper. When more than is sent each should be on a separate aper, the name and address being added As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

ted some Honesty last year and it got large sprays of seed-pods on it. be glad to know when to pick these r decoration, and also if they have d before skinning. R. L. F.

the seed-pods to remain until they white, but watch that the seeds do When ready, cut with long stems n small bunches, which should be to dry thoroughly.]

n Sweet Peas

).—This is not nearly so prevalent erally imagined, and in many cases streak" is blamed, usually there is r cause. As a preventative measure rom the use of fresh manure in , or too much manure. Plant in an ny situation *on well-drained ground,* id over-feeding or over-watering e plants are in bloom. Guard reenfly by spraying with a good in- mmediately these pests are noticed. l causes of so-called "streak" are age, sour soil, and rapid changes in onditions during flowering period.

Carnations

been told that putting sulphate of around young Border Carnations n beginning of April) will make ance of "grass," with consequently oms next summer. Is this so? is also rid the ground from earth- d eelworms? F. A. V.

the application of the sulphate of would, doubtless, cause more rapid his would be at the expense of the of the plants, with consequent loss . You could apply a slight dress- ril, after growth has started, with e of benefit to the plants. The ount of ammonia it would be safe would make no difference to the

g a small garden

l esteem it a favour if you will ise me what course to adopt to im- mall garden I have recently taken soil is very heavy, and I wish to to enable me to use it as a flower th a lawn in centre. Besides be- , the soil is almost black and in- th worms, ants, and woodlice. ive all over. The garden has been ith poultry manure for years; in d it has been the practice to bury tities of the manure in large holes den. The previous owner had no e garden for cultivation, and I pre- is the cause of the trouble. Would my obtaining a quantity of good g it in? "FLOWER LOVER."

ground has received large quanti- wl manure it will be difficult to to good condition, this material y potent. We think the most ay to deal with it would be to have ug in autumn, leaving the surface as possible over winter. In February apply a good dressing of quicklime, scattering it evenly all over the surface. Lightly fork in, making the surface level. A month later, if you can procure some lightish, fresh soil, spread a layer over the surface and very lightly dig this in. It would then be advisable to plant some of the commoner hardy flowers so as to be able to judge, by their behaviour, whether the soil was fit for growing flowers. The lime will help to destroy or drive away many of the pests you mention. The ants can be destroyed by pouring boiling water on their nests, while the woodlice may be similarly dealt with if you can discover where they congregate most.]

Stem rot in Carnations

(F. A. V.).—The small white insects are not the cause of the trouble, but are attracted by the decaying stems. Nor are woodlice responsible. It is not just easy to say what is the cause of the stem rot, but some soils are not suited to the Carnation, while it is possible you may have applied too strong or unsuitable manures. In any case it would be well to pull up and burn all plants affected, and refrain from planting Carnations on the same spot for a year or two.

GREENHOUSE

Taking cuttings

Will you, please, tell me the best time to take Geranium and Calceolaria cuttings? Are they best put in pots or the open ground? "FLOWER LOVER."

[Towards the end of August is the most suitable time for inserting cuttings of Geraniums (Zonal Pelargoniums). Insert in pots or boxes of very sandy compost and set in full sunshine, but as these plants are quite tender they must be removed to a heated greenhouse before frost damages them. Calceolarias are nearly hardy, and cuttings should be secured towards the end of September and inserted in a bed of sandy compost under a cold frame. Shade from all sunshine for a few weeks.]

Chrysanthemums for large blooms

I have a few Chrysanthemums I am growing for large blooms. I have taken up three shoots from the "break." Would you kindly inform me if I am right in thinking that the bud that came on top of each shoot is the one I want? I do not want them at any given date. CONSTANT READER.

[You are correct in thinking that the flower-buds to perfect the large bloom are those that appear next on the selected shoots. If by the time this is in print any plant has not produced the "break" it will be well to set such bloom bud by not allowing side shoots, and thus have but one to a plant. Maybe, too, in some instances three flowers would be one beyond the number advisable. Two is a better number in these days in the case of the giant Japanese, but as many as six or nine in respect to the well-developed decorative style so much in evidence for market.]

A First Prize bowl of mixed Sweet Peas (Class 53) shown at the "National" by Miss Gladys Burt, Grange Hill, Coggeshall

Carnation house and taking cuttings

I have just made a start with Perpetual-flowering Carnations. Will you be kind enough to tell me if an oil lamp may be used for them in the cold weather? My house is 10 feet by 5 feet, and plenty of light. I should like to take cuttings, only I do not understand bottom heat. J. EDWARDS.

[We see no reason why an oil lamp should not be quite satisfactory for your Carnations, as any slight fumes arising therefrom would escape through the ventilators, which should rarely be closed entirely. The best time to take cuttings is in March. They should be torn from the plants with a heel attached and be about 3 inches long. A box made airtight and filled to a depth of 3 inches with sharp sand will answer your

purpose quite well. This should be stood on a stage in your house and as near to the stove or lamp as can be permitted with safety. Into this the cuttings may be securely planted close together and kept air-tight by placing a sheet of glass over the top of the box, and shaded from direct sunshine until root-action is apparent, when the plants should be potted up singly into 60-sized pots and again kept close for about 10 days, when they may be stood out on gravel-covered stages. Bottom heat is obtained by running hot-water pipes beneath little frames, known as propagating cases, and, of course, beneath borders where such heat is necessary; the contents of the frames or cases are then kept at a uniform heat, which greatly facilitates root-action. Water the cuttings frequently with lukewarm water whilst in the propagating box, but do not permit damping off of the cuttings.]

Diseased Anemone

Could you kindly tell me, through your paper, what is wrong with parts of Anemone plant enclosed? It seems as if the disease starts at the bottom of stem and gradually works upwards. All the others in same bed are perfectly healthy. B. W. Jeffery.

[Your Anemone is affected with Anemone Mould, which is caused by the fungus Sclerotinia tuberosa. If you open the flowering stem of an attacked plant you will find it more or less hollow and containing small bodies, soft and white at first, hard and black when mature. These bodies, called sclerotia, are the resting stage of the disease. They remain dormant until the spring, when they send out a little funnel-shaped "Toadstool" which produces spores. These spores set up the attack in the Anemone plants. Collecting and burning all diseased material is the only way of keeping the disease under control. Diseased material should never be thrown on to the rubbish-heap.]

Potting and sowing

When is the correct time to repot Dendrobium Orchids? Also are Nephrolepis Ferns treated the same as Maidenhair Ferns; that is, cut down when the fronds turn brown? Which is the best time to sow Trachælium seed so as to have the plants in bloom in July? Also when is the correct time to take Kalosanthus cuttings? Will you also tell me what I could grow instead of Begonias for a conservatory that will not drop their flowers like Begonias do? Harry Mayer.

[Dendrobiums are repotted in spring, as a rule, but all varieties are not treated alike, a few being attended to immediately they have done flowering and a few others in May. The Nephrolepis are evergreen, so merely remove faded fronds as necessary. This plant is not a long liver, and so it is well to be constantly bringing on young plants to take the place of those turning shabby. It requires more warmth than the majority of the Maidenhairs. Sow Trachælium in spring, but this plant is best raised from cuttings. Take cuttings of Kalosanthus (Crassula) in August or September. They may also be rooted in spring. There are few plants that do not drop their flowers, but double Zonal Pelargoniums, Statices, Cockscombs, East Lothian Stocks, Lobelias, and Celosias retain theirs better than most, but are, mostly, more difficult to grow well.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Cutting back a hedge of double Gorse

I have a hedge of double Gorse which flowered well this spring. It is necessary to cut it back. Should I cut the young growth, or how should I deal with it?

J. D. Morrice.

[You may cut this back slightly if the plants are young and vigorous, and thus reduce the growths for about 1 foot, in which case the whole plant must be treated; that is, all and not merely part of the growths must be reduced at the same time. Occasionally plants will break when cut lower, but frequently they die, for which reason it is inadvisable to cut them severely. The second week in April is the best time to carry out this work.]

ROSES

Rose Canker

Enclosed Rose shoots and leaves. Will you, please, give me your theory of the trouble? Many leaves are still turning yellow in various parts of my Rose garden. The soil is good, hoeing constantly done, and the soil is porous. It does not appear in stronger-growing kinds. Those enclosed are Covent Garden and Col. Oswald Fitzgerald. If there is a remedy I shall be grateful.

J. E. B.

[The specimen Rose shoots sent are affected with Stem Canker, caused by the fungus Coniothyrium Fuckelii (Sacc.). The fungus starts its attack on the young wood and invades the tissues. It does not actually attack the leaves, but so affects the supply of water that they turn yellow and often drop off. If you examine the attacked portions with a pocket lens you will notice that scattered over the surface are some very tiny black dots. This is the fruiting stage of the fungus, and contain numerous spores. The fungus is a wound parasite, *i.e.*, it can only gain an entrance to healthy plants through wounds made with a pruning-knife or much smaller wounds made by insects, and even by the spines of the plant itself when two branches are blown against each other. We should advise you to cut out and burn all the wood showing the canker. All wounds made should at once be covered with white lead paint, or, better still, grafting wax. Delay the pruning operations next spring as late as possible, and again cover all the wounds as advised above. Continue to cut away and burn all attacked wood next year. Some varieties on certain soils are more susceptible to canker than others, and we should advise you to weed out the attacked varieties unless you are particularly keen on growing these varieties.]

FRUIT

Apple Scab

Will you, through the medium of your interesting and valued paper, give me your idea of the cause of this cracking and disfiguring marks on the enclosed Apples? They are off a Bramley Seedling about 12 years old, otherwise very healthy and laden with fruit. Land Agent.

[Your Apple fruits are affected with "Scab," which is caused by the fungus Venturia inæqualis. This fungus attacks the wood, leaves, and fruit of all varieties of Apples, but some varieties are not so susceptible as others. You cannot do anything at this period of the year to control the disease on the fruit, but spraying with lime sulphur at summer strength would check the disease on the leaves and wood. When pruning time arrives you should cut away the young wood that show the "scabs" caused by this fungus. Usually the disease affects the upper portions of the young wood, so that by tipping the growth most of the diseased wood is cut away. The prunings should be burnt, and all the old Apple foliage should be collected and burned or dug deeply into the soil. To prevent the fungus marking the fruit another season you should spray the trees with lime sulphur at winter strength just before the flowers open, "pink bud stage." A second spraying should be given when the majority of the petals have dropped from the This time the strength of the lime should be reduced to summer stren third spraying should be given three later. It is important that the ti spraying given above should be adhered to, *e.g.*, if you are a week la the second spraying many of the App be marked by the fungus.]

Figs dropping

(J. Hogg).—The fruits reached us s flat, so there was small chance of ol a clue to this matter from them. pect, however, that you must have the soil to get dry and then watered This, at least, would cause droppin strong doses of manure is anothe reason. The Fig, while carrying crop of fruit, is greatly benefited by sional soaking of liquid-manure. Th be applied very weak and the day fo the application of clear water. If fertilisers are applied give in great tion. The Fig, while in growth, disli ness at the roots.

VEGETABLES

Potatoes failing

(J. T. S.).—We have examined sample and can find nothing that w likely to cause your Potatoes to fa find that the soil has a good lime and are inclined to think that the so the direct cause of the trouble. It n tain an organism that is the cause failure, but it would be impossible to If you will lift carefully a complete p send it to us packed in a tin box examine it for you. We would like i in a tin box because we want espe examine the fibrous roots. Most of might be shaken off.

Making an Asparagus bed

Would you kindly tell me how to Asparagus bed? Please tell me w make it, what size, what kind of m use, how many plants I must get, long before it would be fit to cut. have to have more than one bed to ge for four or five persons?

A Young Gar

[Choose an open situation for th beds. In winter double-dig the working in a good amount of rich, w farmyard manure. Leave the su rough as possible to permit of the mellowing it. In early April well level the ground. Mark off into 4-ft leaving between alleys 15 inches w your soil is light and open do not for beds, but plant on the level.) Th planting is not very easy to explain Asparagus requiring treatment q ferent from any other plant. Brief ever, you have to take out ridges lil A, and the plants have to be place said ridges, half the roots on either s top of the ridge is not made level surface, but a few inches below it when the soil is returned the crowns much under the soil. The ridge s prepared before the plants are unpa the roots must not be exposed to th any length of time. A 4-foot bed sl commodate three rows, and the plan about 15 inches between in the r cutting at all must be done the fi and it is really better in the long-run doing so until the third year, but if t are very strong a limited number m the second season. As to the nu beds, much depends on their le course, and this is a vegetable t practically impossible to say just necessary to plant to provide a supp

lculate the number of plants required asuring the length of the rows and ng 15 inches from plant to plant.]

to Rust

ank you very much for your reply and nendations on dealing with the disease nato leaves as sent by me. I shall be rateful if you will tell me what you r would be the cause of it, as I have had it before, and would like this information so as to try and guard another attack. W. J.

cause of Tomato Rust is a fungus spreads itself by means of spores. inute spores of a fungus can, for l purposes, be compared with the seed ordinary flowering plant. When a f Tomato Rust comes in contact with ato leaf it commences to grow, and the tissue of the attacked plant. It s a vegetative portion which runs into art of the attacked leaf. When the is ready to produce spores some of etative strands are pushed through the d spores are produced on the surface. pores, in turn, are capable of setting disease in new centres. To gain an the size of the spores and in what they are produced you should take a uantity of the rust on the tip of a d spread it on a sheet of white paper, amine it with a good pocket lens. spores are spread about in many ind, insects, buying in diseased r material from other gardens where ase is present. A person visiting a use affected with Tomato Rust could way spores on his clothing, and, if to his own house of Tomatoes shortly uld leave behind enough spores to tack. It is beyond our power to say disease got into your plants, but the is to keep a sharp look-out for the nd adopt control measures at once.]

MISCELLANEOUS

ng a lawn

is the best way of restoring the of a lawn that has been allowed to overished through the lack of ent? I have, with lawn sand, ut the Daisies and other weeds, and al fine grass now appears, but with arm, bright days it inclines to get It seems to lack vitality for want of "SEA TOWER."

just too late to do very much to the lawn this season, but a light of sulphate of ammonia, say, 1 oz. are yard, would help a little. Mix onia with a quantity of sifted soil, the mixture evenly all over and t well in with the back of a wooden autumn 2 ozs. of bone-meal per rd is also excellent. If the soil is t nature a dressing of very rotten manure spread thinly over the face in January would greatly help. d be left on until March, when all er portions could be swept off and particles rubbed into the grass with room. If the grass is at all thin a of seed cast over the surface in a little finely-sifted soil scattered ould thicken the turf. Well roll s.]

ort on putting greens

Myles).—About the first week in and during dry weather—apply a f lawn sand to your greens at the ozs. to each square yard, and your ould then disappear. It is, how- sable to hold a little of the lawn serve in case a few plants should escape the first dressing, and these may then be dealt with individually.

NAMES OF PLANTS

Alex. MacDougall. — Your specimens arrived terribly dried up, but we think we are right in identifying them as follows:—1, Iris graminea; 2, Iris sibirica; 3, Campanula latiloba alba (C. grandis alba); 4, Campanula persicifolia (the Peach-leaved Bellflowers). All four are good plants for the herbaceous border.

M. Kingsnorth.—Your grass, which you call Paradise Grass, is Stipa pennata (the Feather Grass). It is, probably, one of the most ornamental grasses in existence, and is often likened to an Aigrette.

J. C. Baxter.—1, Sidalcea Rosey Gem; 2, Spiræa Filipendula, or, according to the latest classification, Filipendula hexaphylla; 3, Pulmonaria saccharata (Spotted-leaved Lungwort); 4, Ajuga reptans variegata.

Scot.—Rhododendron ferrugineum (rusty-leaved) "Rose des Alpes."

J. N. B.—The name of the shrub is Cornus Nuttallii, a beautiful North American species, growing in its native country 50 feet or more in height. The flower-buds, always small and inconspicuous, are visible in early winter, but it is not until the greenish bracts around them expand in May, and gradually change to cream, white, and pink, that the tree assumes its summer beauty. In the normal inflorescence the true flowers appear as a dark boss in the centre of a comparatively regular ring of bracts. The drawing sent is of one of the late, abnormal flowers, often present on the trees at this season.

GARDENING APPOINTMENT

Mr. THEODORE PARKER, the well-known horticultural scientific adviser, has been appointed to the Research Department of Messrs. ABOL, LTD., Beltring, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Horticultural Societies' News

Elstree and District Horticultural Society

The annual exhibition of this Society was again a centre of interest to Elstree and the surrounding districts on Saturday, the 16th inst., on which occasion the display excelled any previous effort made by this well-known Society. By the kindness of Lord Aldenham and the Hon. Vicary Gibbs the beautiful gardens of Aldenham House were thrown open to the public, who took full advantage of the opportunity of inspecting the many beautiful horticultural treasures stored therein.

The exhibition will long be remembered as embracing one of the finest displays of vegetables ever put up in this country by the Hon. Vicary Gibbs (gardener, Mr. E. Beckett). There were about 200 individual exhibits, comprising the exhibit as a whole, which was set up in somewhat similar manner to the fine display made by the same exhibitor at the recent Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society. On this occasion the vegetables were more mature, and included Cauliflowers, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Vegetable Marrows, Peas in great variety, Cabbages, Lettuces (both Cos and Cabbage kinds), Beans in great variety, Potatoes, Radishes, Aubergines, and many choice and lesser known vegetables. The judges awarded the Hon. Vicary Gibbs a large gold medal and to Mr. Beckett a silver cup, with their congratulations on the excellence of the display.

Roses were shown by several of the leading firms. A group arranged in a space 12 feet by 4 feet won first prize for Messrs. Chaplin and Sons, Waltham Cross, who set up a display of Roses hitherto unsurpassed at this show.

Messrs. Harkness and Co., Hitchin, Herts, were placed second, also with a very tastefully-arranged group of Roses in excellent form and condition. Messrs. Frank Cant and Co., Colchester, were placed third, and showed extremely well.

Noteworthy Roses in these groups were:—Etoile de Hollande, Ophelia, Mrs. Henry Bowles, Mrs. Henry Morse, Christine, K. of K., Covent Garden, Mabel Morse, Lady Inchiquin, Betty Uprichard, and most of the more recently introduced Roses, all of which were a centre of interest. Messrs. Chaplin and Sons won outright the challenge cup which they had won for the two years previously.

Mr. J. N. Hart, of Potters Bar, repeated his previous successes of the last two years, and won outright the silver cup for 12 cut Roses, distinct. He again showed in his usual good form, and well merited premier honours.

Sweet Peas were shown in splendid form and condition, all the leading varieties and novelties being represented in the various stands.

Hardy flowers, fruits, and vegetables were all well shown by local growers. The trade was well represented. Messrs. W. Cutbush and Son, Barnet, Herts, had a display of herbaceous and other flowers, including their new Polyantha Rose, Golden Salmon, which was a centre of interest.

Messrs. Allgrove, of Langley, Slough, put up one of their inimitable displays of Gooseberries in baskets and in growing plants, besides other firms, all of whom showed well.

Although the weather was threatening and there was a slight fall of rain, on the whole the day passed off quite satisfactorily, and a huge concourse of people visited the show.

D. B. C.

Liverpool Summer Show

The Liverpool Horticultural Association held their annual summer show in the Corn Market on Wednesday and Thursday, July 13th and 14th, the opening ceremony being performed by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. E. W. Hope, who expressed her delight at seeing such a wealth of colour and perfume. On behalf of the Association the Lady Mayoress was presented with a bouquet of Carnations.

The heavy rainstorms in the district were the cause of a considerable number of entries to the various classes (particularly Sweet Peas) being cancelled; nevertheless, a very fine display was staged.

The principal prize-winners were:—The challenge bowl for Sweet Peas was won outright by Miss K. Allington Hughes, of Gresford, with a very worthy display of 18 varieties. Other prize-winners were John Haycocks, Waltham, A. G. Joynson, Capenhurst, and Wm. Weaser, Mold. The challenge bowl for Roses was taken by H. S. Henderson, of Freshfield, being closely followed by R. Battersby, Ainsdale, E. B. Orme, Thornton Hough, and Geo. V. Day, New Brighton.

Miss Newsham was again very prominent in the bowls and decorative classes, taking three firsts and two second prizes. Rt. Hon. Viscount Leverhulme was prominent in the herbaceous and fruit classes. W. K. Fernie, of Thornton Hough, also took many prizes.

Vegetables (collections): First, E. S. MacIver, Heswall; and John Williams, Higher Bebington, second and third.

The GARDENING ILLUSTRATED Bronze Medal was taken by Mr. H. Williamson, Great Saughall, near Chester, with a very creditable display of herbaceous flowers. This competitor was delighted with the medal, he being considerably over 80 years of age.

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Roses in July

is Surrey district the soil for the most is of a light sandy nature, and, in equence, dries quickly. Roses in it nty of moisture always, and so this has been one to the liking of this voured flower. Rarely, indeed, has rest of bloom been so good. The dis-ain, is a modern one; that is to say, have sprung up like the dwellings, pidly, and in a run round, here and uite the newer and better varieties of re to be found. One has met with pecimens, and by jotting these down ught the novice may get some indi-f what is pleasing, to be remembered ng time.

g first the climb-ar, and the weep-ndards, I should that those plants to walls are the tisfactory. The e de Dijon, most used, seems to er out of date, the blossom is he earliest. The es its freshness in paratively short not, in fact, so s it was in days . Climbing Testout is quite Rose against the e blooms are large as freely pro-Another very fine Paul's Lemon eserves to be less the flowers are ome, and the too. First-rate of this have been growing as an subject over a ath. It is extra d, as remarked, tried in place of r types. Roses walls very often fastened to the k, but when a made to bring the growth away heat of such, then the plants get a ance. In this case William Allen n, with its small apricot-yellow s among the better. There is room in, for Mermaid, with its large, low blooms; the more so as it likes sheltered position. Maréchal Niel e, and one's idea is that it is worn bably there are nice specimens of it parts of the country, but not this ever.

Pillar Roses have been remarked in capital samples, the more showy of all, perhaps, being American Pillar. This is so distinct and pleasing as a single flower in cerise with white eye. A favoured way of growing it is to train up a stout pole, and certainly this is wonderfully showy so treated. Out of the nurseries I have seen only one sample of The Beacon, a variety very similar to the last named, except that the colour is more red. This variety deserves a special note. Paul's Scarlet Pillar is becoming popular, and really there is no variety to equal it in colouring as a climber. One arch-covered specimen of this is quite one of the tit-bits seen this summer. It is among those items folk have stopped to ask the name, and so on. Gruss an Teplitz, now pretty well known, is capital trained as a pillar variety. The crimson double blooms, besides being sweetly scented, come continuously from early summer till late autumn.

Quite a feature hereabouts are the weeping standards, so called by being budded on a high stem and then trained by pulling the growth over archwise. The variety Excelsa has quite superseded Crimson Rambler; the colour is darker and the flower better—the choicer-looking thing. It forms a splendid weeper. So, of course, does Dorothy Perkins. From my own standpoint this old favourite is esteemed in that form of growth in preference to any. Blush Rambler again makes a nice change in colour and is effective in many examples. Hiawatha appears to be a variety that is falling off in merit. The plant soon shows signs of debility, otherwise it is neat and striking with its small, single blooms of rich colouring.

Coming to standards proper, which include the better varieties as to size and form of bloom, there are few to equal Frau Karl Druschki. One remarkable specimen I have in my mind's eye has been superb. This is said to be one of the oldest of the kind to be found anywhere, and is still the picture of health. There is no white Rose comparable to this old favourite for outdoor culture, although isolated examples of more handsome blossoms may be found in Louise Crette or Candeur Lyonnaise. Hugh Dickson provides a red bloom and seems specially fitted for a standard tree. So does Caroline Testout in pink. More recent varieties which have established their right for this form of growth are:—Ophelia, a beautiful variety in every way; in fact, likely to be voted the best of all; Betty Uprichard, the carmine-rose colour of which is so telling; Mme. Edouard Herriot, or "Daily Mail" Rose. Still more recent sorts, seen with less frequency, perhaps, but enough to show them as probable favourites in time to come, include Mabel Morse, Lady Inchiquin, and Shot Silk.

The dwarf bush plant is that which is the more grown of all forms, the tendency being to have beds or groups of one variety. In this instance Ophelia is as satisfactory as any, and there is little in choosing Mme. Butterfly in preference. The type will show as much colouring in the open, although under glass the pink shade in the latter is pronounced. Golden Emblem, so grand at exhibitions, is not what one would like it to

A reliable sport from Caroline Testout

"Climbing Caroline Testout is quite a noble Rose against the house; the blooms are large as well as freely produced."

be in the open, or, rather, as a permanent tree. The growth has a bad habit of getting smaller by degrees after the first season. It is really a beautiful yellow which must be on maiden plants; that is, as stock grown for sale in the nurseries; and, unfortunately, not a few striking sorts at the shows are in this category. To see such as the above, mostly of the Pernetiana class, struggling to live in an ordinary garden is rather pitiful. Mrs. Wemyss Quin is still as good a yellow as any as a bedder.

Betty Uprichard is now becoming common in the sense that it is to be met with often. It is a great variety. So is Shot Silk, so prominent this season at the exhibitions. Such varieties as these flourish without any extra care. The handsome maroon George Dickson is hardly free-flowering enough to please, yet its flowers are so rich and striking that most growers forgive the fault.

Lady Alice Stanley is a pink variety that, in some respects, is preferred to the more popular Mrs. Henry Morse; at any rate, bad weather seems not to affect the opening. Another capital pink is Mrs. Henry Bowles, and possibly when the newer Dame Edith Helen becomes more known this will be the topmost of the shade. Margaret Dickson Hamill is a favourite of the neighbourhood. The plant has excellent bronzy foliage and the bloom is always good in a fawn-yellow shade. Lady Pirrie is everywhere good, and so free to bloom. W. R. Smith, with white, flushed pink blooms, grows like the proverbial weed; an American Rose classed as a Tea-scented and one which, somehow, many planters have increased hitherto.

To find some at least of one's special fancies in varieties autumn must be waited for, for it is then the more charming colouring is noticed in such as Los Angeles, William F. Dreer, Wilhelm Kordes, Emma Wright, as well as not a few in shades of red. Dainty Bess, the new frilled-edged pink single, has distinguished itself as a welcome addition to decorative kinds, and there will be numerous growers desirable of adding it to their plantations. Lady Beatty again has proved itself a desirable novelty; we could only wish the yellow in it were more intense. These two, however, and Everest have not been seen growing. The last-named, to look at in a cut state, is most attractive in size as well as shape and substance. A few years ago, indeed, it would have been dear to the heart of the exhibitor of specimen blooms in boxes—a method which may be fast going out of date. The colour of the last named is white with slight tint of yellow. H. S.

Woking.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Helipterum anthemioides

A PRETTY and valuable new plant is this for the alpine garden, one which has come to stay. It is a precious addition to the small group of perennial everlastings, its flowers being pure white with a raised yellow centre and borne on wiry stems about 1 foot in height in great numbers. These are very effective throughout May and June. A sunny position and well-drained soil it appears to thoroughly enjoy, and under these conditions increases in size each year. Such a choice plant will have a special appeal to those who like to grow the best only in a limited space. E. M.

The Rhododendron Association

At the first Council meeting of the new Rhododendron Association the following were elected honorary life members of the Association:—J. C. Williams, Professor W. Wright Smith, W. J. Bean, E. H. Wilson, George Forrest, and Captain F. Kingdon Ward. It was further decided that any persons joining the Association prior to December 31st, 1927, should be known as Founder Members.

Pearl Berry (Margyricarpus setosus)

Carpeting the rocky surface of a raised border, with its prostrate branches all laden with pearly-white berries, is this little shrub from South America, where it is found in cool mountain districts. The berries about the size of small Peas, and attract siderable attention by reason of their w ness and the profusion in which they a among the tiny evergreen leaves. The Berry is a nice trailing shrub for associ with alpine flowers, and may be employ fall over medium-sized rocks with exc effect. Cuttings inserted in sandy so September strike freely, and it comes r from seed. E.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Rose Parfum de l'Haye

SOME interesting information has reached me in answer to an inquiry in a recent issue of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED as to the parentage of this Rose. I had asked whence it derived its wonderful scent and its unpleasant purplish-magenta colouring. My kind informant says that its origin is, on one side a cross of R. damascena and General Jacqueminot, and on the other R. rugosa, the raiser being M. Gravereau. A sister Rose, Roseraie de l'Haye, was grown by M. Cochet from the same parents. The object was to produce flowers whose scent could be extracted for making attar of rose, but experiment proved that even the powerful scent of these kinds was less efficacious than that which was obtained from the old centifolia. It is to be regretted that when the cross was made, the rugosa parent chosen was not the better pink, rather than the type, which is nearly a magenta, for if this had been done we might have had a Rose of pleasant colour as well as of delicious scent. There is also the Rose des Parfumeurs, no doubt selected for commercial scent-making, as well as the Kazanlik, so largely grown in Bulgaria. Any information on the subject of these scented Roses would be of interest. G. JEKYLL.

Feijoa Sellowiana

This attractive evergreen shrub is now flowering out of doors, where, sheltered by a wall, it seems to thrive. It is only in the southern counties, however, that the protection of a greenhouse can be dispensed with. The solitary flowers are cream-coloured outside and purplish-red inside. The yellowish-green egg-shaped fruit is said to be deliciously flavoured. The deep green, shining leaves add to the attraction of the shrub. S.

—— A Brazilian plant hardy against a south wall in the neighbourhood of London is a rarity, yet such is the subject of this note. It is an evergreen bush at least 12 feet high when planted against a wall in England, with opposite, oval, or ovate leaves $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and up to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, the upper surface glossy green, the under-surface grey, with a dense felt of soft hairs. The young wood has a similar felty covering. The flowers are borne singly from the leaf-axils on stalks up to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long. The four sections of the calyx are in two pairs of unequal size, the outer side covered with a grey felt as in the under sides of the leaves, the inner surface reddish. The petals are also unequal in size, white without and reddish within. The most conspicuous part of the flower is the central brush-like cluster of stamens, which have rich red filaments tipped golden anthers, each stamen being about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. The style is also red. In Brazil the flowers are followed by edible, egg-shaped fruits, but the production of fruit in this country is rare. F. Sellowiana can be grown in well-drained loamy soil against a wall with a south or south-west exposure in the south and midland counties of England. It s not be pruned very close, for it is at it when allowed a fair amount of fre Cuttings of young shoots may be roote close and warm frame.

Antirrhinum Nelrose

Towards the end of July is a good for the sowing of the seeds of this fin flowering variety if spikes are require spring on plants under glass. If the are sown early in July the resultant will begin to throw up their flower spi Christmas. Last year I had 24 boxes containing 24 plants, and cut more th main spikes of flowers while under glas many secondary spikes. Now those are flowering again in an outside borde will continue to bloom till the end summer. My first spikes were each long. Ha

Davidia involucrata

I have seen illustrations of Davic volucrata in flower. I have had it for years, and it is now about 20 feet hi perfect health, but it has never prod blossom. Can you suggest any treat I do not think root pruning would h the growth is not too luxuriant.

Hepaticas single and double

I was very much interested in art Hepaticas, issue July 9th, page 420. correspondent may be interested to lea Hepatica triloba alba plena was ori found growing wild in the Thuringian tains. The plant was lost to cultivat 25 to 30 years and was then re-introdu a German nurseryman, and the whole stocks passed into the hands of a M der Elst, and I was one of the first to a part of his stock.

This variety is most easily grown, ing a fairly heavy loam enriched wi mould. Select a position that mis two to three hours' midday sun, taki it does not suffer for the want of during spells of excessively dry wea am of opinion it is one of the pretti freest of this interesting genus. AMOS P

Geranium cuttings

Last year I tried a new (to me) pl my Paul Crampel. In the latter August I took the cuttings from bedded out and dibbled them in in trench in the kitchen garden 3 inche By the end of September they were and were then transferred to 60's a the winter in the greenhouse. In they were repotted into 48's and t pinched out as soon as they began signs of growth. The resulting pla been all that could be desired, large and full of bloom. They are far bet those which spent the winter 10 in

d which were not potted into 60's until pring. Of 60 cuttings put out in the 56 came out in perfect health.

P. B. H.

New Rose Abol

uld you, please, put the following cor- n in your next number:—The Clay Cup awarded to Mr. Frederick Evans, 89, sbury Road, Reading, Berks, for his Abol, instead of to the Chalk Hill ries, who only exhibited the Rose on half.—F. R. DURHAM, *Secretary, Royal ultural Society, Vincent Square, West- r, S.W. 1.*

Verbascums

eems to me that Verbascums are not d in gardens as much as they might They are excellent for shrubberies, brightness when most of the shrubs inished flowering. But my object in g is to say that we have grown both mpicum and V. phlomoides for many Originally the latter used to have lowers and the former small flowers. ally the size of the olympicum flowers ncreased. To-day I measured some und they were a good 2 inches across. measured some phlomoides and they ¼ inches across. This increase in size I suppose, be due to the two kinds g. I should like to know if other of eaders have had the same experience.

THACKERAY TURNER.

brook, Godalming.

Self-sown Asters

tly after the summer display was put o their flowering quarters I noticed a y of seedlings springing up between a yellow Antirrhinums. On going to te what at first glance appeared to be was amazed to find that the seedlings sters.

ed in question was occupied by single last year, and these plants must have om them.

y knowledge I never yet saw such a appen, and would be glad to learn if my colleagues have ever experienced happening.

bed was cleared of the Asters and dug and planted with Wallflower in umn, and again manured and dug to its present occupants. We experi- ome very cold and wet weather here autumn and spring, and yet these ave passed through it all and are now ome 6 inches in height.

e companion bed to the one I men- re were odd Asters, but on this bed e, without exaggeration, hundreds of plants.

R. ASTLEY.

, Perth.

ALPINES

ock garden in a pond, or making the best of it

good gardeners advise that you uld grow only those plants that are ed to your garden and circumstances, pleasant to notice how few of them heir own admirable counsel, for we something of the old Adam in us as a gardener), and nothing will pre- from yearning after forbidden things. are two ways in which we can deal r impossible desires. We can fall on the imagination and see, with the eye, the Cabbage patch become a Cistus, a-blow with Lilium pom- Convolvulus Cneorum, and what- we care to add, but the fancy can- not cheat so well as she is famed to do (deceiving elf), and sooner or later we must come back to the muddy reality. Or we can settle down to the old work-a-day truth that half a loaf is better than no bread and see what can be done about it.

Here we end the rigmarole and come to the business, which is the record of an experiment with the half loaf.

The heart's desire of the writer tends towards—among other less possible things—the plants of the high alpine screes, but to see these at their best we must have a wide slope of scree, backed and interspersed with giant grey boulders, and to provide this, on a clay soil with no local stone available, would need much money. A derelict Lily pond absurdly perched on the top of a bank and now drained dry through the cracks in its cement, was therefore taken in hand. The drainage was made more ample, the floor covered with flints and a layer of turf, and the whole filled up with bricks broken small and mixed with a very little loam and leaf-mould. Mr. Clarence Elliott has written with eloquence and fervour of the congeniality of potsherds to alpine plants, and broken bricks seem to have the same virtues. The "pond" was surfaced with a couple of inches of those granite chips with which they make the tarred roads, and the result was, in a very modest way, what some people would call a "moraine garden." But, happily, that stupid description is dying out, for you can no more have a moraine in your garden than you can have a glacier, but you *can* have a scree garden.

Yellow-flowered Mulleins or Verbascums in Mr. Thackeray Turner's garden at Godalming

The pond has made a home for many scree plants. The Alpine Poppy seeds itself about in all its colours of white, lemon and buttercup-yellow, orange and pale pink, delicately gay against the grey shingle. It has the virtue, seldom noticed and rather rare among alpine plants, of a sweet scent; a faint Musky fragrance which, curiously enough, is almost exactly matched in another alpine, the true Spikenard (Nardostachys Jatamansi), from the Eastern Himalayas. There is also Potentilla nitida, a cushion of silvery leaves sprinkled with Apple-blossoms; Genista radiata, an austere little bush of angular green twigs (they take the place of its few leaves, which fall off before the summer); Micromeria corsica, another wiry little bush, grey-leafed and floriferous, whose pungent scent of Lemons and Seaweed is said to excite tom-cats to transports of erotic ecstasy; Linaria alpina, with brilliant little Snapdragons of violet and gold; and Erodium chrysanthum, a subtle harmony of silver and sulphur-yellow, which, if not natural to the scree, does better there in our sodden winters than elsewhere.

To make a scree garden it is not necessary to have an old pond; a place for it can be dug out anywhere in the sunshine, and there is often a square of turf that serves no particular purpose—and there is always that bed out of which, in spring, the Darwin Tulips protrude through the inevitable chiffon of Forget-me-nots.

So much for reality, but the writer has a memory picture of the windswept moors of northern Sweden and a romantic affection for the weather-beaten plants of the arctic tundras. Even here something might be done. There is a cold north-eastern corner in the garden where even the Docks grow dour and stunted, but a bale of peat-moss litter, some of Mr. Elliott's potsherds, and the granite chippings there is at least the phantom possibility of an arctic garden. Cassiope tetragona is said to like it damp and cold, and at present flourishes, virid but flowerless, in an old eggcrock with the little arctic Bramble; these would make a beginning. To them might be added the arctic Willows, especially those which grow into gnarled little trees, the minute Rhododendron from Kamschatka, and the prostrate Myrtle from the Falkland Islands. One can but try.

A. B. C.

Saponaria ocymoides

For draping a wall this Soapwort is unsurpassed, and when covered with its rosy-pink flowers it is a beautiful sight, but I find it short-lived—four or five years being about its ordinary limit in my garden. It may be that it exhausts itself by its profuse flowering, and it certainly is a good thing with this, as with other free-flowering plants, to shear off the seed vessels as soon as flowering is over. Even with this precaution I cannot keep the plants for long. Fortunately, they are easy to raise from seed and very quick-growing. The var. splendens is the brightest, and there is also a white form.

O. C. C.

Erodium chrysanthum

Most of the Erodiums are well known and frequently met with in the rock garden. The above-named one, however, is seldom seen and rarely catalogued. It is quite distinct from its neighbours, E. corsicum, E. armenum, and E. absinthoides. Growing only 6 inches high, it bears a long-stemmed head of pale primrose flowers, and given a high, dry position will flower for a considerable period.

M.

Royal Horticultural Society

Gooseberries, Carnations, and Interesting New Plants

GOOSEBERRIES were the chief feature of the Royal Horticultural Society's fortnightly meeting held on July 19th. A remarkable exhibit of these useful bush fruits was put up by Mr. J. C. Allgrove, who gained the Society's gold medal for a collection comprising not less than 60 varieties. One of the best varieties shown was the large-fruiting cooker named Leveller. We give an illustration of one remarkable bush less than 2 feet high carrying 5 lbs. of fruit. The collection included cordon and bush trees in pots as well as fruit in dishes. The largest-fruited varieties, in addition to Leveller, already mentioned, were Broom Girl, Speedwell, Conquering Hero, Surprise, Succeed, and Pilot. Among the best-flavoured dessert varieties were Langley Gage and Langley Beauty, both raised in the nursery from whence came the exhibit. Other Gooseberries worthy of special note were Warrington, Yellow Warrington, Keen's Seedling, Whitesmith, Ironmonger (almost black), Dan's Mistake, Green London, Pitmaston Gage, and Early Sulphur, which is the earliest Gooseberry to ripen.

A magnificent bush of Gooseberry Leveller, one of the biggest and best cookers
This bush, about 2 feet high, carried 5 lbs. of fruit

Cherries of exceptional size and quality were shown by Rivers and Son. The varieties included Ursula Rivers, Emperor Francis, Géant d'Hedelfingen, White Bigarreau, and Turkey Black Heart.

Carnations and Picotees

The National Carnation and Picotee Society held its annual show in conjunction with this meeting.

As far as amateur exhibitors went, it was a long way the best show put up by this Society since the war, there being keen competition in all the divisions and the quality of the exhibits being above the average.

The first division, "open," attracted very few entries, and the only trade exhibitor to compete, Messrs. Lowe and Gibson, of Crawley, won the Cartwright Challenge Cup.

The second division, "amateur," for those growing more than 300 plants under glass, occupied a large space, the Martin Smith Memorial Challenge Cup being won by Mr. Arthur Reynolds, of Birmingham, the runner-up being Miss Shiffner, of Lewes, who has won it regularly for the last nine years, other prize-winners being Mrs. Hambro, of Forest Row; Mr. Jas. Fa of Acton; Mr. Charrington, of Limps and Mr. R. Morton, of Woodside Park.

The third division, "amateurs," for growing less than 300 plants under was also well supported, Mr. W. H. Br another newcomer, winning the Ed Charrington Challenge Cup from Mr. Knapton, who has held it for the last years, the other winners being M Knapton, Palmer, Hart, and Hampton.

The fourth division, "amateur," blooms grown and flowered in the border, also claimed a good entry in sp the bad weather that has been experi this year. The Miss Julia Wells' Medal was won by Capt. E. A. Wilki of Southampton, with Mr. E. G. Low Cricklewood, N.W., second, the winners being Messrs. Robshaw, Stan Hart, Amos, and Wynn Hellings.

There was a good display of seedling only two were considered of sufficient to obtain the Society's Certificate, one a very fine yellow ground fancy, Flo Grisby (illustrated), raised and exhibit Mr. G. D. Murray, of Worcester Park the other Fred W. Ransome, a mauve red fancy, also raised by Mr. Murray exhibited by Messrs. Seymour and And of Nazeing, Essex.

[A report of the London and Sou England Viola and Pansy Society's also held on this occasion, appears on 474.]

Many new and rare plants were show this occasion. A First-class Certificate awarded to Clethra Delavayi (see ill tion), and Awards of Merit to Disa Pink Domino, Sabbatia campestris trated), Tecoma jasminoides, Mi coccinea, Maranta Porteana vari Lomatia ferruginea, Lobelia Tupa, Hy callis speciosa, Gaultheria Farrer Carmichelia australis, and Feijoa Sello A well-fruited branch of this Brazilian was shown from a garden at Lymingto H

R.H.S. Examinations

The Examiners' report on the G Examination in Horticulture, held on 23rd, 1927, is now issued. The report that 147 senior candidates were exa and of these nine were placed in the Class, 33 in the Second Class, and 51 Third Class, leaving 54 who failed to the Examiners.

Miss D. B. Watson, of Aldersey Hal Chester, will receive a silver-gilt me being first.

The Examiners report that, on the the examination was satisfactory, a successful candidates showed a good ledge of the elementary principles und horticulture. The answers on the tion of Melons, Figs, and Cucumber very good, and also that dealing wit baceous plants. The weaknesses candidates were shown in the lack preciation of the functions relating t spiration and the life-history of the da off fungus. The knowledge sho greenhouse cultivation of annuals disappointing.

Of the 33 junior candidates examin were placed in the First Class, 15 Second Class, and one in the Third Only one candidate failed.

Mr. Eric C. Wray, of the Midlan cultural College, Sutton Bonington, ceive a silver medal as being first.

The Examiners report that the ex tion was highly satisfactory and the instruction had been thorough. A

Clethra Delavayi

tender flowering shrub from Yunnan. Pendulous pure white wers in terminal racemes. The stems, flower stalks, and sepals e red. First Class Certificate. Shown by Mr. Gerald W. E. Loder, Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, Sussex.

Sabbatia campestris

A half-hardy annual from Arkansas and the Red River, where it inhabits the open prairies, spangling them with bright pink, star-shaped flowers with clear yellow centres. Award of Merit. Shown by Mr. T. Hay, New Lodge, Hyde Park, W. 2.

ss of knowledge was displayed in the s to the questions on manures and the f annuals and their cultivation.

SENIORS (CLASS 1).

iss D. B. Watson, Aldersey Horticultural College, near Chester.
iss A. H. Kelly, Aldersey Horticultural College, near Chester.
rank W. Thorns, 51, Defoe Avenue, Kew Gardens.
iss Margaret Brown, 63, Eastern Avenue, Reading; K. A. Thirkeldsen, R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey.
iss Mary L. Heap, Studley College, Warwickshire.
iss H. M. Colley, Studley College, Warwickshire; Miss R. B. Taylor, The Lawns, Thorpe Road, Peterborough.
iss N. E. Bunker, Clavering, Baker Street, Potters Bar.

examinations of the Royal Horticul- ociety will be held in 1928 as :—

N EXAMINATIONS.

al examination (seniors and juniors), day, March 21st; teachers' examina- eliminary and advanced), Saturday, 24th; National Diploma (preliminary d), Saturday, May 5th.

AL EXAMINATIONS.

ers' examination (advanced), Friday, June 15th; National Diploma (preliminary), Tuesday and Wednesday, June 19th and 20th; National Diploma (final), Thursday and Friday, June 21st and 22nd.

New Seedling Carnation Florence Grisby, the Premier yellow-ground fancy

Also awarded First Class Certificate. The flowers are edged with brilliant crimson. Raised and shown by Mr. G. D. Murray.

TREES AND SHRUBS

A neglected Rhododendron

MANY years ago, when visiting a nursery in order to choose the colours of the Rhododendrons that should be those for my woodland edge, I was much taken by one named multimaculatum. The milk-white bloom, with its blotch of rosy-scarlet spots, had a quite peculiar effect of refinement, and the foliage, long and narrow, deep green, and highly polished, made it one of the best of all when out of bloom. Those who grow these shrubs seem to forget the importance of leaf beauty, and that though a Rhododendron is a flowering shrub for three weeks, its value is for foliage effect alone for the rest of the year. This kind is, probably, a direct seedling from R. ponticum, for it has nothing of the character of the broad-leaved hybrids that hang their leaves and look so unhappy in frosty weather. This pretty Rhododendron has, unfortunately, been entirely discarded in nurseries, no doubt because the lobes of the corolla are comparatively narrow. But whereas the more massive blooms may have a finer effect in the open, this has a refinement that makes it one of the most desirable as a cut flower for indoor use. It is one of the latest blooming of its kind. G. J.

Rhododendron multimaculatum

Leptospermum Nichollii

This graceful and brilliant shrub, introduced to this country in 1908 by Captain Dorrien-Smith from New Zealand, has been blooming with remarkable freedom this year, large bushes—especially those given the shelter of sunny walls—being striking in effect, the slender twiggy shoots being absolutely laden with rich carmine-red blooms. T. F. Cheeseman, in his "New Zealand Flora," does not mention this most beautiful of all the Leptospermums, which is said to have been first found growing on sandhills north of Christchurch. I find it hardier than the better-known L. scoparium, which has on more than one occasion been killed outright here. L. Nichollii enjoys a sandy and fairly rich soil, and although quite happy in the open when planted on the south side of sheltering evergreens, the most brilliant effects which I have met with up to the present have been produced by plants growing in front of warm walls and permitted to push forward naturally. Even from plants growing in the foreground of shrubs in the open ripe seed may be gathered, which, if sown in warmth in April, will germinate freely, but unless the plant is isolated from of its kind only a percentage come nevertheless, the majority will be interesting, even if they do not app strongly to the specialist. Cuttings freely, and to those who require th plant only I advise this means of pr tion. E. MARK

Sussex.

Notes from a Cornish Garden

HOW fine a foliage plant is Magnolia Delavayi, and, incidentally, how well it stands cutting. Thinking it tender, I planted it some years ago in an angle of the house, with the result that two rooms are periodically darkened, and drastic measures are necessary. This year, in April I cut off the top and many yards of the side branches, and, contrary to the reputation of the genus, it seems not a whit the worse, but has made new shoots all over. Its great leaves, 8 inches to 14 inches long and 6 inches to 9 inches broad, dark green when mature and a beautiful bronze-green when young, are very striking. There are, of course, no flowers, but that signifies little, as they are a very dull white and last but a day. A friend with a large garden on the south coast has planted a group of six or eight in a sheltered wood, and they are—I quote from memory—not far off 30 feet high and are a truly magnificent sight. A Magnolia in flower at the moment is M. parviflora, a deciduous variety with beautiful cup-shaped white flowers on rather long stalks and in the centre a mass of crimson stamens. Moreover, these flowers do not all appear at once, but spread over a period of some weeks, which is an advantage. It grows into a large spreading bush or small tree, and the one here is crowded by various Rhododendrons, which ought to be moved as circumstances permit. It fruits here in some seasons, the fruits being pink and about 3 inches long, and the seeds, the vitality of which, like that of all the Magnolias, is of short duration, are embedded in it. It is a fact worth knowing that Magnolias are greatly benefited by an occasional top-dressing of wood-ashes. Several more Rho drons are in flower, including large bu R. crassum and one bloom on R. erio whilst R. discolor, of the Fortunei seri abundance of its great white or pink f additionally attractive by reason of th licious scent.

The queer little R. semibarbatum Japan, is also flowering, but so small flowers that they are apt to escape Yet they are worth looking into, beca dissimilar to anything else. Hardly inch across, with a stout, bulging, tube and five reflexed white lobes tinge and with a thick circle of crimson s their base, whilst the lower part of t ments is embedded in dense white woo leaves are a curious shade of greenish- and altogether it is an interesting pl those who like such things. Lately been pricking off into a frame a batch of seedlings of Rhododendron lorum. What an attractive foliage p is, the leaves rough and dark green and clad with a rich brown tomentu neath, rather giving the impression miniature Falconeri. But the flower crimson, and the bush only attai height of 6 feet to 8 feet. The story naming is interesting. It appears th and specimens were sent home by and Farrer at about the same tim whilst the botanists at Edinburgh wer ing about for an appropriate name it o to one of them that the Rhododendr the rivals "would meet the case, and with they made it so.

Lonicera tragophylla, perhaps the fi the Chinese Honeysuckles, planted north side of an Irish Yew, has clim through it, and is showing its large, scentless clusters about 20 feet up, ar well they look against their dark gree ground. I should like to get Trop speciosum to do the same, as it so fre does in Scotland, but though it flouri a damp border against the house and up at intervals all through it, the fra one takes up are difficult to establish. ever, it seeds freely, and it is possib seedlings established in pots would b easier to manipulate. In a south-east against the house is a 5-yard m Romneya Coulteri x trichocalyx bl well and spreading freely, so that e its activities will have to be curtai sister plant in a shrubbery had flouris some years, but suddenly went off apparent reason, yet I think this is th appropriate place for it unless the bo large and the stems can be properly s

Not far from where the second pla is a slender Deutzia called sutchue which has arching branches and corymbs of starry white flowers. I n it is supposed to flower in May and Ju here it is not in full bloom until m Another shrub with white flowers is japonicum, represented here by a busl 5 feet high, though it eventually bec small tree of 25 feet. Still, it is flowering, and the flowers, hanging and threes from the horizontal br have a pleasing effect. Styrax H

a much younger plant, is already con-
y taller, but so far has not bloomed.
rtia pseudo-Camellia, a native of
s just starting, and though the white
2½ inches across, with a quantity of
stamens, somewhat resemble a white
a, the shape and the prominent
are reminiscent of Hypericum
m. Pretty though the shrub is in
t is even more valuable in Cornwall
autumn colouring, since it is one of
things which really colour well in
our damp climate.
ia prionophylla is a new Chinese
ntroduced, I think, by Forrest, and
eyish-green serrated leaves and
of small white flowers succeeded
red berries. It appears to like a dry
t is not particular as to soil.
, there is Lomatia ferruginea, which
ars ago after reading the late Lord
's book on the trees and shrubs at
llan. It is now about 15 feet high
aring masses of its curiously-shaped
ers, which are greenish-pink outside.
t description of them is impossible
ho am no botanist, but what follows
some idea of their appearance to the
dener. In bud there is a queer blob
tremity formed by the apices of the
ls—if, indeed, they are petals—and
the stigma. This and the long,
y curved style are green and very
t, and I cannot locate any stamens
ey are at the points of what seem
petals. But stamens there must be,
e found several self-sown seedlings
cinity. The flowers are in upright
mes, about 20 in each, and are so
that the effect is very striking.
s, too, are attractive, divided Fern-
green with a ferrugineous downy
ark green above and greyish-brown
It is a native of Chile, allied to
leas, and, like many Chilean plants,
s a damp soil and environment. It
ite hardy here, and should be tried
rth, as it is both distinct and orna-
Has anyone, I wonder, noticed the
fruiting of Berberis Darwinii this
eviously I had never thought of it
remarkable for its fruit, but have
a self-sown bush about 8 feet high
ank of the river literally weighed
h masses of purple-black berries,
really a wonderful and beautiful

"PETER THE HERMIT."

Corylopsis sinensis

the latter part of March and
he early weeks of April there are
interesting flowering shrubs than
, which blooms with remarkable
with me every year, its elegant
being absolutely laden with droop-
of sweet-smelling flowers after the
the Ribes. The fragrance from
is so strong that on sunny days
round appears charged with it.
ghtful shrub is easily grown,
a sunny position is preferable and
a background of some evergreen
e, for the flowers, which appear so
then sheltered somewhat from cut-
. I find it layers very easily.

E. M.

ptus globulus flowering

cently seen a very fine specimen of
growing in a medium loam about
leep on a bed of gravel and gently
vards a tidal lake on the South
ull flower. The tree had attained
t of more than 30 feet, and was
ely lovely white flowers. Near
the tree, as one first caught a
it, the flowers had the appearance of so many pure white feathers which had been blown there and arrested in the branches. Near to this tree was a very nice specimen, about half the height, of Eucalyptus McArthuri, the leaves, bark, and main stem being quite distinct. G. G. B.

Foxglove Munstead White

A REGION of thin woodland of 10 acres adjoins the garden. The trees are Birches, Hollies, Oaks, and Spanish Chestnuts, and there is an undergrowth of Heath, Whortleberry, and Bracken. It is tempting as a place for some wild gardening, and yet it is so good in itself that one sees that the temptation had better be overcome, or at least restrained. So there are only some ranges of Daffodils for the early year followed by Lily of the Valley, and some patches of Erythronium giganteum, some masses of hardy Ferns, and the white Foxgloves. They are really white; they have not even the faint yellowish spots that detract from the absolute purity of what are usually grown as white. Wild red ones were, naturally, on the ground, and even after many years of careful abolition they occasionally appear. Needless to say, any Foxglove that shows the least trace of colour is at once uprooted in order to safeguard the purity of the strain. A group of Foxgloves is all the more effective because the plants are of different heights; the tallest in one group just measured has a height of 7 feet 8 inches.

G. J.

Foxglove Munstead White

The Foxglove

The Foxgloves are now in full beauty in gardens, but they are not, where space is large, always grown in a way to display them to advantage. The tall spikes of bloom are handsome when associated with shrubs or rising from a groundwork of tall plants. One sees so many poor forms in gardens, but splendid strains can be had with large Gloxinia-like flowers of great beauty. It is on account of this that the name Gloxinia-flowered has been given to them, in which the blooms are of varied colours from pure white to deep purple, some beautifully blotched and speckled on the self-ground. These are very different from the dingy rose-purple forms usually seen in gardens.

Canterbury Bells

These, if raised early, are now fit for planting in their permanent quarters, should these be vacant, while, if not, they should be set out in nursery rows and transplanted in autumn.

Some Flowers of Le Lautaret

THE neighbourhood of the Col du Lautaret, in the Dauphiné Alps of France, with its surrounding mountains and the valleys of the Romanche and the Guisanne that run down on either side of it, not only gives the visitor as beautiful pictures of alpine scenery and alpine flowers as he can wish to see, but is amazingly prolific of species. It is, in fact, a Mecca of the collector, second only to Mont Cènis, as far as the French Alps are concerned.

A col, geographically, of course, is the highest point of a valley—a shoulder, in other words, or pass with mountains rising up on either hand, so that within easy reach of one an infinitely varied flora can be found. To reach the Col du Lautaret, on which is situated a little cluster of buildings, comprising an hotel and two chalets, one covers the 50 miles that separate it from Grenoble by road, tracing the Romanche from where it runs, a broad, swirling river through the town, to its source in the high snows above the Col. Through Aix-les-Bains to Vizille, a place famous in history for its chateau, which is known as the cradle of the Revolution, and so up the valley of the Frène, where the road runs for 7 miles through a ravine, between majestic cliffs rearing themselves impregnably sheer, for hundreds of feet up on either side, only to give place at greater heights to forest-clad slopes, and so to the snows;—past great power stations which harness the torrent at its steepest points—ugly, but not ugly enough to mar such a landscape—through several tiny hamlets crouching by the road, and so out on to the sun-baked plateau on which Bourg d'Oisans is situated. On this flat table the little grey town swelters in still heat concentrated upon it by cliffs which completely enclose it, as though in a box whose lid is the sky. A hot basin, indeed, of dust and flies, but, nevertheless, picturesque and intensively cultivated.

Once Bourg d'Oisans has been left behind, the real climb begins. The road, now a ledge cut out of the mountain side, soars above the river, so that one looks down on one side to a now rapidly narrowing torrent, raging 50, 100, in places 200 feet below, over the rocks that are its bed, and up on the other to the heights, with boulders overhanging from the cliffs and menacing the road that thus dares to make its way up under their lee. Here the glaring magenta-purple of Geranium sanguineum, a Cranesbill bloody indeed, does battle, horribly clashing, with the glowing cups of Lilium croceum—a stranger this, though, from the Orange Lily of our cottage gardens, with its 20 or 30 flowers, for on the rocks it rarely bears more than a single bloom. Here, too, Digitalis ferruginea and Verbascums raise their slender spires; while in shady recesses, blue, pale mauve and white forms of Campanula persicifolia are thoroughly at home in mossy turf. Sedum arachnoideum lights up the very face of the rock with its stars of salmon-pink, shooting out from the cottony-white webs that are its foliage, Dianthus sylvestris peeps out from the crevices, and encrusted Saxifrages hang over the road in snowy sprays.

Poet's Narcissus in the Alps

Leaves like those of a German Iris are growing with them and giving promise of a fuller beauty to come when the summer shall be high. Orchids there are, too, where a flatter place has enabled grass to grow—the Butterfly Orchis and Cephalanthera rosea on the wooded slopes and huge columns of the sweet-scented Orchis in the grass.

Up and up the road winds and twists and zigzags, new vistas ever unfolding themselves before our eyes. At one point, where a moist copse dips to the roadside, the feathery, cream plumes of Spiræa Aruncus sway beneath the trees, and beneath them wave the snow-white tails of Luzula nivea, with Melampyrum nemorosum flashing orange and yellow flowers and violet bracts through both. Further on, great blobs of red in the grass bank that now flanks the road recall patches of Daphne Cneorum, but prove, on closer acquaintance, to be but mats of Saponaria ocymoides. They seem equally happy anywhere, whether hanging from cliffs, grovelling on the roadside, snuggling in mossy banks, or even submerged in long grass.

Now the path leads through cold tunnels blown out of the mountain and re with dripping stone walls, now past waterfalls, gushing out through ca the cliff high above the road, and c down hundreds of feet over their crash with blowing sheets of spray rocks below, the river now a bubbling with Firs breasting the débris of a cr slope on one side like a regiment a on the summit—on the other side L endless Lavender, among the rubble stones and hot boulders which there field—and what more lovely than mauve of the Lavender, the gr browns of the rocks, with the inten of the Alpine Rose, and the burning of a wonderful form of Rosa canina!

At length La Grave. La Gra little village clinging to the face of th tain only 6 miles from Le Lautaret. the river again; this time merely s over a broad bed of small stones, gather strength for its plunge d valley, and, across it, wooded slopes up towards the great white block, th de la Meije.

Growing steeper and steeper t winds up past La Meije, now amids fields of alpine flowers—salmon sea Mountain Sainfoin broken with the Campanulas, Geraniums, and Sal orange of Senecio Doronicum, the Ranunculus, Ornithogalums, and anthemums.

Then at the last stage the Poet's and the Anemones—the crowning gl road these, as they cover the mea either side in sheets, as far as the reach until actual rock intervene the pastures look in the distance, they seem close at hand.

But the river; where is the R now? A stream to be taken in on it has dwindled to, and so up into t tain, where in innumerable little hurling themselves down with uner far-reaching roar from the meltin above, it has one of its two actua Such one's first impressions as seen road.

Reaching Le Lautaret during week in June we found the high al at all stages of development accordi tude and to the length of time w elapsed since the snow had melte given place. Thus, on a northern height of 6,000 feet or 7,000 feet c come across Soldanella montana flo the still moist turf round the edges ing snowdrift left in a depression company with the naked corollas vernus in white and pale mauve, woolly bells of Anemone verna Soldanellas are the characteristic of spring at about that altitude, bu flower almost as soon as the snow the ground.

On the other hand, flowering at time on the undulating stretche round the Col, which had had some weeks to the heat of a bril were vast expanses of Ranunculus with flowers like little white Butte with greyish linear leaves. Viola easily distinguished by its long there in every colour, from dark mauve to yellow and pure whit bicolor of blue and gold, and eve little form of a pale shade of crush berry-pink.

Amongst these were woody mat montanum, carpets of Trifolium al Potentilla aurea and clumps of alpestris of such a glorious azu hardly be hoped for in gardens, wi

wing dark blue form, and several nos.

here were patches of Gentiana ich speaks for itself, and the whole studded with the fat trumpets of G. This is a species very character- anitic formation, and proved to be nonest local representative of the ction, of which it is also one of the wered.

was by no means the only stone ugh. On the contrary, so many ormations were to be found hope- ermingled that it was exceedingly n finding a plant, even to decide were on limestone or not. Speak- ally, granite was probably pre- but there was certainly some lime- he Combeynot Range, and in the alibier there were marble, schist, stone and slate in addition to the d limestone.

g road runs up to the Col du nd enables cars to reach the tunnel e pass at a height of 9,000 feet ly and August. This year, how- a very late one, the last half-mile was still under snow, but, making p on foot, we were rewarded on side of the tunnel by a glorious of successive ranges of snow- ntains, stretching away across the Dauphiné and Haute Savoie to d and Mont Blanc.

special treasure that the Galibier he way of plants was Ranunculus ut this in itself is a gem that alone e made the journey well worth anding boldly up from among y, Parsley-like leaves, the delicate cups, with a deep flush of old backs of the petals and a cluster stamens within, defy the elements wind-swept plateaux of loose stone.

e record for altitude in the Euro- ascending to a height of 14,000 Finster-Aarhorn, but in spite of nt aridity of the stones among ows, its fleshy roots, akin to those w Buttercup, betray the presence rom the melting snows, running urface of the mountain. Not far Saxifraga oppositifolia struggled old in the shale, and, anchoring e long tap root, formed mats over , the flowers varying from big, es of royal rose-purple to little gs with hardly any corolla at all; g a vivid contrast with the steely Gentiana bavarica.

e were more plentiful, though, on not Range, on the other side of among lichen-covered rocks and nted turf. Here, too, Primula ped from the crevices on every P. graveolens hung over mossy sh cascades of rich purple bells, rom generous rosettes of dark e.

derful of all, however, from the point of view, were vast cushions caulis, harder and firmer than istening with tiny points of pink. ct forms, curiously enough, were a couple of miles of one another a variety of looser habit, with r flowers distinctly peduncled; er and even more squat than the hirdly, the type itself.

ur of theirs, which is also re- difficult in gardens, was Lloydia- iny bulbous thing like a delicate only far more frail and refined. re of a rather dirty white very d with red.

n nanum—impossible to leave f the higher mountains above the

Ranunculus pyrenaicus in foreground on the top of the Col

Col without mentioning this, the goal of every collector in the European Alps till he has found it, and the shrine at which he must worship every year afterwards; the goal also of the rock gardener till he has succeeded in keeping it alive for more than a year, and after that the hall mark of his cultural ability.

Here, on its native crags, rarely lower than 8,000 feet, it glowed like blue flame from minute crevices in the bare rock. The Myosotis had been a revelation, but here was a different blue—not azure because it was too dark, not cobalt because it was too light, too warm, but whatever blue it was, it was intense; it shone out from the rocks and caught the eye at a distance of dozens of yards away.

These rocks were a sight indeed. Standing on a projecting ledge one looked up to the towering, ice-tipped heights silhouetted by a blazing sun against a cloudless sky of intense azure; around to these nestling mats of Eritrichium, shown off by the pinks and purples of Saxifraga oppositifolia, Primulas, Silenes, and Violas, the yellow of Gregoria Vitaliana, the indescribable blues of the Gentians and the chaste whiteness of the Alpine Chrysanthemum; down over the shale slopes where hundreds of little streams babbled over the loose stones to unite lower down, and, roaring over the falls, to swell into the river Guisanne; and so past the tiny cluster of buildings which forms the community of Le Lautaret, to the mountains rising up, magnificent, on the other side of the valley, and the zigzag road to Galibier. Nor did these complete the view. To the right the mountain fell away and enabled one to follow the courses of the river and the winding road down to the next grey hamlet in the distance, on the way to Briançon, with vistas of endless snows standing away behind that; to the left the green, undulating meadows on the top of the Col, with a glimpse of the typical patchwork of French cultivation even at this height, before the mountains and the snow again took possession of the field and led the eye away to the blue horizon.

F. C. Surtees Robinson.

(To be continued.)

FRUIT GARDEN

Summer pruning fruit-trees

SUMMER pruning of fruit trees is an operation equally as important as that of winter pruning, although as I have noticed in many gardens it is often somewhat neglected at times. The majority of fruit trees make two growths—spring and mid-summer—periods of growth which vary, according to the district and position in which the trees are being grown. The first growth is usually over by the middle of July, when the wood will become firm and the buds commence to swell. In many cases, from the points of such shoots, and also from latent buds, other growths arise. These are the second or mid-summer growths and often continue to grow to a late period. Naturally, the first is the most important in many ways, the second being of value in promoting root action, and so drawing up the necessary sap required by the swelling fruit, and appropriating any excess of sap which might force the lower buds into premature expansion.

Summer pruning should never be carried out before the leaves are full-sized or the lower buds may commence to push forth a mass of useless sappy shoots. On the other hand, vigorous shoots must not be allowed to appropriate the sap, and shade both fruit and spurs. Again, to remove a number of strong growths at the same time will cause a severe check and stagnation at the roots, and the possibility of exposing previously-shaded foliage and fruit to a scorching sun.

The first pruning should be practised from mid-June to mid-July, and the second early in September, taking out rank growths, shortening shoots with more than six full-sized leaves to that number, and leaving the ends of the main branches at about 1 foot, more or less, according to size of tree and the amount of space for growth. In a few words this comprises the whole of summer pruning, and it should be noted that trees which cannot be kept compact and fruitful by such means, but make rank wood after being summer pruned, must be root-pruned in the following autumn. Long rank wood is absolutely useless in any fruit tree since it only produces wood buds, which, when summer pruning is neglected and are cut back at winter pruning, will, when growth commences, produce nothing but rank wood again if root-pruning is neglected.

May I add, many a good fruit tree is rendered unfruitful by shyness in using the pruning-knife. Whenever a tree commences to make any excess of rank wood it should be root-pruned during the following autumn, cutting back all "tap-roots" to about 9 inches, or to where the fibrous roots commence.

P.

Strawberries

Runners that were layered a month ago are ready for severing from the parent plants. Between this period and the time for planting it will be better to keep the runners plunged in their small pots until the ground for planting is available. Let the plants be carefully attended to for watering. Prepare the ground as advised in former notes, a little in advance of the actual planting, and when the weather is favourable tread it lightly. The permanent Strawberry beds should be looked over and all runners not required removed, together with weeds. Afterwards lightly hoe the soil between the plants. Should the soil seem exhausted, a dressing of well-rotted manure will be beneficial, lightly forking it in. Failing stable manure, a dressing of guano may be given.

W.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Mignonette for winter bloom

Seeds should now be sown to furnish flowers during late winter. Pots 6 inches in diameter are very suitable for this purpose. These should, however, be well drained and filled to within 1 inch of the top with a compost consisting of fibrous loam which has not been broken too fine, spent Mushroom bed, and a little mortar-rubble which has been passed through a ¼-inch sieve. After sowing the seed cover lightly with fine sandy soil, water with a fine-rosed can, and place the pots in a cold frame, shading from direct sunshine until germination has taken place, when both light and air must be admitted gradually. After the plants have been thinned to five or six in each pot the latter should be placed on shelves or stages near the glass in a cool house.

Arum Lilies

Plants which have been ripened off in pots must now be shaken out and repotted in fresh soil consisting of three parts of good turfy loam to one part made up of well-weathered cow manure, leaf-mould, and bone-meal, with a sprinkling of soot added to the mixing. After potting stand the plants in a cool pit and on a bed of ashes for preference, and on the cool side of a wall where the sashes may be pulled over the plants during excessive rains. Arum Lilies live in water, but excessive and continuous rains tend to wash away the goodness from the soil in the case of plants grown in pots.

Lilium longiflorum

Obtain and pot up a few retarded bulbs of this decorative Lily, also Iris reticulata and its variety Krelagei, for blooming during winter, keeping them in a cold frame for the present.

Black Currants

Spray the bushes with quassia and nicotine wash now that the latest fruits have been gathered. This will not only destroy aphis, which congregates about the tips of the shoots, but check the development of big bud. A mulch of litter will prevent evaporation of the soil and improve their condition.

Perpetual fruiting Raspberries

The canes tied in during August, 1926, may now be removed where they have finished fruiting, as the young oncoming canes are already in bloom and need light and air. The usual practice is to cut out all canes during winter of these perpetual kinds, but as these provide a large quantity of fine fruit during June and July we delay their removal until August, by which time a crop is forming on the young canes, with the consequence that there is no break in the supply of fruit which goes on into November.

New Strawberry beds

These must now be prepared. The ground should be liberally manured, and as the plants occupy this same piece of ground for three years it is to their advantage if it is dug two spits deep, good farmyard manure being worked well into each spit of soil, and if prepared without delay this will enable the ground to settle down before it is required for the plants.

Strawberry layers

Those put down at the end of June may now be severed from the parent plants and removed to a bed of ashes, where the pots should be stood close together in full sunshine and kept well supplied with moisture.

Fruit trees

All summer pruning should by this time be completed, also the final thinning of the fruit. Do not allow heavily-laden trees growing in sunny, sheltered situations to suffer from drought.

Perennial Lobelias

Old stocks of these handsome plants are invariably attacked by eelworm during winter, which eat away the roots and cause the premature death of the plants, and for this reason a batch of young vigorous plants should be raised from seed, which, if sown at the present time, will germinate freely in a cold frame. Prick off the seedlings when large enough to handle into boxes or 60-sized pots, and grow on in a cool frame until the end of October, when they should be placed on a light shelf close to the glass in a cool greenhouse. In this way strong young plants will develop and become available for borders about the second week in April.

Alpine plants

A frame should now be set apart for the propagation of these plants, both by seeds and cuttings. Phloxes, Helianthemums, Onosmas, Daphne, Androsaces, Dianthus, Saxifrages, Gypsophilas, Lithospermums, Eriogonums, miniature Violas, and a host of other dainty subjects root freely if placed in pots or boxes filled with sandy soil and kept close and shaded for a few weeks. These should be lightly syringed occasionally, as by this means a vigorous young stock may be maintained.

Early Potatoes

Those remaining in the ground may now be lifted and stored in a dark room until required. Select the seed required at the time of lifting and spread them out in full light until a slight greening is observed, when they may be placed under cover.

Shallots

Lift and store these, choosing a dry day for the purpose, but if the weather permits of them lying in the open for a few days before placing under cover the bulbs will keep even better.

Tomatoes in the open

Those which have set four or five bunches of fruit should have their tops pinched out, as fruits setting after this date rarely reach maturity. Apply stimulants to those carrying good crops. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Jerusalem Artichokes

In exposed positions the stems of these are often so shaken by the wind that the crop suffers severely. A good plan, and one that I have practised for many years, is to cut down to within about 4 feet of the ground and so give rough winds less chance to do damage. This in no way harms the crop, but rather it seems to me to increase the size of the tubers.

Shallots

This is a very late season, and in many places this crop is no more than ripe. It is well, however, to keep an eye on the beds, and as soon as the bulbs are mature have them gathered and laid out on a hard bottom in a sunny position. As soon as thoroughly dry place in net bags and hang in a cool, airy place.

Latest Turnips

To produce some nice fresh roots late in autumn a row or two of the sooty Chirk Castle Black Stone Turnip s sown at once. This variety is ve and is of excellent quality when wel It will stand through all ordinary and produce a few dishes in spring. ever, soon runs to seed when weather arrives, so that only a sm tity should be retained for spring us

Asparagus

It is important to keep the Asparagus free of weeds, while a dressing of some approved artificial sprinkled between the rows during weather will help wonderfully to bui stools. Should the weather be ve good drenching of clear water wil help matters.

Myosotis

If it can be managed it is well to this useful and beautiful spring- plant where it has to bloom, as muc labour is saved by doing this. Ho many cases it will be necessary to out in temporary beds, and this s done now. It is unnecessary—inc desirable—to plant on rich soil, hardier they can be grown the less suffer from damp during the winte

Wallflowers

These, too, may be transferred di the seed-bed to their permanent q desired, but, usually, it is necessary out, 1 foot apart, on an open, sun now, from which they are transp their flowering quarters in October

Roman Hyacinths

For earliest blooming the bulbs secured as early as possible and immediately they are delivered. Pl six bulbs in a 6-inch pot and plun doors so as to permit of their br rooted before being transferred to A watch must be kept, for it is nes remove from the plunge as soo growth starts.

Daffodils for pots

This is one of the most desirabl for pot culture, and it is now well t the number required, for the earlie potted the more easily will they b into flower. While most varieties in pots it is always well to stick, a standard sorts that are *sure* doer reliable set would be Princep Irving, Golden Spur, Victoria, Si Emperor, and Mme. de Graaff. should be left about three mont "plunge."

Freesias

The bulbs may now be shaken old soil, graded, and repotted. Cl pots are suitable receptacles, and sandy compost will suit. Allow bulbs to a pot and press the soil about them. Set in a cold frame, "plunge," as is necessary with and Hyacinths. While the soil m permitted to get really dry, to watering is fatal.

Primula obconica

If not yet done, the earlier batc now be shifted into their flowe While the strongest plants may 6-inch size, very fine decorative pl grown in 5½-inch and 5-inch pot fresh compost is necessary for b

C

Preston House Gardens, Linlit

Model, the pick of Mr. Herbert's Pinks
ers, which are blush coloured with dark zone, are almost as large as Carnations and borne in profusion

Pæony Langport Triumph
Light pink and full double; one of the most effective of all Herbaceous Pæonies

Herbaceous Pæonies

been the custom of horticultural to admit that herbaceous Pæonies e planted from September till d while it is quite true that the life its is by no means jeopardised by ng them during the period named, lly true that the best results are y planting Pæonies during a much ned period; that is to say, as early th of September as possible.

method of root production Pæonies ewhat from the majority of her- erennials. It is not commonly that, whereas the latter may con- make new roots during several the year, herbaceous Pæonies have e seasons during which this pro- ried on. The first is that of Sep- hen the main roots are formed. d is in spring, when the fibrous ar on the autumn-produced roots. is, therefore, that Pæonies can be ished in new surroundings before oots are produced, and the early ember may, therefore, be regarded al time for transplanting these disturb the plants between the econd periods of root formation, ot actually harming the plants, is e or less to delay the thorough nt of them in the soil. In the onies, which are essentially shy of r a year or so after transplanting, on to this matter of timely plant- do much to lessen this well-known

onceivably be argued that nursery-men who are, or who should be, familiar with the peculiarities of Pæonies, always advocate the extended planting season of these plants. From their point of view the line they adopt is reasonable enough, because it gives them a much longer period in which to reduce their stock, and it is certainly better for intending growers to avail themselves of the increased time rather than wait for another year to elapse. At the same time, for the reasons given, the early part of September should always be chosen when circumstances permit. It is hardly necessary to add that another factor in the better establishment of Pæonies is to secure for them right away a good rooting medium. This may be summed up in a few words. A deeply-dug soil that has been well enriched with a liberal supply of well-rotted manure and a good watering if the soil be dry at the time of planting. The accompanying illustration serves to indicate the utility of Pæonies for cutting. The blooms last a considerable time in water, and they lend themselves admirably to indoor decoration.

H. Greaves.

Rudbeckias

When the summer-flowering hardy plants are beginning to fail the value of the Rudbeckias at once becomes apparent. There are several good varieties, but one of the best, R. Newmanni, is not at home in a garden in which the soil may be dry and light, unless, of course, the grower be prepared to supply water rather abundantly. R. maxima and R. lanceolata are useful where tall-growing varieties are appreciated, and R. californica is perhaps better than either. The Rudbeckias usually begin to bloom in August, and continue to be effective till well into September.

Arrhenatherum bulbosum

This is one of the most charming of the perennial grasses, and is very ornamental in masses or in tufts in the herbaceous border. The plants will grow and thrive splendidly in a rooting medium of shingle, peat and leaves, in pure peat or in stones and sand, mixed. I have not had any experience of it in a heavy, retentive soil. The stems grow from bulbs resembling the Chinese Artichoke (Stachys tuberifera), both in appearance and size. Of course, division or any transplanting must be done when the grass has ripened naturally. If disturbed while growing, the grass will fade, though the tubers remain sound for another year's growth. There are many readers of Gardening Illustrated living near woods or commons, where the soil is peaty, shingly, or both, who would find this ornamental grass a very fine feature of their hardy plant borders.

Hants.

Collinsia grandiflora

This, now in fine bloom, bears numberless whorls of pink and blue flowers, the blue—such a lovely blue, too!—predominating. It grows about a foot high, and may be sown, either in autumn or spring, in almost any kind of soil, so simple are the requirements of this choice plant. Its flowers are excellent for small vases, and little groups, whether in the flower or rock garden, always arrest attention.

The London and South of England Viola and Pansy Society

THE first exhibition of this recently-formed Society was held in conjunction with the fortnightly meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society on Tuesday, the 19th inst.

As a first effort the show was not bad, as in some classes the competition was very keen and many beautiful flowers were staged. There are many ways in which the show could be improved, and there is little doubt certain defects will be remedied in subsequent shows.

The leading competition was open to all comers and was for a display of blooms of Violas and for Pansies, arranged on a space not less than 6 feet or not more than 10 feet length of staging, for the "Holroyd" Silver Challenge Trophy. Unfortunately, there were only two competitors, Mr. William Yandell, Maidenhead, being an easy first with the following Violas well shown:—Orange Perfection, John Adamson, Malcolm Milner, Mrs. A. Stevenson, J. V. Macdonald, Moseley Ideal, Mrs. Ritchie, Rowan Hood, Rebecca, David Lloyd George, Canary Queen, Lizzie Stevenson, Maggie Rutherford, Moseley Perfection, and Bessie Ferguson; all the foregoing good for exhibition. Primrose Dame, W. H. Woodgate, Maggie Mott, Jackanapes, Bronze Kintore, and Glencoe were the better bedding Violas. This exhibit also gained the Certificate of Merit of the National Viola and Pansy Society. Second prize was not awarded; instead, third prize was awarded to Mrs. Marion Stewart, 3, Grena Road, Richmond, for a representation of several species of Viola unattractively displayed.

OPEN CLASSES (TRADE EXCEPTED)

Class 2, for 12 vases exhibition Violas, distinct, six blooms in each vase of one distinct variety. There was no entry in this class, nor in Classes 3, 4, and 5.

MEMBERS ONLY

The chief class in this section was for six vases exhibition Violas, distinct, six blooms of one variety in each vase. There were three exhibitors. A neat and even series secured first prize for Mr. M. Mitchener, 28, Lower Coombe, South Croydon. He staged good blooms of G. V. Macdonald, Flora Macdonald, A. J. Bastock, Miss A. Morton, Annie Hamilton, and Mrs. McEwan. A good second was Mr. W. R. Cummins, Muswell Hill, N. 10, whose most attractive varieties were Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Fisher, Moseley Perfection, Master Bankes, and Mrs. J. C. Smith. Third prize was awarded to Mr. T. W. Wilson, Meadowside, Neilston, near Glasgow.

A smaller class was for three vases exhibition Violas, distinct, nine blooms of one variety in each vase. A grand lot won first prize for Mr. A. E. German, 31, North Street, Hornchurch. He also was awarded a Certificate of Merit. His varieties were Mrs. James Scalley, Lily Stark, and Drummer Wilson. Mr. Mitchener was second with a nice even series, and third prize was won by Mr. T. W. Wilson, who showed John Adamson in good form and condition.

An interesting class was that for 12 blooms exhibition Violas in four distinct varieties, three blooms of each variety, arranged in two pans, and two varieties in each pan. Again Mr. A. E. German led the van with good blooms of Rosie Bell, Mrs. Andrew Stevenson, Mrs. Walter Nisbet, and Archibald Campbell. A good second was seen in the exhibit of Mr. C. Luckin, East Grinstead. He had large and attractive blooms of George Macdonald, Mrs. J. Ritchie, Moseley Ideal, and Nan Constable. Mr. Mitchener was third, also with good specimen flowers of Annie Hamilton and Flora Macdonald. There were eight exhibitors in this class.

Class 9 was for one vase white self exhibition Violas, six blooms of one variety. Of the three exhibitors Mr. T. W. Wilson was placed first with blooms of Wm. Barr, and Mr. C. Luckin second with larger blooms—badly knocked about—of the same variety. The other exhibitor did not show according to schedule.

A similar class for one vase of a yellow exhibition Viola, six blooms of one variety, brought out eight exhibitors. First prize was well won by Mr. A. E. German with grand blooms of John Adamson, a very even lot. Second prize went to Mr. Eric Holroyd, Finchley, with capital blooms of the same variety, and Mr. T. W. Wilson, also with John Adamson, was placed third.

Another class on similar lines was for one vase white or cream ground, edged, exhibition Violas, six blooms one variety. Quite the best vase of Violas in the show won first prize for Mr. A. E. German, who also secured the "National" Award of Merit and Bronze Medal for best vase of Violas in the show. He staged superb blooms of Malcolm Milner, one of the best sorts. Mr. H. W. French was second, showing Mrs. J. H. Milner, and Mr. C. Luckin third with Mrs. J. Ritchie. There were seven entries.

Class 12 was for one vase, yellow ground, edged exhibition Viola, six blooms, one variety. Of the seven exhibits Mr. A. E. German again led the van with capital blooms of Mrs. A. Stevenson. With the same variety Mr. Eric Holroyd was placed second, and with even blooms of Jean D. Cowan Mr. H. W. French, Chadwell Heath, was third.

In Class 13, for one vase of a dark exhibition Viola, six blooms, one variet were again eight entrants, Mr. A. E. winning first prize with good bl Milton Jumbo, a very even lot. Wi blooms of the blue Walter Kay, Mr French easily gained second prize, a clean blooms of Mrs. Fisher Mr. Cummins was a good third.

In the class for one pan fancy Pa blooms, any variety or varieties, th only three entrants. Mr. A. E. Ger an easy first with a series of splendi beautifully marked and margined. M Wilson was second with much le torious blooms, and third prize was to Mr. E. Noble, Enfield, with a poo

Another good class was No. 16, for bedding Violas, distinct, nine bloom variety only in each pan. There w two competitors. First prize was by Mr. E. Noble, who showed pretty of Mrs. Chichester, Maggie Mott, Woodgate, Archie Grant, Lady T and David Beatt. A less attracti secured second prize for Mr. J. H Romford.

Class 17 was for three pans beddin distinct, 12 blooms of one variety pan. The only competitor, to wh prize was awarded, was Mr. E. No showed W. H. Woodgate, Amy B Kingcup.

In Class 18, for one pan yellow sel Violas, nine blooms of one variety, M Wilson, Glasgow, was first with Perfection, Mr. A. E. German sec Primrose Dame, and with Apricot Wynn Hellings was third.

The competitions concluded with for one pan self (other than yellow) Violas, nine blooms of one variety o H. W. French was first with Mag and Mr. A. E. German second wit Queen.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of dat cannot always be replied to in the issu ately following their receipt. We do no queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their be named should send fair examples of stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets and points of shoots are useless.) Not four plants should be sent in any one w same correspondent. Where more than is sent they should be numbered. Of co cones should always be sent.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

Time to take cuttings of and prune shrubs

I would be much obliged if you will let me know the best time to take cuttings from flowering shrubs, such as Ceanothus (the small blue kind), also the New Zealand Glory Pea, Weigela; also the correct time to prune them. Do you advise this now they have finished flowering? C. C. B.

[Cuttings may be taken at the present time, choosing shoots made from the current season's growth. These should be from 3 inches to 4 inches long, and the pots of sandy soil containing them should be plunged in a closed propagating case containing bottom heat, syringed lightly over on hot days either in the early morning or evening, and shaded from bright sunshine. Cuttings taken during mid-September and placed in lines on a cool border in the open also strike freely, but such cuttings must be larger and contain harder and more ripened wood, even though the tender tips are removed. These should be torn from the plants with a heel attached and be planted firmly in small trenches from 4 inches to 5 inches deep along the bottom of which has been plac of sharp sand. It is most essential cuttings should be made absolu about their base. After inserting th water thoroughly, and should the prove hot and dry shade during th for the first fortnight, and a little during frosty weather will prevent as such cuttings must remain in thi for at least a year. All the shrubs tion should be pruned at the presen

Where to obtain the Lemon sc Verbena

Of all shrubs, I love the Lem Verbena best. Where can I get it and when plant it? Surely it is cult. The foliage is bright green leaves about ⅜ inch in width, about or 4 inches in length. A strong Lemon scent is given off when you leaf in hand. If it is bruised th well-nigh overwhelming. GEO. W

[The shrub you seek is Aloysia a native of Chile, which, if grow district, should be given some during the winter months. It suc when planted at the foot of a w

hrub is offered by Messrs. V. N. ett and Co., Ltd., Japanese Nurseries, ngfold, Surrey, and it is quite possible you paid a visit to the Enfield es of Mr. Amos Perry you might find there.]

Climber for Warm Wall

E. Tate).—The following are exceed- eautiful climbers, all suitable for your , the first two being evergreen and in at the present time:—Trachelo- n divaricatum, Escallonia Langley- Lonicera etrusca var. gigantea, and s chrysocoma, the first and third be- ciously scented.

g a Wistaria

e tell me when I should prune a a and if I should prune it hard back. een in, I think, about 10 or 12 years.

GEOFFREY BUTLER.

the young streamers should be d back to within five or six eyes of se now, but any other pruning neces- ould be carried out in February or

Rhododendron Wilsoni

ose specimens in their early stage of is growths found on the dwarf Rho- on Wilsoni, and shall be much if you will kindly tell me the causes best method of cure.

HUGH ALDERSEY.

gall is very similar to that illustrated on the Alpine Rose (issue July 23rd, 3). Rh. Wilsoni is a ferrugineum- ies, and it is not surprising to find ed in this way. The remedy is to e galls and to use a spray of sulphide ium.]

ROSES

ot flowering

dwarf Roses, three years old, pruned hard, are covered with blind shoots, ones at that. Can you tell me the d the cure? Is it any use to leave ll shoots from old wood, as enclosed, K. (small envelope)? I cannot think the Roses have such thin shoots. ey to be cut out in very early days? blind wood puzzles me.

ess. GARDENER.

hoots enclosed in the small envelope of the Manetti stock, upon which Roses were budded, the latter pparently died, a not uncommon ex- We advise you to lift all such d put them on the rubbish-heap. e of weakness in the K. of K. and se shoots would appear to be due to itality. Apply a dressing of bone- inkling it around the base of the the rate of 2 ozs. to each square l water it well in. In the early about mid-October—lift your plants fer to fresh ground which has been 2 feet 6 inches deep and into which worked a good quantity of farm- ure, wood-ash, and lime, and in ne K. of K. more lightly. Do not oots back at the present time.]

MISCELLANEOUS

manure for a London garden

be very grateful if you will recom- a good artificial manure to apply as ssing to a small London garden uch depth of soil; also in what to apply same. L. C. HORNE.

r is a fruit, plant, and vegetable mbined which we have used and we hold a very high opinion. rtiliser is also a reliable and safe artificial. Both may be used at the rate of 2 ozs. to each square yard. These may be obtained either from Messrs. Joseph Bentley and Sons, Barrow-on-Humber, Hull, or from any horticultural sundriesman.]

Turning Hydrangeas blue and soil for "Daily Mail" Rose

Please will you answer in your next GARDENING ILLUSTRATED what you put in soil to turn pink Hydrangeas blue? We bought a blue one last year from a well-known firm, and this year it has come pink. And is there any special treatment or soil for "Daily Mail" Rose, as it does not do so well with us as other varieties? E. P.

[Both of the following have proved effective in turning Hydrangeas blue:—Ammoniated alum, supplied by Messrs. Willis Bros., horticultural sundriesmen, Harpenden, Herts, at 1s. 6d. per lb.; and Hydrangea Colorant, supplied by Messrs. J. Bentley and Sons, Barrow-on-Humber, Hull. This should be used at the rate of 2 lbs. to each barrowload of potting soil, and the plants watered once a week during their growing season, using a solution of 3 ozs. to 2 gallons of water, sold in packets at 3s. each, sufficient for 32 gallons of water. (2) Good deep soil, well drained, to which has been added a generous dressing of farmyard manure, lime, and wood-ash is all that is necessary to ensure the free growth and welfare of the "Daily Mail" Rose.]

The Climate

(W. W., Tillingbourne).—Complaints of the Arctic character of our summers are of long standing. Here is an extract, for example, from Evelyn's Diary penned in your immediate neighbourhood on July 16th, 1663: "A most extraordinary wet and cold season." Even in the days of the Merry Monarch they endured Arctic springs about this time of year; but kindly note that these were then regarded as "most extraordinary."

Primula obconica poisoning

(Primula).—See a doctor at once. We may refer to the subject again later.

Book on Primulas

Please give me the name of a book on Primulas, their peculiarities of cultivation, soil, and situation. "NOVICE."

[We are afraid there is no work dealing entirely with Primulas. Dr. McWatt, of Duns, has published a very useful book on the Primulas of Europe, which any bookseller can obtain for you for about 10s. 6d. if we remember rightly, but this book does not deal with the many hundreds of Asiatic Primulas, which play even a bigger *rôle* in our gardens in these days. There is, of course, a monograph on the genus Primula by Pax and Knuth, partly in Latin and partly in German. This forms part of Engler's Pflanzenreich, and may be obtained in one separate volume through booksellers specialising in foreign technical books. Messrs. Dulau, for instance. But this notable work is sadly out of date, and for the most comprehensive information of the entire genus we must refer you to the late Mr. Reg. Farrer's monumental work, "The English Rock Garden," published in two volumes and already out of print. A few booksellers seem to have a few spare copies on hand, however, which can be obtained for, we believe, about three guineas. The second volume deals faithfully with Primulas europæan and asiatic and their hybrids, the whole arranged in alphabetical order and easy for reference. As far as we know there is nothing more up to date published in any language, and we strongly advise to try and procure this last-named work, which, in its two volumes, contains the widest information available on all plants suitable for the rock garden. Nearly 100 pages are devoted to the Primulas alone.]

SHORT REPLY

P. F. S.—"Thompson's Gardener's Assistant" (new edition), revised by Wm. Watson, Curator of Royal Gardens, Kew, would suit you. This work is published in six parts by The Gresham Publishing Co., London and Glasgow.

NAMES OF PLANTS

F. G. L. L., Winchester.—1, Potentilla Anserina (Silver Weed); 2, Ononis arvensis (Restharrow). The name Ononis is derived from Onos, an ass, and onemi, to delight. The ass delights to browse on the herbage. We hesitate to recommend asses and goats on the lawn. It must be forked out.

H. W. French, Doncaster.—1, Next week; 2, Spiræa Filipendula (Dropwort); 3, Veronica incana (hoary); 4, Lysimachia Nummularia (Creeping Jenny or Moneywort); 5, Helxine Soleirolii, native of Corsica and Sardinia, but a weed in many English gardens.

E. F. F., Billingshurst. — Anthemis Kelwayi.

Mrs. Crosslé, N. Ireland. — Ixia crateroides.

A. V., Woodbastwick.—Leycesteria formosa. Much sought after by partridges and pheasants.

W. H. Cartright.—Tamarix (Tamarisk) pentandra.

Beauhere.—Teucrium fruticans (Shrubby Germander).

G. H. T. Bewdley.—1, Hieracium aurantiacum (Orange Hawkweed); 2, Acæna inermis; 3, Veronica incana; 4, Helianthemum formosum.

Alpine.—1, Genista æthnensis (Mount Etna Broom), a fine plant; 2, Genista dalmatica; 3, Sempervivum Funkii; 4, Sedum roseolum (Rose-Root).

M. K. M.—1, Arrived much dried up; it is probably the Rose Alberic Barbier; 2, Campanula pusilla; 3, Teucrium chamædrys.

T. M.—1, Sisyrinchium anceps; 2, Raoulia australis; 3, Hieracium villosum; 4, Lythrum salicarium.

F. N., Hainault, R.O.—The climber is Menispermum canadense (the Canadian Moonseed).

Mrs. Cameron Miller.—Acer monspessulanum.

Chas. Oakford, Chippenham.—Idesia polycarpa.

W. Mooring.—We regret to say that the Rose blooms were completely knocked to pieces when they reached us, so it is impossible to even guess at their identity. If you care to send other blooms not quite half open and packed tightly in a small box we will gladly do our best to name them.

The inspection of growing crops of Potatoes

Applications are now being received by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries from growers who desire to avail themselves of the Ministry's system of inspection of growing crops of Potatoes of varieties approved by the Ministry as immune from Wart Disease. The object of the scheme is to ensure a supply of seed Potatoes of those varieties pure and free from "rogues" for planting generally and especially in Wart Disease infected areas wherein only certified seed is allowed to be planted. Growers who have not already applied should communicate with the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Whitehall Place, S.W. 1, as soon as possible.

The First Annual Blackpool Flower Show

ON July 20th Blackpool stepped into the world of horticulture, not merely with a bow and a flourish, but rather with a fanfare of trumpets, a tinkling of cymbals, and a sounding of brass. It launched, in fact, a flower show of such magnitude and of such a high standard of excellence that, if the promise implied in the "annual" is but fulfilled, it bids fair to rival Southport, Shrewsbury, and Brighton as one of the important provincial shows of the year. It certainly was a great achievement, and it reflected the greatest possible credit on the promoters and organisers who brought together such a distinguished company of exhibitors for an initial meeting, and who provided them and the public with every facility for giving of their best on the one hand and of enjoying the magnificent display that resulted on the other.

"They did them," in fact, in the words of Sir Walter de Frece, D.L., M.P., who performed the opening ceremony, "royally well."

The show was held in the new Stanley Park, a recent work of Messrs. T. H. Mawson and Sons, of Lancaster, and an ideal setting for the occasion. On an extensive playing field that forms part of the grounds the main body of the exhibits were housed in five immense marquees, while the rock gardens were constructed on a broad bank flanking part of the field and with a background of Pines and evergreen shrubs—again an appropriate position. Round the main marquees were clustered glasshouses, garden ornaments, and sundries of every description, while on a lower level came several lesser tents; and on the other side, beyond the rock gardens, the band of H.M. Grenadier Guards was ensconced in the spacious Italian colonnaded garden that is one of the features of the park.

Before plunging into the welter of classes that comprised this great exhibition or involving oneself in any account of its innumerable awards it would be well to say something, perhaps, as to how the schedules were drawn up. The exhibits were divided into competitive groups and those that were non-competitive, the latter including many of the largest trade exhibits (several of which received special cups, however, although not competing in any specified classes), the former consisting of groups in definitely stated classes arranged according to a given schedule and competing for first, second, and third prizes. Of these there was an immense number, and the greatest pains had obviously been taken to provide classes for everything, from the glories of Bees' massed banks of Delphiniums and Lilies to the two Cabbages of the allotment holder and the infant's collection of wild flowers. In addition to these the rock gardens were all competitive, and so were a few of the other exhibits outside. As will be seen from the synopsis of the results, which is all one can hope to achieve in the space available, the number of valuable prizes offered by various business firms and private donors was considerable, in addition to the official prizes.

The rock gardens, as usual, attracted as much attention as anything, and not less so after the two huge cups had been placed in position and could catch people's eye. The outstanding one amongst them was undoubtedly that of Colonel Gavin Jones, Letchworth, Herts, in red sandstone from the mouth of the Mersey; a quarried stone and therefore cheaper than most, and yet one that was here proved to be of the greatest value to the rock builder. Besides being somewhat of a departure from the ordinary, it enabled every line and curve to be expressed to a far greater degree of perfection than is possible with much of the waterworn limestone that one is more used to seeing, since it has none of the rigid stratification of the latter. On the other hand, it can be split up into appropriate shapes, and large pieces of it can be built together into a massive bluff or outcrop, which makes it a much more elastic material in the hands of the artistic constructor. Colonel Gavin Jones had, in fact, produced a work of art before the plants were even put on to it—a great bluff of rock—a cliff with a falling watercourse careering past its foot, whereas there are people who are constrained to conceal, with their planting, parts of their constructional work which even they deem unfit to be exposed to the light of day—and the eyes of the judges.

To say, however, that this was the outstanding exhibit is not to say that it achieved the highest award. Of the two sections referred to above, one was comprised of work in water-worn limestone, the other of gardens built of anything else, a cup and five prizes being offered in each, but the larger cup going to the exhibit adjudged the best in either section. Colonel Gavin Jones won the cup and first prize in his own group, but the premier award went to Brook's, Whetstone, N. 20, for a really charming garden in Yorkshire limestone. Let not the uninitiated say that it was not deserved—probably it was deserved, and in any case we would be the last to decry the merits of a really attractive picture such as this made. It was, indeed, a restful harmony such as would add to the peacefulness and the pleasure of any garden—grey stone and green Moss, blue Gentians (septemfida) and Campanulas, yellow Œnotheras (Fraseri and riparia) and white Delphiniums (sinense alba) supported by Pines, a fine Yew and prostrate Junipers, with water falling happily over the higher ridges and wandering in the most natural way possible among the stones at the bottom. It was the originality of the stone and the perfection of design that made Colonel Gavin Jones' so noticeable; the planting, indeed, seemed rather to quail before the task of maintaining this high standard. Among the most interesting plants he had was a strongly-scented, rather straggly, plumarius-like Dianthus collected in the Tyrol and, strangely enough, a bog plant. Several Mimulus were used, and there was a pretty batch of the silvery Potentilla nitida alba, a clump or two of Edelweiss, and some magnificent, great, heavy bells of Campanula Raineri.

Second in the limestone section were Gardners', of Craven Nurseries, Addingham, who went far to redeem the somewhat wall-like effect of their stonework with bold masses of yellow Sedum and some effective clumps of Campanula pusilla, Dianthus Winnie Lambert (a good pink) and D. Gladys Cranfield (dark red). The pools were much more naturally arranged, and a columnar Cupressus obtusa was well placed on an eminence. The last prize, as there were only three competitors in this section, went to Thompson's, Poulton-le-Fylde, but some of the admirable shrubs they showed would have been better on flat ground, perhaps. They seemed hardly at home on this rockery, even though it was rather lamentably Victorian in the distinctly dotted arrangement of the stones. The shrubs, too, conformed to a singularly disciplined formation, while few crows could have flown in a straighter line than ran their trickle of water.

Second in the other section were Garden Supplies, Ltd., Cranmer Street, Liverpool, with an original garden of Welsh slate at a pronounced angle and with the strati well kept except at the falls. It w fully planted, perhaps rather more fu was necessary, but apart from that an attractive piece of work, and th was very prettily managed.

Rashley's, of Mytholmroyd, were and made a quite delightful pictu Yorkshire millstone grit naturally a and well planted.

Brown and Sons, of Ormskirk, fou very natural outcrops of Parbold sand a setting of turf, with a quiet m stream fringed with Ferns, and for a good planting of suitable alpine fifth prize went to Gardners', of Addi They showed a large collection of shr alpines in a garden of millstone grit, construction was not altogether fortu

Of the exhibits outside the marq formal gardens by Carters, Raynes Pa the Lakeland Nurseries, Ltd., Wind were outstanding, though for some apparently obscure neither were awar silver trophy, offered for the best n petitive exhibit outside. This, one most attractive and uncommon of the took the form of a beautifully wrough on a silver column; it went to Robert of Grasmere, for a collection of you and shrubs—in excellent condition b ing deplorably unhappy on the sp stone dump to which they had be signed. Carters' garden, enclosed by hedge, had its mainspring in a pair walled pools, one at either end, int delightful old lead figure-groups broad fans of water; while on on opposite the single entrance, was a cent clump of blue and white Ca pyramidalis enclosed by a correspond stone wall. The planting consisted o and scarlet dwarf Dahlias (H. J. Jo Coltness Gem), centred round a brill of Gladioli, and set off by lead vases Hydrangeas. Enclosed by a hedge the Lakeland Nurseries, Ltd., had delightful circular garden, divided b paths, which centred on a pedestalle The colour scheme was worked out i Begonias and yellow Dahlias, aided of blue Hydrangeas and four chami lead figures. There were also clipped Yews, perhaps more than were n and specimen Bay trees near the g the other side of the marquee we shrub groups, and Klinkert's, of Ri had one of their well-known topiar tions, once more in perfect condition.

For the rest, the ground was hedg with glass-houses, frames, garden ta seats, figures and sun dials, etc., to ous to be detailed. Quite the high dard in figures, however, and per seats and tools as well, was reached i interesting group by William Wood a Taplow, Bucks, who took the cup most interesting display in the sund tion. Their lead statues were pa good, and their stone vases showed ment none too often to be found in lections in these days of cheap repro Moreover, both were relatively ine apart from genuinely old work. T that drew one to Burton Holt's grou toria Street, S.W. 1) was a hand-beat duction of an Italian lead drinking t about 1760. It could have been litt the original except in age, for it wa thing of great character and beautifu The Ravenhead Brick Co., St. struck quite a new line in garden o with their hand-modelled brickwor they have called "Rus" Handcra likely to appeal to many people, but dials and vases and figures seem to rustic charm that this firm's more

nd tiles can have when artistically used. of Ipswich, with their fertiliser ex- owed the result of the interesting ex- t they had conducted, of growing seed in "soil" from Blackpool's ade gardens with and without their lawn guano. The difference be- e two trays was very marked, and if e results may be expected on the site poration may possibly find in this ome help towards the solution of oblem of getting a lawn there at all. ition is notoriously raked by salt- inds, and it is rumoured that grass live there for twelve months together. ttacking the marquees, we might a heating apparatus, in the green- it up by Tomlinson, Poll, and Co., eet, Southport, that is likely to be ed by many owners of small houses. ted of a lead-coated steel pipe, some or 5 inches in diameter, with a holder nd, to contain either a paraffin lamp, -jet, whichever was preferred. The nd a stand at the other end raised 18 inches from the ground. The to be filled with water through a the end opposite from the lamp and rature of 60°, we were told, could ained with the flame turned very low, water had been initially boiled. It ged also that the paraffin fumes come quite innocuous in their pas- ough the pipe. The prices seemed gly low for the apparatus, and it be widely tried.

(*To be continued.*)

LATE REPLIES

examination

u tell me what is wrong with these hey are a sample from a stock which shows no signs of ill-health otherwise, but each day about 100 bees die near to and under the alighting-board. This has been going on for about 10 days. There are no marks of excrement on the alighting-board. The stock, which has not swarmed this year, has made but little honey, but this is the case with my other three stocks, owing to unfavourable weather. There is plenty of sealed and unsealed brood in the hive. "BEEKEEPER."

[The bees sent have been examined microscopically. The abdomens were all very distended and teeming with bacteria; a good deal of undigested food was also present. It rather appears as if the bees had been feeding on unsealed stores, which had fermented, or possibly on so-called "pure" cane sugar. Only syrup made from the sugar-cane and properly refined should be used for making bee syrup. No signs of the "acarus" which lives in the respiratory system of the bee were found. It is this acarus which is the chief cause of what used to be known as the "Isle of Wight" disease, but if some live bees were sent to me direct a fuller and more satisfactory examination could be made. If the colony from which these bees were taken is of sufficient strength to be worth keeping, it would be advisable to introduce at once a young fertile queen so that plenty of young bees will be reared during August and September to carry on the work of the stock next spring.—L. BIGG-WITHER, *Colmars Ash, Wells.*]

B. H., Bergen, Norway.—1, Helianthella multiflora; 2, Geranium sanguineum roseum; 3, Thymus serpyllum (wild form); 4, Erinus alpinus; 5, Dianthus plumarius (hybrid form); 6, Sedum Ellacombeanum; 7, Sedum stoloniferum; 8, Saxifraga Andrewsii; 9, Cynoglossum Wallichianum; 10, Sedum Kamtschaticum.

London Gardens Exhibition

The London Gardens Guild, in conjunction with the "Daily Express," is again organising an exhibition of flowers at the Temple Gardens, Victoria Embankment—lent by kind permission of the Honourable Society of Benchers of the Inner Temple—on September 3rd, 4th, and 5th. This will afford an opportunity for Londoners to see some of the beautiful flowers grown in the gardens entered for the recent All-London Gardens Championships (in which there were over 12,000 entries), as there is a special section devoted to the prize-winners in that competition.

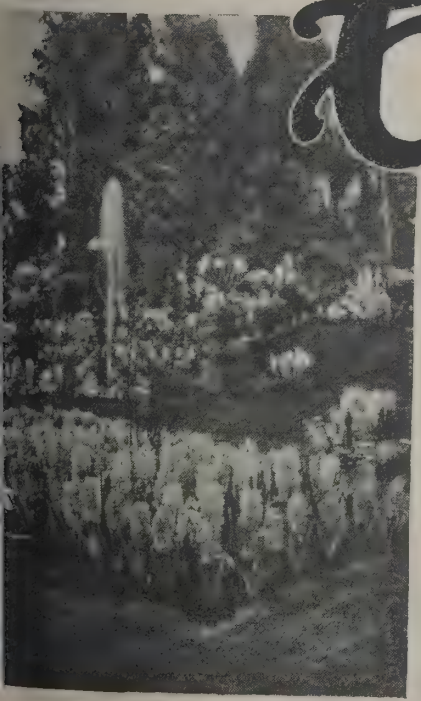
The exhibition is being run on a much larger scale this year, and a very comprehensive schedule has been compiled, which includes sections for individual, as well as corporate displays by local garden societies, of London-grown flowers. This is one of the rare occasions when those outside the professional status are afforded the chance to exhibit at a great public show. It will enable them to prove to their fellow-citizens that the London gardener can compete with any in horticulture.

In addition to these exhibits there will be displays from municipal authorities, and famous firms in the gardening industry will also be showing, including trade growers who specialise in plants which thrive particularly well in the London area. There will also be replicas of the prize-winning gardens.

Large gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded for the best exhibits in each of the sections, and for each of the championship classes.

Schedules and entry forms are now available, and can be had on application to the Organising Secretary, London Gardens Guild, 124, Walworth Road, London, S.E. 17

ointment.



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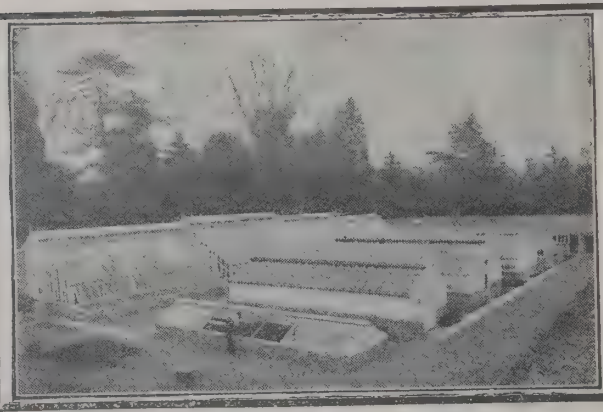

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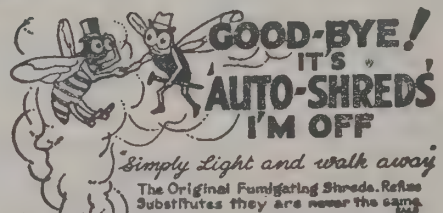

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All communications to the Hon. Sec., J. W. "Cosmos," Winthorpe Road, Newark.

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will holds its

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Correction: Class 16, delete words "12 in a bunch"

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GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

2526—Vol. XLIX. AUGUST 6, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 15/-

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Exhibiting and Judging at Flower Shows

V that the show season is in full ng a few notes on the subject by one o has had a long experience, mainly , although in earlier days exhibiting l his attention, will not be out of It is rather humiliating to have to that there is a very large number of rs who are merely "pot hunters," sole aim is the securing of the y and other prizes, and who have he skill to grow good produce nor non honesty to show only their own ons. The only way in which these bled competitors could be check- ould be for the societies to delete the ch seeks to protect the honest ex- ut which never hat in which mpetitor is re- o declare that bits have been ssession for at weeks previ- he day of the If the rule Exhibitors are to procure rs, fruits, and s wherever ," this would the dishonest having an ad- ver his honest And there ctly honest ex- who labour to produce fit to secure at who, very get dis- and dis- when the who is less s wins the rly every time. The rule already o is no deterrent to the man who is ugh to win a prize with produce he at, borrowed, or stolen. It is, of ery difficult to trap this slippery , and most societies have given up lo so, with the result of "souring" garden-lover. The public, be- are of what is going on, have lost t in floral exhibitions, and so this nnual treat has degenerated into a orner affair shunned by the general , therefore, of no educative value. drastic must be done if these nd uplifting competitions are to

It is unfortunate that, in the name of economy, most local shows are judged by local men. This is bad business, for no matter how honest and skilled such men are, there is always a feeling that they are using their position to further the aims of their own intimates. Honestly, I do not think there are many grounds for these suspicions, although I must admit having come across several glaring instances that would lend colour to these suspicions. However, I must say that the men I have had as co-judges have, in the great majority of cases, given an unbiassed opinion on all exhibits coming before them.

Every judge is liable to make mistakes, none of us being infallible; but, speaking generally, I do not think very many unfair decisions are given. One serious mistake made by many flower show committees is that they often send the men chosen as judges to serve in the wrong sections. Few gardeners but have their preferences, some being mainly interested in flowers, others in fruits, and so on. Well, it is easy for a society to discover which section a man prefers to serve in when they request his services, and should make a point of securing competent men for the various sections, ensuring, as far as possible, expert decisions in each. I think a little friendly discussion in these columns would be a help to the officials of horticultural societies in the framing of their rules and prize schedules.

Scots Judge.

A fine crop of Onions in New Zealand

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Onions in New Zealand

THE enclosed is a snapshot of Mr. A. Undrill, who retired from the service of the L. & N.E. Rly. in August, 1919, in his garden at Feilding, New Zealand. With the crop of Onions seen in the snapshot he has secured first, second, and third prizes, and the weight of the Onions range from 2 lbs. to ½ lb. each. Quantity grown, 1 ton.

He is still hale and hearty, in spite of his 73 years, and is looking forward to further successes in his garden, where he grows all sorts of vegetables with excellent results.

J. R. H.

The Editor's window-sill

Mr. W. E. McCracken, 54, Recreation Street, Long Eaton, near Nottingham, sends a box of his Crimson Clove Carnation, Earl Beatty, for which he obtained an Award of Merit in London and Sheffield last year. The flowers are of rich crimson hue and richly scented. Indeed, we venture to say that as a Border Carnation for garden and home decoration it has much to commend it. It is a very strong grower and apparently requires no stakes, and is claimed to be a very free bloomer. The raiser records that he has had as many as 18 spikes of bloom on a plant with stems 18 inches and often longer. We strongly recommend this for outdoor cultivation. The pleasing fragrance of the flowers permeates the entire office.

—— Last week we received some most attractive Gladioli from Kelway's Langport Nurseries. The blooms were all so fine that it is difficult to say which we admired most, but if there were any which outshone the others in beauty we would select Lady Muriel Digby (a creamy-white variety the upper petals of which are margined with a delicate

shade of pink), J. C. MacBryan (a fine rose-pink), and Happy Month (a glorious flame colour). We once again realised that for floral decoration of all kinds Gladioli are pre-eminent with their striking effect and lasting powers.

Scholarships at Wisley

The Council of the Royal Horticultural Society will shortly consider applications for two scholarships for young gardeners, tenable in their Gardens at Wisley. Young men between the ages of 17 and 22, with at least three years' experience in private or nursery gardens, whose means preclude them from otherwise taking a course at Wisley, are eligible for consideration. The scholarships carry remission of fees and a maintenance allowance (the exact amount of which is in the discretion of the Council after considering all the circumstances) of about £85 a year. Full particulars may be obtained from the Director, R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey, to whom completed applications must be sent by August 20th, 1927.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

The porosity of flower pots

AT the risk of being wearisome I return to this interesting question. Mr. Ivatts is, I think, wrong when he says such a question may be considered symptomatic of "the silly season." It is very far from that; it is, indeed, symptomatic of an increased desire to learn more concerning the most important item in the artificial cultivation of plants in confined bounds and in earthenware receptacles. I differ entirely from Mr. Ivatts in his supposition that pots which have their external surface sealed—*i.e.*, glazed—would tend to economy of time in respect of watering. As he says, the plants in such pots could be watered by immersion, the water draining off by the apertures in the usual way. But has Mr. Ivatts ever dealt with, roughly speaking, 5,000 plants in pots? If he has he will understand that to lift, immerse, and replace such a number of pots once, and occasionally twice, daily would not conduce to economy in the matter of time! And I leave it to him to consider the effect of such repeated handlings upon plants in bloom. The non-porous, or glazed, pot is an abomination, water plants in such how you may. The highly-glazed surface attracts and concentrates the rays of the sun, and the roots of the unfortunate plants therein are either roasted alive when the soil is dry or parboiled when the soil is moist. I think we may safely take it for granted that had it been possible to effect improvements (in respect of porosity and general suitability) in the orthodox pot such would have been done generations ago. The shape may have varied from time to time, but the character of the pot is, practically, unchanged. I may not, perhaps, be following up the lines upon which Mr. Ivatts' inquiry was made, but these notes may, in conjunction with others, have a certain amount of bearing on the subject.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Heuchera sanguinea

Mr. J. Mayne has certainly surprised me, when he states he has always found Heuchera sanguinea an easy plant to cultivate (see page 419 in the issue of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED dated July 9th). My experience with this plant over a number of years is that it is one of the most difficult to grow. I have tried it in various gardens I have had charge of in Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire, and South Wales, and have always met with failure, and I took care not to include it in a large collection of plants obtained for a new border last autumn. I have always paid special care as to position and soil in which it has been planted, as it is really the best of the family, and have been disappointed with its growth every time. Heuchera brizoides gracillima, Tiarelloides, Erubescens, Pluie de Feu, Edge Hill, and La Perle all seem to thrive where sanguinea fails. The only real good clump of this plant that I have met with was growing in front of a r facing due south. It would be interes have other readers' views on this plan viding they know the true sanguinea.

W. E. WRI

Lobelia tenuior

Mr. Markham does well to draw at to the value of annuals for gree decoration, and one is glad to note includes the graceful Lobelia tenuior list. It is a plant to which I am parti it is grown here in successional bat 50 plants—or, rather, I ought to say pots, because it is my practice to plac plants in a 5-inch pot. Neatly stak tied, these make very attractive piec they are useful in many ways. G with a few plants of Eulalia jap. va they give a good effect, and I have them useful in competitive groups of in former years. I first saw L. tenuio a good many years ago—in No. 4 h Kew, and it was a case of love at firs There are pink and white forms tenuior, but of these I am not enar preferring the blue of the type. W.

Mabie.

Anemone nemorosa

THE two forms of Anemone n shown in the picture always flo gether about May Day. One double white form of the Wood Anem the other is Robinsoniana, a beauti growing pale lilac flower.

(SIR) WILLIAM LAWRENCE,
Burford, Dorking.

Helianthemums

Large drifts of these make their felt in the rock garden. The two c tively new varieties, H. Watergate and H. Watergate Ruby, promise w chamæcistus, H. luteum, H. venus Peach, H. pilosum, and H. alpinun worthy of their places. I know not case may be elsewhere; here the old ties, when they become really establi a trifle over-exuberant and are in encroach upon the quarters of their ate neighbours. Nevertheless, this bad fault, and, generally speak Helianthemums readily "submit th to rebuke" and do not take offenc with in a rather drastic way. W

Mabie.

Hepaticas, single and dou

It was with the keenest pleasu read the article on the above from of "Alpha" in GARDENING ILLUST July 9th, p. 420. At one time I pu my hands in my own garden all t ticas mentioned by "Alpha," wi which were procurable then. Long able absence from home and three have been responsible for their lo is a great pleasure to look back u exquisite flowers and to view them mind's eye at least. Your contri referred at length to the double wh tica, and apparently is not too cert has been in existence. So far as my tion goes there have been several ap of the double white variety at differ and these were probably either spor lings. I have seen a plant of t white, but that was some twenty and it is no longer in the same g think it was about that time tha white variety made its appearance lauded as a much better and less r than the old double white which have been lost. This double wh was so much praised by the few

Anemone nemorosa

offered it, was said to have been found
the Black Forest, but it, also, may
isappeared, thus sharing the fate of
decessor or predecessors. But it may
"Alpha" and other readers to know
esides Mr. Perry's Offer, a double
Hepatica was offered last year in the
ue of a reliable Dutch firm at what
ite a moderate price for such a rarity.
to the name were the words "very
which were quite true.
rding Barlowii, the description given
r contributor is exactly like that of
lowii, as I knew and grew it many
go. The colour was a dark blue,
hing purple. But I observe a Hepa-
ered as Barlowii, which is described
g "soft blue," which is, I consider,
ng plant. When I was growing these
s of H. triloba I had the single blue,
blue, single red, double red (I
ith "Alpha" in considering this the
wing Hepatica), single white, a light
light pink, a blush, and a greyish
am afraid some of these are lost to
on, except they linger in some old
whence they may be retrieved. The
where I secured some of these varie-
es not now appear to stock them,
owing to lack of demand. H.
a is a splendid plant, and all its
may be secured with confidence;
ay be mentioned that angulosa major
r in bloom than the type. It is
y understood that what is known as
of Europe, which has marbled
s only a form of triloba, and I be-
at botanists deny it specific rank.
ad, through the kindness of a friend,
r of plants called "acutiloba" sent
the Canadian woods. In my gar-
leaves appeared smaller than those
a, but the flowers were very varied
of colour. These were quite pretty,
gretted their loss very much indeed.
reference to raising from seeds, the
ts should be looked over daily at
time, and ripe seeds collected and
a sheet of paper in a window until
been saved, when they should be
once. If the seeds are not carefully
many will be lost, as the capsules
they fall to the ground, and are
to find. I have saved seeds and
ung plants after the method men-
"Alpha," but I sowed the seeds
they would be almost close to the
the slates, so that they would spring
margins and obviate removing the
il the seedlings had grown a little.
dd that I am still using the term
as if it were the correct term, in-
Anemone Hepatica. The old name
nly established in gardens that we
lling to part with it, even for the
xactitude. S. ARNOTT.

e the subject of transplanting
s. When I was living in Surrey
our collected a number of Wood
s from a very shady position and
hem in full sun on a south slope,
well and kept them well supplied
er, and the flowers produced were
ice the size of the wildings. His
as that the Anemones grew in the
because they liked it, but because
driven there by other vegetation,
not hold their own in the open.
C. T. K.

ntillas in the rock garden

with the valuation placed upon
fragiformis by "E. M.," on p. 338.
however, rather taller than the
re the height is about 9 inches,
shade more. This may, of course,
local conditions, as I also note
Potentillas are of greater stature than that indicated in the catalogue of the nurseryman from whom they came. For instance, P. Tonguei, nominally 6 inches, runs nearer 8 inches; P. nitida, nominally 3 inches, is almost 6 inches; and P. ambigua, nominally 4 inches, is quite 6 inches in height. All, however, are very useful, and, with the exception of P. fragiformis, which ceases to bloom early in August, give a good display from the end of April until September is far advanced. None of them requires any special attention. W. McG.

Androsace lanuginosa

HEREWITH I send a photograph of a group of Androsace lanuginosa planted three years ago in the garden of T. Beswick Sissons, Esq., Willerby Grange, Hull. The group impressed me so much that I had the enclosed photograph taken, and I am inclined to feel that it would reproduce and make a delightful illustration.

Androsace lanuginosa, introduced from the Himalayas in 1842, is one of the gems of alpine flora. It requires a warm, sunny spot, and thrives best in light, sandy, peaty soil. Its delicate rose blooms, with the most interesting small yellow eye, are particularly charming. Like others of the Androsace family, it is happiest when sheltered under a projecting ledge of rock, which will protect it more or less from the hottest sun, and again from cold rains in the winter. In low-lying parts of the country it is almost necessary to protect it in the winter with a pane of glass, but when thriving as it has done at Willerby it is a plant well worth any little trouble which may have been entailed in its cultivation. It truly is a gem of the rockery.

The group in question is about 4½ feet by 18 inches on a ledge—five plants.

T. CARRICK.

A well grown colony of Androsace lanuginosa

Birds and fruit

Many readers of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED must have read with amazement the article on "Birds and Fruit," by A. R. Horwood, F.L.S., which appears in your issue of July 23rd.

That wild birds should be described as "the chief enemies of the fruit grower" would seem impossible in an age when scientific investigation has shown that but for the services of birds there would be little fruit resulting from the grower's labour. The recommendation of "steel traps baited with fruit," as well as of netting, and shooting, and trap-cages, is made more offensive by a certain parade of appreciation for the services of the very birds the writer proposes thus to dispose of. But when the further mention is made of "paper cones lined with bird-lime baited with cockchafer grubs" to destroy rooks, and, again, of bird-lime to take bullfinches, it becomes evident that the article is inciting to an infringement of 15 and 16, Geo. 5, ch. 31, which prohibits the use of bird-lime under a penalty not exceeding £25. (MISS) L. GARDINER,
Secretary, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

—— I have been greatly concerned to read the article on "Birds and Fruit," in your issue of the 23rd ult., when there is so much reported in the papers of the cruelty of the steel trap. The writer admits the great benefits conferred on the gardener and agriculturist by birds, and in the most cold-blooded way condemns them to the horrors of the steel trap because they take part of his fruit or seed. He does not even consider whether the good they do overbalances the harm. Die they must, and in the most agonising way. They may escape the trap with the loss of their legs, or they may for hours be in agony in the trap. Mr. Horwood does not concern himself about it. His article will arouse indignation in the mind of every person with a scrap of humanity in him.

W. A. MILNER.

Irises Mystic and Tenebrae

Our attention has been drawn to the fact that, in publishing the list of varieties of Irises which gained awards in the recent R.H.S. Trials at Wisley, the two varieties, Mystic and Tenebrae, are included without any indication that these two varieties were raised by Mr. A. J. Bliss. We feel sure that this omission is due to the fact that you received the list of awards from the Royal Horticultural Society without this information being stated, but we think it is only fair that Mr. Bliss should have the credit due to him for raising these two fine varieties.

THE ORPINGTON NURSERIES CO., LTD.

GARDEN PLANNING IN A SMALL WAY

Alpines and Roses in a small garden

A SQUARE lawn, a straight border, and perhaps square beds are just crude elementary planning which produce a minimum of beauty.

The numerous owners of such gardens should try replanning in the autumn. It may not be too early even now to remove square corners of the lawn and to change that straight line of the border to a wavy one. There is a lot of pleasure in replanning a garden and remaking it, even if it is a small one. Turf cut up makes excellent soil for new beds.

The view of a wavy border is markedly superior because one looks *through* the outward bend instead of *at* a straight line. It is more artistic because art simply does not dwell in straight lines.

To the inquirer who asks why it is better to look *through* a bed than *at* it, I would reply that by looking through one observes and is able to appreciate much more the beauty of the individual flowers, such as that of the yellow Wallflower appearing through clumps of the purple or crimson varieties broken by clumps of Forget-me-not or Aubrietia—a beautiful combination.

Again, in a small garden, where perhaps one has not the space to plant separate beds of Roses, and is forced to plant them in a border, that wavy line displays the individual varieties to much better advantage.

AVOID PLANTING IN ROWS.—Those straight rows of bulbs can all be improved upon by planting them in clumps or in wavy lines with bold and pronounced curves. The same may be said of Perpetual Carnations. Why should such a lovely flower be stood in line like a platoon of soldiers? A round bed of Carnations looks well because one looks through them instead of at them. They also succeed better this way, but when the separate bed is not convenient they should be planted in clumps by themselves.

Roses in the garden reign supreme when the Rose is happy. Those with a Rose soil are indeed lucky people. They are not making the most of their opportunity if they fritter their valuable space by filling it with Dutch grown Roses purchased at the local auctioneers for a few pence, or from any merchant who will not guarantee them "British Grown." A cynic once said that a portion of the world is continually living on the fresh batch of fools born every but this would not apply to the true gar for he is no fool.

It is good that we have not all the tastes and fancies; but I can never stand why so many people fly to the sta Rose in preference to the pillar type. latter is more graceful. Pillar Roses better than standards, and they are cheaper in price and better value, as who have pillars of such varieties as ing Mme. Herriot, Climbing Paul Led Souv. de Claudius Denoyel know Those who read these lines, and hav got them, should make a note of the and a point to secure it—the most go of crimsons and perfumed Rose in this This twopenny copy of GARDENING TRATED is worth more than 5s. to thos read and learn.

A most effective way to grow pillar in addition to the single pillar, which is often superior to the ubiquitous a to form a tripod of three poles, or stakes, 6 feet or 7 feet high, and p climbing Hybrid Tea one side and a cl Polyantha or Wichuraiana the other. two types make a continuous show of on this tripod from May until Octob an instance for an excellent combina would mention Climbing Paul Le salmony-orange, and Excelsa (crimso Souv. de Claudius Denoyel (crimso Lady Godiva (pale pink).

No garden is well planned which trees. Poets sing to us of the Cher som of Japan, but we can have ou fairyland with fruit-blossom during th period of March, April, and May by ing Plums, Pears, Cherries, and which blossom in the order named.

Often it has been asked why British who are gardeners, and a practical foll useless trees, such as the Horse Ch when there are so many others both beautiful and useful. A well-grown fr in blossom (not one that is annually n by pruning) is one of the most be sights on earth, and one which may in any well-planned garden.

A small but important item in garde ning is a portion set aside for any refuse, such as leaves, lawn mowin anything of a vegetable matter which down. It is a mistake to burn this m because in these days of manure s every garden is short of humus in t which burning destroys. Such d vegetable matter is just what most s in need of, and so, instead of annoyin neighbour by burning it, the materia be dug into the soil. LAURENCE J. O

Herbaceous borders

Some attention must now be g plants which have flowered. The stems should be cut off as the flowe and any plants overgrowing their should be trimmed a little to keep their own quarters. Plants that hav flower should receive timely attenti staking. Phloxes, Delphiniums, an thrums are among the first to sufl neglect. At this season absence of w dead flower stems is very conducive and interest of herbaceous borders a See there is no mutilation of healthy foliage at this season, as this is ag preparation of flowers for next year

Dahlias and Hollyhocks are now r close attention, and if excellence of fl to be attained liquid manure should given. Staking and tieing are m detail which often want seeing to

ositions this requires extra care. The
ıre is necessary for such plants as
ons and Picotees. The layering of
ould be completed early in August.
F. H.

Calceolaria violacea

ıgh Calceolaria violacea has been
to gardeners for many years, not
nateurs are acquainted with it. It
f the finest and most distinct green-
ırubs extant, and here in Devon it
ıtside well in sheltered positions that
drained. Treated as a greenhouse
t is a continuous and persistent
a mass of flower for nearly four
It commences to flower at the end
ıry. Its light violet blooms, with a
atch on the lower lip, and otherwise
with deeper violet, are exceedingly
The plant will thrive in a compost
s an ordinary Pelargonium, but I
ınd if a small quantity of peat is
ith it, it induces wonderful florifer-
Cuttings may be struck easily at
ny period, but perhaps the best time
rior to the plant starting into vigor-
th. If potted off as soon as rooted,
ckly develop into good specimens.
F. H.

Lilium Regale

EN we remember the comparative
ıse with which bulbs of this remark-
ly beautiful Lily can be raised from
may visualise the happy time when
ll be as common as those of the
Lily. Flowering bulbs may be ex-
three years after the sowing of the
for a Lily this may be regarded as
ick work. I have known instances
ear-old bulbs producing heads of
ut the average grower may con-
rely on getting good spikes from
r-old bulbs.
ale was first discovered by Mr.
Vilson in the year 1903, and it is
rprising that this charming species
re commonly grown. It has a par-
vigorous constitution, and when
reated is by no means shy of bloom.
ompanying illustration shows two
s of bloom produced from a single
nally raised from seed. The dainty
no small attribute, either, of this
Lily.
he Regal Lily was first flowered in
try it was thought to be L. myrio-
but the introducer eventually proved
distinct species. H. Greaves.

pagating Border Pinks

ll our Border Carnations and the
oodii Pinks one does not hesitate
at we cannot dispense with our old
r Border Pink in its various colours
its delightful perfume. Judging,
e quantity of blooms that find their
ur markets, this old flower is as
the public still, and, apart from its
the garden, its glaucous foliage is
n the borders and beds during the
of winter. As propagation may be
t at this time by means of pipings
s one need hardly apologise for
he attention of beginners to these
o wish to increase their stock.
g consists of a young shoot about
ong, and is obtained by holding a
ly with the left hand just below a
pulling with the right hand just
joint, when it will be found to
clean. It is then ready for inser-
removing the lower pair of leaves.
ed, a cutting may be made of a
ngth just below a joint and removing the two lowermost pairs of leaves. It is thought to be of assistance if a slight upper cut through the joint is made.

The cuttings and pipings should be inserted under a handlight in a shaded position, having first mixed a good quantity of sharp sand with the soil to afford free drainage. Other ways of rooting them are in boxes in a shaded frame, or under a handlight in the open if one is prepared to give daily attention to watering in the latter position.

Some have an objection to the Pink in the beds as it tends to become straggling and untidy, but this can be avoided by either keeping young stock or lifting the old roots in early autumn, dividing them, and placing the shoots in compact clumps. A more drastic method is that of shingling, which is practised so much to-day, and answers for some of our plants. If cut back within 4 inches or 5 inches as soon as flowering is past, healthy plants will soon produce a new tuft of growths.

It is said that this flower will grow anywhere and in any soil, which is true to a certain extent, but if one would get the best out of them and produce a good flower on a long stem, then a medium soil well cultivated is necessary. Heavy soils deeply dug answer fairly well if plenty of bonfire ash or mortar-rubble is added, and to all of them a liberal quantity of half-decayed manure is of very great benefit. A. W.

Anchusa myosotidiflora

I should like to recommend this spring-flowering plant to those who do not already grow it in their gardens. The plant before me is about 3½ feet in width, deeply rooted in moist soil. The long-stalked, heart-shaped leaves, like most of the Borage family, are somewhat rough in texture and deeply veined, but these are nearly hidden by the flower-stalks, which rise 9 inches above them. The brilliant blue flowers are individually like a good type of Forget-me-not. The cymes, at first produced from the axils of the leafy stem, at last appear as a branched head of flowers, the whole forming an ideal border plant 18 inches in height. It requires no support, and is most alluring when it has ample room to display its charms. It is a native of Siberia, introduced in 1825, and was at one time known as Myosotis macrophylla. The plant is easily propagated by division in early autumn.

J. Comber.

Limnanthes Douglasii

Groups of this robust and somewhat spreading plant are now blooming profusely. It belongs to the Indian Cress family, and few annuals come through the winter better or flower so early in the year. It grows about 6 inches high, the flowers white with a yellow base being each 1½ inches in diameter. The flowers are very attractive as they appear from among its light green Fern-like leaves, and possess a pleasing fragrance. I notice that bees are very fond of them. The seeds were sown in October, 1921. There is a pure white variety of the above which deserves a place in the garden. The Limnanthes are natives of the plains of California.

Lilium regale from seed

Speaking of Irises

IF the tall bearded Iris regaled us with flowers throughout the summer it would rank but little below the very first flight of popular flowers in our gardens. It has commanding stature, lovely flowers of delicious scent formed on classic lines of elegant contour, and it is one of the easiest and most accommodating plants in the wide world. Its colours, too, ranging far through every conceivable tone of purple, lavender, blue, bronze, yellow, and white, can, with a little adroit design, be used as cool foils for the glaring reds and scarlets so plenteous in early summer.

I have mentioned the extreme ease with which the Iris may be well cultivated; nevertheless, there are one or two points regarding culture with which the novice should be acquainted. The matter of soil is not one of vital moment; I have seen equally fine plants growing in the lightest of sandy loams and in unmitigated clay land. In the former, leaf growth is strong, fine, and clean, with medium-height flower-stems, while in the latter the spikes are tall and majestic, but the foliage is often affected with leaf spot (Heterosporium gracile) unless special care is taken to secure free drainage. The site chosen for Irises of the bearded class should be exposed to sun as much as possible, and if the soil is heavy and indifferently drained the bed should be raised a few inches above the general level. A sloping bank facing south or west is an excellent position.

Apart from leaf spot, the only trouble seriously affecting Irises is rhizome rot, which is sure to cause some casualties now and again in heavy ground, especially if the drainage is not sharp. A dressing of superphosphate once a year may act as a deterrent to this disease, but it is certainly not a cure. On the light loam overlying chalk found on the North Downs, where I used to live, I never saw an example of rhizome rot, and all sorts of bearded Irises grew there in robust health.

Here is a selection of varieties, with approximate prices, which anyone not acquainted with the thousand-and-one sorts on the market can safely select to secure a fine range of colour with reliable growth. The first group is for the moderate purse and the second (marked B) for he who cares not what he spends.

GROUP A.

Afterglow (3s. 6d.), an American introduction with soft, artistic colour tone. Soft lavender-grey with base of rich yellow at the haft.

Ambassadeur (2s. 6d.), a tall stately variety of rich dark colouring, standards smoky reddish-violet, falls deep violet-maroon; grand.

Ed. Michell (2s. 6d.), deep wine-red self.

Lady Foster (3s. 6d.), standards light violet-blue, falls a shade darker; very fine.

Lent A. Williamson (2s. 6d.), a strong-growing and handsome American variety that should be in every collection. The standards are bright lavender-violet and the wide, stout falls a beautiful royal purple, edged violet.

Lord of June (1s.), tall and erect, but slightly floppy in the standard, which is real sky-blue, the falls being soft violet-blue; deliciously scented.

Loreley (1s.), rather dwarf, but very bright in colour, standards clear yellow, falls plum, edged cream. The standards are frequently splashed purplish-yellow.

Magnifica (3s. 6d.), standards violet-blue, falls dark violet-red freely netted brown at the haft; handsome.

Pallida dalmatica (1s.), pale lavender-blue self with broad glaucous foliage.

Quaker Lady (2s.), flower not large, but very dainty and pretty, standards pale lavender, shot bronze and flushed yellow, falls soft lavender shading to yellow at the haft.

Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau (2s. 6d.), one of the most striking new Irises at a reasonable price. The standards and falls are deep velvety purple-violet and the flowers are exceptionally well formed.

Tom Tit (1s. 6d.), a front row variety. The plant is dwarf with graceful arching and the small flowers of deep violet-b very freely produced.

Tristram (1s. 6d.), standards pure falls deep purple, making a pret striking contrast.

Troost (2s.), standards rosy-purple, little paler with very prominent vein violet; a good variety.

GROUP B.

Aphrodite (15s.), the best of the s " pink " varieties; flowers very bright excellent form.

Asia (5s.), very tall spikes wit flowers of fine colouring, standar lavender suffused yellow, falls viole paling at the edges.

Bruno (42s.), perhaps the handso the Dominion seedlings, standards lavender, falls massive and full of su dark velvety purple-red.

Citronella (21s.), standards clear falls rich red-brown with paler edges; handsome.

Coroida (5s.), light violet-blue self c form; sometimes flowers in the again.

Duke of Bedford (21s.), a very d striking Dominion seedling, st reddish-violet, falls much darker, black purple.

Souvenir de Letitia Michaud (12s. new French variety of exceptional co being a self rosy lavender-pink.

Swazi (42s.), another Dominion see red-violet colouring; very massive.

Tenebrae (15s.), also from Domin as handsome as any of this race; st rich violet-purple, falls darkest viole

Titan (7s. 6d.), an Iris of extra size and the plant is free-flowering strong growth; standards pale vio falls violet-purple with white veinin haft.

Virginia Moore (10s. 6d.), one of t yellows in cultivation, being a cle tone of colour and fairly tall. J.

Rose Double Polyantha

Primula Allioni

This curiously rare plant in our ga restricted in its natural distribution Maritime Alps, where, however, it here and there in immense quant often in aged, yard-wide masses speaks volumes for its longevity wh happy. Ascending to an elevation 700 m. to 1,900 m., it is found al clusively upon limestone formations sheltered crevices and overhung, gi places seem to be its chosen sites. and moisture, with the most perfe age, are imperative to its wellbe granted these the plant is far from ble, and so beautiful as to warran clusion in every good collection c plants.

Grown in a pan among embedded limestone, and given the shelter of house during the winter, taking p care to keep the foliage dry at al times, but more particularly during ter season, and providing a plun sheltered from direct sunshine, t offers no difficulty to a careful gro generally flowers in late summer a in spring. The flowers are each wide, of softest rose-pink, with ge clear white centre in the best for colour is somewhat apt to vary in plants, and rather shrill-toned flow a yellowish white centre, are pro some inferior forms, for which rea advisable to procure plants in flowe a very reliable source.

Rosa polyantha fl. pl.

ERE seems to be hardly any limit to e height to which rambling Roses will ow when there is any kind of living t to their upward aspiration. At the a double border of late Michaelmas there is a goodly green Holly about high. Some years ago a plant of the form of Rosa polyantha was put in at . It soon made its way up the Holly, w its many flowering wreaths and rs tumble out of its support in a e cascade of white Roses. In another the garden, where cultivation joins ıd, there is a Birch tree whose height e 50 feet or more. A climbing Rose nted at its foot, and year after year it pleasure to see the Rose mounting and higher, and throwing out its ıg growths among the Birch branches. has gone up quite out of sight, and it by seeing that the stem is alive and that we can be sure that the Rose is ıg well, for the place is so much sur- by tall shrubs and other trees that not get a distant view of the top of h.

G. J.

British chalk plants

VHERE in England is there a more utiful or more varied collection of d plants than that seen on the chalk of Surrey, Sussex, Kent, and Hamp- Many of them compare favourably ltivated plants, and a little garden entirely with British chalk plants can be a source of interest, but also of beauty.

iniature chalk Down should take the a mound composed of soil, not too xed with lime-rubble or chalk, and e supported by pieces of rock or chalk It should be situated well away ge trees and in a warm, sunny

tion may be afforded by the planting trees, such as Yew or White Beam, urish on the Downs, and if sufficient available shrubs such as the Way- ee (Viburnum Lantana), the fragrant Mezereum, and the Spurge Laurel Laureola) may also be included.

lvisable to keep the dwarf plants by s and to weed out ruthlessly any of coarser growing plants which e up among them. Unless this is ıy of the smaller and more delicate are liable to be crowded out of

natural conditions grasses such as p's Fescue Grass, which form a portion of the Downland vegeta- cropped close by the rabbits, but if ı the garden will grow too vigor- l should therefore be excluded. A ıental grasses, such as the Quaking iza media), may, however, be en- The latter is a perennial, but, other Downland plants, is apt to if the soil is too good.

the best dwarf carpeting plants are ant Wild Thyme, Basil Thyme ha Acinos), the Yellow Bedstraw erum), and the common Rock Rose mum vulgare). Perhaps the most of all are the Milkworts, the which were worn as a garland in n processions once held during Week. Although many authorities only one species, namely, Polygala here are undoubtedly several dis- s of this pretty plant. One of the lsome is P. calcarea, with bright ers, another variety with large vers may be found near Merrow, ms of white, pale blue, pink, and rose are often seen. These plants may take some time to settle down after transplanting, but, once established, they will flower and increase.

Among the larger-growing chalk plants there is a considerable range of handsome subjects. One of the most striking is the Vipers Bugloss (Echium vulgare), which is seen at its best on the cliffs of Dover, and was considered by the botanist, Loudon, to be the most beautiful of all our wild flowers. Although it is a biennial it is not necessary to sow seed each year, as it almost always produces of its own accord a crop of self-sown seedlings. Other attractive members of the Borage family are the Purple Gromwell (Lithospermum purpureo-cœruleum), with bright gentian-blue flowers, and the narrow-leaved Lungwort (Pulmonaria angustifolia). The latter grows wild in certain woods and thickets in Hampshire, and is particularly valuable on account of its early flowering.

By planting Pulmonaria together with Cowslips, Primroses, and Violets a good show of bloom is obtained in the early spring.

Several species belonging to the Bellflower family make excellent garden plants, of which one of the most beautiful is Campanula glomerata, with its clusters of downy purple blossoms. The rich colour of the flowers, however, is often lost if the plants are transplanted into soil, which is too rich.

A coarser-growing and more common plant is the Nettle-leaved Bellflower or Throatwort (Campanula Trachelium), while better known still, but no less valuable, is the little Harebell, which, with its white form, is an ornament to any garden. Closely related to the Bellflowers is Rampion (Phyteuma orbiculare), a singular plant with a round head of blue flowers which may be found on the Hog's Back and in the neighbourhood of Newlands Corner. A very rare species of Rampion (P. spicatum), with oblong flower-heads, which occurs only in Sussex, also makes a pretty garden plant. Other chalk plants which may be included with advantage are the Red Valerian (Centranthus ruber) and the Devil's-bit Scabious (Scabiosa Succisa).

Less conspicuous, but extremely fascinating, are the wild Orchids. Many species can be successfully transplanted even when in full bloom, provided that precautions are taken against damage to the tubers which are being formed for the following year. One of the easiest to grow is the Green Man

Cascade of Roses

orchis, but the curious Bee-and-spider Orchids may also be made to flourish with care. Two pretty Orchids which are often found growing together in chalky soil and which do well are the Pyramidal orchis, with deep pink flower-spikes 12 inches to 18 inches high, and the sweet-scented Orchis (Gymnadenia conopsea), which is the most fragrant of all our native Orchids. In collecting these and other wild plants, which are rapidly becoming scarce, one should make it a rule not to lift plants unless they occur in large numbers, and to take one plant only.

The plants mentioned form but a small proportion of those which may be grown in the Downland garden, and no doubt many excellent subjects have been omitted. I have grown most of the foregoing with success, however, and they may form a nucleus for a garden from which lovers of British wild plants will derive very great pleasure.

J. E. GRANT WHITE.

Grazing in Grass Orchards

The recent spell of wet weather will encourage a heavy flush of grass in ordinarily well-managed orchards. The time for the closing of many orchards is not far away, and, unless damage to the "bottom" of the turf is to result, extra care in the management of the grass from now onwards is necessary.

WHERE the grass is already ahead of the animals the first effort should be by increasing the stock in the orchards. If rough places avoided by sheep are present "hungry" store cattle suggest a remedy, but if these are not available "skimming" with the mowing machine will be better than allowing the rough grass to remain. If for any reason the orchard is grazed more readily in certain parts by stock, then some form of temporary fence might be employed to pen the animals on the parts most in need of grazing. This question of the feeding and grazing of stock in grass orchards is of the utmost importance.

So far as the general management of grass orchards is concerned, the grass should, in the case of young trees (up to 10 years old), be removed over a circle with a radius of about 5 feet from the base of the tree, so that the effect of the grass is minimised and growth is maintained. Occasionally during this period—whenever there is the slightest sign of leaf-yellowing—a dressing of dung should be spread round the trees. Even so, the trees will never become as profitable as they should be unless the turf is maintained in the very best condition.

The turf should consist chiefly of fine grasses, and of white or other small clovers. Strong rank grasses, such as Cock's-foot and Timothy, should not be too abundant, as they have a stunting effect on the trees. The grass must always be kept closely grazed, preferably with cake or meal-fed sheep, and must never be allowed to get so long and rank that it has to be cut with a scythe or mower. A crop of hay must not be taken, otherwise the trees will suffer for a number of years afterwards.

It is a good plan to turn pigs which are being meal-fed into the orchard during the late summer and winter once every four or five years, and to allow them to tear up the turf. In the early spring, before it can dry out, the land should be levelled and well harrowed.

Besides grazing, a dressing of basic slag at the rate of 5 cwts. to 10 cwts. per acre gives good results on heavy soils and should be applied every four or five years. Ground lime in dressings of 4 cwts. to 5 cwts., applied at similar intervals between dressings of basic slag, also has a good effect. Apart from the benefit to the trees, the improved condition of the pasture alone will more than cover the cost of the manure.

At the same time, brush or chain harrowing and rolling must be carried out annually, in the early spring, to break down worm and mole casts and to tear out moss.

If the orchard presents the characteristic appearance of starvation and the pasture is poor, either (1) pigs should be turned in to root up the turf, the grass then being treated in the manner already mentioned; or (2) better still, the grass should be ploughed up and cultivated for two or three years by intercropping with vegetables or roots, dressing of dung being given whenever intercropping is practised. At the end of three or four years the land should again be laid down to grass. An excellent mixture for heavy lands where orcharding is mainly practised, and costing from £3 10s. to £4 10s. per acre, is as follows:—

	lbs.
Cock's-foot	6
Timothy Grass	2
Crested Dog's-tail	1
Perennial Rye-grass	11
Rough-stalked Meadow-grass ...	2
Alsike	2
Perennial Red Clover	2
White Clover	3
or	
Wild White Clover	1

The turf should be maintained in good condition, in the manner already indicated.

As soon as the trees commence to crop heavily, they should receive a good dressing of dung spread round in a circle corresponding to the spread of the branches. The greater part of the dressing should be applied towards the circumference of the circle where most of the vigorous young feeding roots are to be found. It is a great mistake to bank manure round the trunk, as the roots there correspond to the large branches in the crutch of a tree. In many districts this dressing is given as a mulch in late spring as soon as the flowers have set. It then has a tonic effect and helps the tree to carry a heavy crop to maturity; in other districts a similar dressing is given in the autumn. If the trees are in a healthy condition and are growing strongly but are not fruiting heavily, these dressings of dung should be withheld.

Canker in Melons

Every year we hear of attacks of canker—a malady which very materially prejudices the grower's hopes of a profitable crop. Various theories are advanced to account for canker, and many are the remedies suggested to effect a cure. Carrying my memory backward over almost 30 years' experience of Melon growing, I am strongly of opinion that canker is now much more common than it was when first I began to grow the fruit. Then there were not, in many places, the facilities possessed nowadays—more especially in the case of early crops. Makeshift devices had to be employed or the Melon plants had to share the house with (as I remember in one case) a collection of stove plants. Yet very fine fruits were obtained, and canker was practically unknown. In the house above referred to were grown such Melons as William Tillery, Munro's Little Heath, and Hero of Lockinge—all of which yielded good crops upon perfectly healthy plants. Looking round for a plausible reason to account for the present-day prevale canker, I offer the following for th sideration of those interested in the n Everyone will admit that modern Melc superior to the older varieties—alike and, generally speaking, in flavour. improvements, however, are the res much inter-breeding, and I suggest th efforts of the hybridiser have resulte race of Melons which are of a weaker c ter than those of three decades ago. fact as it may, I do not think that t sumption is too far fetched. The unfo thing is that canker seldom shows itsel the plants are in their earlier stages. this so, young plants could be put ou out loss of time, but in nine cases ou the fruits are well advanced befo malady declares itself. This is ge when a spell of dull weather has be ceeded by an outburst of strong sun the plant collapses and the crop is lost causes predispose Melon plants to c It is difficult to ascribe attacks of ca any one cause—just as it is difficult t what is responsible for shanking in One of the most common, in the case Melons, is a too low temperature at combined with an atmosphere which nant or overloaded with moisture. growth is more susceptible to attac that which is short-jointed and robu judicious ventilation—permitting the e of large and sudden volumes of cold a induce canker; equally it may be ca deluging roots and foliage with cold Melons are by no means so partial syringe as many of us appear to imag root watering should never be do water at a less temperature than 80 g

When canker makes its appearan most effectual remedy, in my experi to mix freshly-slaked lime and p charcoal in equal parts, adding a p flowers of sulphur, and to rub the into the affected part with the fin thumb. Repeat this daily, preventin from coming into contact with the f part, and gradually a hard crust w which destroys the cankerous growth

Grape Gros Maroc

Candidly, I am no admirer of Gro yet it is impossible to withhold a praise from the variety, for it is, cer noble-looking Grape. It is, perhap to give Gros Maroc space in the house in which the extra heat tend hance the flavour, which is apt to when the variety is grown in comp Hamburghs. Berry and bunch ar large; the former I have had as Walnuts, densely black in colour, ar rich bluish bloom. When ripe the will hang in good condition for w flavour improving with keeping Maroc requires some judgment in pruning; at least, if large bunche sired. Hard pruning is not unlike sult in short, stumpy bunches, b long spur or long rod method be a is safe to expect handsome bunch Grape for exhibition Gros Maroc o high position. It is synonym Cooper's Black, under which name some exceptionally fine examples and which deservedly took the honours in their particular class.

A SCOTTISH GA

Damsons

Established trees of this delicious sent much pruning. Trees in the Hereford grow in hedges, acting as to many an orchard of Apples and pruner very seldom interfering growth, unless intruding on the tre

ey fruit abundantly, provided natural ns are favourable. It would be inter- o know how the many acres planted l Rosebery's estate, Mentmore, in ire fruiting. No jam, in my opinion, ich and palatable as that of the . M.

ES AND SHRUBS

Azaleas in woodland

ften happens that Azaleas are planted ls or clumps in close masses that it e well to remind those who have the of these lovely shrubs in prospect ch better it is to have them well vhen each will be able to show the it can do. The illustration shows umber that were planted some years place specially prepared for them, a m a piece of woodland nearby ad- he garden. The soil is naturally a nd, but when each Azalea was greater quantity of peat was pro- he Azaleas stand never less than 10 t. Some that have the best effect nore widely spaced. A few Cistuses iniums link the Azalea groups to- The trees around—Birches and Chestnuts—give passing shade part of the day, for they do not much direct sunshine. When they ample space each Azalea shows its habit, either of close, dense bush ul little tree, or anything in be- n seasons of prolonged drought—it ice in two years—they are given the ut the wilting foliage shows they every two years they have had en- ent at the root in the shape of a well-rotted manure, or, better still, es from the shoeing forge, for this hoof-parings, a store of slow-acting al stimulant. G. J.

allicarpa Giraldiana

a more or less recent introduction ia, and is now in flower. It is a to be up to 6 feet high, with dull es opposite. About 4 inches long ing on the new wood in the axils aves are small clusters of lilac ith yellow stamens. The young a reddish-brown shade. The fruit and of a shining bluish-mauve ing a long time, and this makes it ttractive autumn-berrying shrub.

Zenobia speciosa

d to be known under the name of . It is a semi-deciduous shrub et or 4 feet high, with shining ge and bell-shaped pure white e a Lily of the Valley, though a larger, clustered along the shoots. y pulverulenta is better than the liage being more glaucous and the my opinion, bigger and better. er in late June and July. They a lime-free soil, preferably peat or ly soil that is not too dry.

partium Junceum

nish Broom is now in full bloom. appear to be grown as extensively es, for it comes into flower when y of shrubs are over. It is an less shrub with Rush-like young fairly upright habit. The flower- produced on the young growth, r, on short stalk, is somewhat the Common Broom, of bright deliciously fragrant. In full sun, young growth gets every chance, s of flower, and will continue in long period. Pruning should be done in the early spring before growth commences, but I prefer to do as little as possible, finding that far the best results are obtained without any cutting other than is necessary to keep the plants in shape. It is advisable to prune the plant in its early days to form a shapely bush, after which give as little as possible. G. H. D.

Lomatia ferruginea

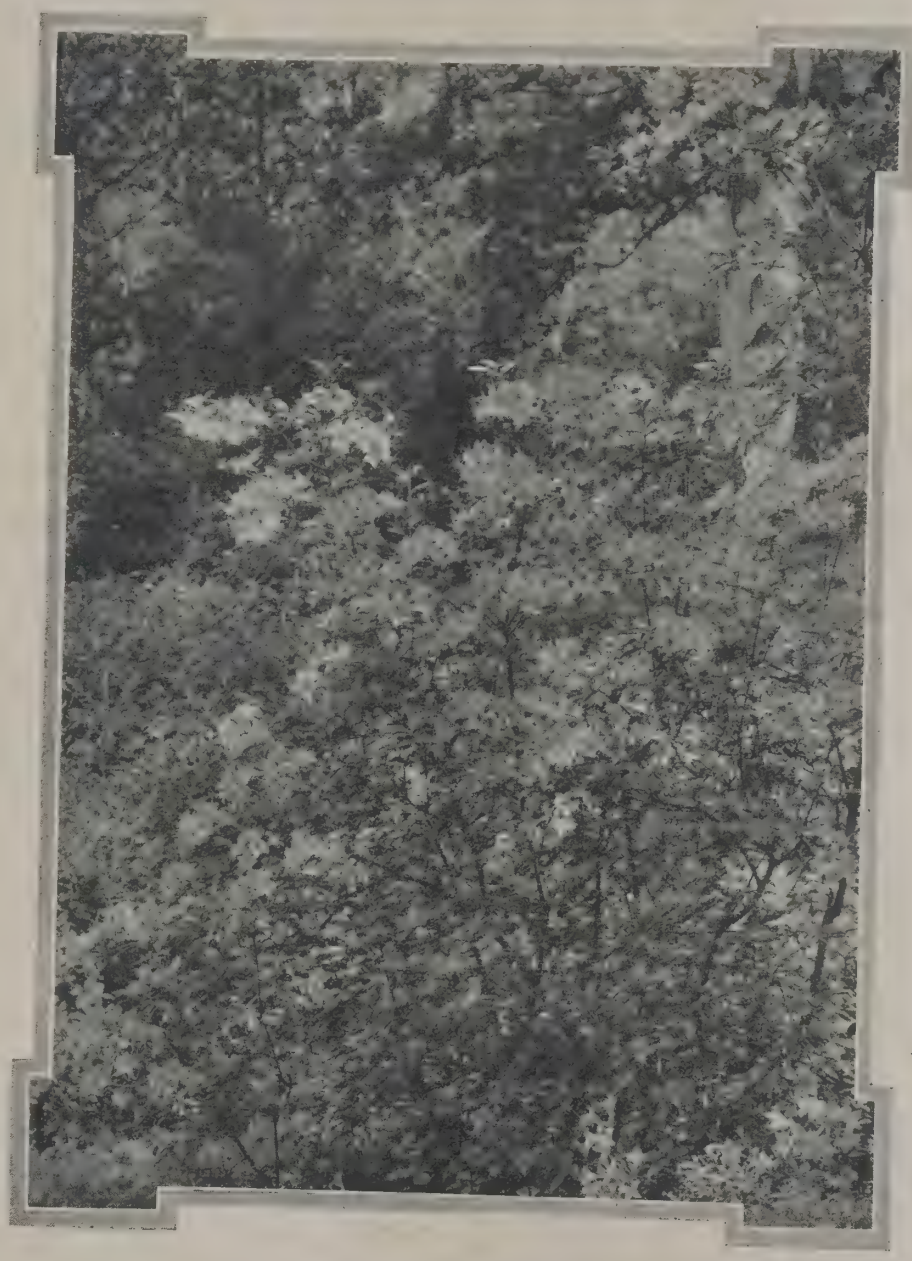
Like a huge Grevillea and reaching a height of 20 feet, this graceful tree was seen in several Cornish gardens in mid-July laden with clusters of rosy-red and white flowers, beautiful in effect as they nestled among the finely-cut, luxuriant leafage. This distinct and very choice subject comes from Chile and appears to revel in many gardens in the favoured south-west, and although many nice plants are known in Sussex, nothing approaching the size of those above referred to has yet met the writer's eye.

Such a beautiful tree should, however, be tried in a sheltered place in all favoured gardens where other valuable subjects, such as the Crinodendrons, Desfontaineas, Eucryphias, etc., from that wonderful country thrive. There are other kinds in cultivation, including L. longifolia, an Australian species, L. elegantissima from New Zealand, L. filicifolia, and L. propinqua. These, however, have not been tried to the same extent as the first-named. E. M.

Laurelia serrata 80 ft. high

If not hardy except in favoured parts of the British Isles, this is a tree of great interest and rather beautiful form, especially when it has attained to the size here given, but such is my estimate of a magnificent specimen which I met with in July in a famous Cornish garden.

The beautiful trunk, as straight as a Pine and of a soft green-brown, was almost hidden by the graceful canopy of aromatic leaves which arch over from 15 feet high branches to the ground. These leaves, when crushed, give off a pleasant, spicy, aromatic fragrance, and the flowers, yellowish-green, are packed in short racemes along the leafy portions of the lash-like branches. At the time of my visit this tree was laden with fruit about the size of Peas, and I noticed that self-sown seedlings appeared in hundreds about the base of the tree. This truly fascinating and desirable tree comes from Chile, and is, I believe, the finest example of its kind in this country. E. M.



Azaleas in woodland

Some Flowers of Le Lautaret

(Concluded from page 471)

RETURNING to the hotel from Eritrichium, we came across a colony of Aconites swarming up a loose slope, but as they showed no sign yet of bloom they had to be left unidentified. Below these, in the region of the short turf again, were embedded huge stones—torn from the parent cliffs probably centuries earlier — now mellowed and beautified with age and become little natural rock gardens. Covered they were by Mosses and Lichens, by Saxifrages and Sempervivums, overrun by the yellow-starred Sedum-like Gregoria, dotted with tiny clumps of Androsace lactea and A. carnea, and Draba aizoides, inhabited also by Gentians, Forget-me-nots, and Chrysanthemums.

Clematis alpina. "How," one was tempted to ask, "came a Clematis among such barren, loose stones, and with nothing to cling to?" But there was no mistaking it. On the edge of the plateau, where it ran up to the foot of the mountain, our common Bilberry was ramping in the shale, and in the midst of its thicket of twigs appeared the four lovely violet sepals of the alpine Clematis, looking shyly down into the Fern-like leaves at first, but ultimately gaining courage, and, lifting themselves to the sun, opening out sufficiently to show the great bundle of white stamens that they had been hugging.

The parent stem, however, having given forth this sample of its treasures, would retreat a yard or more into the earth, only to throw up another little tuft of foliage and another perfect violet flower a foot or two away. Further on, what struck one most about this plateau was that it was yellow with Ranunculus montanus instead of being white with R. pyrenæus as was most of the turf round the Col.

A north slope facing the valley on one side of the plateau was comfortably clothed with big bushes of Rhododendron ferrugineum, this in itself almost certainly betraying a granitic formation, whereas R. hirsutum is characteristic of limestone.

Though the first flowers did not open till the beginning of July those few enabled one at least to picture the sight that slope would be a fortnight later—the blaze of little bunches of bright rose funnels, of a beauty peculiar to Rhododendron flowers, set like jewels in a compact sea of leathery, dark green foliage, with each leaf backed by a wool of rust-brown.

Across the stream which ran through the Rhododendrons was a spongy bog of Moss and turf, and wherever such a bog was to be found at a height of 5,000 feet or more it was sure to be thickly set with Bird's-eye Primulas. This one was no exception—it was pink with them—lit, as it were, with tiny lamps of pink, of mauve, of carmine, and, it must be confessed, of magenta (this especially, though, from the faded flowers). Only one pure albino did we find after scrutinising every colony we came across, but this one was extraordinarily pretty, with its little yellow eye, when seen near the deepest red forms.

These sponges were often shared with the Primulas by the white mouths of Pinguicula alpina and the white Daisy heads of Bellidiastrum Michelii.

But there was another kind of bog; a little runnel of water amongst the Primulas was choked by a line of Caltha palustris and Ranunculus aconitifolius advancing to the brink of the main stream. And, again, a moist slope below the hotel was a sheet of gold and white, the native Marsh Marigold of our English ponds growing with the Ranunculus to the exclusion of everything else.

Up to date we have considered only the flora of the high pastures and plateaux on the Col itself, and of the mountain slopes above them.

Winding down half-a-mile or so with the road towards La Grave one soon comes to the Narcissus poeticus—fields of it—the flowers small, it is true, but fresh and lovely. There is a sprinkling, too, of a still smaller variety, N. p. radiiflorus, which has perfect little flowers of pale buff;—but they are only the keynote of a wonderful picture.

Anemone alpina, round the melting snow on the north slopes, pushes up a fat, round bud, soft with down, the leaves still hardly visible. On the south slopes it uplifts above a waving platform of Fern-like foliage an opening globe of petals backed with silken hairs, pure white, pale azure, or soft violet. It opens the globe into a spacious cup of white (or of warm sulphur in the variety sulphurea), disclosing the golden stamens clustering within, and later it turns the great flower into a bold head of plumes, in the warmest places 2 feet high.

Anemone narcissiflora has a cluster of little red buds nestling among leafy bracts on stems 6 inches or a foot high, but succeeded by flowers almost entirely white when they are fully open. In the wetter places Trollius europæus is a blaze of glory, with the rounded curves that are its petals lapping over the centre of the flower in a soft, golden globe. In company with these the shorter grass is studded with Gentians in their thousands and carpeted with Violas, Geums, Forget-me-nots, Pulmonarias, Alchemillas, Alyssum, and Alpine Plantains; the longer grass a frenzied mass of Centaureas in blue, Senecios in orange, Orobus luteus in lemon, in yellow, in coffee, and in brown, at different stages of development, Geraniums in white and purple, Pedicularis in rose and buff, Orchis globosa in salmon, and Nigritellas in crimson and black.

Sentinel above them all are reared the slender spires of Veratrums, while the lone towers of Gentiana lutea stand out imperially aloof, their solid ramparts built up of successive whorls of yellow stars buttressed by strong, deep, cup-shaped bracts.

Meum athamanticum, a little white Umbellifer with leaves like Parsley, is everywhere nestling in the grass, while hosts of Martagon Lilies tantalise with their fast-swelling, woolly buds, but are nowhere yet to be found in flower.

Above, the meadows fade away into the scree of the steeper slopes, where the grass that persists longest, running up in dwindling tufts among the high alpine plants, is the coarse Pampas-like Festuca spadicea.

Below, near the road, in the spongy bogs, bedecked as usual with Primula farinosa and sprinkled with Trollius, luxurious colonies of Orchis wax fat—O. sambucina, with squat spikes of yellow, and another species, almost its counterpart, in a rich claret shade of purple.

If there is anything ugly to be found in these fields it is, surely, Campanula thyrsoides. Unaccustomed as one is to anything but attractiveness and beauty in a Campanula, this one comes as a rude shock and serves to show what the genus is capable of producing. It is a thick, squat biennial with a root like a Turnip, and a stem coarse and angular, bearing rough leaves at the base, and for the rest a dense, crowded spike of pale yellowish tubes. Standing almost alone, however, as the "Ugly Duckling" in a brood of such glorious beauty, it is powerless to mar the effect of the meadow even tones in well with them when closely examined.

As the road corkscrews down the the flora is ever gradually changing. ing in the dust at the sides are Oxytropis montana, Thyme, Lotus, Alyssum, etc., while lower down th note is sounded by a brilliant, magenta Legume, whose name was never dete but which was probably another Ox Whatever it was, it ramped freely dov the road and spread up the slate cli La Grave. On the same cliffs, in loo over a tunnel, St. Bernard Lilie piercing tufts of Thalictrum minu lovely spikes of shining white; the St Lily (Anthericum liliastrum) grows in trict, too, but it is not so common, did not come across it ourselves. pression, however, that especially those mountain sides unforgettable i Linaria alpina grilling on their stee under a merciless sun; a picture of miniature Snapdragons burning i purple and contrasting orange agai stern, unyielding cliffs; a vision of tin hoods and puppet lips of orange from a sprawling nest of grey, waxer shown up by the cold blue of the inhc wall they are hugging. Although th pink and mauve variations of the ty was none to rival the charm of th and orange, save a snowy-white f which only a single plant was noticed

Up to about that altitude, but down quite as far as Bourg d'Oisan the Sainfoin meadows. How call th thing else? They glowed, literally, vivid, blinding salmon of Onobrych tana, mingled in harmonious riot o with the intense cobalt of Salvia p the lovely dark blues of Campanul boidalis and Geranium pratense, pic with the milk-white of Ranunculus purity of Chrysanthemums, with a growth of Clovers, Forget-me-nots, galums, and the green blades of Col with here a flesh-pink clump of Po bistortum and there a stately common-place group of Cow Par Anthriscus.

The only distinct type of vegeta left to be mentioned is the low copse In this particular district it seemed t centrated on the north-facing slopes that may possibly have been an i effect, the decisive factor being, the cold winds which sweep up th and tend to keep vegetation clos ground wherever they have full p both sides Vaccinium myrtillus a parts of the ground exactly as tho had been Scotch moorland, an patches of Daphne striatum scente deliciously with the wonderful fra their rose-pink flowers; but on t slopes there were very few other trees, except a colony of Pinus mon an occasional stunted bush of An vulgaris growing between rocks or On the opposite side of the valley, there were frequent patches of copse straggling bushes of Alder, Wil Mountain Ash protected a verda growth of Rubus, Tussilago, and Ra growing with an abandoned reminiscent of well-protected spinneys rather than high alpine The shade, too, made it far later ing than were the plants in the expo

Lonicera cœrulea, hanging o ledges and taking its part in the co another proof of the vagaries of t suckle genus. Ascending to a 6,000 feet to 7,000 feet, it had unf cate little pale green leaves that

der for such altitudes, and was now d with insignificant, rather colourless of flowers, which would be followed turn by the blue berries from which t takes its name.

more curious than this, though, was conscious Allium Victoriale, for, after an early start with a pair of leaves like the twin blades of Lily of the and hurriedly pushing up a tall scape romising pink bud, it seemed to de- t it had displayed an immodest zeal, st now be atoned for by a long period ng, before finally the spathe should Thus, among frequent patches and rge drifts of the plant, we could not ngle individual bold enough to come only these pink buds, shyly drooping graceful stems, and looking as they would rather dive back again ample foliage than lift up their heads and their flowers to the light of day. of the open spaces between those were pictures indeed. The grass, nger than on the top of the Col, l be studded with acaulis Gentians, at behind their protecting rampart the Anemones would bask to their ntent in the sunlight, till the huge succeeded at an early date, by ery schenes, standing sometimes h; Veratrums, even, would deign ese sheltered nooks, reigning there customed state, while Sisymbrium ium lent a touch of startling orange to a dark corner (this plant is of tanical interest in that it seems to characteristics of Cruciferæ with); Ranunculus aconitifolius would l blend together all the brighter th the unfailing charm of its gold Buttercups, and light, graceful ving taller and becoming more airy parent as it melted into the dark- e wood; Viola bicolor would revel , damp shade, its pert little yellow th their pencillings of black, the inner recesses of the under- th the subdued light of stars in an then it would peep timidly out into g grass and finally venture into the open, where its light was dimmed by the glare of the sun.

Thalictrum aquilegifolium, wandering through the wood, but sadly drawn up by the lack of sunlight, would come into its own in the open, and, after one or two isolated plants that had strayed out and lost themselves, one would come to the main body, where the vagrants had foregathered to form an exquisite colony of softly beautiful plumes swaying on firm but delicate stems in a perfect harmony of mauve and white panicles.

Finally, crowning them all, Aquilegia alpina would sparkle with the clear, liquid azure of a tropic lagoon, each great bloom compelling fresh wonder at its faultless perfection of form and exquisite symmetry of outline, as the full-blown petals rolled away to the shortly curving spurs, with the whole lovely structure delicately poised above its green network of Columbine foliage and graciously bowing and nodding to the other blue heads across the meadow.

F. C. Surtees Robinson.

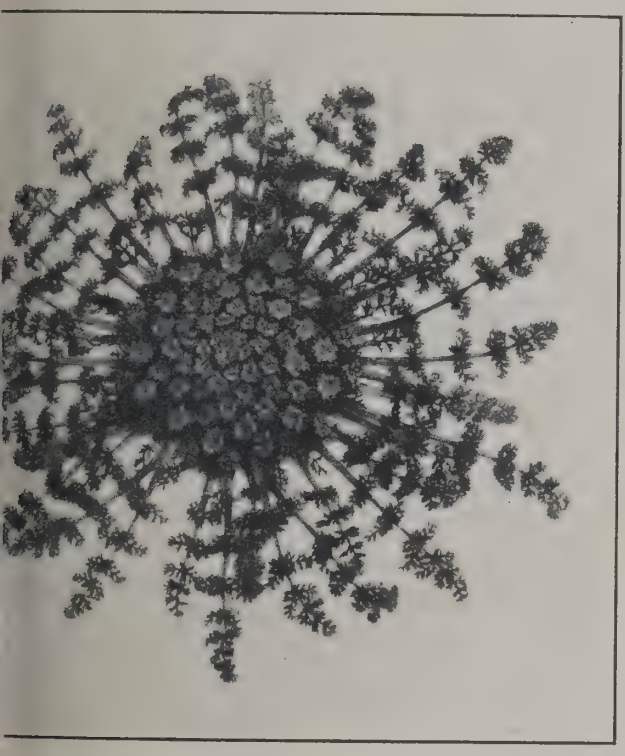


Fig. 1

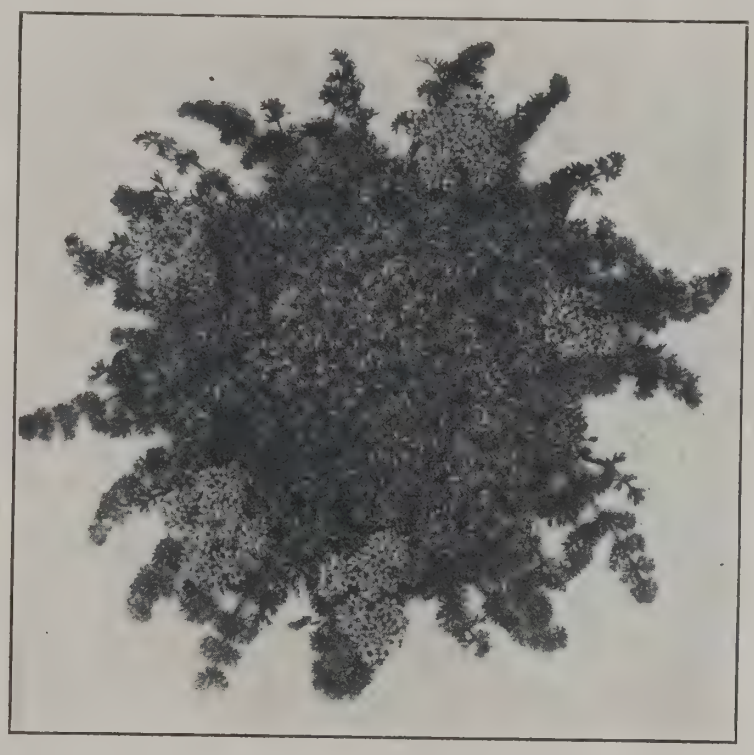


Fig. 2

Cartea Hookeri

Cartea Hookeri

THIS is a most curious and interesting plant from the Himalayas which is very rarely seen in England. As will be seen from the illustrations it is extremely formal in appearance, which is adhered to right through to the flowering period. When quite young the shoots grow from the centre in an almost upright position, but as the centre increases to a kind of mat-like formation the shoots lie out flat on the ground, radiating in all directions, rings being formed by the foliage at almost regular distances, as seen in illustration No. 1.

Flowering commences at the mat-like formation at the centre and gradually spreads all over the plant, rosettes of white flowers appearing at intervals round the edge, as will be seen in illustration No. 2.

White paper has been placed underneath the plant for the purpose of showing up the detail.

This specimen was photographed in Mr. Millard's garden at Felbridge.

Donald F. Merrett.

Felbridge, near East Grinstead, Sussex.

VEGETABLES

Spinach

IT is no uncommon thing to find, even in gardens where other vegetables are as a whole almost up to exhibition form, Spinach poor and unsatisfactory. In many cases this may be traced to the practice, which is far too common, of sowing very thickly. Some gardeners sow Spinach as thickly as they do Mustard and Cress, and they never dream of thinning the seedlings. Surprise is expressed at the poorness of the leaf and at the quickly-bolting nature of Spinach, but grown under such conditions how can it be otherwise? Gardeners who sow Spinach in the way referred to would not dream of sowing annuals —Shirley Poppies or Mignonette, for example —nearly so thickly.. If they did, and if they did not thin these annuals, they would know what to expect. I confess that the treatment given to Spinach by very good gardeners has on many occasions puzzled me. Were the seedlings thinned until they ultimately stood a foot apart—grown, of course, on a suitable quarter—the leaves would be fleshy and robust, and much more appreciated at the table than the poor, small, and flaccid leaves which are too often sent to the kitchen, only to be wasted.

S. H.

Potatoes

In low-lying districts the Potato crops will, no doubt, be quite satisfactory; in fairly good ground they will be a medium crop; in naturally poor and dry soils they will be light and the tubers small. The early and mid-season varieties should be lifted, sorted, and stored without delay when the tubers are mature. The seed tubers must be carefully picked out and placed forthwith, eyes upwards, in boxes, the latter, while fine weather prevails, being left in the open air. For purely seed purposes it is a wise plan to pick out those more robust-looking plants in the quarter, saving the tubers from them and not from roots with quite withered haulm, if the cultivator can be quite sure that the greener plants are true to name.

P. S.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Scabiosa caucasica and its varieties

These are now blooming profusely, and in order to prolong their beauty all old flower-stems must be removed; not merely the old flower-heads, as I often see done, but the stem also, which should be cut away to the point where later flower-spikes are branching out. This will enable all the strength of the plant to travel into the production of these later blooms. The same applies to the beautiful S. anthemæflora and S. speciosa. It is a wonderful year for all these plants, which are producing great quantities of handsome blooms. A light sprinkling of bone-meal among the plants and watered in will help them considerably and keep them blooming until the autumn.

Pinks and Carnations

Complete the propagating of these fine garden plants without delay, whether by cuttings or layering, and as soon as growth is observed among the former, which have been propagated in frames, as advised in an earlier calendar, air must be gradually admitted.

Herbaceous borders

These are now at their best, and to maintain them in this condition as long as possible all old and decaying flowers must be constantly removed, otherwise these detract from the freshness of the borders. Additional staking will be necessary in the case of late-flowering subjects, such as Cardinal Lobelias, Salvia uliginosa, some Lilies, such as Henryi, and Speciosum magnificum.

Tropæolum polyphyllum

This has now ripened its growth, and this may be removed, and any desirable transplanting of the tubers may be carried out. These tubers are often found 2 feet deep, and for this reason deep planting is strongly recommended.

Thalictrum dipterocarpum

This graceful Meadow Rue must not be left unsupported, whether grown in borders or great masses, otherwise strong winds will tear the plants off close to the ground just when on the point of blooming. The plants should be staked with elegant canes in order to preserve their beautiful light form. Plants raised from seed should be put out in their winter quarters without delay, for when planted later they often fail to survive the winter.

Alpine plants

Keep the seeds removed from these and thus prevent them exhausting the plants, and continue to sow seed of those it is desirable to increase, retaining one or two plants only of a group for its production.

Erinus alpinus, purple, rose, and white

Seeds of this, if scattered over old walls, rocks, and ledges, will germinate freely and attach itself securely without any assistance whatever, even to the tiniest crevice of brick walls, soil being unnecessary.

Black Currants

These may now be thinned, and this applies especially to large dense bushes, which should be opened out sufficiently to admit of sunshine and air reaching all parts. If done without delay a great improvement will be seen the following year.

Raspberries

Remove the old canes where not already done from the old annual fruiting kinds and train in the young canes at about 1 foot apart. The old canes of perpetual-fruiting varieties have been removed during the past week, and this has admitted sunshine to the newly-made canes, which are already fruiting, and thus we get no break in the supply.

Peaches, Nectarines, and Figs

Those ripening in the open must be netted securely, otherwise 50 per cent. will be lost or damaged by vermin. Bottles or jars containing sweetened ale suspended among the trees will attract wasps and bluebottles, and thus keep them from damaging the fruit.

Tomatoes

These have done well and must be assisted to support their heavy crops by stimulants applied weekly.

Cucumbers and Melons

Keep surplus growth cut away, and if old plants of the former are even severely thinned at intervals their cropping qualities will be renewed and prolonged for a considerable time. Both crops should be liberally fed.

Chrysanthemums in pots

Examine the traps set among these for earwigs each morning, and from this date light stimulants may be applied once each week. Syringe the plants freely each evening and damp the surroundings during hot weather. Should rust appear on the leaves spray with a weak solution of Bordeaux Mixture.

Runner Beans

Assist those bearing heavily with stimulants and keep old pods removed. Mulch the plants with stable litter.

Tripoli Onions

The ground previously prepared may now be thoroughly raked down and made firm. Drills may then be drawn 1½ inches deep and 1 foot apart, and the seed sown thinly. Giant Rocca (silver-skinned) and Red Italian are excellent kinds.

Endive

Make a final sowing on a warm border.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Cinerarias

The latest batch of these should be ready for transference to the flowering-pots. For general decorative purposes the 6-inch size is excellent. Pots must be clean and have a fair amount of drainage. Good Cinerarias can be grown in a mixture of three parts good fibrous loam, two parts leaf-mould, and one part coarse clean sand. A 5-inch potful of bone-meal and a 4-inch potful of Thomson's Manure to each barrowload of soil is an excellent addition. Pot fairly firmly and set in a shady, cold frame, keeping as cool as can be managed. Be rather sparing at first with water, but do not ever let the plants flag for want of moisture.

Sow Cyclamen now

It is, as a rule, the plants raised from seeds sown during the second or third week in August that give the greatest satisfaction. Choose clean, dry, and well-drained 9-inch pans, filling these with a compost consisting of two parts good fresh loam, two parts brown peat, one part leaf-mould, and one part clean sharp sand. Pass all through a ¼-inch riddle and mix well. Lay a handful of the rough riddlings over the crocks and fill to within ¾ inch of the top, making moderately firm. Sow the seeds thinly and cover with about ¼ inch of the compost through a fine riddle. Set in a temp of 60 degs. or a little more, shading f sunshine.

Schizanthus

Generally speaking, the best flow got from plants raised in autumn, a best date is about the third week of Sow in pans filled with sandy co After sowing, cover with a little fine s set in a cold frame. This seed ger very quickly, so an eye should be kept seed-pans so that they may be raised u to the glass as soon as growth peeps t the surface, the seedlings in the earlie being inclined to "draw" up spindly distance from it.

Clarkias for spring flowering

Although a little troublesome to through the winter it is still advis endeavour to do so, for it is autum plants that give the best display, the attaining, as they do, to fairly large tions. Sow the seeds just as detaile for Schizanthus. The Clarkia ger within a few days, and, like the Schiz should not be kept away from the lig

Mignonette for pots

A few pots filled with healthy pl this sweet-scented subject are a de spring, so seeds should now be sown. results are had by sowing a pinch i and, when large enough, pricking int pots, three plants in each. The ordinarily, pass safely through the w the small pots, and can then be giver into the 5½-inch or 6-inch sizes ab middle of February.

Summer pruning

This is a subject that causes cons controversy, and, so far as I have b to judge, has never been properly either as a time or method. Havi several of the plans advocated mar ago and finding no appreciable diffe the results as regards fruit-bearing, I turned to the one practised by my master, and have no reason for reg as anything but satisfactory. Th trim back to four leaves or so during half of August, clearing away and bu once all prunings. I get fine dis blossom, as a rule, and when fruit the reason is inclement weather flowering period.

Vegetable Marrows

About this season there is, usually deal of growth on the Marrow pla overcrowding is very apt to resu drastic thinning is carried out. knife freely and the results will m justify the expending of a little tir so. Should the fruits be shy to set, impregnation should be resorted flowers and foliage are dry, usua mid-day. If weather be dry give sional soaking of water.

Parsley for winter

A frame or frames should now with healthy young plants from t Mix a good quantity of leaf-mould loam used and make the bed moder before proceeding to plant. Allow or 7 inches between the plants e Give a good watering, and shade sunshine for a few days. Myatt's G is a very reliable variety for the pur

C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithg

The First Annual Blackpool Flower Show

(*Concluded from page 477.*)

RNING, then, to the exhibits in the ıts, it may be said, without preamble, ıt an astoundingly high standard was l, particularly in the Roses, Del- ns, Sweet Peas, and hothouse plants.

s' display

ers, not for the first time, were the the show, and won the premier gold l large gold medal for a central garden orm of a square filled with an endless of decorative plants generally, all per- rown. Ranged round a tall clump of egundo variegata in the middle were ngs of Hydrangeas, the rest of the eing filled in, in intricate design, with hings as Godetias, Tracheliums, ıs, more Hydrangeas, and, nearer the Ferns and Gloxinias. Four light s of Sweet Peas rose out of the masses other flowers, and four jets of water g up from pools opposite the corners ed the design and gave life to the icture. Round the sides ran a trim f grass growing in trays, while the was broken with projecting rings of s and Bidiscus, each clump grouped a Palm. This Bidiscus (otherwise rachemere cœrulea) is an uncommon, y attractive annual, like a pale s in general effect, but actually with wer borne on an inch-long stalk, the ead forming a perfect light dome of c.

ing this group Carters had their truly ul display of vegetables which secured gold medal. A great circular tower d of growing Tomatoes against black ith Maize peeping through at the top t from surrounding tiers of tall Broad nden with pods, and very decorative plants of the quaint little Tomato, rant. For the rest a chandelier of presided at either end over a bewilder- usion of the most ornamental vege- ll shown to exceptional advantage. e white Leeks and Celery sticks, magenta-coloured Beet, yellow and ucumbers, Mushrooms dotted over eas arranged round hoops to form with their own foliage, baskets of it (the handles trimmed with scarlet ns), and so on and so forth *ad* , while the firm's name was worked owing Mustard seedlings.

n-competitive exhibits

t. Hon. Lord Leconfield, too, had a collection of vegetables, for which awarded the cup for the best non- ve amateur's exhibit. As far as es were concerned, the best were King's Acre Nurseries, Hereford; ve have yet to see a group of trees ter grown, better trained, or better Weeping Gooseberries and Peaches, l Apples and Nectarines, spirally- oung Vines, and espalier Pears were ellent condition and thickly set with grid-trained specimen of Bon Pear particularly being as geo- angled as though it had been put by a joiner.

Daily Dispatch" Silver Challenge or the best non-competitive exhibit marquee, after the winner of the went to Bolton's, Birdbrook, Essex, ceedingly fine group of Sweet Peas. the largest as well as the best col- f Sweet Peas in the show and y arranged.

50 other non-competitive groups noteworthy included Allwood Bros.' 's Heath) typically good Carnations, with the lovely warm red of Edward Allwood and a mass of deep shell-pink Laddie in the centre and tall founting columns of Spectrum and Mary Allwood at either end.

Dobbie and Co., Edinburgh, had a long exhibit in three parts—Roses, Sweet Peas, and early Dahlias—including the new Rose, Duchess of Atholl. This is a vivid orange with a wonderful ruddy glow, and won them the "Abol" Gold Medal offered for the Rose adjudged to possess the most distinctive colour of any in the show. Among their Sweet Pea novelties a mauve one of remarkably pure colour was Gleneagles. It was awarded a First-class Certificate at the Scottish National Sweet Pea Trials of 1925, and is a beautiful, constant shade of lavender with just a suggestion of blue.

Herbaceous groups

A very distinctive group of mixed plants was put up by the Donard Nursery Co., Newcastle, Co. Down, inspired by five great arching sheaves of Dierama (Sparaxis) pulcherrima, a plant that seems to be less frequently seen in gardens than it is at shows, although its lateness of flowering and its unique habit make it invaluable for a sunny position in an autumn garden.

Prins, too, of Wisbech, Cambs, showed a good collection of herbaceous plants, principally Gladioli. Colvillei rubra was an uncommon variety, rusty-red with white markings, and Nymph, with a similarly shaped flower, was white with pink blotches.

Blackmore and Langdon, Bath, were some of the few, if not the only, people to show Phlox, of which they had an excellent collection in addition to their famous Delphiniums. The two new Delphiniums which they entered for the "Abol" Gold Medal for the best new unnamed seedling were far superior to any of their competitors. They won it with a magnificent spike of huge flowers, in which pale blue was blended with the softest mauve, the variety being named Blackpool Victor as a condition under which the award was made.

Rock plants

Dwarf shrubs for rock gardens were well shown by Robert Hayes, of Grasmere, who had a very comprehensive collection on a long table; while Maxwell and Beale, Broadstone, Dorset, had a miniature rock garden with a tiny pool on which three forms of Delphinium sinense were to be seen, as well as the vivid orange of Geum sibiricum (this had rather a loose flower, though). There were also a clump of French Lavender, some Astilbes, and several of the firm's famous Heathers.

Hemsleys, of Crawley, had many interesting rock plants and Cacti in addition to their group of Sidalceas, and a small collection of fruit.

Opposite this table were Tuckers, of Oxford, showing a fine collection of Campanulas very attractively planted in a little moraine—a splendid clump of Zoysii and such others as Stansfieldii, Wockei, and Waldsteiniana — also a charming little Hypericum, namely, cuneatum, whose bright yellow, wide-open flowers were set off by red buds and calyces. At the back there were a few herbaceous plants with a presiding clump of Lilium testaceum in the centre.

Johnson and Sons, Liverpool Road, Birkdale, had Acers, Sidalceas, Poterium obtusum, and some interesting rock plants round a pool containing Nymphæas and the British yellow Water Lily, Nuphar luteum, and Riggs, of Kew Nurseries, Southport, had a good collection of alpines, among which one especially noticed Linaria anticaria.

Aquatics, etc.

Perrys, Enfield, showed another of their famous collections of Nymphæas, waterside plants and Ferns. The Empire-grown bulbs that they have recently taken up were represented by the brilliant orange Tritonia crocata, which cannot, unfortunately, be called hardy in any but the warmest corners of the country. There were also Dierama pulcherrima, the Eldorado strain of Calochortus in yellow, white, and pink, the rather curious but well worth growing double form of the Meadow Buttercup (Ranunculus acris fl.-pl.), Gladiolus Colvillei alba, and Lilium Hansoni, L. pardalinum, L. regale, and L. canadense. The last is one not often seen. A native of bogs in North America, it would probably make a wider appeal if it did not so far conceal its flowers, both by hanging them down and by not recurving the petals sufficiently. The flower is inclined to be funnel-shaped and is orange or dark red with black markings. The background of this splendid collection (on the other side of the pool in which the Water Lilies floated) was composed of red Japanese Maples with Rushes, flowering Cannas, Hemerocallis, and Butomus umbellatus (the Flowering Rush of our own river banks), and at either end was a green buttress of Ferns. Of Hydrangeas, Dickson and Robinson, Manchester, had a magnificent collection, in which the pure white Mme. E. Moullière and the dark carmine-red Elmar were especially noticed.

To complete the non-competitive exhibits an unusual one that attracted a great deal of attention was the model of a house and garden put up by Reginald Winder, Lingwood Lodge, Norwich. Representing a garden of an acre's extent, on a scale of an inch to the foot, it was most ingeniously made, and seemed perfect in every detail.

Competitive classes

The competitive classes within the marquees were, as we have already seen, legion. Taking, however, some of the most important, one was particularly struck by the high standard attained in the section for hothouse plants. James Cypher and Sons, of Cheltenham, won the first prize in the class for flowering and foliage plants, together with an exceedingly fine collection of Crotons, Dracænas, and Caladiums ranged round Palms and lightened by the long red sprays of Humea elegans. There were tall white spikes of Frankoa ramosa, too, and scarlet foliage of Nandina domestica, splendid specimens of Lilium speciosum, with their red-marked petals curving cleanly back from the fountain of rust-brown anthers, shining white trumpets of L. longiflorum, and exquisite creamy-tangerine sprays of L. Henryi. Such a close second in the same class were Holmes, of Chesterfield, that the judges must have been hard put to it to decide between these two. Holmes, however, won in the class confined to foliage plants. Gloriosas were prominent in James Cypher's collection in the same class, the vivid orange and red, crinkled petals making them more like writhing, tropical Lilies than anything else; and another attractive thing they showed was a Fuchsia with long tubular flowers terra-cotta in colour—F. corallina.

For Carnations a silver cup and first prize were won by C. Engelmann, Ltd., Saffron Walden, with one of the fine displays that one rarely misses from him at any show; and Charles Wall, Southdown, Bath, won in another section with an admirable group.

Attractive groups

H. Prins, Wisbech, Cambs, were first in the principal class for Gladioli, of which they had a large and well-conditioned collection; while Bees, Sealand Nurseries, Chester, took

both the first prizes for Delphiniums. Bees, indeed, were one of the foremost firms of any in the scheduled classes, and did much towards making the show the success that it was, not only with their first-class groups of herbaceous plants of all kinds and of Roses, but also with wonderful bouquets in the decorative section.

Wm. Sydenham, Melbourne, Derbyshire, had a good group, too, and came second, with Artindale and Son, Nether Green, Sheffield, third.

M. Prichard and Sons, of Christchurch, won one of the main sections for herbaceous plants with a fine collection containing many interesting and first-class plants, notably Thalictrum dipterocarpum, Poterium obtusum and P. tenuifoloum album, Centaurea rathenica, Lilium chalcedonicum, L. candidum, L. pseudotigrinum, and L. testaceum, and Astilbes, etc., with a very pretty slender Bulrush at the corner, Typha stenophylla.

Oliver and Hunter, Moniaive, Dumfriesshire, in the group which won them a cup and a first prize had a few of the Primulas of which they grow such a large collection—P. Florindæ, P. oblanceolata (an uncommon one rather like Poissonii), and several pulverulenta hybrids—as well as a purple, woolly clump of Dracocephalum Isabellæ and some pretty sprays of the light copperypink Pentstemon barbatus.

Some of the finest Hydrangeas were shown by Garden Supplies, Ltd., Cranmer Street, Liverpool, who won in that class and received a silver cup in addition.

Roses

If we have not mentioned the Roses before it is not because they were unimportant—the long bank of them, reaching the full length of the tent, was, in fact, one of the finest features of the show.

McGredy and Sons, Portadown, won the trophy in the main class—for a group 40 feet in length. They had a truly magnificent collection in perfect condition, with the intense, glowing, shell-pink of Mrs. Henry Morse as a centrepiece and many another old favourite shown at its best, as well as several other interesting and most promising novelties, finished off by a tower of American Pillar at either end.

In the class for 20 feet tables Charles Gregory, Chilwell, Notts, were first. They had an admirable collection in which Betty Uprichard, Independence Day, Shot Silk, and many another first-class variety were ranged round a supreme central basket of warm, orange-vermilion Lady Inchiquin.

In the series of other classes for single varieties and small collections many good specimens were shown, but one outstanding group, both for the large size and for the consistent perfection of the blooms, was that of Wheatcroft Bros., Gedling, Notts.

Of the other open classes the principal ones were for Sweet Peas and Violas and for fruit. For Sweet Peas there was a section devoted to each colour in addition to those for groups, Herd Bros., Penrith, winning the principal trophy with a finely-grown collection. For Violas and Pansies there was also a long list, Edward Clegg, Dewsbury, winning the trophy for the main group, while in the fruit section Simpsons, whom we referred to earlier, won a silver cup for a charmingly decorated table of well-conditioned Grapes, Peaches, Plums, etc.

Amateur classes

The numerous amateur classes were also very well patronised, and contributed their quota to the show. The GARDENING ILLUSTRATED Bronze Medal for the best flowers in the allotment section was won by Mrs. John T. Hall, of Little Morton, Lancashire.

The floral decorations for dinner-tables had a long tent almost to themselves and filled four rows of tables down its full length, making a brave display, indeed, when seen from either end.

Mrs. John Nixon, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, won both in the class in which Sweet Peas alone were to be used, and the one in which mixed flowers were permitted; and, in addition, was awarded the silver trophy offered for the most meritorious exhibit in any of the three classes. In the third class itself, for Roses, the first prize went to Mrs. A. J. Blair, of Congleton, Cheshire, for a char arrangement of Emma Wright, with rose foliage. Many other effective schemes were shown, such as orang yellow and white Iceland Poppies in bowls, with Asparagus Fern, blue Meco with a few red Heucheras and, one finest of all, scarlet Carnations with tips of Lily of the Valley in silver-gilt arranged on little scarlet, silver-edged

F. C. SURTEES ROBINS

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, q cannot always be replied to in the issue im ately following their receipt. We do not re queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their pla be named should send fair examples of eac stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of and points of shoots are useless.) Not mor four plants should be sent in any one week same correspondent. Where more than on in sent they should be numbered. Of conife cones should always be sent.*

FRUIT

Apple leaf scorch

(F. Mason).—The specimen Apple shoot you have sent in for examination is affected with Leaf Scorch. As far as we know at present the cause of this trouble is a shortage of some soil factor. Leaf Scorch is prevalent on light soils in many parts of the country, and certain varieties seem to be more prone to the trouble than others. In Lancashire the trouble appeared to be largely due to a shortage of potash, and you should try the effect of a potash salt on your trees. We are inclined to think that it is rather late in the season to expect much benefit from such a dressing this season because the damage is already done. However, there would be no harm in trying it. For the time nitrogen should be withheld, but a dressing of sulphate of potash applied at the rate of 1 oz. per sq. yard might be given at once. The dressing of potash should be repeated at the end of March. Such treatment would ensure that lack of potash was not the cause of the Leaf Scorch if it reappeared in your trees next season. We should be pleased to hear from you next year as to the effect of this treatment. The fruits on the specimen you sent are affected with Apple Scab. Please see reply on page 460 in our issue for July 23rd. The Apple Scab, in your case only slight, and the Leaf Scorch is the main source of trouble.

Pitmaston Duchess Pear and Golden Noble Apple

I have five to six year old trees of Pitmaston Duchess Pear and Golden Noble Apple. I gather that both these fruit at tips of the branches. Kindly let me know how to prune, summer and winter. Are these self-fertile?

F. H. COCKLE.

[Both are fertile, the Pear particularly so. Apple Golden Noble at its best has few equals among culinary varieties, but does not flourish on some soils. For summer pruning all you need do at the present time is to shorten back all the growths made during the current season to within five or six eyes of their base, with the exception of leading shoots required for shaping and developing the trees, which must be left for the present. For winter pruning, any time after the leaves have fallen prune away all weak and fruitless wood to within two or three buds of their base, strong shoots being cut back to about five eyes, unless pointing outwards, when they may be left two buds longer. The leading shoots, left untouched at the summer pruning, may then be shortened back to within 1 foot of the previous season's pr or to within 10 buds of their base, v somewhat according to the balance trees. The decision regarding the n of leading shoots to be left for the spread and development of the trees m left to your own judgment, but at al avoid overcrowding the branches.]

Growing Apples on commercial li

As a reader of your valued paper years I ask you this question. I p planting about 100 Apple trees (stan I have purchased a piece of pastur facing east and protected on the nor by a Fir plantation. I intend drai 2 feet deep and trenching it two spit and planting 20 feet apart. I intend ing in some rotten manure and bone the soil is a good heavy loam. What ties do you recommend, and how mu they ought to cost me per tree fro nurseryman, as I am going in pur commercial purposes? If I am on the track anywhere, please put me right, I stand a chance of success? IGNOR

[Your plans for draining and trench land are correct, providing you intend the open spaces between the trees fo crops, such as Strawberries and Currants. Failing this we suggest t stead of trenching and manuring the of the ground you trench only the for each tree 2 feet 6 inches d 5 feet across, and thus curtail initial outlay, as much of the food into the soil beyond this distan be washed out before the trees ca it up. Do not overdo your land with and bone-meal, otherwise you will g growth at the expense of fruit. The ing varieties have proved very profit some districts, but we strongly advis make inquiries of local nurseryme growers as to which kinds are most ful in your locality. This is most imp We suggest as cooking Apples Br Seedling, Lane's Prince Albert, Early (a valuable early Codlin), Gr Newton Wonder, Rival, Warner's Ki Rosemary Russet. As dessert, A Pippin, Beauty of Bath, Charles Ros heim Orange, Christmas Pearmain, Favourite, Cutler Greine, Grav Heusgen's Golden Reinette, King Pippins, Maidstone Favourite, W Pearmain, Beauty of Bath, an Sudeley. The retail rate of standard about 7s. 6d. per tree, but as yours commercial purposes, and a large being required, you should be able t

t trade rate, which would make a con-
le difference to you. Make up your
s to the varieties you finally decide to
then forward your list to a reliable
man, asking for a quotation. Such a
ill be pleased to assist you.]

erry Garibaldi

Woodward).—This is listed by Messrs.
Pearson and Sons, Ltd., Lowdham
es, Notts, and by the Kings Acre Nur-
mpany, Ltd., Hereford.

trouble

.)—The Peach shoot sent in for ex-
on is badly affected with red spider.
nites are a common cause of trouble
h foliage, both under glass and out
s. You do not state whether your
e in or out of doors, but in either case
l find that heavy syringing with clean
vill do much to reduce this pest. Red
hate water, and only flourish under
ditions; *e.g.*, they often cause very
uble on Peach trees under glass until
: begins to ripen, because the amount
ging which is given the trees up to
od is sufficient to keep it down. When
its are on the trees little syringing
done, but after that plenty of water
e again given. When the pest has
the upper hand, as in your case, a
with liver of sulphur might be given;
uld use potassium sulphide 5 ozs.,
8 ozs., water 10 gallons. Spraying
s solution should be repeated until
has been got under control. You
y the effects of a dressing of sulph.
Another season it might improve
ral tone of the trees. Red spider is
the main cause of your trouble.
e reply to R. J. on page 455 of our
July 23rd.

Melon

tchell).—Your Melon plant is affected
arium wilt. This disease is caused
gus which is quite distinct from the
h causes Melon canker. The only
ı can do is to take up the affected
l burn it. Fusarium spores usually
nts through wounded tissue, and we
ıat in your case the organism has
n entry through an insect bite of
cription. When the crop of Melons
d the house should be cleared out
soil removed. The wood work and
ıld be well scrubbed with hot water
olic soap; the walls should be lime-
Water tanks often become con-
l with various fungoid organisms,
d be thoroughly cleaned out at the
ach season.

ROSES

down Roses

—All the semi-climbers, and any
g varieties when once firmly estab-
y be pegged down, and their 6-foot
shoots left their full length; they
ı profusely from the laterals when
this way. When varieties like
l Druschki and Hugh Dickson
mb-thick shoots, this is the best
ndle them, too; but you cannot peg
ts of newly-transplanted trees, you
new shoots for yourself, and you
till established roots throw shoots
purpose. There is no point in
wn a shoot as thin as a pencil, the
m such a shoot would not carry
y bloom.

ers

—It is especially important to start
knowledge that all Roses have
, because the Briar is always more
ng to re-assert itself, endeavouring
cultured but comparatively puny
aristocrat that is taking all its sap. One must always be on the look-out for these wild shoots and remove them (by a clean cut where they start) before they have a chance to take the strength from the trees. If this duty is neglected there will soon be a healthy Briar, but no Rose tree. In the case of standards these wild outbreaks are easily noticed. Any sucker from the roots is necessarily Briar, and any "break" in the stem is Briar also. In the case of a bush, Briar suckers are easily detected, too, as soon as you have learned to distinguish between Briar and Rose foliage. Care, however, is especially required here, because the sucker-like shoot from the bottom is exactly what is most desirable if it is really Rose, and most mischievous if it is only Briar. In any case of doubt trace the sucker to its source. The place where a bush Rose is budded just above the roots is called the "collar." If the shoot is below the collar it is Briar; if from the collar or above it, it is just what you want to see.

FLOWER GARDEN

Time and method of planting the Madonna Lily (L. candidum)

(C. P.).—The best time to plant this Lily is about the middle of September. The ground intended for them should be of good heart, such as a kitchen garden plot which was manured last year. If a new site is to be prepared on poor ground it should be trenched 2 feet deep and have a small quantity of well-decayed manure or leaf-mould mixed into the soil as the work of preparation goes on, also a free addition of chalk or lime and sand. Leave this to settle down for a while and plant the bulbs so that the top of the crown is 3 inches below the surface, having first dusted them with flowers of sulphur, working the latter in between the Lily scales.

Snapdragons and Sweet Williams reverting

(H. M. F.).—This is not at all unusual among such flowers, especially when seeds are saved from home-grown plants year after year. If you desire your plants to be of one decided colour they should be propagated from cuttings taken off the approved kinds. Seeds gathered from the same plants rarely come true unless the latter are protected from insects during their flowering period.

Aquilegia and Linaria seeds

(Miss Amy Clarke).—You can obtain seeds of Aquilegia glandulosa and of Linaria alpina from one or two hardy plant specialists. Try Messrs. Clarence Elliott, Ltd., Six Hills Nursery, Stevenage, Herts, and Messrs. W. E. Th. Ingwersen, Ltd., Birch Farm, Sharpthorne, East Grinstead. The Aquilegia seed is rare and dear (about 2s. 6d. per packet), but the Linaria would be only 6d. per packet or so.

GREENHOUSE

Chrysanthemums

I have a number of Chrysanthemums in large pots, some of which are natural first-crowners showing buds from their first break. This is, surely, early to secure the bud, as I do not wish them to flower till November—their usual time. If these buds are early what is my best way to treat them now? How can I prevent it in the future? The sorts showing buds and second breaks are Mrs. Geo. Munro, Junr., Mrs. R. C. Pulling, Mr. T. W. Pockett, and Gigantic. Cuttings were inserted in December and January, and the plants are strong. F. F.

[The crown buds are showing full early, but you would make a mistake in not securing them. Flower-buds in the case of growing show blooms take a long time to develop, and yours should not be too early for November. A good idea for future guidance would be to insert the cuttings in February, referring to the sorts named and any others of a like habit in respect to their buds.]

Chrysanthemum leaf miner

(T. G. Walsh).—When the Chrysanthemum leaf miner is only present in small quantities, going over the plants and hand-picking the affected leaves is probably the cheapest and most effective remedy. Spraying the plants with a nicotine insecticide is claimed to be good control for this pest, but if spraying is to be effective it must be repeated fairly often. This leaf miner affects many other nearly related plants, and effort should be made to reduce the pest on these other host plants. Under glass, fumigation with nicotine will control leaf miner if it is repeated often enough to deal with each generation of the flies as they emerge from the chrysalis stage.

The Culture of Crinums

(Wm. Wilkinson).—The cultivation of Crinums is very simple. They require a good rich soil, plenty of root room, and feeding when throwing up their large spikes of bloom. A good compost consists as follows:—Two barrowloads of turfy loam broken up to about hen's egg size, 2 bushels of well-decayed leaf-mould (or preferably spent Mushroom bed), ½ bushel made up of slaked lime, wood-ash, and soot in equal proportions, and a free addition of sand, all thoroughly mixed. The bulbs should be potted up in October and kept in a cool greenhouse until March, when they may be introduced to a warmer temperature if early flowers are desired, a temperature of 55 degs. suiting them admirably. They will commence to bloom early in June, continuing throughout the summer. About the end of September gradually withhold water and allow the plants to rest.

MISCELLANEOUS

Destruction of injurious weeds

I have a neighbour who neglects his garden and allows rank grass, nettles, and weeds of every sort to run wild, much to the detriment of my garden. I have mentioned it to him, but he says he prefers to see wild Nature. What do you suggest, and is there any remedy? "VIKING."

[Under the schedule to the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has certain powers with regard to the destruction of injurious weeds. The only weeds to which the Act applies are Thistles, Docks, and Ragwort. The following memorandum shows the steps necessary to put the Act into operation as regards any particular land:—

MEMORANDUM

DESTRUCTION OF THISTLES, DOCKS, AND RAGWORT.

Under the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries may serve on the occupier of any land infested with the above-named weeds a notice requiring him to cut down and destroy the weeds, and where the occupier unreasonably fails to do so he is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £20 and a further fine not exceeding £1 per day while default continues after conviction.

The expression "Occupier" means, in the case of any public road, the authority by whom the road is being maintained, and, in the case of unoccupied land, the person entitled to the occupation thereof.

The Minister has delegated his powers to the various County Agricultural Committees, and any communication on the subject of putting the Act into operation as regards par-

ticular land should be addressed to the Clerk of the County Agricultural Committee at the offices of the County Council for the Administrative County in which the land is situated.

If the land is situated within the boundaries of a County Borough for which there is no Agricultural Committee, communications should be addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1.

NOTE.—The following are the weeds to which the above provisions apply:—Spear Thistle (Carduus lanceolatus. L.), Creeping or Field Thistle (Carduus arvensis Curt), Curled Dock (Rumex crispus L.), Broad-leaved Dock (Rumex obtusifolius L.), and Ragwort (senecio Jacobœa L.).]

Sleeping disease of Tomatoes

(W. Bolt).—Your Tomatoes are affected with Sleepy Disease, which is caused by the fungus Verticillium albo-atrum. If the diseased plants are all as badly affected as the one you have sent in to us you can do nothing with them except take them up and burn them. On the plant you have sent us the fungus is producing spores in large quantities, and these spores will infect other plants growing in the same house, therefore they should be taken up and destroyed at once. After the badly-diseased plants have been removed you should lightly shade your house, and, if possible, raise the temperature by using fire-heat. Water should be used very sparingly to the roots of the plants, but they should be syringed overhead in the morning and again late in the afternoon. All the plants should be top dressed with good soil. After the crop is finished the soil should be removed entirely from the house or sterilized *in situ* by means of steam or suitable chemicals. We hope to deal with the clearing up of Tomato houses that have been affected with disease in an article to be published later in the season.

NAMES OF PLANTS

Thistlefield.—1, Salvia pratensis; 2, Linaria repens; 3, Œnothera fruticosa; 4, Anthemis tinctoria.

H. O.—1, Escallonia langleyensis; 2, Calceolaria (the Bronze Age).

H. Thurgur.—Acer Pseudoplatanus (Sycamore).

T. C. B. Cole.—1, Oxalis Dippei; 2, Colutea arborescens; 3, Spiræa canescens; 4, Spiræa discolor (syn. Ariæfolia).

H. W. French.—1, Achillea ptarmatica (Perry's white).

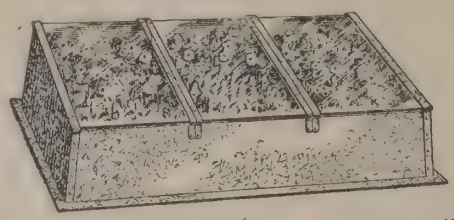
Scot.—1, Iris fœtidissima; 2, Indigofera Gerardiana; 3, Acer negunda.

? Salvia virgata nemorosa.—The specimen enclosed is not Salvia virgata var. nemorosa at all; the scent gives it away at once. Salvia virgata has a strong and disagreeable smell, whilst the enclosed specimen has the sweeter smell of Salvia officinalis, with which it agrees in leaf, shape, and texture. The specimen arrived in very poor condition, but it still showed traces of variegation in the leaves, which inclines us to believe that the plant sent is Salvia officinalis var. tricolor. This pretty garden form is generally smaller in leaf and growth than the form commonly cultivated as a pot herb.

Trade Notes

Covent garden frame

The "Covent" garden frame, which we illustrate, is constructed of galvanised sheet steel, with sloping top and tapering sides, so that it can be nested for transit or storing



purposes. The glass (to be procured locally) slides in the top. This frame is very light and will not rot or rust; it will maintain a good heat, and is easily ventilated. It is particularly useful for autumn Violas, Pensteemons, etc., planting Violets in—in September—to protect through the winter. It can also be used as a cloche to protect Parsley in winter; also to bring on Mint by placing over in January. The "Covent" would serve as a propagating frame in the greenhouse. It should then be placed over hot pipes filled with leaves or peat, and contai mersed pots with cuttings or seeds (M Cucumbers, etc.). Further particula be obtained from the manufacturers, Wilmot and Co., Ltd., Bristol.

The "Uniflow" pump

Many interesting points can be noticed design of the "Uniflow" pump, made Uniflo Pump Co., Ltd., of Fordhouses Wolverhampton, which was shown Royal Agricultural Show recently. machine is a high speed reciprocatin operating on a new principle, the resul that it gives, as the name implies, a u flow. Through this uniformity there hydraulic shock, and no slip throug valves. The pump is also remarkable freedom from mechanical noise. sizes are built. The H-type has bee duced in order to meet the demand small pump for working either by h by power, incorporating all the adva of the larger "Uniflow" designs. small pumps will pump up to 600 gall hour against a total head of 30 feet; o mittent work, this head may actually ceeded. It is particularly suitable f series or estates.

Shepperton Roses

Budding was in full swing wh recently paid a visit to Rose Acre, S ton-on-Thames, the well-known nurs Mr. R. Murrell. The Rose fields are main road between Shepperton and and should any of our readers be in trict during the next few weeks we a call, where a splendid stock of sta bush and climbers, are to be seen. W particularly attracted by the magnific play of standards in all the best na Rugosa briar. Mr. Murrell pins his Rugosa, and contends it holds i against any other. A special fea made of climbers in pots; at least t sons are gained when planting these ference to open ground plants. If i possible to visit Rose Acre, we rec securing a copy of one of the most a lists we know—"My Favourite Ro Why"—which will be sent on applic

Cyclamen Seed

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ARDENING ILLUSTRATED

27—Vol. XLIX. AUGUST 13, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 15/.

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Lilies Easily Grown

ity that some of the most beautiful s of this important family of hardy are so difficult to establish that only be found in good condition and climatic conditions are excep- avourable. That very beautiful rameri, for instance, would be n were it not so capricious. It he loveliest hardy flowers in culti- have never seen but one good f this Lily, and that was many in Mr. Wilson's time, at Wisley. say, it was growing in full ex- un and air at the foot of Rhodo- nd, what was really remarkable, two fully-developed seed-pods. I w if young plants were raised. your readers give an instance of producing seed-pods? This is a tance of the fickle nature of some the Lily family; in spite of good e they frequently disappoint. On hand, it may happen that quite they find conditions so much to that they become thoroughly and are a joy to the owner. All ad to do with auratum know that, way, its life in the open air is a A cottager here, who had no ex- Lilies, planted a bulb of auratum garden soil, and not only did that perennial vigour, but it increased, ourse of time a colony was formed ced many perfectly-formed blooms a fine display. In recent years a Lily has, in the majority of en more or less a failure, the elling to such an extent that the alue of this Lily is so much im- it is hardly worthy of a place in

isease that attacks the foliage, and robs the blooms of their alue. My plants were attacked and I made up my mind to dis- appened, however, to drop a bulb, emained undisturbed and was as a brick, and was roasted in a particle of soil being put on quite two years before the bulb red by the action of worms, and a dozen stems and furnishes e best quality, and there is no ase on the foliage. In another s were planted close to a wall to the full force of the sun eater part of the day. I should hosen such a place for any mem- ly family, but these plants were e picture of health, and bore e quality. As a fact, one never ome Lilies are going to behave. are that may be given they may be a complete failure. A striking instance of this once came under my notice. A great lover of the Lily family wishing to possess a representative collection obtained all the kinds in cultivation and gave them ideal conditions in the matter of soil and position. The results were disappointing. Some made strong growth and became thoroughly established, some made fair growth, but the majority of the rarer kinds did not survive the second year. Happily, there are members of this fine family of hardy flowers that can be easily grown and will generously respond to fair treatment. Such kinds as the Tiger and its varieties, the Orange Lily, the varieties of umbellatum, Thunbergianum, and some others are very handsome and effective when accorded the conditions which they need. Too often these are more or less wanting, with the result that growth is poor. There is partial defoliation in the early part of the growing time, which robs them of much of their ornamental value. These Lilies should not be dotted about, they should be grouped, so that their needs can be fully provided. What they do need is a certain amount of exposure to sun and air, with some protection from rough winds, and, if possible, protection from very hot sun, but the great thing, without which there can be no good results, is a suitable rooting medium. Stir the soil 18 inches deep, add liberally leaf-soil or decomposed matter of some kind, plant 6 inches deep, and top-dress annually with rotten manure if possible, and you will then be able to fully realise the beauty and decorative worth of these Lilies. This preparation of the soil will provide them with a happy home for some years, and they will annually increase in blooming power. Lilies dislike frequent removal. Give them the conditions they love and leave them alone.

Lilium excelsum, syn. L. testaceum, the stately Nankeen Lily

Perfectly hardy and free blooming. The flowers are of a warm shade of Nankeen yellow and beautifully recurved. It thrives in good garden loam, and is occasionally seen in cottage gardens

The merits of the Leopard Lily (L. pardalinum) are, in a great measure, overlooked. It is a handsome species and will thrive in positions and under conditions generally considered inimical to Lilies generally. I once saw a group growing on elevated ground fully exposed to sun and wind, and the plants were the picture of health, carrying flowers of high quality. I advise those who have never grown this Lily to give it a trial. L. speciosum and its varieties is by no means difficult to please. It will thrive in any fairly light, well-drained soil, but this species dearly loves a little peat in lumps. If the stems are supported the natural growth should be preserved. See that heavy rain falls on the reverse of the petals, otherwise the pollen, which is very abundant, is washed on to the flowers and, in a great measure, destroys their beauty.

J. Cornhill.

Byfleet.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

August Holiday Shows

We must condole with those Horticultural Societies in the South of England which held their shows on the August Bank Holiday, reports of which are now reaching us. The rain, which lasted throughout the day, must have had a disastrous effect on the attendance and success of these many shows. Our hope is that many were at least wise enough to cover weather risks by a Pluvious Policy, and so meet some of their expenditure. It was certainly one of the worst holidays we remember, and the gal-

ling part was the fine weather which came before and after the Monday, both days being ideal for a show.

Sevenoaks Show

Some years ago Sevenoaks Flower Show was one of the finest in the South of England, but the breaking up of the large estates and the subsequent changes following the war, almost caused it to be abandoned. Two years ago, however, Captain E. B. Glashier, with some excellent and keen officials, put the Society on a sound footing, and this year's show marked a further advance in the revived Society. It was held at the beautiful Knowle Park, by kind permission of the President, Lord Sackville. Unfortunately, for the past two years rain has marred the event, and again this year there were heavy showers before lunch, but the sun shone brilliantly in the afternoon, and the attendance was a big one. Entries numbered over 100 more than last year, and the floral classes were especially fine.

Horticultural Education Association

We have received a copy of the 21st Annual Report of the Horticultural Education Association. This Association is composed of persons engaged in horticultural education and research. It was founded at a time when horticultural instruction was in its infancy, and during the first few years the number of eligible people was very small. The membership is now over 130, and practically every county in England, Wales, and Scotland is represented. Nearly all the principal colleges and research stations are also included, and the Inspectorial Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture is largely represented. The increase in the membership indicates to a certain extent the great advance in horticultural teaching and research during the past 21 years.

Exemption of seeds

The Board of Trade, after consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Home Secretary, and the Secretary of State for Scotland, have exempted farm and garden seeds from the requirement of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, that imported goods sold or exposed for sale under a British name or trade mark must bear an indication of origin.

American Gladiolus Society

Visitors at the National Gladiolus Show at Taunton this week will be interested in news of the American Society which will be holding its eighteenth exhibition at Hartford, Conn., on August 25th and 26th. We understand that the well-known firm of A. E. Kunderd has engaged space across the entire width of the building (185 feet), and of sufficient depth to properly display more than 100,000 flowers. These flowers will be shipped from Goshen to Hartford, a distance of about 900 miles, in two full refrigerator cars attached to a fast passenger train. An innovation this year is the featuring of a large exhibit for first-year gardeners, in which the advanced amateurs cannot enter in competition. Many prizes have been offered in this division of the exhibition.

Standard Collection of Daffodils at Wisley

In pursuance of their policy of giving awards to plants intended for garden decoration only after trial in their Gardens, the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society is this year planting a standard collection of Daffodils at Wisley representative of all the recognised sections and of known value in the garden. Growers of seedlings are invited to send six (or three) bulbs of their varieties for trial against this standard collection. These bulbs should reach the Director, R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey, as soon as possible and not later than September 15th, 1927. (If by rail, to Horsley Station, Southern Railway.)

Primula Conference

The Royal Horticultural Society is making plans for the resumption of the conferences upon important garden matters which, before the war, did so much to bring together those who had special knowledge and to spread it over a wide field. The first of this new series will be held at Chelsea next, and the subject will be "Pri Arrangements are being made to set special tent at the Chelsea Show for hibition of a representative series species and varieties of this grea which has of late years received s valuable additions as the result of tions in China, Tibet, and Upper and to hold a conference between the ested in another tent in the Chelsea grounds on the second and third day show. This early announcement is order that growers of Primulas of may prepare for their exhibition at t and to invite the offer of papers cultivation, characteristics, variation habitats, etc., of Primulas. The Di the Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley, Ripley, Surrey, will be glad from intending exhibitors and to offers of papers to be read at the con

Blue Bell Creeper (Sallya heter

Recently I sent you a short not beauty of this all too uncommon which appeals to all plant-lovers w in bloom. Since that note appeare been fortunate enough to see a re specimen clothing the walls of a house in Cornwall, where it had at a height of at least 18 feet with spread, the growths covered with l blue flowers standing out 3 feet to 4 the wall, the effect of this elegan being remarkably fine and distinct.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Primulas in heavy soil

I WAS much interested in Mr. Wolley-Dod's article on the difficulties of an amateur gardener. I thoroughly agree with him when he says what your neighbour grows well does not at all follow that you can. But what I want to suggest to him is how to grow Primulas in a heavy soil. I failed steadily, until I took out 2 feet of soil, put a layer of broken stone rubble and broken brick about a foot deep, then a thin layer of broken mortar, if obtainable; if not I either mix lime with my soil, or make some mortar myself, simply puddling water and lime together, break it up and add to the drainage. When perfectly satisfied it is thoroughly drained, add a layer of manure, thin, or, better still, half a sack of hop manure, then loam, sand, and leaf mould in equal quantities. Of course, a little shade is a good thing, but in this careful drainage I find Primulas will do in sun, with, of course, plenty of water in hot weather. I grow Julie Juliana, Mrs. McGillray, Red Hugh, Helodoxa, etc., easily and well, and am just making a new bed for some newer Primulas, and the Bartley hybrids. N. S. C.

Godstone.

Pictures from an Irish ga

I AM enclosing a few snapsho garden, though flower pictures a without colour; but it will giv how well things grow here. The montana over the side of the house i and it is a lovely mass of pink Chinese Primulas are growing i down by the river. The Anemone really very beautiful. The Royal tural Society gave me an Award o them at Vincent Square and christ the "Creagh Castle strain." We i our own seed for the last 12 year flowers are large and good colo first blooms are always out in Feb

(Mrs.) D. Bi

Creagh Castle, Doneraile, Co. C

Anemones Creagh Castle strain

Clematis montana rubens over the side of the house

Chinese Primulas on the ou a wood

Mrs. Bucknall among the Darwin Tulips at Creagh Castle, Co. Cork

Fruits dropping off

had a serious epidemic of fruits off all my shrubs, which I grow the sake of their fruits. Berber- hich I have about a dozen species, er arborea, and Euonymus alata ea have all lost the whole of their igh they all set quite a good supply. erries and Plums, and the very few Apples which set fruit have behaved ir manner. The same thing hap- year, but the plants were then had not flowered so freely, and I the loss to a bitterly cold N.E. wind ut this year, though we had some late frosts, I doubt these being since the fruits which were abun- luced, remained on for weeks after I suppose the season must be the I do not notice the same trouble ayfield gardens. Can you suggest and remedy?

A. H. Wolley-Dod.

ntiana pneumonanthe

tember a plant of a particularly of Gentiana pneumonanthe from uced a crop of ripe seed. We e at once, and with all the other his seed was exposed to all the ad. Towards the end of March I e spare seeds we had left (some s) away, but retained a few of this Ve sowed these at the beginning At the beginning of July we came all packet of the same seed. This on July 6th, and it came up in hick as mustard and cress. What que from this experience?

A. C. Bartholomew.

he end of July I made an annual to a certain spot in Anglesey eautiful Heath or Marsh Gentian ere were a fair number in bloom, them was a specimen with a rose- m. This Gentian, we know, derably in the shade of its colour e type being a clear, bright blue, green lines on the outside of the corolla—as well as in stature, the number of flowers to a stem and in other particulars, but forms of any colour other than blue appear to be rare. I shall be interested to learn whether any other reader has discovered a pink one. This year, possibly owing to the abundance of rain and lack of sunshine, the colour of this lovely native is, in the colony alluded to, exceptionally striking, that of some of the plants being very nearly as rich a blue as that of G. sino-ornata. Most of the plants were bearing but one flower on each stem, but there were others with two, three, and four. The pink one had two, but in no case was there more than one flower open.

A. T. Johnson.

Heuchera sanguinea

I have had much the same experience of H. sanguinea as Mr. W. E. Wright (p. 480). It has always appeared to me to be the most petulant—if I may use the word—member of the family, as it is, perhaps, the only one worth growing for its bloom. Personally, I have always set more store upon the Heucheras for their foliage than for their flowers, using the plants as edgings and so forth. Mr. Wright, too, is correct in stating that the other varieties which he names are good doers; but why does he assume that other readers do (or may) not know the "true" sanguinea, as he calls it? The variety cannot be mistaken for any other by those who know what Heucheras are.

A Scottish Gardener.

Birds and fruit

I must write a remonstrance against the article by Mr. A. R. Horwood, F.L.S., in your issue of July 23rd. He admits that "most birds, save the sparrow and wood pigeon and carrion crow, do more good than harm," but at the same time he suggests what he terms "*remedial measures*" of the cruellest description, such as "steel traps, baited traps, nooses, and birdlime." I am not lawyer enough to be able to say whether such methods are legal for robins, thrushes, blackbirds, tits, chaffinches, misselthrushes, starlings, magpies, jays, jackdaws, buntings, bullfinches, linnets—all of which he condemns! Still, there is a close time for most birds, and really I cannot believe that there are many people who would wish to torture the birds who trust us and to leave whole nestfuls of helpless fledglings to die a lingering death of starvation. As a lover of birds and also an enthusiastic gardener, I could write reams. "Where there are birds there are angels," and to say the least of it a garden without birds would soon be devoured by insects.

E. A. M. Doughty.

Yuccas in Co. Cork

Exhibiting and judging at flower shows

In the issue of August 6th "Scots Judge" invites discussion on this subject—a subject which is of perennial interest. The writer points out, very correctly, the trouble which can be given by the dishonest competitor, but, methinks, he takes too gloomy a view of this matter, or, alternatively, his experience has been earned in a school where the dishonest competitor is the rule instead of, as in most places, the negligible exception. Does "Scots Judge" fail to see that he directly invites the retort from officials, and from societies, in the south, "A fine lot, these Scottish exhibitors"? If, as he indicates, the dishonest exhibitor is so much in evidence, I quite agree with him that something drastic must be done; and my idea of something drastic is just to put an end to exhibitions which put a premium upon dishonesty. Not content with his fling at exhibitors, "Scots Judge" insinuates that, where local shows are concerned, local judges are not above suspicion in respect of their fair dealing. Why, I ask him, should there always be "a feeling that they are using their position to further the aims of their own intimates"? Scottish judges will not thank "Scots Judge" for his opinion of them. It comes as a positive relief to learn that even "in the great majority"—note not "all"—of cases the men he has had as co-judges have given an unbiassed opinion on all exhibits coming before them. "Scots Judge" goes on to say: "Every judge is liable to make mistakes, none of us being infallible." His article proves his dictum up to the hilt—he himself is very liable indeed to make mistakes; he is very far from being infallible. His remarks are in questionable taste—he assumes more than he can prove; and he may rest assured that "the great majority" of Scottish exhibitors, Scottish societies, and Scottish judges are, in spite of his unfortunate experiences, really very decent, very honourable, and very honest bodies. When, and if, "Scots Judge" amplifies his article I shall have much pleasure in continuing the discussion, although, I warn him, I shall continue it with the gloves off.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

—— I have read with much interest "Scots Judge's" article on exhibiting and judging flower shows.

Personally I do not think we have many, "if any," exhibitors who are "pot hunters" and have not the skill to produce. I would say there are those who can and do produce the best of material, yet will borrow or buy some to strengthen their position in the show tent.

Such things will always be until we can attain that standard of integrity we dream about. I think it is an open query if it is done as much in the village and small town shows as it is in the premier shows up and down the country. I cannot agree in full that the public have lost interest in floral exhibitions. For a long time I have come to the conclusion the public cares but very little, if any, where the material comes from, so long as they can see a good show. The one thing lost is a most important one, and that is, the honest exhibitor loses heart; and it is up to every committee to do their utmost to see that the produce shown is the exhibitor's own production. This is done very considerably in the village and small town shows. Flower show committees could still do much in compiling their schedules, to help at any rate, to eliminate the greatest evil, which my experience leads me to believe is individuality in judging. We have in the R.H.S. code for judging much good material which is most helpful to judges, and should be to the exhibitors, especially if it was more generally adopted. What I consider would be a good addition in the suggestions to judges, would be one that would ask them to always sink their *individuality* and personal opinions when judging, so that some standardised system may be used. I realise full well many would interpret any wording somewhat differently, yet I venture to think that much good would accrue to make my point more clear. I will allude to an occurrence in pre-war days, when I was one of three judges. We came to the class for Shallots, and the competition was very good. To my great surprise the judge sent by the Surrey County Council started to pick out each dish of the old small yellow type, and said he was not looking at any of the others, which he termed hybrids, and rightly so. I contested this point strongly, but the other judge went with the Council judge, and the small yellow ones won.

A few days afterwards I was again judging with a Council judge, "a good one, too." When we came to Shallots I thought I would see how my experience of a few days previous would work, so this time I started to pick out the small yellow type, saying I should not look at the hybrids. He immediately wanted to know if I had been drinking. What can exhibitors do? I know this is an extreme case, yet I am frequently meeting a preference for one's own liking, especially so in flowers and floral arrangements.

You also meet most pronounced individuality in judging Potatoes. I never can see why classes for gardeners should be judged differently from the cottagers. "That's a case of my individuality."

Exhibitors could be helped if individuality in judging could be reduced to a minimum; many exhibitors and judges must have formed ideas how to improve matters on both sides.

Redhill. W. P. BOUND.

—— I read in the last issue the sweeping criticism on "Exhibiting and Judging" by a "Scots Judge" with great interest. I have been actively interested in local shows for a great number of years, sometimes as an exhibitor, but mostly on the committees and judging. We have a rule in this district:—"The Committee have the right to visit and inspect the allotments and gardens of exhibitors at any time within a week previous to the show." Now we find this rule practically exterminates the dishonest exhibitor and gives the greatest satisfaction to those who take a keen interest in producing flowers and vegetables for the show table. Regarding the judges, personally I have never assisted in judging with a gentleman local enough to have an "axe to grind"; the judges have at all times striven to give such careful and good judgment for the good of the show, the satisfaction of the exhibitors in general, and for the public who are good enough to patronize the exhibition to glean knowledge by their decisions. R. MOORE.

Thorpe Hall.

Continental grown flowers at shows

We are writing to protest against a custom which appears to be creeping in of exhibiting Continental-grown flowers at flower shows. In any case where this is done we are of opinion that the flowers should be clearly so marked, but it would be fairer to the general run of firms who always exhibit only their own products if it were not done at all. The public would be surprised if they knew that the flowers they were admiring were not grown by the exhibitor, and, still more, that they were not even of British origin.

It is clear that well-to-do firms or persons caring to adopt these undisclosed methods could with the utmost ease always competitors who adhere to the g fashioned system and sound policy of ing *the products of their own garden series.* KELWAY AN

Self-sown Asters

With reference to correspondence (July 30th), self-sown Astérs, single, every year here, like weeds; they are out and flower late. The flowers are those from good purchased seed. ageratum also sows itself, and self-so lings are now coming into flower onl behind those sown in January in th This house is in a valley, and soil lig the result of water flow from what m been a large river in prehistoric time WILLIAM

Wellington, Som.

—— I may say that I have had experience as you speak of. I plant of 300, the variety being Sutton's Beauty. Many of the blossoms wer to get quite ripe. I cleared them o dug with manure, planted a bed flowers, after clearing off and redig planted with Nemesia, and, to prise, I had hundreds of seedling As up amongst the Nemesia. Some self-sown Asters are now coming in

Nr. Cardiff. W. A

—— I was interested in the lette magazine about self-sown Asters, as thing has happened in my garden. a bed was planted with Asters, and a prepared and dug, and planted wi and Daffodils, and these Aster see peared. I transplanted them, and now in flower, and more forward seedlings from the frames. Also thing has happened where there wa Cosmea, which are supposed not to frost; many strong plants have com will soon be in flower. H. S. I

Mayfield, Sussex.

—— In the autumn of 1925 I thre dead single Asters over into a fie bottom of my garden, and in the s last year I was surprised to see f large pink asters in full bloom. writing, I thought I might tell you t four years ago I put in the ground pieces of Iris stylosa. This winte blooms, and there were several bl rotted with the damp. I have no perience, but was not that an exc large number of blooms? J. M

Bourne End.

New Zealand Plants

We are very interested in the article you had in your paper writt C. J. Crawford, whose brother in land is a friend of the writer. It ful to think what this gentleman i in Scotland. We are also writing ford congratulating him on his won

Your illustration of Veronica h one of the finest we have ever se beautiful plant.

In the same number, April 2nd, you mention a plant Diplopapeus cl as a New Zealand evergreen sh think there must be a mistake abo we have not a plant in this coun name, as far as the writer is awa

V. S. DAVIES,
Duncan and Dav

New Plymouth, New Zealand.

[Accompanying this letter are comprehensive lists of New Zeal trees, shrubs, plants, and seeds, to nursery stock which Messrs. D Davies are offering.—ED.]

E FLOWER GARDEN

Acanthus mollis

ONG the several species of Acanthus ınd either native or naturalised in uthern Europe one of the most hand- A. mollis, of which we give a photo- aken in June outside a boundary wall arden near Hyères, on the French . In that district the plant is hly naturalised, and increases by dis- ion through explosion of the fruit. ssemination by projection in Acanthus rhaps, first noted by Goethe.

hus mollis is one of the few wild or ltivated flowers in the Mediterranean which is large enough to admit the the great black Carpenter bee. This ɔ called because to get at the honey in ɔwers he will at once cut through the the corolla. The Acanthus grows the dry, strong beds of streams, by s, and in shady places. In English it is hardy in the south and west, ceeds best on poor stony or sandy t will grow almost anywhere. The ıandsome leaves may, however, be d by severe frost. The flowers are with purplish veins, very large, and forming long terminal spikes ge spiny bracts. The stalks some- tain 5 feet or 6 feet in height. The pecimens I have seen in England ɔuped in one of the public gardens at super-Mare, where they were most e with small Bamboos (Arundinaria) ıg banks overhanging water.

aves of A. spinosus, it is generally l, furnished the pattern for the ɔn of the capitals of Corinthian And they are sometimes used as copies in learning freehand.

are about 25 species of Acanthus in ics and sub-tropics of Asia, Africa, ope, mostly with thorny leaves and y, stony ground.

H. Stuart Thompson.

Perpetual Carnations

is something almost inconsistent in that while the Perpetual Carnation ɔut in the border seems to revel in a ımmer, that same variety when ı a pot in the same garden suffers same amount of rain, and continues he ill-effects when taken under glass r blooming.

, as a result of excessive wet out- ıs of the easily recognised "spot" appearance on the leaves of plants ood practice to dust with lime and equal proportions, as this is likely the spread of any fungoid trouble.

he time of writing the summer has easonable. Instead of periods of veather the frequent rains have not apparently simple job of watering e easy. In hot weather we may eely and frequently, but with a te the present it is less easy to see he plants are really dry or not, and st be on our guard more to see that ıot being starved for water, which is rious during the growing period, ul to see that appearances are not g us.

this time of year young plants in ering pots are occasionally prone to prematurely, a flowering shoot, ıuld bloom at the end of August. od plan to break these back unless s are required at this early date.

GESTION FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—A ıny amateurs who rely entirely own efforts to grow their winter e somewhat loth to leave them to the care of others, and some, indeed, have to leave them to take their chance. The safest precaution under these conditions is to plunge the plants up to their rims in beds outside where some shade is available, or, if the plants are left untended, in beds on the north side of a fence or wall. In this way the plants, if well watered in, take a long while to dry out; indeed, the pots absorb much moisture, and the plants remain a long time without suffering. I have known devoted gardeners reluctant to leave their plants, and many have spoilt their stay away from home through worrying over their plants, which this precaution might alleviate. The return home must be the occasion for the immediate moving of the plants back to the frame or greenhouse if wet weather has

Acanthus mollis outside garden wall near Hyères

set in, for while a couple of weeks or so outside will do no harm a prolonged stay may cause them to be too soft for winter blooming.

Campanula Jenkinsoni

This charming little Harebell well deserves the Award of Merit of the R.H.S. which it received a few years since, as it has proved to be a distinct acquisition after testing it in my own garden. I have always understood that it was raised by the late Mr. E. H. Jenkins, who was a great lover of hardy plants in his day and generation. Mr. H. J. Jones, who distributed this novelty, describes it as a greatly improved form of Rotundifolia alba (the white English Harebell). It has stiff erect flower stems some 12 inches in height, and each flower stem invariably evolves six to eight snowy-white bell-like flowers of perfect form. The plant may be increased with the greatest ease. In the first instance, I had just one small tufty plant in a 3-inch pot. This I divided into two pieces, and at the end of the first year each plant measured some 10 inches to a foot across. The process of the division of the roots being continued, readers will be quick to appreciate how readily a big lot of plants is brought into being.

D. B. C.

Campanula glomerata

This is an excellent example of the Bellflowers, and is aptly described as the clustered Bellflower. It is a plant that does remarkably well in the gardens of the London suburbs, and it is in no way fastidious as regards soil. It appears to do well in any ordinary garden soil. It is a handsome plant rather less than 2 feet in height, the stem terminating with dense clusters of striking flowers of a rich bright purple colour.

D. B. C.

Lupinus polyphyllus from seed

So many excellent strains of the perennial herbaceous Lupins have been exhibited at the Chelsea Show and at the fortnightly meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society for some years past, in which exhibits of named varieties have been shown, that it raises the question whether equally good results can not be obtained from a sowing of seeds of any well-known and approved strain. My experience in this connection has been most satisfactory. A few years ago a packet of mixed seeds of Lupinus polyphyllus was sown, and the resulting seedlings gave flowers of a wide range of colours. Seeds were saved of some of the more interesting and pleasing colours, and now I have a series of most beautiful plants, and flowers of purple and blue colours of varying shades. There are, in addition, buff, pink, and flesh-coloured flowers, besides other intermediate shades of these colours, all very charming. The cost has been quite trifling, but the delight in raising these plants and bringing them into flowers has been continuous, and is still of the greatest interest. One never knows what new colour or marking may be evolved, and until the flowers are fully opened the fascination is maintained.

D. B. C.

Viola Swan

This excellent Viola has again flowered in the greatest profusion, and, in my opinion, is distinctly the best white bedding Viola in cultivation. There are other good white sorts, but after testing these against the variety under notice, I am quite satisfied that it is the most dependable and consistent of all the white sorts at present in cultivation. Occasionally, as in others, there is a slight tendency for the flowers to sport, in which case they are usually tipped or tinted blue, but the vagary is quite an exception. The plant possesses a splendid constitution, and has a distinctly good tufted habit of growth. This variety will be seen in good form in the Wisley garden of the R.H.S. D. B. C.

Æthionema Warley Rose

One of the best of the family, this has been in bloom since the early part of May in the rock garden, and it will remain effective for quite a long time to come. It is a very free flowerer, and, as its name implies, the flowers are of a brilliant rose colouring. It is easily propagated by means of cuttings, and a point in its favour is that, unlike many other alpines, it does not object to a position in which it is fully exposed to the sun. It is a plant which ought to find a home in every rock garden.

W. McG.

The cultivation of the newer Freesias

THE new coloured Freesias are becoming more and more popular every year, and a few notes on their cultivation seems appropriate now that the beginning of another season is at hand. They are later in ripening than the common F. refracta alba, the majority of which are imported into this country. Mid-August is about the time to expect the coloured varieties. It is no use sending out corms as soon as they are harvested—they must be properly ripened if they are to flower successfully. Writers in the papers often say Freesias should be potted in July and in August for a succession. By all means do so if you can get full-sized corms properly ripened by the end of July, but there is no absolute necessity to do so. Perfect results can be obtained by potting up to the latter part of September, but I would prefer the last quarter of August.

Having received the corms, pot them at once, using a compost of say two parts good loam, one part sandy top spit, and nearly two parts of coarse sand, to which add some fine bone meal. Use clean, well-drained pots. I prefer the "Long Tom" sizes, which give more depth for the roots, and in a 5-inch pot put six corms. I would prefer to under-pot rather than over-pot them. When potted, stand the pots in a cold-house or frame, giving plenty of air and light. Do not cover the pots with ashes, fibre, or any material which does no good, and only causes growth to be weak and leggy. Water should be given as required, that is, sufficient to create and maintain root action, and that is all.

As growth continues and the flower spikes appear more water will be required, and a weekly feed of liquid cow manure, soot water, or some artificial like Clay's will be beneficial, and this should be continued after the flowers are over. Then, when the foliage begins to turn yellow, watering should gradually cease and the pots gradually allowed to dry right out. Being very nearly hardy, Freesias require but little heat—just sufficient to keep them growing comfortably. The harder they are, the better will be the flowers and colours, the stems stronger, and the foliage broader than those that are forced along too quickly.

Freesias can be grown either as pot plants or cut flowers. In the former case, the dwarfer growing varieties should be used; and in the latter, grow those that have naturally longer stems. When cutting the flower spikes care should be taken to leave as much growth on the plant as possible if the corms are required for another season.

Freesias are easily raised from seed, and if sown in August a few flowers will develop the following spring, but it will not be until the following year that their merits can be judged. Seed should be sown and allowed to remain for 12 months untouched, therefore it is necessary to sow thinly so as to give room for the young corms to develop. Some varieties set practically no seed even when hand fertilized, but in any case hand fertilizing is necessary, partly to ensure good crosses, or, if any chance crosses are made, on account of their not setting seed naturally, and few insects are about at that time of year to do the pollinating.

Of the varieties in commerce there are some 30 or more, and several of these are now inferior and not worth growing. Each year sees new varieties added. For pots only I suggest—Yellows: Apogee, Daffodil, and Golden King. Pinks: Conquest, Dainty, Old Rose, and Jubilee. Mauves: Bluebeard and La Trappante. For cutting (and equally good for pots):—Yellows: Buttercup, Golden King, and Cream Cheese. Pinks: Conquest, Dainty, Mouette, and Apotheose. Mauves: Bluebeard and La Trappante. G. H. D.

Freesia Apogee
A good variety for pots

Armeria caespitosa

This little plant has within the last few years come into favour and has been eulogised—and justly, too—in catalogues. At one time it was sadly neglected, and plants of it were viewed with surprise, as it had acquired a reputation for being difficult to cultivate successfully. Those in charge of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, were very successful, and it was a treat to come across it there years ago flourishing in the crevices of the rock garden and giving pleasure with its close tufts of grass-like leaves and pale pink flowers. It is the neatest of all the Thrifts, and that is saying a good deal. By way of experiment, I tried it in a sunny moraine, and there it throve as well as in the crevices of the rocks, although, perhaps, it did not show itself so well. Still, it is very pretty in the moraine, with its flowers set close on the tuffet of leaves. A. caespitosa appears to be satisfied with any reasonably light soil, and is quite hardy, although coming from high altitudes in a district where summer heats are much greater than ours, and where winter rains are infrequent.

S. ARNOTT.

Sanguisorba canadensis

Good hardy summer-flowering plants are so plentiful that some of them may be overlooked in garden planting, and among those which are entitled to a certain amount of consideration, which it does not always receive, is Sanguisorba canadensis, a tall, and graceful plant. It belongs to the Rosac has the form of foliage characteristic family, and tall stems, stout enough unsupported unless in exposed positic with branching spikes of small white which are extremely light and graceft pearance. It sometimes reaches 5 6 feet in height if in good soil, but i grown in a poor compost, in which stature is much reduced. It is a p hardy plant, excellent either for the the border or the wild garden; and increased by division. I have it in border at present, but have cultivatei cessfully in a poor, stony, sandy where it was much finer than any o have anticipated.

Geranium pratense

One of the showiest plants in th border of late has been this fin Geranium. The plants were about 2 f height, and were, a week or two ago, t best. Unlike many other hardy subjc Cranesbill does not appear to have owing to the weather. They are of ful bushy habit of growth, and were sr with large and handsome purpli flowers that created quite an attractiv in a border of mixed hardy flowers plant is easily raised from seeds son sunny position outdoors in March or in shallow boxes of sandy soil under March. Plants may also be divided ber or November, or in March and D.

THE CAUSE OF "DOUBLE" FLOWERS

By Herbert G. Longford.

INK it may be safely asserted that rocess of Nature which results in the action of double flowers of any variety is one in regard to which human lge is fundamentally at fault. r we turn to Daisies or Roses, or nthemums or bulbs, whether we in- e propagation by seed or offsets, or r layers, there is no process whereby flower may be converted to a double *vice versâ*. Dame Nature, with provocation, baffles us at every turn, tifies our limited process of reasoning. heard it stated that if one plaits the f single Stocks they will produce flowers. The process is a difficult seedlings frequently supported by a proof. In view of the fact that such s will not have already flowered, and prove double in any event, the case seem capable of proof. It seems to it would only result in checking the Similarly I have heard it said that Snowdrops, among many other wild are planted in rich soil they will be- able. This is, perhaps, more reason- I shall endeavour to show later. If or bud double Roses upon stocks e of single flowers only, or *vice* e resulting growth and flowers will e nature of the minute cellular sub- the scion, and will not be affected east degree by the singleness or ss of the sap or food-producing root- eeds from a single pod of any flower capable of producing single and rms may result in progeny, either double, at Nature's whim. Thus ngle and double Carnations, Asters, r Daffodils by accident and not by of control.

ystery of growth of plant life is not to be lightly approached or dis- a few words, but for the benefit of ose interest in gardening is more or rficial it may be briefly stated that nt is composed of microscopic living every cell of the composite or con- d mass we call a "plant" is essen- similar nature, and "growth" is hed by these cells reproducing them- more or less separate units of life. ant or stem does not grow only "at but "all over," gradually heav- up as every cell multiplies itself. which constitute the pollen differ general construction chiefly in the hey possess the power of separating s from their neighbours and sending e granules which are to form new tead of extending by joining cell to

e see that if a single cell in any t possesses a certain form of struc- nposition of elements—let us call it Structure"—it will continue to ex- reproduce similar "duplex" cells, grow into buds, and double flowers oint of growth in advance of the duplex" cell. Thus it follows that *ollen* from such flower structures n the same peculiarity of construc- nposition, and, in ratio with its de- ency, transmit the phenomenon to . The little growth buds which ap- e axils of leaves on stems, in com- flower-buds and bulbs, are all very construction and functions. Ac- their nature this reproduction is (A) elongation, as in buds; (B) n, as in bulbs; or (C) regeneration, owers producing seed. Thus we —and in some cases Tulips—pro- e detachable bulbs in place of buds at the axils of the leaves, and occasionally flower-buds (Roses, Ranunculus, and some Primulas spring at once to mind), where the function of regeneration by seed becomes abortive and stem growth, instead of terminating with seed and pollen structures, reverts to the more elementary process of reproduction by elongation and recontinues from the centre of the "flower," which in effect functions as a growth bud.

In all essential features the parts peculiar to a "flower" structure are essentially "leaves." The stamens are really transformed petals highly and peculiarly developed for the purpose of carrying the detachable cell structures called pollen; so also are the petals no more than a rosette of leaves pleasantly coloured for the purpose of attracting insects to the pollen. When Nature feels in exuberant mood and the plant (sometimes by virtue of abundant nourishment as in the case of the Snowdrop mentioned above and sometimes by lack of power to produce pollen) realises that there is not the need, or that it has not the capacity, for such reproduction by seed, the erstwhile pollen-bearing stamens become enlarged into petals and a "double" flower (which is, structurally, nothing more than a half-way house between a bud and a perfect flower) is produced.

The above, I think, answers the correspondence which recently appeared in your paper as to whether "double" Daffodils and Tulips are "diseased" or deformed flowers and how they are produced. Occasionally double Daffodils appear as sports—instance the very beautiful Poetaz, "Cheerfulness," which first appeared as a sport in the variety Elvira. Narcissus Poeticus ornatus has produced several sporting forms of double flowers, while others are produced direct from seed. I have found that seed from the old "Van Sion" double Daffodil, even when it is pollenated from single flowers, always produces doubles or semi-doubles. Perhaps I may conclude with a passing reference to this well-known double Daffodil. Although its name to-day is "Van Sion," and it is grown by the million in Holland, it is not a Dutch production at all, but was raised by an Englishman named Vincent Sion, a nurseryman who (according to Parkinson, who wrote in 1629) formerly had his garden on the banks of the Thames, but was at that date dead, so that those who hold that such flowers are "diseased" must admit the longevity of the victim. A past generation of florists spoke of them as "monstrous," which, in the sense that they are abnormal malformations, is quite correct.

A beautiful "double" Narcissus Cheerfulness

EARLY CHRYSANTHEMUMS IN MODERN FORM

REFERRING to the varieties which flower in the open border, those of us who can remember the introduction of Mme. C. Desgrange and the somewhat late Madame Marie Masse, can, at any rate, note the remarkable improvement that has taken place meantime. Change may have been gradual, nevertheless modern varieties in almost every respect leave the ancient ones behind. I say " almost " in view of the two examples named being of a hardier constitution than the more esteemed ones of to-day.

The pair of varieties again illustrate a trait in Chrysanthemums; this is a habit of providing new colours through " sporting," as it is termed, and thus the one gave, besides its white, two shades of yellow, a light and a dark one. The other, the original colour of which is lilac-rose, has given seven or eight shades of bloom more or less distinct.

So we go on to the variety Polly and Goacher's Crimson. Here are two that marked a decided advance, especially if the progeny from sport variations subsequently be taken into account. The writer has been told that the originals came from self-sown seeds, that is, seeds which shed themselves on the ground under where other kinds were growing. Be this as it may, it is doubtful if raisers of new varieties usually find the matter quite so easy.

The Polly and the other type may even now be regarded as excellent for bedding purposes, because the bloom comes so early that there is no need for protection; still, in other essentials these are behind the modern styles. First, as to earliness. The variety Mrs. Jack Pearson starts to flower in July, and gives a succession right up to the time of frost. The colour, which is variable, is taken in by calling it a bronze—yellow and crimson suffusions. This sort has already given a high-coloured form named Mrs. Phil Page; one that will soon be in general commerce.

Then there is Phœnix, an exceptionally fine variety for early bloom. These are small comparatively, but are borne with much freedom, and make capital material for cutting in spray branches. The colour here is bronzy-red. A spray of rich yellow can be had in Cranford, and can be cut a yard long; this is a fine new variety. So is Cranford Cream, in general growth like the last, but a trifle later in flowering. Crimson Circle furnishes blooms quite early in September of a rich scarlet-crimson shade, and seems unharmed by rain or sun.

Mayford White the first year of flowering was early enough to be included with the above-named. Last year, however, owing probably to intense propagation, the blooms were somewhat late. This season the variety should prove its worth by living up to its reputation. For whiteness and good qualities of bloom it is a gain; and the variety does well as a pot plant.

If in spray form of bloom the modern early Chrysanthemum is making such advances, what can be said of another style—the specimen bloom? This, indeed, has created an industry in the rearing and cultivating of examples for market sale. Such handsome specimens are not obtained, however, without the thinning of branches, leaving one flower-bud to each, protection from damp, and may be frost. With this care the modern varieties provide bloom throughout September and the following month; and specimens may be cut with some 18 inches or 2 feet of leafy stem.

Chrysanthemum Phœnix

An exceptionally fine variety for early bloom. It is here seen grown in a tub placed on a lawn

Sanctity, Elsenham White, Blanche du Poitou comprise a fine trio of whites, as Hollicot Yellow—sometimes named Goldfinder—Cranford Yellow, and Mrs. R. Hamilton—known as Knaresborough Yellow—do in the shade. In pink we have Pink Profusion, Cranford Pink, and Uxbridge Pink, each having produced a form of fawny shading, named, respectively, Salmon Profusion, Hesperus, Salmon Uxbridge. For rich bronzy-crimson there is Almirante, and a still richer form in Red Almirante—known also as Alcalde. The last, possibly, is the better in spray form, and is quite the tip-top thing in the style late in September. September Glory—Hollicot Bronze—is as good as anything of a light shading, for either larger flowers or for quantity.

I have not named a great number of the many varieties in commerce, but, putting them down from memory, one naturally goes first to those uppermost in esteem.

Early Chrysanthemums, or at least the majority of the sorts, are easy to propagate and to grow, yet, like most plants, the their funny little ways. For examp old stools resent too much heat, es fire heat, and a good way to kill t to place them where it is hot and Equally the roots are ruined by too earth about them, as also damp. March onwards a cool frame is wher flourish and push forth ample new g for rooting.

Take these off from 2 inches to 3 long, and dibble them thickly in boxes filled with sifted loam and grit. fer road grit to anything when it can tained. No manure, so be careful potting soil is used that it shall no that which has been steeped in liquid manures for other plants. Give on watering in and then keep the frame and shade from strong sunshine for or two.

When rooted transfer, while quite to other shallow boxes, giving each more room this time. This idea is than potting, that is, if the owner plants intends them for home use. T main in such boxes till planting-ou meanwhile being hardened by expo air on favourable opportunities.

To do these Chrysanthemums w ground should be tilled deeply in although they flourish in almost any situation. It is obvious, however, open position has its preference, as ample space between the plants. I inches is advisable except when we group in borders, then each may be Place just one stout stick to each, member that height of the plants 3 feet or more before the flowers ar although varieties vary in this as being influenced by land or district.

I favour not taking away the point plants; each will assume its natur if left alone, and then it becomes case of thinning the branches for hanced-sized flower. This latter is a a choice of bloom bud. The first fl embryo that comes on each side should be selected by removing all s centre one in some instances and tiny shoots in others, and when these take away all lateral growths d branches as these come. By so d that is in the plant goes to the deve of the few blossoms. How many or branches are chosen remains with t vator—from six to a dozen would no many.

Keeping the surface of the grou of weeds, tying the branches, and th mentioned thinning are the chie throughout summer; besides wate necessary. In some seasons sufficier from the elements, in others there labour in this direction; and whe buds are swelling stimulants are m ful, these should be applied in dust centrated form, or in liquid, accordi weather that prevails.

H. SHOR

Mayford, Woking.

Preparing for autumn propa

The time has again come round w must get ready for this important w good batch of suitable compost shoul mixed ready for use, while boxes ca ready, any requiring to be mended to, while frames and pits should be any broken glass replaced, and everyt in shape, so that the actual propaga be expeditiously carried out.

Stone-splitting in Peaches

IS evil is not so common as it used to when the idea prevailed that wide and ep borders were essential. Two cases however, come under my notice re- and perhaps there may be others to a few notes on probable causes and tion might be helpful. When stones t is because the walls are unable to and a sudden expanding force which place from within. Nature left to its ourse provides against anything of this happening, as from the stone's first g very little development in the size fruit is noticeable until what is known owers as the second swelling begins, erval being devoted to the hardening walls of the stones, a process which ome considerable time. Now, if any- s done, or is already working to divert ten unduly the course of the trees this period, it invariably reacts on the t part of the fruits first. Since one hears of malformed open-air fruit be- to stone-splitting, the causes of the y be reasonably confined to two, due to culture under glass. An unsuit- order may be one, while sudden tions of temperature during the early of fruit-forming may be the other. In ases it is the first-named which is at n which case it is almost hopeless to trees to go through a season un- l in some form or other, for the ion of health and fruit-bearing rests healthy root action. Until the grower isfied himself as to the state of the is useless to attempt to find a remedy culture above ground. Therefore, trees show the evil in question, take t opportunity in October to examine der. Time has proved that equally esults can be obtained from a re- root action as otherwise, since in the cases feeding, top-dressing, and g can be more effectively and eco- ly carried out while the crop is de- g. At the same time it would be o say that in days gone by, when were practically unlimited in extent, and Nectarines were a risky crop. should we say that they would com- ourably with any of the present time. re is something else behind it, and we no further than to use the word During the last four years many have had to be kept going by un- labour. In modern borders there is r for a time of over-watering and cesses. The affected fruits which I e from trees growing in borders of no construction, the result being that the roots have gone deep down into subsoil, and others have entered a which in one case forms the founda- very wide garden path. Until these are put right there can be no hope for ment above ground.

what should be done I have sug- igging down at about 5 feet from the a depth of about 3 feet, and, while ng all roots, remove as much of the n around them as is considered safe, of course, towards the tree. For a 9-inch layer of broken bricks is to be covered with turves grass wnwards. The same procedure hen follow for 5 feet away from the aking the border thus into 10 feet To furnish the new compost, turf as been stacked a few months is un- . It should be roughly chopped, and five parts one of old building rubble of wood-ashes ought to be added. h bones make a lasting fertiliser, and to turf of good texture it is sufficient to add them in the ratio of one part to 20. If this is got together and the border completed in October, the natural warmth of the soil will stimulate a renewed action of the roots, and the trees will become established again before winter.

Where the trees are in a very bad state of health it is worth while to consider whether it would not be more expedient to plant again in a newly-made border. The measurements I have found satisfactory are 10 feet wide and 3 feet deep, with a slope of a few inches to the sun. This provides for 6 inches of broken rubble in the bottom, and to confine the roots retaining walls should be built; and unless the bottom is of a nature to prevent roots penetrating it should be concreted. In that case a fall of about half-an-inch to the foot should be provided, and terminate in a main drain, having a fall sufficient to empty itself into a tank laid for the purpose. With trees planted in a border made on these lines there is nothing to incite sappy growth, and in so far as concerns stone-splitting nothing is more likely to be the cause than sudden and undue fluctuation in the temperature. The remedy is obvious. Along with a free circulation of air it is advisable during the stoning period to aim at a moderate rather than a high temperature. Watering is also a matter which calls for good judgment, for, while the roots must not become too dry at this stage, they should not be kept too wet. J.

THE VINERY

Where there are successional houses there will now be ripe Grapes, and it is imperative that dust, as far as possible, be kept down. As formerly recommended, a covering of strawy litter over the border will be serviceable in this respect. Should there be more Hamburghs than can be rapidly consumed, the glass ought to be lightly shaded in order to prevent the berries from becoming (as gardeners say) "foxy" in colour. In the late house it may be necessary to go over the bunches again in order that seedless berries and those likely to wedge may be removed. Grapes which have to be kept long must be well thinned. When the berries begin to take the final swelling a good application of liquid manure will assist them, and sublateral growths should be kept well in hand. W.

The Alicante Grape

Unlike the Black Hamburgh, which, in my experience, never fails to set, even when grown in a cool house, the Alicante is apt to disappoint in this respect. Much depends on weather conditions when the Vines are in bloom. In some years the natural warmth is deficient, and artificial fertilisation must be practised, otherwise the bunches will be more or less misshapen, which will seriously affect their commercial value. Even when very fine weather prevails at flowering time I do not rely wholly on natural influences, but make a point of going over the bunches every morning. I find that the pollen begins to fly about 11 o'clock on sunny mornings, and I pass my hand over a bunch or two, collecting pollen, which is passed on to other bunches, so that each bunch is in a great degree fertilised with foreign pollen. When this Grape is grown in a cool house, as is practicable in ordinary seasons in the warmer counties, this artificial fertilisation is absolutely necessary; but even when grown in well-heated houses, where the necessary temperature can be maintained in sunless weather, it is not wise to neglect this precautionary measure. In order to make sure, each bunch should be handled in the manner above mentioned every morning as soon as the temperature rises to 65 degs. Some years ago a large vinery came into the charge of a man who had had no great experience in Grape culture, and the Alicante was almost a failure. He attributed this misfortune to soil, but another man who was an expert came into possession and results were totally different. In late years there has been a tendency among market growers to neglect the Alicante. It forms such a quantity of small berries, the labour of thinning being costly. Gros Colman is a very heavy cropper, and will keep in good condition a couple of months longer than is practicable in the case of the Alicante, which is, however, a good Grape for local trade, the bunches coming just the right size, and they keep well until January. C.

VEGETABLES

Savoys

THE value of a good supply of Savoys throughout the winter cannot well be over-estimated, and, fortunately, with good cultivation failures rarely occur. Savoys are especially valuable at mid-winter or when Broccoli are scarce, and are a good change at any time. Being more to be relied upon than Broccoli in a hard winter, it is advisable in many instances to plant more of them than hitherto, even should this necessitate reduction in the numbers of Broccoli put out. They merit a good open breadth of ground, and this they ought to receive, and not any out-of-the-way spot too often thought quite good enough for them. Extra large heads are not the best, nor are Savoys much in demand before December; consequently, it is not wise to plant early or on very rich ground. Tom Thumb or other small and early varieties may be planted 12 inches apart each way, and Early Ulm, which forms a close succession and is a very good variety, can be put out 15 inches apart each way. The same distances may be given Dwarf Green Curled, while the late and coarser-growing Drumhead, of which Perfection is a good form, ought to be in rows 2 feet apart, a distance of 18 inches dividing the plants.

Endive and winter Lettuces

In sheltered parts of the allotment both of these valuable salad plants may be grown during the winter. Frequently there are failures through sowing the seeds too late. Seeds of Endive—the broad-leaved Batavian being one of the best—should be sown in northern counties about the middle of July, and in the southern at the end of the month. Seeds of such good varieties of Lettuce as "All the Year Round" should be sown, in the northern counties, late in July, and in the southern about August 12th. It is essential to success that the young plants be well established in their winter quarters by the first week in October, and that the plants be of good size then. Mere seedlings will not at the last-named date be of much value. If, however, the plants are raised too soon, there will be loss through many of them bolting.

Leeks

Those planted early in May should be given liberal supplies of manure-water at the roots. Keep the soil stirred between the rows and draw a little fine soil up to the stems as it becomes necessary. Plant for spring use as ground becomes vacant until the full quantity has been put out.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Cucumbers in frames

Plants which are cropping heavily will benefit from a top-dressing of turfy loam and well-rotted manure. The plants should first be well watered and the top-dressing applied forthwith and made tolerably firm. Too much growth is usually made by healthy plants, and a judicious thinning and stopping of the shoots will be found necessary from time to time. Remove the fruits daily from the plants, and thus prevent undue strain; such fruits, if not required for immediate use, keep fresh for a week if placed in water and kept in a dark room.

Early vineries and Peach houses

Examine the borders carefully at intervals in order to ascertain their true condition, for with the daily syringing it often happens that such borders are quite wet on the surface, whereas the occupants are actually suffering from lack of moisture lower down. If this condition arises apply a good soaking without delay and repeat it in ten days' time.

Late Vines

Examine the bunches for the last time, removing any berries likely to cause binding, as bunches in which the berries are left to become excessively tight or pressed are very difficult to keep through the winter. Feed liberally, and continue to close the houses early unless the weather becomes unduly warm, in which case a small opening in the top ventilators may be admitted throughout the night. Once colouring of the berries is observed apply clear water only, but do not allow any fall in the temperature of the house.

Strawberries

Those intended for forcing must now be shifted into 6-inch pots and kept growing freely in order to build up good, strong crowns. A good rich compost is recommended consisting of three parts fibrous loam and one part made up of well-rotted manure, bone meal, lime rubble, and wood ash. The plants should then be stood on a bed of ashes in the full sun, and at no time be permitted to suffer from lack of moisture. A syringing overhead each evening will assist in keeping red spider at bay.

Bulbs for forcing

Early bulbs must be well rooted, otherwise they do not force well. A start must, therefore, be made with the potting and boxing of a few of the early kinds, such as Roman Hyacinths, Duc Van Thol Tulips, Paper White Narcissus, etc. The bulbs when potted may be placed in the open—the back of a north wall furnishes an excellent site—and buried in ashes 3 inches deep. A label tied to a short cane which stands clear of the ashes will serve to indicate where each variety commences, and the bulbs may then be uncovered with certainty and brought into the houses for forcing as required. It is not often resorted to, but some of the finest Freesias I ever grew were started in this way, and I strongly recommend it to others.

Bulbs for later forcing

Orders should be dispatched for these without delay to prevent disappointment.

Propagating trees and shrubs

The present is a good time for this work, and at this season many subjects will root if placed in sandy soil in a cool closed frame, although those who possess a sand frame will naturally resort to its use for this purpose. The Tree Heaths are best struck in pure sand, and I advise those who do not possess a sand frame to fill pots or pans with sand and dibble their cuttings into it, keeping them shaded from bright sunshine. Such species as E. Arborea, E. Lusitanica, E. Australis, and most of the other species and varieties not in bloom will strike if inserted at the present time.

Cuttings of Alpine flowers

Continue to insert these as they become available, treating them as previously advised. Many of these are already plentiful, and if placed in sandy soil quickly strike root. August is not a good month for planting out these rock plants, and any such anticipated work should be deferred until the end of September, when the power of the sun is on the decline. Plans, however, for all alterations and planting of this kind should be decided upon so that everything may be placed in readiness for such work when the proper time arrives.

Wallflowers, Sweet Violets, Brompton Stocks, and Sweet Williams

Keep these growing freely by frequent watering during hot weather in order to provide good strong plants for autumn planting.

Winter Spinach

A well-manured plot of ground should now be prepared for a main winter sowing, as the demand for this is continuous. Ground which has been cleared of early Potatoes will be found very suitable. Sow the seed thinly in drills 2 inches deep and 1 foot apart.

Potatoes

Lift and place in a cool dark store all mid-season varieties which have completed their growth, separating the seed from those intended for consumption as the gathering up proceeds.

Lettuces

A sowing should now be made of Hardy Winter White Cos, Winter Density, and Trocadero to stand the winter and provide material for maturing in cold frames during February, March, and April, a batch to follow those in frames being planted on a sheltered border in the open during October.

Turnips

Make a large and final sowing of Veitch's Purple Top. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

The Rose garden

In order to encourage a fine autumn display of bloom, frequent attention in the way of removal of spent flowers, disbudding where necessary, and giving a soaking of water to the roots, if the soil is at all dry, are all essentials. Most of the hybrid Teas produce such a number of flower-buds that unless drastically thinned while in a small state the majority would only produce puny blooms, besides exhausting the bushes.

Hollyhocks

These stately plants are very difficult to retain in health, when propagated by cuttings, eyes or division, so it is advisable to raise fresh plants annually from seed. While it is possible to raise plants that will bloom the same autumn by sowing in January, it is better to get in the seeds now, providing frame can be spared for their protect winter. Sow thinly in pans of sandy so in a cold frame, keep close and shade growth appears through the surface, wh pans should be raised up close to the gla plenty of air given. Prick off into sma when fit to handle, plunging these in a sifted ashes under a cold frame, wher should remain all the winter.

Layering Carnations

Continue to get this important work forward as fast as possible, for the earli operation is completed the better root be the layers when the time comes them, whether for permanent planting pots.

Pansies and Violas

Especially in the drier and more e parts of the country, these plants are b pretty well exhausted, so it is desirable t back all straggly shoots and thus induc sturdy growths to spring from the c these making by far the best cuttings. the soil between the rows with a small hoe or hand-fork. If the soil be dry, g occasional soaking of clear water and with very rotten manure or even leaf m

Pentstemons

While it is too early to think of se the main batch of cuttings of this autumn-flowering plant, it is well to tal that are available of choice or scarce va for not only does this help to increase at the moment, but induces the plants t out more shoots that can be secured to further augment the number of su another year.

Black Currants

Where time can be spared, it is an lent plan to do any necessary pruning Black Currant bushes soon after the gathered. If done now, it opens bushes to light and air, and so greatly a ripening of the wood, while it is ea gauge the proper amount of wood to while the foliage is still on the bushes

Housing fruit nets

Always endeavour to get all nets ta as soon as possible after the crop is ga for by doing so the "life" of these fruit protectors is considerably extended housing, however, must only be carri when the nets are perfectly dry, for to them while still damp will only re disaster.

Early vineries

In many cases these are now cle fruit, so all doors and ventilators sho thrown wide open. Any vermin preser be drastically dealt with. Thorough c ings with garden engine or syringe w considerably in reducing the numbers c

Figs

A weekly soaking of liquid manure w siderably help trees carrying heavy c fruit. Thin the fruits where crowde do not permit overcrowding of the sho

The orchard house

All possible air must be given this str so as to enhance the appearance and of the various fruits. As soon as th growing in pots are denuded of their have them removed to the open air; t bed of coal ashes, in which the pots a plunged, is the best place for them. W heavily as often as necessary. C. E

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

A New Book on Magnolias*

more welcome addition to the garden ver's library has appeared recently an Mr. J. G. Millais' contribution in m of a book devoted exclusively to the tion, classification, and cultivation of lias.

as, perhaps, my misfortune to open it ıpter 2, wherein we are told much he value of the cinematograph as an onal force, how it diverts dividends rewery and distillery shares, and the of education. We find also some not table assertions about what the author e rebels in music, literature, and paint-

Magnolia salicifolia var. fastigiata at Tilgate, Sussex

From "Magnolias," by J. G. Millais.

some inexplicable reason he applies "Art" to the painters only), and a al of moralising on "the result of e or cruelties, in youth and excessive none of which would appear to have lation to the subject, "Magnolias in Gardens," which is the title of the However, we can forgive him the path when we arrive at the informa- e end of the chapter. Here he gives ry of the Magnolia season, written own garden, commencing with M. li on March 1st and finishing with diflora on November 10th. During e of the period covered he was never some flowers.

olias," by J. G. Millais; published by Long-

Eloquently he pleads for a more extensive use of these wonderful shrubs in British gardens, and points out that, although soil conditions sometimes prevent the growing of Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Andromedas, etc., "Magnolias can be planted in almost any soil."

Everyone will share with the author his regret that the familiar name Magnolia conspicua has been superseded by the more expressive but less euphonic "denudata."

Every known and tried member of the genus is referred to, described, and in many cases illustrated, and much information is given that is not pure gardening, but, nevertheless, interesting. Magnolia glauca, for instance, is said to provide "a tonic and warm stimulant," whilst its "roots yield a yellow dye." Moreover, as far as practicable such information as is obtainable about species of recent introduction is given with estimates of their probable values as garden plants when they are better known.

The "Key to the species" and "Alphabetical list of varieties" are more than useful. Indeed, the whole book, with its clear, readable type, is full of invaluable information. It is a fit companion to his previous works on Rhododendrons, and, what is more, worthy of the wonderful genus with which it deals. It should, indeed, go a long way towards achieving that very desirable consummation, "England in April should be as lovely as Japan in Cherry time if gardeners would only wake up and put in the common Magnolias offered to them," and if we *do* get a frost in April every few years that completely destroys their beauty this is only gardener's luck, and no reason for not planting them, and we can share with him the hope that "we shall soon see a big move in the planting of Magnolias."

GEO. DILLISTONE.

Huon Pine (Dacrydium Franklini)

This tree, of the Pine order, is one of exquisite grace and form, and it is rarely we meet with it in a healthy condition. The exceedingly elegant branches arch over from a height of 10 feet to 12 feet to the ground, and I venture to say that even in a garden filled with the rarest of subjects this extremely pretty, small tree would stand out as the most fascinating in point of form and elegance. In a sheltered valley I recently saw a very beautiful example, of the above dimensions, and highly valued by its enthusiastic grower. E. M.

FERNS

Potting Ferns

[REPLY TO "PTERIS."]

IN the culture of Ferns much depends upon how they are potted, as well as the condition of the plants when repotted. Ferns should never be disturbed while they are in a dormant state; it is much better to wait until they have started into active growth. If care is taken not to expose them to cold winds during the operation, and a little extra shade given for a few days, the young fronds will not suffer in the least. The old system of using peat and leaf-mould almost exclusively for Ferns is now pretty well understood to be an error. Nearly all Ferns succeed better if some loam is used in the compost, and many may be grown almost entirely in loam. Many of the Adiantums will grow freely enough in good fibrous loam, while if potted in peat they refuse to make any progress, not perhaps because there is anything objectionable in peat, but because it gets sour through excess of moisture. If the loam is too heavy a little fibrous peat may be used with advantage, but we prefer to limit its use as much as possible.

An important point in potting Ferns is to keep the crown of the plants well down on to the soil, more especially in the case of those sorts which make new roots just below the crown. The Aspleniums will soon get weakened if not kept low enough for the new roots to take hold of the soil. The same may be said of many of the Pterises, Gymnogrammas, etc. All the vigorous-growing kinds which root freely should be potted loosely, and those with less vigour and slender roots should have the soil pressed moderately firm. The Davallias and others which have the rhizomes on the surface require more drainage, as the roots do not penetrate so deeply, and the lower portion of the soil is liable to get sour through the constant watering required to keep the surface moist. Shallow pots or pans are best for growing all such sorts as do not root deeply, and for those whose rhizomes spread under the surface either wooden or wire baskets should be used. In the case of all the delicate, small-growing Ferns care should be taken not to over-pot them. Large pots for small plants are very unsightly as well as injurious to the health of the plants, and in no case does this apply more forcibly than to Ferns.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

Thinning Michaelmas Daisy Blue Gem

Could you tell me the proper way to thin out Michaelmas Daisy Blue Gem? E. S.

[Cut away all the weaker shoots, whether in the centre or outside of the clumps, thus permitting the stronger stems to get the full benefit of light and air. If the clumps are much crowded, it would be well to lift, divide, and replant on fresh soil, either in late autumn or in March, selecting the pieces showing the strongest crowns.]

Trouble with Thalictrum dipterocarpum

(Miss A. Donovan).—This beautiful though capricious plant is disappointing to many growers, some years being in vigorous health and disappearing the following season. One of the growths you send appears to be quite healthy, except for the yellowing of the lower leaves, which does not always denote sickness. We advise you to cut the flower spikes out, lift the plants, and after washing out the roots thoroughly transplant into fresh soil containing a third, at least, of well-decayed leaf mould and sand, shading the plants afterwards for ten days or so. The roots of those most affected are probably dead, and we know of no other remedy than the one submitted which is likely to restore the plants to health.

Gladioli seedlings

(Lady Edward Gleichen).—If your soil is of a fairly light and dry description, you should leave the Gladioli seedlings alone until March, when they should be lifted and replanted on rich, deeply-dug ground. As a rule, this plant blooms two years after the seeds have been sown, so yours will almost certainly do so next year. Should the soil be wet and retentive, it would be safest to lift and dry off in the way old bulbs are treated.

Hyacinthus candicans seedlings

(Lady Edward Gleichen).—The seedlings may safely be left where they are during the winter. If they appear at all crowded in spring they should be lifted and replanted, allowing more space between. Hyacinthus (Galtonia) candicans, when raised from seed, usually requires four years before it blooms.

Birds attacking Sweet Peas

(Llanfyllin).—We are afraid that we cannot help you very much with regard to your problem of stopping birds attacking your Sweet Peas. Time-honoured controls include using black cotton freely on the rows and the hanging up of rags, tins, and Potatoes into which the tail feathers of poultry have been placed with the object of frightening the birds away. These controls are only partially effective, and are of no use at all when the birds become familiar with the devices. We are inclined to think that spraying with a solution containing Quassia is the most likely control measure, because birds do not like the bitter principle contained in the Quassia. We would like to point out that with a few exceptions birds are the friends of the gardener and do much towards keeping insect life under control, *e.g.*, tomtits do more to keep mussel scale down than perhaps any other natural agent, and for this alone are worth preserving, in spite of their doing damage at certain times of the year to some of the crops we value.

Tree Lupins

Tree Lupins grow so vigorously with me that it becomes a question as to how to keep them within reasonable limits. As with ordinary shrubs, I cut back the shoots that have borne flowers, but this is not enough. To what extent may the bushes be pruned, and when? H. DOWNES.

[You may prune back your Lupinus arboreous as hard as you choose, seeing it ramps so conspicuously in your garden. It will be safest to do the pruning in early April, as then the bushes will quickly begin to send forth fresh growths.]

Sweet Peas

(Subscriber and S. R. Cookson).—We have carefully examined the specimens of Sweet Peas sent in and can find no evidence of either insect or fungus attack which would account for the buds dropping and the failure of the plants to flower. This trouble is very widespread this season, and we think that in both of these cases no blame can be attached to the seedsman or to the cultivator, but that it is due to a factor beyond control, namely, *weather*. It is interesting to note that in S. R. Cookson's case Sweet Peas are doing well in another part of the garden, which points to the conclusion that soil or position has something to do with the problem in a season like this. The habit of bud dropping is, we think, due to one of the three following causes—namely, overfeeding, lack of phosphate, and lack of sun. The first factor is under control, but cannot be the cause in your cases, unless you have been feeding with quick acting nitrogenous manures. The second factor is also under control and can be put right by giving the plants a good soaking of a solution made by adding half-a-pound of superphosphate of lime to 10 gallons of water. The third factor is, of course, beyond our control, but is, we think, the main cause of the trouble.

Diseased Asters and Stocks

Can you tell me the cause of my Stocks and Asters dying? They seem to be getting on well, and then appear to rot just above the root. It is only in four beds they do it. Others in a different part of the garden are (so far) quite all right. Can you give me a cure? D. T. L.

[The specimens you have sent in for examination are attacked by a foot rot, which is a common cause of trouble to growers of Asters and Stocks. This foot rot is caused by a fungus, which, after it has killed the plants, produces spores; these spores remain in the ground, and next year will attack other Asters and Stocks if they are placed on the same site. We should advise you to take up all the plants showing signs of the disease and burn them at once. It would be best to take up the plants with a spade, so that you could be sure of removing the of the attacked root system. The rest plants should be given a good soaking solution made by adding 1 oz. of Ch Compound to 2 gallons of water. At t of the season the soil in the beds sho removed to another part of the garde fresh soil introduced; or, if this is not cal, the soil should be sterilised with cals. Many other plants besides Aste Stocks are attacked by this foot rot. hope to deal more fully with the sub foot rot in an article to be publishe in the season.]

Diseased Larkspurs

(C. M.).—Your annual Larkspurs tacked by foot rot, please see re D. T. L. The same advice applies t case. Burn all the diseased plants as s you can so as to avoid contamination soil as much as possible.

Fuchsias failing

(F. W. Harris.).—We have examin specimen shoots sent in and cannot fungus likely to cause damage to Fuchsias. The leaves appear to hav eaten by insects, but the only specin animal life we could find was a smal It is possible that slugs are causin trouble. We should advise you to ex the attacked plants at night. With you will be able to see if slugs are the of the trouble. Weevils would be mor cult to detect, but if you examine the carefully you should be able to find o culprits. When you have found out t cause of the trouble, write us again i help you with regard to control meas

Brompton Stocks

For several years past I have been to grow White Brompton Double from seed, and have purchased my seed the most reliable sources, but notwith ing, I have failed to secure above 15 p of Doubles from the plants, and as plants need pricking out, etc., and st a good while, I find this method of pro Double White Stocks very expensive. you please tell me whether it is possib satisfactory to raise further plants fr old ones I have by either cuttings or ing? A. HAROLD S

[Brompton Stocks are only annuals, cannot raise from cuttings, or by la Do you grow on *all* the seedlings you Because, with all kinds of Stocks it is ally the weaker seedlings that produ double flowers, and one is apt to discar when either pricking off or planting

Fly attacking Nasturtiums

(C. W. T.).—The pest attacking your is Black Fly (Aphis rumicis) or Black D which is so destructive to Broad Syringe your plants with a soluti Quassia Extract and Nicotine, obt with directions for its use from any h tural sundriesman, and a couple of spr should leave your plants clear. "Pl Health and Disease," obtainable from Foyle, Ltd., 125, Charing Cross Road don, W.C. 2, may assist you.

Vine trouble and Eucalyptus cutti

(E. P.).—It is very likely that y right in thinking that the excessive h times is the cause of the trouble. shade would be helpful. An excellent for this purpose is a double ply of fis ting. This is better than whiting, as be removed at will. It is possible t cuttings of Eucalyptus in early summe serted in very sandy soil and covered bell glass, but a much better way is by sown in spring in a warm greenhouse.

ROSES

ed Rose foliage

H.).—The specimen Rose foliage in a very dried-up condition, and once may we ask our readers to send us pecimens packed in tin boxes. Speci- packed in more or less air tight tins esh and arrive in good condition for ation. From what we could see of cimens it appears that weather and ave combined forces and produced the al foliage. The Roses were badly hit effect of the frost earlier in the season, cold winds experienced since have not the plants to recover. Spraying the vith a good nicotine wash will remove is and help the plants considerably. g with a weak nicotine wash should ated early next season, and then given eather the plants should recover.

or Rose

. N. Bright).—The Wild Dog Rose anina) of our hedgerows provides the ck upon which to bud or graft a This stock must be planted during ious winter, at least, to be in a suit- dition for budding in July, or as soon bark rises freely from the wood; is usually carried out in March, but resorted to now. The stock should t 5 feet to 6 feet high, and may from ½ inch to 1 inch in thickness. would appear to be the most suit- your case, and having secured and your stock proceed as follows: When s begin to push in spring the whole should be rubbed off, with the ex- of two or three situated nearest the three, the preferable number, they form a triangle, and these growths e encouraged to extend until July, udding takes place. In July or when the bark works freely, a cut T made along the top of each of the ots, and at about 3 inches from the em; this admits of the bark being fficiently to admit of the insertion of which should be cut shield shape a size suitable to fit the incision made. Remove all wood from the the bark containing the bud, and e latter, so that the bark of the stock ly over it, except at the top of the T, should fit tight to the undisturbed, ark. The bud should then be bound ely by raffia over the whole of the g the bud itself exposed to light and en these commence to grow in a few ut occasionally a bud will be dor- ntil the following spring. If the on which the buds are inserted make growth they may be shortened back t during the first season, but should nally pruned until it is seen that the e taken and are growing freely, y may be pruned back to two joints he bud.

standard Roses

ld be obliged if you would tell me in your opinion, the following is a selection of standard Roses, apart r beauty of colour, form, and scent: 1 Emblem, Padre, Sunstar, Geo. Christine, Hugh Dickson, Maman Covent Garden, Duchess of Welling- eral MacArthur, Gorgeous, Ophelia, ry Morse, Mme. Edward Herriot, rbert Stevens, Mabel Morse, Betty d, Mme. Butterfly, and Mrs. Chas. S. R. C.

election is quite a good one, but we inclined to omit Betty Uprichard, d Golden Emblem, because of their of growth; but this is, of course, a taste.]

GREENHOUSE

Carnations

(F. A. V.).—On page 459, in the issue of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, dated July 23rd, "F. A. V." asks a question on the above subject. The answer given is: "That it is not easy to say what is the cause of the stem rot." In 99 cases out of a 100, if they are outdoor varieties, it is caused by the maggot of the Carnation fly (Hylemyia nigrescens). This little fly, which somewhat resembles the house fly, deposits its eggs during April at the base of the plant. The maggot when hatched tunnels its way into the stem of the plant and feeds on the pith of the plants with fatal results, which may not be noticed until the plant practically collapses. There is no remedy when once the maggot enters the stem, but prevention may be taken in spring by occasionally spraying the plants with some obnoxious insecticide while the fly is on the wing. "F. A. V." also asks on the same page, under the heading of "Border Carnations," whether sulphate of ammonia would make abundance of grass if applied to April-sown seedlings. Sulphate of ammonia at any time is detrimental to any Carnations, and if the plants require a stimulant the safest one to use is bone meal. This may be sprinkled around the plants at any time while growth is active, and should be applied after the soil has been lightly pricked over and well watered in. 1 oz. to 2 ozs. is sufficient for one plant, according to size and age. Where earth and eel worms are troublesome round the roots, slake 1 lb. of lime in 2 gallons of soft water, and when this becomes clear well water the plants with this and the worms will disappear, whilst the plants will benefit from it at the same time.

W. E. WRIGHT.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Rhododendron leaves damaged

(J. N. B.).—Your Rhododendron leaves are damaged by maggots, which have eaten through them, and which have probably left by this time. To prevent future attacks spray the bush affected with a diluted solution of Quassia Extract and Nicotine, which will render the leaves distasteful to insect life. If you do this also in early June next year, you would probably save your bushes from future disfigurement.

Name and method of pruning flowering shrub

(J. H.).—The shrub of which you send sprays is the American Spireæ Douglasi, a really pretty shrub when properly cared for. It should be pruned in March each year, or, rather, thinned, for that is what it amounts to. If you cut away part of the growths (such as No. 1 sent) to within 6 inches of the ground, in order to admit sunshine and air to the centre of the bush, the remaining growths will strengthen, with the result of finer and larger flower trusses. Stout young shoots will then develop from the base and flower the following year, when the remainder of the old growths may also be treated as above. Your bushes will then have rejuvenated themselves, and future growth will only need thinning and a little shortening back in future years.

Treatment of Actinidia chinensis and Jasminum affine

(R., Oxford).—After Actinidia chinensis has filled its allotted space, the only pruning necessary is that of removing back to four or six buds of their base the long streamers, unless a thin place develops, in which case they may be tied in. This climber loves an old Pine or other large tree to support its growths. It will then rise to a height of 80 feet under favourable conditions, its long trailing growths suspending themselves from the branches in a beautiful way, and decidedly effective they are when in bloom. In such positions no pruning whatever is necessary. The Jasmine needs judicious thinning only, and this should be done in March, when the leafage is at its thinnest. All the long shoots should never be cut away at one time, as from these the flowers are produced.

Linum perenne

(Heather).—You may cut back this Linum after it has finished flowering. The date on which the article appeared, of which you inquire, was July 31st, 1926.

FRUIT

Peach foliage

(G. H. T.).—We are sorry you have failed to find the insects which are eating your Peach foliage. We agree that it will probably do the tree good to renew the top soil and to overhaul the root system, but at the same time we would like to point out that this is not likely to do away with the insects which we feel sure are attacking the tree. Try putting down a white sheet under the tree during the early evening, and then when it is dark go carefully to the tree and give it a vigorous shake. Then examine the sheet with a light. You might also try putting on a loose hay-band round the stem of the tree close to the ground and examine it after it has been in position a week. Send us along any insect you may find, packed in a little tin box.

Increasing Pear tree

Will you kindly tell me how to get a branch, or cutting, of a William Pear Tree to root and yield?

"LADY LOVER OF GARDEN."

[The proper method of increasing the Pear tree is by grafting, or budding. It is seldom anyone troubles to root branches of Pears, for, not only is it an uncertain operation, but it is also a great waste of time, for a tree raised by layering (the only feasible method) would take many years to become fruitful, whereas, by grafting on to the Quince fruit would be had in a year or two.]

Nectarine, rot at tips

Can you tell me the reason why some Nectarines when nearly ripe start to rot at the tip, others on the same tree being good, and trees looking well? E. S.

[Without knowing something about your cultural methods, it is not just easy for us to say what causes the fruits to rot at the tips. Do you still syringe the trees in the evening and shut the house close immediately afterwards? This would cause the trouble. If there is stone-splitting, this, too, would be liable to cause rotting.]

Gooseberry mildew

(M. G.).—Your Gooseberries are infected with American Gooseberry mildew (Sphaerotheæ-Moss-uvæ). This first appears in white patches on tips of young growth, underneath the leaves, and on the fruit, and then a felt-like brown stage on shoots and berries. We suggest you write to the Ministry of Agriculture, Eccleston Square, London, S.W. 1, informing them that your gooseberry trees are affected, and they will send you a special leaflet giving full particulars of treatment.

Loganberries failing

(Rev. C. G. H.).—We have examined the specimen flowers you have sent in, and cannot find anything that will account for the flowers failing to set. From the evidence you give us in your note we feel sure that the sole cause of the failure is weather con-

ditions. All crops are suffering from the effects of the weather we have experienced during the last few months.

Peaches falling off

Could you suggest the cause of Peaches falling off just at the ripening stage? The border is tested for water. The trees are healthy. The border is a made one, perhaps on the light side. We have the same trouble each year, and whatever I seem to do I cannot find a remedy. The Peaches are sour when ready for table. "MILTON HILL."

[All Peaches drop when ripe, but the reason why yours are so sour is not so easily explained. There must be something wrong with your method of treating the trees; while, of course, some well-grown varieties are very tart, even when fully ripe. Excessive watering is often the cause of want of flavour; the Peach, although resentful of dryness at the roots, also dislikes soil being kept constantly sodden.]

Crinkled Apple foliage

(E. Ashworth).—The specimen Apple foliage you have sent in for examination appears to be attacked by a fungus which resembles an Exoascus, somewhat similar to the one which attacks Peaches and causes Peach leaf curl. There is no record of an Exoascus doing damage to Apple trees in Britain, but at the same time the crinkled foliage such as you send seems to be common this year. We have received specimens from widely separated districts, and we are trying to keep some of the cases under observation to try to find out if the fungus is doing any damage to the trees attacked. We should be glad of any observations you are able to make. It appears to us that it is the early leaves that are attacked, and that some varieties are more prone to attack than others. We have not noticed that when the fungus is present any damage is being done, either to the crop or to the growth of the tree. In nearly all cases examined Thrips are present in the crinkled foliage, but we think that they are only secondary and that a fungus is the primary cause. This view is, of course, subject to revision after we have had more experience of the trouble. If you could keep the trees under observation next season and let us know if the crinkled foliage reappears and also if any damage is being done it would be helpful.

Treatment of Plum trees

Would you kindly advise me how to treat the following two Plum trees, both planted February, 1926, on wall, fan trained. No. 1, on south wall, Dennison's Superb, leading growths at present 4 feet to 5 feet long, other growths cut back to five leaves. No. 2, on west wall, Early Rivers, leading growths also 4 feet to 5 feet long, but central leading growths all pushing growths at each leaf from base nearly to top of growth. Should I prune or root prune No. 1 in autumn, and how do you advise about treating the lateral growths of No. 2 at present? Should I pinch them back or pinch them out? Also advise how to treat No. 2 in autumn. I cut back the growths shortly after I planted the trees and they made good growth during 1926. In winter I reduced these growths, or rather pruned off one-third, and I consider they are making too much growth. ABERDEEN.

[For one thing, you seem to have planted both trees in too rich soil, hence the overluxuriance. The Plum will not fruit under such conditions. It might be advisable to lift both trees, removing any roots growing in a downward course, and replanting in poorer soil. A good amount of old lime from a demolished building should be mixed with the soil. Lay in as much wood as you have room for, and, if over-luxuriance continues, prune very little, only removing such shoots as are badly placed, or that are overcrowding the tree. All shoots, of course, should have the soft tips removed at the winter pruning. In the case of No. 2, allow all growths to remain until winter, when the side shoots should be shortened well back, even where they are thickly together, removing some altogether.]

Scalded Grapes

(R. W. Gale).—Your bunch of Grapes appear to be perfectly healthy, except that they have been badly scalded as the result of your neglecting to open the ventilator. To grow Grapes successfully great care must be used in such details as airing and damping down the house, and any neglect of these matters is serious, as your experience should show. You can do nothing now, except to go over the bunches and cut out the scalded berries, otherwise they will rot and cause the sound berries to rot also. Articles on the culture of the vine appear in our pages from time to time, and you will gain much useful information if you follow them; we shall be pleased to help you on any point if you are in doubt.

Maggots in Loganberries

(A. S. Brown).—It is usual for fruits like Raspberries, Brambles, and Loganberries to become infested with maggots when allowed to hang too long. You should endeavour to pick the fruits when just ripe, for the maggots have not then entered the berries, it being only such as are beginning to decay that are attacked by these pests.

VEGETABLES

Onion root maggot

(Lady W.).—The creosote mentioned in our note on insect pests is just the ordinary common creosote which is so largely used for preserving wood. Liquid ounces was meant. The correct quantities of dry fine garden soil and creosote should be weighed and measured out respectively; afterwards the creosote should be very slowly stirred into the soil; the whole should then be very thoroughly stirred and left covered with an old sack for some 24 hours. This treatment will ensure that the smell of the creosote permeates to all portions of the soil. Please note that we do not undertake to reply to queries through the post.

Trouble with Onions

Please find enclosed Onion, which you will see has some form of disease. I have a bed of about 200, and during the last fortnight I have found about 20 where the young flag in the centre rots away most of the Onions. There is a brown streak on some of the flags. They have not had any form of artificial manure at any time.

W. SINFIELD.

[Your Onions are attacked by the fungus known as Onion Mould (Peronospora Schleideniana), which usually becomes most noticeable about the end of July, when large grey patches appear on the leaves, and if not checked soon ruins the whole of the above ground part of the plant. Not only does the growth suffer, but the growth of the bulb ceases and very often commences to decay. The only remedy known is newly-slaked lime, which must be used immediately the disease is discovered if it is to be successful—that is, at the first sign of the greyish spots which mark the commencement of the disease—dusting the plants freely with finely-powdered, freshly-slacked lime, repeating the dose should rain wash it off within a few days.]

Tomato leaves for inspection

(J. McK.)—The leaves are burnt, sult of either an overdose of artificial or through the house in which they hav growing having been improperly ven Either will cause the trouble complai but we strongly suspect the former. in future with pure water only, a deavour to maintain a temperature tween 65 deg. and 75 deg. during t by intelligent use of the ventilators, ing cold draughts. No harm will resu a lowering of the temperature durin night to the extent of 10 deg.

Tomato leaves attacked

(J. B. Cork).—Your plants are affe yellow spot, a fungus known as porium dentriticum, which first atta lower leaves, and reveals itself by yellow spots to appear on the surface leaves. The disease soon spreads, and therefore be dealt with as soon as Removing and destroying the lower le a good plan if done early, but useless the disease has got a hold on the leav up the stem. Dusting the plants with sulphur, or spraying with weak Bo mixture, are sometimes successful in ing the disease in its early stages, bu affected plants should be burned. disease finds its ideal fructifying con in a close moist atmosphere, especially dull sunless weather; therefore a wel lated house with a buoyant moving sphere is the least likely to favour it.

Moving Rhubarb plants

I have several good plants of Rhu an inconvenient place. Would you b enough to tell me:—1. Can the pla bodily moved? 2. At what time of th 3. What preparation of soil should be 4. What is the best way of propagatin barb?

[(1) Yes! The whole plant may be but there is little sense in doing s better divide into several pieces, see are making a new plantation, anyw Late October, November, or February The Rhubarb being a gross feeder, generous dressing of well-rotted fa manure must be given, and the ground be double-dug. A good plan is to thr a trench 3 feet wide, the full length row, laying the top spit on one side. bottom of the trench spread a layer, 4 or 5 inches deep, of the manure, and it in. Then place another generous the manure on top of the dug-up und and, finally, return the soil piled at t Plant down the centre of the bed thus allowing 4 feet from plant to plant. than one row is to be planted, make a bed for each, allowing the rows to b apart. (4) Divide old stools, each with a few roots attached, will form a plant. Treat as advised above.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Destroying Equisetum

My garden, which has been in cul now for nearly three years, is overr large part with Equisetums, which a be spreading. Could you advise me a practical way of getting rid of them? advised by a friend to cut them do then drop a few drops of sulphuric ac each one! This, however, appears q possible to do on such a large scale.

[This weed, Equisetum (Horse Tail) difficult to eradicate. You should f as much of it as you can, and next y it down as often as it peeps through By persevering with this treatment y in time get rid of it. To apply sulphu

er weed destroyers would poison the a time, and make it unfit for garden]

:ide manure

egular Reader ").—(1) We have never of the mixture named being used as cticide, so are unable to vouch as to :acy, but should think the quantity excessive. (2) You have probably a check to your peas by applying too r too frequent doses of the artificial you name. Better refrain from his material further this season, and here is any improvement in the ap- e of the plants.

and treatment of plant

E. Bromley).—Your plant is Cheiran- folius. After flowering, cut it over, ; the spikes down to the level of the If you desire to increase it, how- ıve a couple of spikes to mature their d sow in pans of sandy soil in spring, the pans in a warm house or frame. visable to raise a few plants in this m time to time, as the older ones tendency to die off after the second

; Bracken

breaking up a piece of land covered common Brake Fern (Bracken) for n garden. What would be the best t expensive method to adopt to get me? M. W.

) this by hand will be a pretty stiff so we would suggest that the land rst be ploughed, next well torn up of the horse cultivators, then well l and all roots cleared off. The hould then be double dug, and have lressing of farmyard manure incor- vith it, as the work proceeds. Even it is likely that some of the ferns ar the following year; but if they hem out, or hoe well, as often as) through the soil.]

ıg lime wash from wall

a large space of wall—brick—which was inside a conservatory (now wn). It is covered with what ap- be white wash, but I think it can- ıs two winters' rain has made no to it, and it won't wash off. Can nmend any chemical which would ? O. H. R.

k-acting and ready cleanser of dis- stone work of every kind, which we d very satisfactory, is manufactured y and Sons, Barrow-on-Humber, is called "Stone Cleanser," and is ns at 2s. each—less for quantities. ? you to try this on your wall first ı results. Instructions for its use with each tin, and it is all the n for it in their advertisement. e surface of your wall prove to be ı do not appear certain of this— only certain method of removal us is that of burning off with a) and scraping, such as painters ıtors use in removing paint from , &c.]

weeds

T.).—The only thing you can do t the noxious weeds you refer to is he ground thoroughly trenched, ıt the weeds bodily as you go on. may do now, and so have the for cropping next spring. If you t once you may, when the ground , plant Cabbages, Savoys, Broc- and sow Turnips, Carrots, Peas, etc. It will be well, if the soil is heavy, to give the ground a good dressing of lime, and if you have any rubbish, to incorporate this with the soil in the course of trenching, putting this at the bottom of the various trenches.

A missing specimen

(W. A. B.).—We are sorry, but we failed to find the "little black-beast" mentioned in your note. It must have escaped in the post. If you will be kind enough to send us a few more specimens packed in a little tin box we shall be pleased to examine them for you.

Woodlice

(H. W. D.).—We recommend you to use Corry's Ant and Woodlice Death. This preparation is thoroughly efficacious and will instantly kill the pests. Lift the old wood or bricks where the woodlice are found, and sprinkle a small quantity of the liquid preparation. Once in its fumes they die instantly.

Insect for naming

(J. Waters).—The insect is a female of the Giant Wood Wasp (Sirex gigas). It is a native insect, and quite harmless to living plants. It deposits its eggs in timber, using the awl-like ovipositor, which, by the way, is not a sting, to bore holes to receive the eggs. There are two other British species.

Self-heal in lawn

(L. Storer).—You cannot use a weed killer, and we doubt if lawn sand is of any value. The best thing you can do is to dig out the weed during the late autumn and winter, and in spring put on to the bare places some good loamy soil, sowing down in April with good grass seed. You can, if you care to, apply a top-dressing directly you have cleared out the weed, letting it remain all the winter so that the frost may break it down, then sowing as advised in April next.

SHORT REPLY

F. W. Jones.—We have received your letter with reference to Figs. Please look for a reply in an early issue.

NAMES OF PLANTS

Roland.—Probably the Dartmouth Crab, but it is not possible to say, with certainty, in its present state. All the Crabs make delicious jelly.

S. D. Muncer.—1, Lythrum salicareum var. purpureum; 2, Salvia nemerosa; 3, Tradescantia virginica; 4, Roscoea purpurea; 5, (Hyssop) Hyssopus officinalis.

G. E. Hamerton.—1, Acer Negunda; 2, Salvia verbenæa; Senecio Grayii; 4, Spirea Thunbergii.

J. B. Cork.—1, Stachys lanata; 2, Clino podium calamintha; 3, Cotula squallida.

H. W. French.—1, Solanum pyracanthum; 2, Erigeron macranthus; 3, Erigeron superbus; 4, Escallonia macrantha; 5, (Self Heal) Prunella vulgaris—a weed.

William C. Smith.—We regret the Rose had fallen to pieces and was unrecognisable. No. 2 is Gillenia trifoliata; a handsome American plant, allied to Spiræa. It is not a shrub, but a strong growing herbaceous plant. No. 3 is Colutea arborescens (the Bladder-Senna).

A. Mc.D.—1. Veronica Loganoides; 2, Tradescantia zebrina; 3, Begonia Weltoniensis; 4, Neprolepis todeaoides; 5, Pteris Wimsettii.

G. C.—Lysimachia punctata.

Ajax.—1, (White Beam) Sorbus Aria; 2, Rhamnus frangula; 3, Betula alba var. papyrifera.

Is Gardening a Profession?

The question mark is intentional to call forth the query as to what the profession of gardening, if there be such a thing, really is. A profession is that which we have learned to associate with genteel lines of endeavour as, for instance, law, medicine, theology. Our idea of a profession is an occupation that involves considerable education, or its equivalent, and requires mental rather than manual labour. But no one for a moment would try to differentiate between gardening and work.

Are we really justified then in calling gardening a profession? The dictionary defines gardening "as an art, having to do with the planning and executing of a garden." In other words, it is horticulture. Art, however, implies the practical application of knowledge or natural ability, skill, dexterity, facility, or power. It may also imply a system of rules devised for procuring a scientific, æsthetic, or practical result; that is, a branch of learning to be studied in order to be applied. We distinguish essentially between the fine arts and the useful arts, the former suggesting largely the exercise of the imagination, and the latter the skill and ingenuity of the artisan. If, then, gardening is an art, and of this there is hardly any doubt, it must be both a fine and a useful art, and the definition has much to commend it.

The planning calls for all the finer qualities of the imagination, usually associated with the fine arts, while the execution of the plans demands a display of ability and power. Gardening is then not merely an art, but an art that must be studied, and studied well in order to be applied. Since a profession demands a certain amount of learning we may safely call gardening a profession. But it is a profession that calls equally upon the mental and manual faculties of its followers. Just as it is both a fine and useful art, it is both a mental and a manual profession. Gardening needs therefore no qualification—it stands in a class by itself and embodies preparation that other professions unfortunately do not. Gardening is an artistic profession.

If we have allowed ourselves too high an ideal for our life's work, that is, if we have held that true gardening requires something more than mere physique and muscle, if it requires that a man's brains shall labour equally with his muscles, then we must revise the general conception of what a gardener is. It is hardly fair to say that the man who only tends a garden is one with the man skilled in gardening. The two are essentially different, and in desiring to make the distinction clear and concise we are exercising the prerogative of every other profession. Too many men who lack the initiative and ability to plan for gardens claim to be gardeners, and, unfortunately, are regarded as such, simply because they labour in and about gardens. And this class of labour has not hesitated to make application for positions as gardeners, feeling that as they have worked in gardens they are entitled to consideration as efficient gardeners. Yet a filing clerk would hardly assume to apply for the position of head bookkeeper, nor would the labourers in and around a large engineering project make a pretension of being civil engineers. There is as much connection between the average garden labourer and a skilled gardener as there is between the printer's devil and the editor. Gardeners should be as jealous of the high ideals of their profession as the members of any other profession, and the person who is not qualified by training and experience to assume the planning and execution of a garden is but a poor makeshift for a professional gardener.—From *The Gardeners' Chronicle of America.*

Are you coming to our next tour in the City?

Two or three acres of land which can boast some of the richest historical associations in the capital were in the itinerary of a recent tour of London, when Mr. Allen S. Walker conducted a party to the Priory Church of St. Bartholomew the Greate and the famous Bart.'s Hospital. In the inimitable style which Mr. Walker has made familiar in his broadcast talks he pointed out the Elizabethan half-timber house, discovered after the facing tiles had been shaken off in an air raid, which occupies the site of the old north tower, the raised burial ground where the victims of the Plague were hastily covered over, and the site of the Cloisters where lived the Black Canons of the order when resting from their labours of tending the sick. Inside the church the perfect Norman chancel and semi-circular apse of 1123, forming the most important Norman building in London apart from the Tower, was admired as the visitors sat in the choir of the old Canons and heard the history of the founding of the church and the hospital by Rahere in the twelfth century. The recent discoveries in the excavated cloisters and the restoration work being carried on under the supervision of Sir Aston Webb were inspected, and the party then visited the hospital, going up the fine eighteenth century staircase with wall paintings by Hogarth, was christened in the church, to the Great Governors' Hall with its two-tiered windows, French plaster ceiling, and paintings of the founder and famous surgeons. The parish church of St. Bartholomew the Less, within the grounds of the hospital, was inspected, also the site of the old Bartholomew Fair, and Pye Corner where ended the Great Fire of London. This was at the corner of Cock Lane, and over the teacups in the staff common room in Bouverie House Mr. Walker related the story of the famous Cock Lane ghost which was laid by Dr. Johnson.

Dates of the other tours fixed during September are given below, and applications for these should be made to the Editor as early as possible.

WEDNESDAY, September 7th.—St. Paul's Cathedral.

TUESDAY, September 13th.—St. Martin's, Ludgate; Remains of London Wall; Stationers' Hall.

WEDNESDAY, September 21st.—St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe; Playhouse Yard (site of Shakespeare's Blackfriars Theatre).

FORM OF APPLICATION

To the Editor of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED,
BOUVERIE HOUSE,
FLEET STREET, E.C. 4.

A VISIT TO THE CITY.

I should be glad to have tickets to join your Visit to the City under Mr. A. S. Walker at 2.45 p.m. on

If your party for this date is full up, please book me for one of the following dates:

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Roses at the Glasgow Show

ON August 3rd the Scottish National Rose, Sweet Pea, and Carnation Society held a most successful show, in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow. Considering the season we have experienced in Scotland, it was truly wonderful to see the quality of the great bulk of the exhibits shown. I do not propose to go fully into the matter, but merely to note down my impressions of the more outstanding Roses, it being mainly to study these that I visited the show. Perhaps the most outstanding variety, all over, was Mabel Morse. This is undoubtedly the finest pure yellow Rose we have. It was very extensively shown in Glasgow, the first prize dozen being really very fine. Mrs. Wemyss Quin was pale in comparison. I do not much care for John Russell, but must confess that the first prize dozen were really good. As a pink Mrs. Henry Bowles was everywhere superbly shown. Mrs. Henry Morse, to me a much more beautiful Rose, was but sparingly in evidence, but what there was of it was very fine. Betty Uprichard, if not very abundantly shown, was superbly coloured, and still holds its place as one of the very best decorative varieties. Mrs. Herbert Stevens was, I thought, very beautiful, if the blooms were not very large. The Queen Alexandra I do not favour, but the few shown were wonderfully vivid. For some reason, Mme. E. Herriot was but slightly in evidence, as was the one-time popular Golden Emblem.

Some superb blooms of Lord Charlemont were to be seen, and it seems such a pity that this glorious deep red Rose should be cursed with such a tender constitution. Another superbly-shown Rose was Lady Inchiquin, which seems to revel in this dull, cool season, for never previously have I seen such large and perfectly-shaped blooms. Of the paler Roses, Mrs. George Marriot was probably the best. Los Angeles was another variety that gave of its richest tones this year. It was rather astonishing that so few of what might be termed the coppery shades were on view. I refer to Lady Roundway, Mrs. Redford, Emma Wright, and others of similar colouring. They were represented certainly, but very sparingly.

I was rather disappointed in the new Duchess of Atholl. It is certainly very beautiful in colour, but here its good points seem to end. Nor was Elizabeth of York at all startling. The blooms were very small, and borne on weak stems, so I am afraid it will not go very far. It was rather curious how the other seedling shown was relegated to third place, for it is a very beautiful variety, the flowers shown being of good size, of excellent form, and lovely colouring. I refer to John W. Troupe. Nor was I alone in wondering how the decision was arrived at, everyone with whom I discussed the matter considering the variety placed third to be the best Rose of the three.

C. BLAIR.

LATE NOTE

International Horticultural Exhibition

We understand that an International Horticultural Exhibition, with industrial section, will be organized from September 10th to 18th in the Great Hall and Gardens of the Palais du Cinquantenaire by the Royal Horticultural Society of Brussels. This Exhibition, the most interesting one hitherto organised in Belgium, is held under the patronage of the King and Queen of Belgium, and of the Government and the City. Sir George Graham, the British Ambassador, has consented to become a member of the High Committee. The programme, a copy of which we have received, is a most comprehensive one, and the Show will be on a very large scale. The Belgian Colonial Office are taking and will occupy extensive space. foreign botanic gardens are to be repres The horticulturists of all countries are to participate in this event. A consid saving can be made on transport in Bel as the Société Nationale des Chemins grant gratuitous return for goods material sent to the Exhibition. W stand the prior for space is very m The arrangements are in the hands sieur Eugene Draps, Uccle-Bruxelles gique.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

J. Cheal and Sons, Ltd. Crawley, —Garden making, herbaceous borders gardens, formal gardens.

H. J. Unwin, Histon, Cambs.—Sp summer and autumn sowing—vegeta flower.

Stuart Low Co. Bush Hill, Middl Greenhouse plants, Ferns, Orchids, men Plants, "Cherry Ripe", Ros Fruit Trees in pots.

C. H. Herbert, Crooks Green, Sa ham.—Hardy Border Pinks.

John B. Vanderschoot, Ltd. Ho Holland.—Bulbs—Tulips, Hyacinths, ssi, Crocuses, Snowdrops, Irises, mones, Gladioli.

Roderick M. Crocket and Co. In ford, N.J.—Rock Garden Bulbs, Bulbs, Tulips, Hyacinths, Narciss Lilies.

James Carter and Co.—Copy of ca sent on application. Special early subjects for Christmas and Easter tion. Sweet Peas and other autumn seeds, vegetables, lawn renovations, h rural requisites.

THE WORLD'S LARG
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6.0 p.m.	1/6		

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Flower Show Leaflet and official guide post free from the Secretary, Southport Flo Town Hall, Southport.

Remittances for Tickets which should be ma to the Southport Corporation, should be se Borough Treasurer, Town Hall, Southport.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Border Carnations and Allwoodiis

s not been an altogether ideal season arnations, as these revel in sunshine ry conditions, and it is amazing how the young growth appears, and there prospect of some very fine layers, ill be put down here during the comk. Conditions are, of course, more l in the South.

ERPETUAL BORDERS.—These are being trial for the first time, and have so up to expectation. The plants have he winter and spring well, and are ass of flower stems and buds, several will be in bloom in a day or so. ants, growing alongside er entirely the same cons the borders, are not t in growth as some of er, which, of course, ck to the perpetual side ancestors. Some of the am going to layer, and suitable will be raised tings. They are en- accord with the perts regards their con- blooming, as there are shoots with buds on in ages.

NGS.—It is not wise to l the flowers are over vering is done, that is wth is long enough to n comfortably. The to proceed with this to break up the soil e plants with a hand- out injuring the roots. ound each plant a of fine sandy compost; g soil will do quite ssed through a half- e. This is best put watered with a fine- and left for a day or layering is done. It visable to layer the ots, as these fail to od plants. Half-a- e quite enough to one plant. Several e lower leaves should l away from the base ayer and a tongue cutting half way joint with an upward ere are various kinds at may be used, in- irpins, which answer e quite well; each d be pegged over the l pressed firmly into t, watering each set of layers as the work proceeds. Some varieties produce their side shoots close against the stem, and with these it is impossible to layer. However, they can be propagated by means of cuttings. Take them off and cut level through a joint, remove the lower leaves, and insert either singly in small pots, or several around the edge of a larger size containing sandy soil. Before inserting, I find it a good plan to split the base of the cuttings a little and dip in silver sand. The soil must be firm around the base, and after watering they should be kept from flagging by keeping close in a cold frame until rooted. If the cuttings are kept upright and the soil moist they should be rooted in six weeks' time, which can be discerned by the tips commencing to grow. Air should then be given freely and the young plants gradually inured to outdoor conditions.

ALLWOODIIS.—One seldom sees these mentioned in the gardening Press, but to see a bed in bloom and to see the cut bloom arranged in a tall vase leaves one to wonder why they are not better known. Their habit of growth is good, and they are readily raised from cuttings taken during summer and autumn. They appear to do well in town gardens, where they can command full sunshine, and are ideal for pots and window boxes, as they remain in bloom over a long period.

SOME GOOD VARIETIES.—Mary, a particular favourite, although not quite so long in the stem as some varieties, is a beautiful rose pink with a pale maroon centre; the flowers are of a large size and the petals smooth. Rufus. This is another fine flower of the true Rose du Barry colour, flowers in profusion, and sweetly scented. Brian. Deep salmon pink with large fringed flowers, and is rather later in blooming. Stems strong and erect. Eleanor. A very large, shapely flower, compact in habit, whilst the colour is white with a crimson centre. Nora. One of the newer kinds, which shows a great improvement in habit of growth and earliness in blooming, blush lilac, laced with maroon; a sterling novelty. Ann. Large white, with a maroon eye, is another new one worthy of mention. Phœbe. Rich salmon shaded terra cotta; very distinct. Susan. Free flowering, lilac with a dark crimson eye. Joyce. Shrimp pink with a pale brown centre. Arthur. Red maroon with a darker eye. Hugh. Crimson purple self. Jean. Pure white with violet centre. Peggy. Pinkish maroon.

The illustration shows some new perpetuals which were exhibited by Allwood Brothers at the last Chelsea Show.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Creigiau, near Cardiff.

New Perpetual Border Carnations

NOTES OF THE WEEK

A new Hudson Memorial

ADJOINING the Brent Valley Golf Links, in the Borough of Ealing, is an estate of 7 acres, the greater part of the grounds of which have, from being left almost entirely untouched for 15 years or more, become a recognised haunt of birds, and many species are known to have nested there. These include the blackcap, the garden and willow warblers, the whitethroat, and the moorhen. Wildfowl come to the lake, which is formed by the perennial spring, and the goldfinch and green woodpecker are often to be seen. The Selborne Society has long wished to protect the ground in question, and at last there is an opportunity of acquiring it. It has been suggested that it would make a fitting memorial to the late W. H. Hudson, who helped the Selborne Society to establish the Brent Bird Sanctuary at Perivale, higher up the river, which 25 years ago set an example that has been widely followed of preserving for urban districts the interesting birds of the countryside.

The R.H.S. Fruit Show

Schedules for the Royal Horticultural Society's Fruit Show to be held at Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W. 1, on Tuesday, October 11th, and open to all amateurs and market growers, are now available, and may be had on application to the Secretary of the Society at the above address. The show will comprise 115 classes in six divisions, Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 5 being open for amateurs only, Division 2 to market growers, and Division 6 to R.H.S. affiliated societies. Attention is drawn to the following changes:—Division 1 (Class 4), Grapes, two varieties instead of three; (Class 5), Grapes, Lady Downes instead of Black Hamburgh; (Class 9), Grapes, Appley Towers replaces Prince of Wales; (Class 14), 12 dishes of hardy fruit instead of 18, Peaches and Figs excluded. The section for market growers is extended mainly to encourage exhibits of select fruit in non-returnable boxes. In the six dishes Apples and six dishes dessert Pears classes, third prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the judges. A new class is added for growers in Wales. In the single dish classes, dessert Apples, Duke of Devonshire (Class 53) is added, and Comte de Lamy (Class 96) is added to the classes for dessert Pears. These changes portend a show of increased interest this year, and are bound to attract the keenest competition among exhibitors. Entries for the show close on October 4th. Readers are reminded also that the last day for receiving entries for the R.H.S. Amateur Vegetable Show is September 6th.

Mutisia decurrens

This plant, a native of Chile and introduced by Veitch in 1859, seems to be hardier and easier to grow than is generally supposed, judging by the plants I saw recently growing in N.E. Dorset. It is an evergreen climber and, seen when in full bloom, it is a very striking plant with its large single flowers of brilliant orange, reminding one of a Gazania. The foliage is narrow and stemless, the point ending in a forked tendril which will cling to anything it can reach, and thus support itself. The root-system is similar to Couch Grass, though not so troublesome, and the resultant suckers can be propagated. The plants I saw when planted at the base of a thin-growing shrub, over which they were growing freely. The "foster parent" should not be too dense in growth, the soil moist, but well drained, using some leaf-mould and sand, and covering the roots with stones, under which the running roots will creep. The flowers, when full open, are 4 inches to 5 inches across, and of such brilliant colour that everyone wants to know what they are. The ease with which the owner grows this plant should encourage many people to grow it as he does and NOT against a wall, which, he says, is useless to it. VISITOR.

Arthropodium cirrhatum

A choice and beautiful plant from North Island, New Zealand, which is apparently proving hardy in this country, is the which I was fortunate enough to see bloom recently in Sussex. The though narrower, somewhat resemble of the Funkia, and the flowers, whi borne on stout scapes, are white, the flower panicle being a foot or more in This rare plant was once know Anthericum cirrhatum and is a lover o moist soil. E.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Dahlia tubers rotting

I WAS very interested in the letters which appeared in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED a few weeks ago regarding the rotting of Dahlia tubers, and my experience may be the same as some of your readers. After the early frost last autumn we decided not to dig up the Dahlia tubers, letting them take their chance and buying new ones in spring. Now, whether the tubers continued to mature in the ground after the frost I do not know, but I do know this, that all, bar one, have made their appearance this season and are now flowering as plentifully as usual. Unfortunately, we were not so lucky with our tuberous Begonias in tubs, as many of them were lost through rotting, but these, of course, we boxed through the winter, not leaving them to chance as the Dahlias. May I bring to your readers' notice the beauty of Viscaria cœrulea, which I so seldom see in the ordinary garden? It is such a charming shade of blue and so excellent for cutting that I am surprised one does not meet it oftener. DORA D. DUNEAN.

Symond's Yat.

Growing Apples on commercial lines

As a commercial apple grower on a considerable scale, may I venture to comment on the advice given to your correspondent "Ignorant" in your issue of August 6th?

To begin with, if standards are to be planted, the land should be left in grass—not cultivated, except immediately round the trees for the first five or six years. If it is desired to plant soft fruit on the same land then cultivate of course, but do not plant standards; bush, or half standard trees, are more suitable. Drain thoroughly, and get a good man to do the work. It is an expensive operation, but an essential one, and if it is not well done it is so much money wasted.

Twenty feet apart is much too close for standards; 30 feet is enough for many varieties, but for such sorts as Bramley or Newton Wonder 40 feet is not by any means too much. I bar Lane's for use on standards on account of its weak habit of growth, and I have never seen any of the Codlin family or Worcester Pearmain commercially successful as standards. Warner's King, Prince's Pippin, and Blenheim are a good trio, but all are very liable to canker and to Woolly Aphis. I should consider it a risky experiment to plant any of these in a small orchard unless I had good evidence that they were successful in the locality. A variety I should recommend, in spite of its somewhat biennial habit in bearing, is Gascoyne's Scarlet; it makes a very large tree, and should be planted at 40 feet.

The great advantage of an established grass orchard is that one has no cultivation costs, and whether the trees crop or not the grazing can always be let; but if this is to be done the trees must be high enough in the stem to be out of the reach of young cattle when the boughs are heavy with leaf and fruit. For this reason no tree should be that is less than 6 feet 6 inches to the Make certain, too, that the trees are grown and not importations from a they will possibly be a little more exp but they will be worth the extra mone a small orchard, say, of five acres or not plant too many sorts, five or six enough, but be certain that those chos inter-pollinate, or are self fertile.

In conclusion, if the Wild Cherry flo in the woods of the district, and the otherwise suitable, I should plant C and not apples; in these days it is pr much more profitable crop. "PHILTO

Geranium ibericum

It is pleasant to observe in the co the suggestive article above the well initials "G. J." in GARDENING ILLUS of July 2nd, under the title of "Th Border," that your valued contributo high opinion of Geranium ibericum, she justly calls "the best of the Crane I am presuming that your correspon fers to the border varieties alone. been in flower with me for some ti has been very good in the border, a certainly the best of the race for th culture is simplicity itself, and it i increased by division. S. AR

Verbascums

I think the Mullein-like V. olympic with flowers the size of those of moides, mentioned by Mr. Thackeray on p. 465, must have been the sam which appeared in my garden, in grow both species, and which I attrib hybrid between the two. It was tru geous plant, but being biennial, specimen disappeared, following the Mullein hybrids in not producing see A. H. WOLLE

Davidia involucrata

In answer to "Pat's" inquiry, J regarding D. involucrata, I see that grows 40 feet to 65 feet, and there not always flower when in a you especially if it is growing freely. I interesting to know that the one I nearly every leaf with a sharp, k I watered it well and then watere head, quite disregarding the hot su you would not think it had lost a lea I do not expect it to flower this y such hardship. Like "Pat's," mine 30 feet. It likes plenty of moistu a quick-growing tree. If it does plenty of moisture it is liable top roots. Some trees take ma before flowering. The Tulip Tree dron tulipifera), which grows from to 190 feet, takes 20 years before f Patience is what a gardener nee have no doubt if he works in a littl which contains carbohydrates, so e

ring and fruiting plants, and well red in, he will find beneficial results.
ygate. C. D. L.

Rose Silver Moon

HE Silver Moon climbing Rose in the ccompanying picture is grown by the Rev. D. and Mrs. Whittle in the rectory n, Luray, Virginia, U.S.A. The has a large, almost single white flower, s a very free bloomer, and is in bloom in June. So far I have not been able ce it in the Rose catalogues, so perhaps peculiar to America. NORA WHITTLE.
nella, Ealing.

ose Silver Moon, although of American —it was sent out by Henderson, 1912— netimes seen in English gardens. The flowers are, we should say, not pure , but pale creamy-yellow, passing to y-white, and the growth, as shown in easing illustration, is very vigorous.—

xhibiting and judging at flower shows

a judge and exhibitor at various shows ghout the United Kingdom, extending number of years now, I do not agree ll that "Scots Judge" alleges, in your of August 6th, against the average ex- 's want of scruple in showing produce ave not grown. There may be an odd ow and again who transgresses in this t, but he is soon detected by others re showing and by the committee in . His position is made uncomfortable e future, and he learns that "honesty best policy" in this as in all matters. do I agree that, owing to this, "the have lost all interest in floral exhibi- " On the contrary, I believe the in- of the public in floral exhibitions was keener than it is at the present time. nly the displays of flowers, fruits, and bles were never finer, or made more ive than they are at the present day, the shorter hours of labour and im- methods of road transport make the st village accessible. I have watched en interest taken in small village shows ll as large provincial ones, and have the improvement in cultivation and ement where a local show has been I believe in the good work these are doing in giving an opportunity for sses to vie with each other in friendly , and as an aid to the selection of the oduce obtainable for our gardens, and ir artistic display when grown.

ee with "Scots Judge" when he says judge is liable to make mistakes," ving regard to the limited time in judging has often to be done at shows, nistakes are comparatively few, and intentional. It is, I think, unfor- in these matters that a judge at a show has not the opportunity of g the case and pointing out dis- y in evidence" as judges in His y's Courts do. Often one hears ad- omments made on a decision that are injustifiable, because the person who them has not had the opportunity of scrutinising the exhibit as the judges

xample, A puts up what appears to be ct dish of Peaches and gets no prize. lges have found, on closely examining hat one or two have split stones, and the prize with inferior—but withal -fruit. The same thing may and does in the case of a dish of Potatoes and hings, hence we hear complaints. I the correct thing would be to split ches open, but this would add to the iture of the exhibitor.

Personally, I should not be adverse to judging any produce with the exhibitors around, providing they gave room for the judge to work. They would then hear the comments made in judging, and have little cause to "grouse" at the decisions given.
Eaton Gardens. N. F. BARNES.

—— Apart altogether from the questions raised by "Scots Judge," in the issue of August 6th, may I offer a few notes in connection with Mr. W. P. Bound's contribution to the discussion? Mr. Bound tells us he was, on one occasion, one of three judges who, apparently, were judging vegetable classes. I have always maintained, and have continually advocated, that single judging is much to be preferred to the employment of two or even more judges in each separate class. Two men, equally expert judges, may differ upon trifling points—"individuality" as Mr. Bound very appropriately terms it. There is friction, and even if there is not there is bound to be "give and take" which, emphatically, is not in the best interests of the competitors. In discussing entry after entry time is consumed, and the period allotted to judging is unduly extended. In judging I hold that two heads are not better than one, and that single judging—alike in large and in small shows—is greatly to be preferred. For many years I have made it a condition that I am to act single-handed before accepting any invitation to officiate in a judicial capacity at any show. At one show, in particular, I have acted as a judge for 15 years, changing from class to class yearly. To my knowledge and belief, not a single decision given by me has been

Silver Moon Climbing Rose

disputed. Were proof of this needed, my continued selection as one of the judges would provide it. Gain the confidence of the competitors, act justly according to your lights, favour no one, and I guarantee that even losing competitors will join in asking you to judge in succeeding years. It may be said that this is only personal experience. Admitted, but why not use one's own experience as an illustration? Nor do I desire to pose as anything very superior in the way of judges; I merely wish to say that I "know my job," which many judges, with all the good intentions in the world, do not. One judge, one class; such would, I am convinced, give more satisfaction all round. Another point: If asked (but not otherwise), a judge ought always to point out to losers wherein their weakness lies and how it can be amended. Such a practice is always appreciated, and leads to a closer relationship between judge and competitor. It is rather discourteous for a judge to "turn down" abruptly anyone who is genuinely anxious to know why his exhibit failed to catch the eye of the judge. A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

—— Your correspondent "Scots Judge" has introduced us to practices which are a scandal at many exhibitions. It is a fact that many who stage exhibits do so, not particularly for any honour, but for the money they can make out of it.

Unfortunately, whatever suspicions judges may cherish as to the *bonâ fides* of the material placed before them, they are powerless to intervene in most cases, but this does not absolve the Committee from taking action if complaints are made. I have known men sign a declaration that the produce had been grown by them when such was not the case. I give an instance that came within my knowledge some years ago:—I was walking round a nursery with a friend one night when two men entered the grounds and, after speaking to the proprietor, they left us for a time. They returned with a number of Pansy blooms, for which they paid and went away. Later the information was volunteered that they had come a distance of some 12 miles and that the blooms were wanted for show on the morrow, and that they dare not ask anybody nearer. Again, I was connected with a Chrysanthemum Association years ago, run mostly by amateurs. On one occasion cut blooms were put up about which there were grave doubts as to whether they had been in the exhibitor's greenhouse at all, but nothing could be proved against him. The following year, as the time for the annual show approached, it was suggested that a committee of inspection be appointed to visit and see the plants of intending exhibitors after they had been housed. It was decided that blooms in pans and vases, as well as plants in groups, must bear the impress of a stamp on the foliage. This stamp was similar to a ticket nipper, and bore a number which was impressed on several leaves. It was found to be rather a tedious business for the men who were deputed to carry it out, but it stopped illegal showing.

We must keep exhibiting clean and above suspicion, even if to do so means taking action in known cases of fraud. It is only when this is done that the small grower stands any chance of his produce receiving proper consideration.

My experience as an old exhibitor teaches me that, speaking generally, judges are anxious to give an unbiassed verdict, and though now and again mistakes have been made, it is seldom they err. Too often their work has to be performed in all too short a time, owing to the large number of exhibits.

The committees who arrange our shows have many duties to perform, but it seems to me that not the least important is to ensure a new exhibitor, who is timid about showing at all, and not infrequently has to be coaxed into doing so, that he shall stand the same chance as his fellow exhibitors in that they are showing their own productions, as he is.

I cannot go as far as "Scots Judge" in his reference to the local judges. I have not found them to err very much, and generally "they have their work cut out" to get the judging over to take any special notice of So-and-So's stuff, even supposing he recognises it, and he does not always do this.

There is a financial side to every show, and to invite judges from a distance involves the society in a deal of expense, besides which there is another point to consider—there might come a time when a "foreign" judge could not attend, and it is not a nice thing to have to seek the services of one in the locality at a pinch. LEAHURST.

—— I have read with interest the article on exhibiting and judging in your issue of August 6th. The remarks of "Scots Judge" about unprincipled competitors are none too severe. I think there ought to be a rule prohibiting any competitor found guilty of showing any produce not grown by himself from exhibiting at any future shows held under R.H.S. rules, but it is very difficult to prove such cases, no one being willing to expose them. Often we hear the remark passed about some successful exhibitors that the stuff shown is not their own. Such comments are quite uncalled for—they are made by some poor sportsman who cannot take a beating.

The suggestion that the show secretary, when arranging with a judge, should ask which section he would prefer to judge is a very good one. Only the other week four of us had to toss a coin to settle who should work together and who should judge the open section, the secretary evidently being afraid he would offend someone by asking him to take the local section.

As your correspondent says, judges are not infallible, but a great deal of "bad judging," from the public point of view, would disappear if they (the public) would carefully read the schedule. Many a good dish or collection has to be passed over through having either too many or too few on the dish. Sometimes, too, an exhibitor may carefully hide a fault, which does not escape the keen eyes of the judges, but is hidden from visitors, who are, therefore, puzzled as to the reason why some exhibits have lost. They go away with the idea that the judging has been very bad.

We occasionally hear that some judges favour their friends. During nearly 30 years of showing and judging I have only met with one case in which a fellow-judge tried to give an award which I considered unjust. Then another judge had to be called in, as we could not agree. It happened in a class for table decoration. I afterwards heard that the judge supplied the flowers for that particular table.

Many tricks are tried to deceive the judges. One I met with a few years ago is worth mentioning. The class was for the 12 heaviest Onions. We selected what we considered the three best lots and put them on the scales. Much to our surprise the smallest lot were easily the heaviest. We untied the raffia which bound the stems and found that part of the stem had been pulled out and filled with gun-shot. JOHN DUFF.

Tredunnock.

Garden planning in a small way

May one utter a mild protest against the deliberate advice to return to Victorian methods of laying out gardens, contained in the article under the above heading, issue of August 6th? Here we are actually ask uprise in the autumn and set the str lines of our gardens wriggling—import ficial curves to our lawns and contor borders with "permanent waves." square lawn, a straight border, and pe square beds" may look bad enough in but actually the square lawn is uncom rare. There may be many a grass plo is more or less square in front of sub villas, but that is because the "powers be" have allotted areas that happen square in shape, and anyone that starts screwing lines in such confined spaces is laying up a store of agony to be endur the inhabitants of the house. It must a nerve-racking effect on anyone to loo day after day on such sickening pettir on the writhings of these "worms in ag as such lines have been termed by a fa landscape architect.

The thing is no more nor less than a of the early Victorian era, when "Cap Brown" and his confederates were i cry—waging their frenzied campaign ag every straight line and every trac formality in a garden, no matter hallowed by age. Since then one had things had changed, disciples sobered, progressed, even, perhaps; and now reads that a beautiful old border w clean, restful outline must deliberate contorted into corkscrew formation, even the plants within its confines mu caused to wriggle with it. Square co of a lawn must suffer amputation species of octagon, apparently, is arriv As to the planting, clumps by all means please, not a wavy line.

The full enormity of this gospel, hov is only reached when you come to simply does not dwell in straight l Where, then, might one inquire, doe dwell? Evidently in remarkably cra quarters, whatever they may be. But really true that art is locked out, fo stance, from two venerable old Yew h embattled, perhaps, at the top, ru parallel, perfectly straight, and enclosin broad herbaceous borders, separated Moss-grown, brick-paved path, with a of grass on either hand, all straigh leading to an old thatched garden- again composed of straight lines?

No, the curve has many places in th den, but let it not be ubiquitous.

F. C. SURTEES ROBIN

Self-sown Asters

I observe that all your correspondent deal with self-sown Asters write English gardens. They may be interes learn that not only Asters, but many self-sown half-hardy annuals appear bloom, in Scottish gardens. Quille flat-petalled Asters, Ageratum, Nico Alonsoas, all these appear annually transplanted, they bloom toward the August and continue to make a good until early frosts put a period to them one occasion I found a thriving col Lobelia which must have been self-sow the patch being congested, the plants bloom before being frosted.

A SCOTTISH GARDE

Freesia Apogee

May I correct the title of the illustra Freesias on p. 500? This is not Apog a very poor type of flower with long tu half-closed form, whereas Apogee is the best-formed varieties, with large flowers, the segments standing nearly angles to the tube, which makes it an ideal flower, as it can be seen to it advantage. G. H. DALRYM

Libertia formosa

E FLOWER GARDEN

Libertia formosa

IS handsome Chilian plant is one of ose that are in place in almost any part the garden. From the dense sheaf of narrow, deep green leaves rise a num- slender rush-like flowering stems that up well above the foliage. The white, etalled, inch-wide flowers are clustered the upper part of the stem at separate the topmost cluster forming the closest t of bloom. The foliage remains in rder nearly all the year. It is a useful not only in the flower border, but in argins of shrub clumps or in any posi- here something a little unusual, dis- e, and of well-dressed appearance will alue. Being a South American native not be hardy everywhere, but it thrives light soils south of London, and pro- further afield. G. J.

The Madonna Lily

e is no more stately flower to be found herbaceous border during the summer e Madonna Lily. Although it seems rish, even when left undisturbed for a umber of years, in hundreds of cot- d other old-fashioned gardens, where ws up abundance of towering spikes fter year with little or no attention, the same time, when planted in the ssible manner and under the most suit- nditions in many borders, it is prone me a slave to the wretched White Lily , which cannot be accounted for or Some years ago I was instructed to s Lily freely with Delphiniums in a rge herbaceous border, and I pur- several hundreds of bulbs from a re- and well-known firm. These arrived in good condition, and were fine, large, and well-ripened bulbs. As these were not half the number I required, one of my local workmen volunteered to give me a barrowful from his mother's old-fashioned garden, where they had never been known to have been replanted, other than those bulbs which appeared above the soil. These were taken off and planted elsewhere.

Of course, amongst the barrowful there were many sizes of bulbs, but every one was planted in various groups, and by the second year they had formed fine, healthy clumps, and bore numbers of beautiful flowers; whilst the large Dutch bulbs showed signs of the disease the first season, and by the following one they were a sorry mess. Thus, I concluded that the disease is of foreign origin, and since then I have been careful to plant no other than English-grown bulbs, and have had no disease whatever.

When to plant the bulbs

This is a question that should be considered where good results are to be obtained the first season, and I find during August is the best season to do the work, as growth commences at once, and the roots get well hold of the soil before the winter sets in, while if planted in autumn no root growth is made before the following spring, which is too late for a good display in summer.

These Lilies associate well with Delphiniums, and may also be planted on the outskirts of shrubberies, amongst Pæonies, or even in large Rose beds. They enjoy a fairly rich, deep, friable loam, but they loathe anything in the form of crude manure coming in contact with their roots. Where the soil is on the stiff side, there is nothing better to add to it than road sweepings from the byroads where tar is not used. These may be worked in the soil freely, while if not in very

Libertia with Tree Ivy

good heart a handful of bone meal may be used for each clump.

When planting the bulbs should not be dotted about singly, but planted in clumps of half-a-dozen. A hole dug out 18 inches wide and 6 inches deep will accommodate half-a-dozen bulbs comfortably, and if the soil is liable to become waterlogged during winter it is wise to cover the bottom with sharp sand before placing the bulbs in position. A stake should be placed in the centre of each clump to denote its position when working on the beds.

I remember, many years ago, being acquainted with a variegated form of this old-fashioned Lily, known as Lilium candidum foliis aureo-marginatis, and also a double variety. These I have not seen recently.

W. E. WRIGHT.

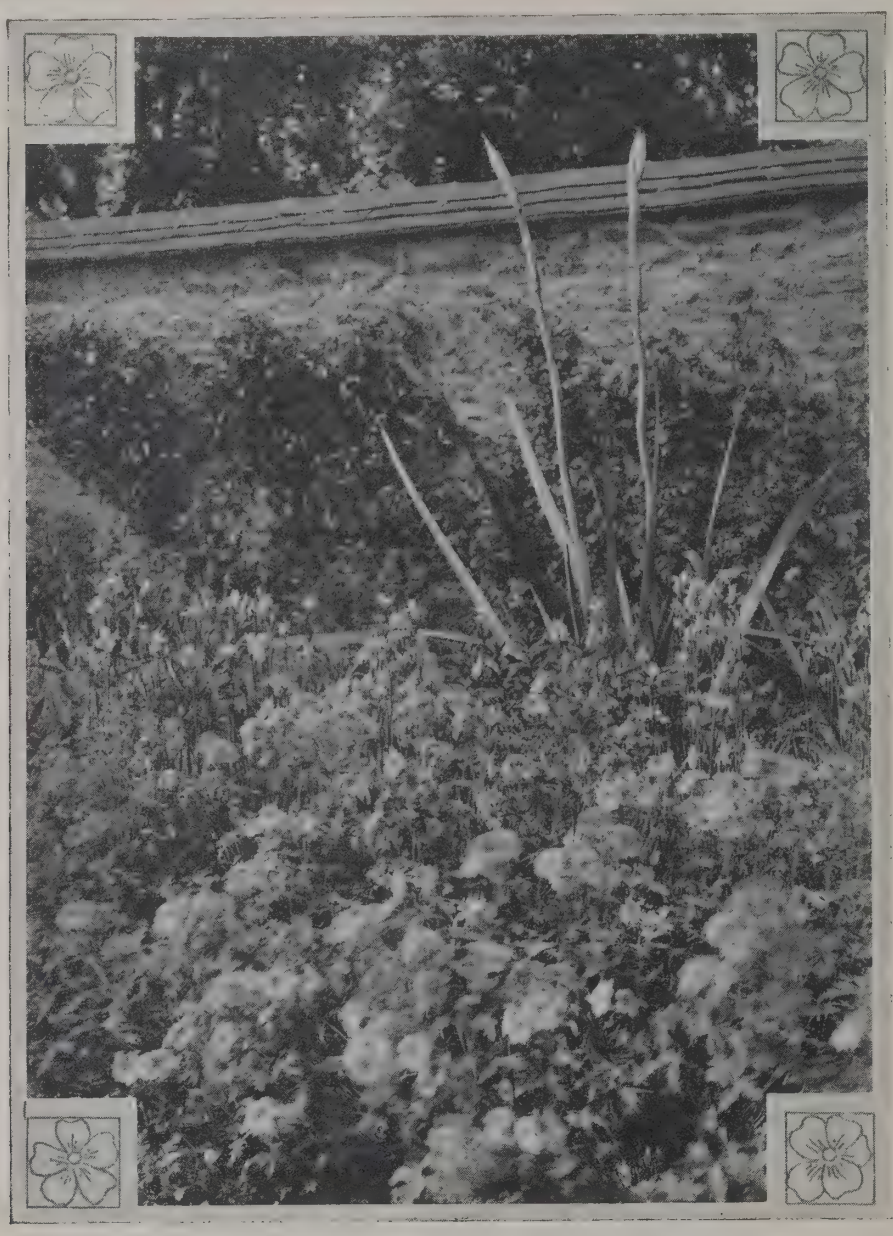
Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Godetias

What lovely annuals these are for either bed or border. At the present time they are a mass of flower on a round bed planted with Daffodils last autumn. The seed of the annual sown as the bulbs passed out of flower—harsh treatment some may say—the foliage of the former was not interfered with until thoroughly ripe. The variety under notice being a double one, the flowers, bordering on a vieux rose, are greatly admired, and will go on until quite late in autumn. There is a great variety in colour, either in double or single, and should be grown more largely than they are; personally, the doubles appeal to me the most. J. M.

Geranium ibericum platyphyllum

AMONG the many good perennials that flower in June, this handsome Cranesbill, with its dense masses of blue-purple bloom, is one of the most effective. In time of flowering it follows the equally bright but rather less floriferous G. grandiflorum. The proper ascription of the specific names of these two Geraniums has been in question of late among botanists, and it may be that each is commonly known by the name of the other. The names by which they are most usually known in gardens are those given in this note. Flowering at the same time, it groups happily with one of the white forms of Iris sibirica, a water-loving plant, but one that accommodates itself to the ordinary conditions of the flower border, though it is happier in damper ground. The large leaf-swords of Phormium tenax come well at the back of the slender-leaved Iris and the soft-foliaged Geranium. G. J.



Geranium ibericum with Iris sibirica alba and Phormium tenax

Glorious Kew

In a normal season, the first we August should be an opportune time t these national gardens, from an out-c point as regards gardening in general, turf, and flowers usually being at thei just then, but surely this summer m one of the very worst for many years as outdoor flowers are concerned. we have had heaps of rain since early but the one essential thing in pro flowers, sunshine, has been lackin a time when we look for it in plenty taking all things into consideration many beds and borders reflect great cr those responsible for the arrangement same.

The third day of the month prove ideal one for viewing the many inter plants to be found there, the sun shini whole day through, greatly enhancin picture of any garden. The Rose naturally was on the wane, but one cou there had been a good display in all se while the Hybrid Perpetuals still main their reputation in conjunction with rivals, the Hybrid Teas. It would be a pity if the former were allowed to from our sight, as they have many re ing features, one of these being perfum yielding many a perfect bloom like the H Teas up to the end of summer.

The set garden in front of the huge houses looked extremely well. It was to find two old favourites, Calc amplexicaulis and Salvia patens, largel ployed in the outer beds, and on authority it is the only Calceolaria th rely on for their purpose, and if only sunny weather continues the whole beds will soon present a different aspe sub-tropical plants occupying the large requiring this to perfect their growt show what can be achieved under summer.

Other beds were aglow with Geraniums, Petunias, Verbenas, Beg Antirrhiniums, Heliotrope, Pentste and Dahlias, and huge plants of th flowering Ceanothus in variety in be border. These are valuable where flowers of various tints are appreciate who is there to dislike them? Th baceous borders were gay with mas colour, the recent rains suiting many occupants, while, on the other hand, could have done with more sun to c their flowers, while the broad acres looked splendid, and were well kept in with motor or horse machines.

The long winding rock garden wa entertaining with its many flowering jects, mostly of a dwarf nature, blu tians showing to much advantage from between massive boulders of lim Iris, and Campanulas; rather a bad ti this department, too late for general but one can imagine what it was like April and May. The end of this fin garden, so much criticised some littl ago, which had recently been under struction, has practically covered its a space with choice plants suitable for position.

The beauties of Kew are not confi summer only; early spring, when tre shrubs are developing new growth of colours, and again in the autumn whe are producing tints of colour almosti scribable must appeal to every lo Nature, and well worth going a long see in their respective seasons, wh many fine Conifers of different hues not be ignored at any time of the year glasshouses were shunned, as the day broiling one. J. MA

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A ROCK GARDEN

By Richard Beamish.

HAT is the general principle to be determined in the development of a rock garden?

answer is not involved when our are directed to produce a reasonable itation of alpine flora encouraged the surroundings of natural alpine not only with the view of possessing ng picture, but because we recognise that the more faithfully we adopt onditions to alpine plants the better enabled to minimise the adverse circes under which the more fastidious are called upon to live, owing to the variation of climatic surroundings xists between the usual positions of lens compared with those which preoughout the mountainous districts e seek to emulate.

ıes, though during a comparatively ason, masses of colour undoubtedly ge areas of alpine ground, yet simi-

licity is the keynote of this rock garden at Broadlands, Tunbridge Wells

s extended over the circumscribed ur disposal must be, of necessity, and therefore the temptation to dephemeral colour scheme should be

garden will be then planned with of encouraging simplicity, which a charm so appreciated when in natural mountain scenery.

ame time, colour, though reason- down, need not be unduly re- any means. Our aim should be cted towards the rigid suppression lamboyance, resulting in an even- e of colour tones satisfactory to l surroundings, and more con- Nature than a scheme which re- f into exaggerated collections of l colours.

words, the enjoyment derived garden can be greatly enhanced on to the judicious method ap- which each plant, or group of pplements the other in well- equence, and therefore calls for

truction of paths and steps gener- much to be desired, and the adaptation of parallel lines must be severely avoided. The natural curving of paths can be readily formed with irregularity—swinging round from point to point, and varying in breadth from wide to narrow with imperceptible edges, bare or planted, whilst wandering along in harmony with the neighbouring stones and soil. The steps should not be similar in height or breadth, whilst the lengths of the treads can be extended or curtailed by inclining sometimes to the right and sometimes to the left in inordinate sequence terminated by breaks, either of plants, shrubs, dwarf trees, or stone outcrops, solitary or combined, which will thus afford a simple explanation for their presence. Steps are undoubtedly required in order to lead to or from the various steep undulations of ground formation, but they must be so constructed as to reduce their individuality to a minimum of observance.

It is an error to assume that a rock garden of any size can be hastily formed with success. Taste and experience are both needed to formulate the true picture, and it is advisable to remember that when stones irregular in shape and considerable in size are used, they are apt to assume incongruous positions owing to the capricious conditions of the original foundations, however designed and consolidated. This is more emphasised when we absolutely debar the unnatural application of cement or mortar, which have to be discarded if Nature's laws are adhered to.

The necessity for slight reconstruction always ensues with the object of reverting to the original scheme, which may be oftentimes improved by more mature observation exercised by the careful designer.

Another mistake which often mars a natural picture consists in the shrinkage of the soil both over and under the larger stones or groups of stones after they are first placed in their position. The edges are adversely affected and unreasonable sections of stone surfaces are unduly exposed, to the discredit of any favourable effect previously secured, and, furthermore, interfere with a suitable drainage scheme.

When soil happens to recede from the lower edges, raw, empty spaces appear, to the detriment of the plants placed there with the object of fulfilling their natural desire for well-consolidated earth through which are transmitted their long thin roots under shelter, and whence they are enabled to secure the forms of food and moisture presented in a manner most conducive to their peculiar idiosyncrasies for successful development. These faults are equally applicable to the sides and joints of the stones.

Stone outcrops are needed for the successful growth of many of the more difficult alpine subjects, though the former need not necessarily consist of one large stone. They can be carefully constructed out of several stones, so blended as to indicate a homogeneous shape, possessing deep chinks into which the delicate roots of certain alpine plants can penetrate without the presence of superfluous soil or indiscriminate moisture.

These outcrops may be associated with natural intervening slopes in order to ensure good surface drainage which, if found necessary, may be considerably enhanced by a free and open system beneath the soil itself, best illustrated by the moraine formation.

It is of interest to observe the success which attends the lives of many delicate subjects which often fail when planted in sodden, dank ground, of which they are intolerant, especially during our dangerous open winter months, when, in reality, such plants should be hidden away under a layer of dry snow, which naturally affords them complete rest from active growth as well as temporary immunity from moisture.

The presence of water, both flowing and falling, is an important adjunct to a rock garden, as, apart from its utility for the successful growth of many alpines, it is delightful to recognise and enjoy the various delicate sounds expressed by moving water. One may not always note the music as it blends, naturally and gently, with the changing colours of its surroundings, but its melodies are ever present, and may be readily tuned by the simple remedy of readjusting the stones, both round and angular, whereby the sounds can be harmonised from the deep and forcible tones produced from the height of a considerable fall to the delicate murmuring of trickling water as it wanders over or through the rocks, stones, or pebbles, ever singing the praise and peace of Nature as it glides along its course.

We are all aware of the fact that the alpine application of moisture, together with the periods of its application, varies considerably. At times the melting of snow produces a sudden flow of cold water through the stones and débris of a moraine, and while reaching the extended roots, avoids the crowns of many plants. This form of moisture is seldom stagnant while it lasts, but, on the contrary, admits a constant circulation of water impregnated with minute particles of soil which form a peculiar and necessary sustenance to plants so long as the process continues. On the other hand, moisture is also available in the form of rain and spray which is equally desirable. Showers, and even heavy downpours, are not, however, constant, but are accompanied by intervals of brilliant sunlight which generates great heat, evolving warm air-moisture caused by the rapid evaporation which arises when the sun rays are applied directly upon the large boulders or upon the soil previously soaked by the rain. Such moisture is readily absorbed through the leaves of our alpine plants and tends to intensify their growth under the most favourable condition.

The presence of water, both flowing and falling, is an important adjunct to a rock garden

Thus, careful observation, together with the true application of their results, may often supplement the lives of many of our beautiful though evasive species which might successfully develop in our climate even if the latter is inimical to their welfare.

It is not always easy to determine the types of trees applicable to rock gardens if the true balance of proportionate size is to be maintained. When the heights and valleys are so designed as to afford a reasonable accession of sunlight, combined with intervals of good shade, it is advisable to curtail the heights of the various trees introduced to a reasonable measure, which can be readily attained by the choice of suitable subjects. By this means it is possible to intensify the presence of necessary moisture which would be otherwise unduly absorbed by the roots of the larger trees to the detriment of the smaller alpine plants. At the same time, in order to secure a homogeneous effect, dwarf trees are necessary in order to balance the general picture and thereby produce the feeling of natural mountain scenery in a curtailed space. We have at our disposal many suitable subjects, such as Pinus sylvestris Beauvronensis, Picea excelsa Clanbrassiliana, P. inverta, P. excelsa inverta, Juniperus pachyphlœa, J. communis nana, J. sabrina cupressifolia, J. tamaricifolia, and many other kinds, either upright, pendulous, or creeping. We are thus enabled to combine considerable variations of forms and shapes without, at the same time, verging towards an exaggeration of either height or breadth.

When the rough picture has been once determined it is advisable to work from the lower levels of our ground so as to gradually produce a satisfactory result as we proceed upwards. Foundations must be firmly constructed upon which the stones can rest securely, with hollows formed between them filled in with good or poor soil as required by the plants which are to be placed there eventually.

Small valleys may be run through rocky heights, interspersed by natural plains, until the final picture assumes a formation such as Nature would lay it out, while the various situations and soils are constructed and applied in consonance with the necessities of the subjects whose well-being will be determined by surroundings at our disposal and such as are most conducive to the various demands of plant life.

The adaptable Tulip

THE adaptability of a given flower to meet the varying moods and requirements of gardeners throughout the ages is a true criterion of its intrinsic merit. If for a moment we review the range of flowers employed in the average garden there are few that can advance claims to general utility approaching those of Tulips. One pictures Asters, Begonias, Geraniums, Dahlias, and so forth in one place and one place only, flowers employed in a definite position for a definite purpose. It is not the fault, but the misfortune of the Tulip that many modern gardeners, educated among a w modern flowers for which garden a dation must perforce be provided du short summer, have come to regard among the many, an alien bulb to chased and discarded each year. It be said that, not infrequently, mode ment goes further than this. Tulips gardens are in danger of becomi nameless colour masses to be avoid as possible on the score of annual e to be ruthlessly ripped up and thro after flowering or carelessly pushe side and forgotten.

The vogue of spring and summer Lobelias, Calceolarias, Geranium Dahlias in serried ranks, is rapidly and in place of these we are recon our gardens on lines of legitimate beauty. The symmetrical and geom fast fading into the past, while in we have the ordered disorder an grace of the herbaceous border. An surroundings the Tulip takes a right Planted as Nature intended, 9 inc inches deep and allowed to rema turbed, it will increase and flower year, untroubled by vermin and th spade, and even though the flowers first two or three years are not of size, their beauty is no less. If it to restore their size of flower nothin necessary than to replant the small a year in rich soil. Deep planting munity from slugs; they will not far beneath the surface. No doubt for this is that a passing rainstorm liable to trap them in solid eart closing of all exits.

The choice of varieties and ass purely a matter of personal taste. earliest blue Aubrietia varieties su van Thol (orange) contrast happ Prince of Austria and Orange Beau of Orange) prolong this association until mid-May. If there is purple nothing looks better than bright which colour there are many vari early and late at prices to suit eve A pleasing contrast is formed w Arabis and rich scarlets and crim ginning the season with dotted

Narcissus minimus
Bulbs should be planted now in the rock garden

ik or Rembrandt, and continuing ch as Whistler, Teddy, Farncombe , or others of similar colour. A new s given to the Violet bed by the addi- lot plants of Chrysolora or Goldfinch iton d'Or, while these varieties look attractive crowning a miniature sea otis. A hundred such associations gest themselves. Wherever strong ots are called for, there will Tulips ir own with ease, and so vast is the that at a nominal cost they may be l to flower in succession from the arch until the end of May.

an interesting comment that many of Tulips have held their own in vour for a length of time allotted to , if any, other named garden flower. varieties of Pinks and Pansies, ns and Daffodils have been, with jects, popular for hundreds of years, e can be found to-day the varieties presented the "World's Best" to ndparents? A century has not d the popularity of such varieties of s Belle Alliance (named after the an on the field of Waterloo), Bride em, Canary Bird, Couleur Cardinal, Thol, Duchess de Parma, Keiser Pottebaker, Prince de Ligne, Pro- Thomas Moore, Wouverman, Yellow tc., while among the florist section h Paxton, Dr. Hardy, and Annie r then and now hold pride of place. teworthy that fashions in Tulips ith changing years. Well within o years no Tulip was considered to quality unless it was feathered or e., "broken," or "rectified" as generation of florists would call a ured flower. Self-coloured or owers found refuge here and there gardens. Now they are eagerly ter, while their "flamed" sisters ttle favour. In my early youth the urs in commerce were all of the known to-day as "earlies." The on of the sturdy thrusting Darwin et in the shade those truly beautiful flowers which were considered to represent the high-water mark a perfect flower could be, but, let bered, the cult is not yet dead, and still those who *love* their Tulips, tain with good show of reason the world that there is no flower o compare with their symmetrical

haps, in conjunction with the rock t the adaptability of Tulips is to t its best. Here and there and , from March until May, blending isting in perfect harmony, bold graceful "Cottage" varieties, ies Tulips, graceful "Lily" assive Darwins ever pleasing the vays "right."

tery of origin surrounding those ms classed as Parrot Tulips re- unsolved. Except in the case of erect forms, such as "Fantasy," its most suitable home in pots atory decoration, these should be hanging-baskets, where their rooping flowers are very striking. y one variety of Tulip and in its ason it is a perfect bedding plant. nd one is possessed of a florist's nsurpassed charm. Mix all to- you have a group or border of t. For rock garden, herbaceous w bench, or formal garden a e highest merit. Of what other this be claimed?

HERBERT G. LONGFORD.
Berks.

Omphalodes linifolia (Venus' Navelwort)

IT seems strange that one of the loveliest of annual plants, whose seeds are among the cheapest to buy and the easiest to grow, should be so generally neglected. As with many annuals, it is finest if sown in autumn, but it should be sown again in March, so as to ensure a succession of one of the prettiest of flowers. Not only is it a thing of beauty in detail, but the cloudy effect of the milk-white bloom and the greyish foliage is always satisfactory, either by itself or grouped with flowers of a quite different form and habit. This year a happy combination has been with a patch of Pansies of good blue tones. A note has been made to repeat this next year with more of the Omphalodes at the back. G. J.

Omphalodes linifolia

Lilium centifolium

Lilium regale is well proved as one of the finest of all Lilies for general garden purposes, and the subject of this note bids fair to rival it as a garden plant. L. centifolium (Farrer's Lily 316) is a glorious plant, which, in 1920, received F.C.C. when shown under the name of L. Brownii Kansuense, and well has it deserved the honour. It will grow on the chalk, in stiff loam, or in woodland soil, and examples with which I am acquainted have reached a height of 8 feet, the stems, of proportionate size, bearing eight or ten flowers; these are "trumpet" shaped or tubular, resembling a large L. sulphureum or L. Brownii, white, externally streaked brown, and suffused internally with yellow at the base of the trumpet. The leaves are plentiful, of appreciable size, and of deep green colouration. I have not raised this grand Lily from seed, but high authority states that it grows freely from seed and commences to flower when about 18 inches high in the second or third year. The plant is very prolific of seed, so that this magnificent species should soon be freely distributed. Mr. Reginald Farrer found this Lily during his first expedition to China; not, if I remember rightly, in a wild state, but growing in a cottage garden. It is, apparently, hardy, but it will be judicious to afford slight protection during the winter months, and, more particularly, as the young growths pierce the surface in spring. It is, in fact, an excellent plan to associate the majority of Lilies with suitable undergrowth, the latter affording most effective protection from spring frosts. L. regale and L. centifolium are good plants that will ere long become ubiquitous; they may justly be described as two of the finest introductions of recent years.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Begonia Gloire de Lorraine

In order to secure nice shapely plants staking must be carefully done and the growths tied frequently. In carrying out this work endeavour to keep the centre of the plant as open as possible from the commencement by training the growths outwards, for, like a fruit tree, there is always a tendency towards congestion at the centre of the plant. The earliest batches will benefit from applications of weak liquid-manure as the pots become filled with roots, also those little plants which are intended to flower in very small pots. Later-struck plants should, however, be given a shift into larger pots and kept growing in a brisk temperature with plenty of moisture—maintained by constant syringing—among the pots and on the stages.

Pelargoniums

Although not grown so largely as in past years, these showy flowers still claim a number of admirers, and for next season's supply propagation must be commenced. Boxes filled with a mixture of loam, leaf-soil, and sand, made quite firm, will be found most suitable, and into these the cuttings should be firmly inserted. The cuttings should be chosen from hard, short-jointed shoots, which will be found on plants that have been most exposed to air and sunshine. These should not be more than 5 inches long when prepared, and after their insertion the boxes should be well watered, following which no further watering is required until the plants have taken root. Stand the boxes on a bed of ashes or gravel exposed to full sunshine.

Achimenes and Gloxinias

Many of these will now be passing out of bloom and may be stood in cold frames to complete their ripening. Curtail the water supply as the foliage develops signs of ripening, but do not destroy next season's prospects by withholding it altogether as is frequently done. Admit air freely to the frames and when the foliage has ripened off store the plants in a cool, dry shed for the winter.

Cyclamens

These should now be occupying cold frames on the north side of walls or fences, and should be developing luxuriant foliage. At this season a weekly application of liquid-manure will prove beneficial, and during settled weather the plants should be syringed during the late afternoon and the lights drawn off the frames during the night. The same applies to Cinerarias, and if leaf miner attacks the latter, spray the plants with a mixture of quassia and nicotine.

Early Pears

Those such as Beurré Gifford (Jargonelle), Citron des Carmes, Precoce de Trevaux, and Williams, also early Apples, will now be coming in, and it may be advisable to gather a few fruits each day just in advance of their actual ripening, and by this means prevent loss of flavour and acidity through their having matured upon the trees, an exception being Jargonelle, which is best gathered and used straight from the trees.

Codlin Apples

These must be used slightly in advance of ripening, otherwise they will be found woolly and devoid of juice.

Perpetual fruiting Raspberries

Continue to gather prime fruits each day for dessert, and secondary fruits for cooking. These are cropping abundantly from the canes made during the current year and should now receive assistance in the form of liquid-manure.

Figs

Trees carrying heavy crops in the open must not suffer from lack of moisture, otherwise the fruits will turn yellow and drop off, and as the soil in which they are planted contains a large percentage of lime-rubble generally, it is liable to dry out quickly in hot weather.

Spring Cabbage

It is advisable to make a second sowing about this date, when large numbers are required to form a succession to those raised during the past month.

Cauliflowers

Encourage growth by applications of liquid-manure and draw up the soil on each side of the rows after the manner of earthing up Potatoes, but in a less degree, to preserve their colour. Cover the advancing flower with leaves.

Dwarf Beans

Where frames or brick pits are available make a good sowing of these for use during late autumn. The soil must be rich and moist, and if the drills are rosed along previous to sowing the seeds no further water will be required until the plants are through the soil. The lights should not be used until frost threatens.

Celery

Earthing-up of the earliest crop must be continued, care being taken to see that the plants are in a moist condition. Where brown paper is used around the plants it should be fixed when the stems are dry and tied loosely. A dusting of soot about the base of the stems should precede the new additions of soil.

Rambler Roses

These are growing apace and some curtailment of shoots will be necessary. Where time permits they may be pruned or thinned as they pass out of bloom. In many instances young vigorous shoots are so plentiful that the whole of the previous season's growths will be cut away and the current season's growths trained into their place.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Autumn propagating

The time has again arrived when numbers of plants must be increased by means of cuttings, and although there is no particular hurry for another week, still, it will be found that it is invariably better to be early than late except in the case of the shrubby Calceolaria, which should be left till near the end of September. Even when the actual propagating is to be deferred for a little, it is, at least, advisable to get frames, pits, and boxes put in order, while a big batch of sandy compost should be mixed ready for use and placed under cover so that no delay occurs through wet soil, etc.

Lobelia

For high-class bedding, it is necessary to raise, by means of cuttings or division, the requisite number of plants of named varieties so that uniformity of colour and habit may be assured. If secured early, cuttings root quite readily, but where there is difficulty in securing these, it is a good plan to shear over a few of the plants, lifting and dividi 10 days later, every piece with a f attached being dibbled into pots or sandy compost and placed in a fr kept close and shaded until they g of the soil. Plants raised in t furnish plenty of cuttings in spring.

Verbenas

These lovely subjects are greatly nowadays, but where it is desired a bed or two another year a start sh be made. Sturdy shoots that spr the centres of the plants are best such are not by any means abund often necessary to fall back on sho ing flower buds in the points. If th nipped out and the shoots of pr growth dibbled firmly into pots of v compost they ordinarily root quite produce plenty of cuttings in spring should be set in a pit or frame for two and well shaded from all sunsh

Sweet Peas

Quite often these begin to show distress about this time, the stems very short and the blooms small often a thorough soaking of clean the roots will work wonders after a while, if available, a further soakin liquid manure may be given the da ing the drenching of clean water.

Regal Pelargoniums

These magnificently showy plan now be in fit condition to provide Healtny, half-ripened shoots of strength make the best cuttings, soft they damp off, while if too h are a long time in evolving. A c frame is still the best place in which the pots when filled with cutting pretty close and shade from all su a week or two.

Spring Cabbages

The plants raised from seeds s last month are now ready for pla The ground recently vacated by Potatoes is about the best place No manuring or digging is necess hoe the surface, making decently raking off any tops, weeds, etc. inches apart each way is a suitabl for all the ordinary varieties autumn. For northern gardens Spring is the most reliable variety

Sow Cabbages

In districts where Cabbages autumn will survive if left in th sowing should now be carried out. rather poor piece of ground, mak and scatter the seeds broadcast evenly. Cover with a small quan soil from the alleys.

Cauliflowers

These may be treated in the sa above, but the seedlings will req pricked into frames about the e tember. Early Dwarf Erfurt London are excellent hardy autumn sowing.

The rock garden

Summer is frequently vastly har plants in the rockery than is t more gaps being in want of filling is likely in spring. It is well, where the necessary plants are make good any blanks. It may b to introduce a little fresh soil whe plants are to go so as to give them

C

Preston House Gardens, Linlit

Twyford Nurseries in August

UARTER of a million bush Roses bloom at the Twyford Nurseries (main th Road between Reading and head) are in themselves enough to material for a glowing account of resentative's visit to the establish- Waterer, Sons, and Crisp, Ltd., this A few hours' stay was all too short e than a glimpse of these, also the able array of standards and endless of Gladioli, herbaceous plants in sea- es of Phlox were in full glory—bush andard Apples, Pears, and Plums, Aquatics, and practically everything ry stock, all expertly and extensively d by this famous firm, who have d mass production methods with the lity demanded of the specialist.

ard Apples particularly offer a selection. They are an outstanding of the Nurseries, both quantitatively the fine appearance of the stock. All -known sorts are grown, ticeable as specially fine ere the "Orange" trio— Blenheim, and Ellison's. a pleasure to renew the ance of that great Apple Vaterer (illustrated), and s our readers will have the ity of seeing it again at Park next month. This opper of abnormally large ten weighing 2 lbs., has growth and the advantage equally well as standard, rdon, or espalier. It is a cooker and keeps well into

is an enormous and fine ing stock of Currants, Boskoop Giant and The (good mid-season) among ks, Fay's Prolific (large), Red Dutch (extra heavy and White Versailles ree). Blackberries and erries were in quantity, dward Langley (heavy Himalaya (large), and cre (large and early) were specially good account of es.

oses were a pageant, and or was refreshed on ap- g a vast kaleidoscopic dis- ome 400 varieties. Closer was reserved, naturally, wn favourites or he would not have wood for the trees, but, all the ere were many good things that d for more than momentary ad- Among these was Violet Steven- new yellow sport which originated Nurseries from Independence Day, us many more such yellows say I! bles the latter Rose in every way s colour, which is saffron-yellow, chocolate stamens add to the beauty pening petals. It is sweet-scented e hardiest, and is recommended for and for cutting. Betty Uprichard ing almost aggressively vigorous, forgiven this lusty beauty for her able form and colour.

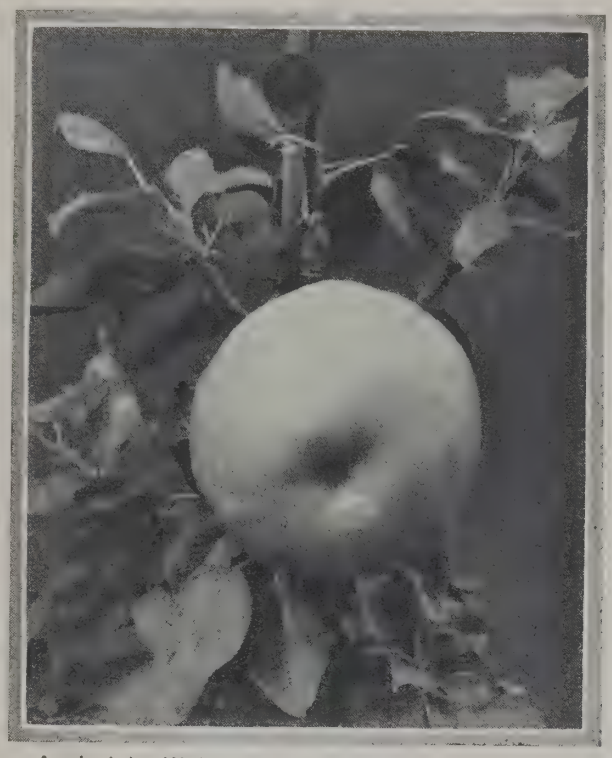
the vivid hues of Mme. E. Herriot speculating upon the surprised s who, in due course, will expect to e new "Daily Mail" scented Rose they have flowered the earlier, and very different ward of

ite Rose most admired was Marcia In full bud it looked to per- nd its fragrance! well, folks have been known to transfer their affections from Druschki for it.

Orange King stood out among the dwarf Polyanthas, although it is not everybody's colour. The demand is for the scarlet Edith Cavell, the cherry-rose Ellen Poulsen, the brilliant red Orleans Improved, and Coral Cluster. A large proportion of the standards are on the Rugosa stock. It is the experience of these growers that all varieties do well on this as well as transplant better, and many which were failures on Briar have grown perfectly when budded on Rugosa.

Perennial Irises cover a great area and all varieties. A mental note was made to come earlier and see these in flower next summer.

Among the cheerful and sweetly scented fields of Phlox one picked out Deutschland as the best-looking large-trussed, orange-red variety; Elizabeth Campbell, salmon-pink, white centre; General Van Heutsz, scarlet-cerise, white centre; Iris, a violet-blue self;



Apple John Waterer, a new and first-rate cooker

Mrs. M. Van Hoboken, very fine soft pink self; and Lofna, soft rosy-lilac, white centre.

Young stocks of Lupins for distribution this autumn were noticed, and it will be remembered that the rich butter-yellow variety, Sunshine, which everyone is admiring, was raised at these Nurseries. It ought to be *the* yellow in every border.

A big bed of the new Shasta Daisy, Chrysanthemum maximum Phyllis Smith, attracted special attention. It is a beautiful, elegantly-ruffled white with flowers borne freely on long, slender, but erect stems. It is long flowering and, as the writer, who brought away a number of blooms, can testify, as a cut flower it is lovely and lasting. A very choice little plant that could not be overlooked among a multitude of bigger things, because of its rich colouring of coppery-scarlet, is Mimulus Wargrave Fireflame. Yellow in the throat, perfectly formed, and erect, 9 inches high, it flowers May-July and holds the R.H.S. Award of Merit. It is a gem.

Just before our farewells were said, and after a peep at the Aquatics and Alpines, we came across a diminutive drift of Gentiana Farreri seedlings in flower. A sight for tired eyes! It is a well-spent day when your host keeps one more of many good things up his sleeve to the last.

FERNS

Ferns in the open

THE wide range of Ferns which are absolutely hardy leaves little to be desired. All of them, from the stately Royal Fern (Osmunda regalis) to the daintier forms such as the Oak Fern (Polypodium dryopteris), the Beech Fern (P. phegopteris), and similar varieties, are most attractive when grouped in a suitable environment. Yet it is possible to add to the attractiveness of the hardy fernery by using some Ferns which are of an exotic, or tender, nature, but which, with a little protection, will weather our average winter. For example, the Ostrich Fern (Struthiopteris germanica) is a noble plant, with its tall arching fronds rising to a height of 6 feet or over. It is said that in North America this Fern throws fronds of 10 feet in height; but we cannot hope to equal that. The Sensitive Fern (Onoclea sensibilis) is a very attractive plant for naturalising. It is not so vigorous as the Ostrich Fern, its fronds averaging round about 2 feet in length. The Climbing Fern (Lygodium scandens) may be successfully grown in our warmer districts. I have had it effectively covering old tree stumps and twining its way up a rustic fence behind the fernery. We are, most of us, inclined to look upon the Maidenhair Ferns (Adiantums) as being strictly plants for the indoor fernery, but the American Maidenhair (A. pedatum), sometimes called the Bird's-foot Maidenhair, succeeds admirably in the hardy fernery. It ought to be put out in a sheltered corner and in soil which contains a good allowance of leaf mould, or, better still, of peat. Under favourable conditions the fronds will attain to a size of almost 2 feet, and the plant gives a decided touch of distinction to the fernery in the open. A. pedatum, unlike most Adiantums, is deciduous, but this habit renders it practically hardy—a little leaf mould mounded over the dormant crowns keeping it safe, as a rule, over winters of average severity. Everyone knows, of course, Woodwardia radicans; but few appear to realise that one, at least, of the Hare's-foot Ferns (Davallias) will winter out of doors in warm districts. This is Davallia Mariesi—a dwarf variety which is additionally attractive and useful owing to the fact that it is evergreen.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

FRUIT GARDEN

Grape Alnwick Seedling

VITICULTURISTS, generally, do not appear to favour this fine Grape, nor do they accord it the recognition it deserves. Sometimes the plea is put forward that Alnwick Seedling is a "difficult" variety, but the plea will not stand examination. Anyone who can grow Muscat of Alexandria need not hesitate to plant Alnwick Seedling. The latter is a robust grower, it throws large and very shapely bunches, the berries are of a large size individually, and they colour magnificently. The bloom is very dense and the flavour is quite first-rate. It may be said that Alnwick Seedling is difficult to set. This difficulty is easily overcome by syringing the rods when in bloom with clear water, and early in the morning. The syringing removes the viscid, gum-like substance from the stigmas; this, if allowed to remain, interferes with the setting of the berry. When the

flowers are dry a sharp tap given to the rod at noon is usually sufficient, but to make absolutely safe, a dust over with a rabbit's tail will ensure a satisfactory set. Alnwick Seedling ought to be ready for use after the later Hamburghs are finished, but, cut and bottled, I have had it in good order at quite the end of January. The variety appreciates rich feeding. A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Apple Tower of Glamis

AMONG the Apples which are suitable for general cultivation—and by this I mean those varieties which succeed equally well in any part of Great Britain—there are some kinds which demand attention, as being adapted for special purposes, the excellent variety here illustrated being one of those. I have always looked upon this Apple as one of the very best for growing as a standard in either grass orchards or even on cultivated land—that is, where the surface roots are not likely to be injured by deep digging. The tree is peculiarly adapted for growing as an orchard standard on account of its spreading habit, the heads rarely requiring thinning out, being quite unlike some others in this respect. After being planted, the shoots require to be shortened back two or three times, so as to have sufficient branches to form a well-balanced head. This Apple is an example of not treating all varieties alike in the matter of pruning or shortening back, for, whereas some kinds will form a well-balanced head if only shortened back once or twice, the Tower of Glamis is not one of these; hence a little extra pruning is necessary to secure a well-balanced head, and also to enable it to carry its weight of fruit without breaking off the branches or pulling them out of shape. It is also a free fruiting variety.

This variety is much grown in Scotland and also the northern counties of England. In shape it is conical, rather angular, the ridges standing out rather distinctly, as may be seen in the illustration. At first the skin is pale green, slightly flushed with dull red, this latter being more pronounced according to the soil it is grown in. After being stored it changes to a pleasing yellow. The flesh is firm and crisp, and when cooked has a very piquant flavour, and which worthily classes it among our best late cooking kinds, especially as it keeps well into February, and in a good fruit store later still. Tower of Glamis worthily ranks among our most suitable kinds for growing as an orchard standard, and may well find a place among the most select cooking Apples for general cultivation. For the dwarfing stocks it is not so well adapted, as the habit of growth is against this. The Crab appears to be its ideal stock, and on this it is best to work it, even if it be grown as a bush for garden culture. Large standards of inferior kinds might well be regrafted with Tower of Glamis if the system of grafting as practised in the West of England is adopted. H.

Grape West's St. Peter

One of the best-flavoured of late Grapes—and really late Grapes are by no means distinguished, as a whole, by reason flavour—West's St. Peter requires a able and a regular amount of heat to ripen the berries thoroughly. Th details of the culture afforded to M Alexandria will be found suitable fo St. Peter, and if the bunches are ex hang for some time an effort oug made to have them ripe, at the lates end of September. The variety colo and compares very favourably, in r flavour, with Lady Downe's, which, is probably the best-flavoured of str Grapes. A SCOTTISH GAR

Plums

These must be netted securely earliest fruits gathered as they appr ripening stage. Especially does this those required for dessert. Trap w flies by suspending bottles or jars pa with sweetened ale from the walls a

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date cannot always be replied to in the issue ately following their receipt. We do not queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their be named should send fair examples of stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets and points of shoots are useless.) Not m four plants should be sent in any one we same correspondent. Where more than is sent they should be numbered. Of co cones should always be sent.*

FLOWER GARDEN

Propagating Pentstemons

Enclosed is a base cutting from a large plant of Pentstemon. Is this, taken off with a heel, the kind of cutting to put in? I took cuttings of various Pentstemons last year, kept them in a cold frame, and put out this spring, but most of them have gone to make great green plants, only a few having any flowers. Soil, good medium loam. Some of the cuttings I have taken have been up the stems under the flowers, because they were the only small ones. I did not long succulent shoots cut across joint as I believe they do not root so Is this so? They were taken in S and October under bell-glass. If take them earlier that would mean s cuttings. In that case is it bette under a joint or put in with a heel? in the case of a cutting, only two leaves be left above the soil and thr (with the leaves cut, not stripped o the soil? PARK

[The cutting you send is taken also the treatment you have given plants, and it is difficult to underst your plants have not yet flowered; they will do so later. It may be tha taken stem cuttings last year you are too weak to bloom. Early in S take a number of those arising about of the plants, cutting them just belo and at a point which will give you of not more than 4 inches in length as before. Two joints beneath th ample and three pairs of leaves abo have never found the slightest diff the striking of these plants with r the number of leaves left above the it is important that the cuttings s prevented from serious flagging by from bright sunshine.]

Viscarias dying

S. C. G. C.—Your plants are a green fly and should be sprayed either with Abol or Quassia Extract ing the plants sufficiently to enabl secticide to penetrate slightly into th of the soil. If this had been don your plants would all have been sav

Delphinium culture

Do Delphiniums need any special Mine are never satisfactory at back border. F. D

[Unless show flowers are require need special treatment, but thrive a good loamy and well-enriched soil has been added a little lime-rubble

Apple Tower of Glamis

especially when a few years old, re-
sturbance at the roots and are rarely
rous after transplanting for at least
ars. The soil in which they are
should be well drained and the plants
to sunshine and air. Many good
re lost through their being planted in
ial shade of hedges and trees, which
them of their food, hence the poor
ns we too often meet with.]

ROSES

isease

oses are attacked with the disease
ches the leaves and makes them turn
I pick them off and burn them, and
d a wash recommended last year in
mns—1 lb. resin, 1 lb. washing soda,
ur of sulphur, and 1 gallon of water
r 11 minutes. It did good last year,
year it always seems to burn the
although only applied when quite
believe the Roses should also have
ayed with flour of sulphur dissolved
iage first came out in the spring, but
my gardener's illness the directions
t. C. G. UFFORD.

is known as Red Rust, and may be
by first syringing the bushes, care
ken to see that the undersides of the
re thoroughly wetted and dusting
ile moist with black sulphur and
wdered quicklime in equal propor-
Repeat this frequently should the
prove showery. If you decide at
re time to again use the spray you
using take care to add more water
dilute the mixture.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

a Lavender hedge

tell me *how* and *when* to prune
edgings. Mine after three years'
and without pruning is now over
ide. It flowers beautifully, but is
so woody at base and too wide.
all I prune it so as to get bloom
? Should I prune it every year?
F. DUNCAN.

nay prune your Lavender back im-
the flowers are over, reducing the
nches at least on both top and sides,
uture cut it back in the same way
he same time each year. April is
best time for serious pruning, but
s is resorted to little or no flowers
the first year, although the bushes
come stocky and dense.]

VEGETABLES

haulm attacked with disease

ato haulms have been attacked by a
disease. The leaves become dis-
and wither up. Could you tell me
disease is and what preventative to
E. BUTLER.

Potatoes are attacked by what is
as Potato disease (Phytophthora
, which generally puts in an appear-
ut the middle of July, frequently
heavy rains and the return of hot,
ather, when black spots appear on
ge, which quickly spread over a
ntation, causing both disfigurement
easant smells. As your plants are
affected we advise you to cut away
1 to within 4 inches of the soil, and
may either be lifted and stored
way or left in the ground until
any case they will do no more good
and the cutting away of the haulm
t in preventing the spread of the
the tubers. A preventative spray-
d be given the first week in July,
with others at intervals of 10 days
or a fortnight, care being taken to wet the underside as well as the tops of the leaves. The spray for this purpose is known as Bordeaux Mixture, the ingredients being as follows:—Dissolve 1 lb. of sulphate of copper with a little hot water in a tub or wooden bucket, 1 lb. of fresh lime in another vessel, and 1 lb. of soft soap in a third receptacle. When dissolved mix the copper and lime, and then stir in the soap solution. For use, dilute to 10 gallons and spray on the foliage and stems of the plants.]

FRUIT

Disfigured Apple

(Claygate).—The fruit enclosed is affected with Apple Scab, to prevent which the trees should be sprayed in June with Blighty, Bordeaux Mixture, and during winter with lime sulphur. Your fruits are too far advanced for anything to be done this year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Exhibiting vegetables and Sweet Peas

(1) Should Potatoes, Onions, and Turnips be washed before exhibition? (2) Name of 10 good Sweet Peas for exhibition purposes. (3) What time should Sweet Peas be planted for exhibition held about July 20th? For general purposes Sweet Peas planted here the first week in September in the open ground do very well and flower splendidly about the end of May or beginning of June.

Kilworth. CONSTANT READER.

[(1) Yes. (2) Constance Hinton, Picture, Powerscourt, Charming, Royal Scot, Hawlmark Pink Improved, Warrior, Matchless, Mrs. Tom Jones, Hebe. (3) The seed should be sown singly in a 3-inch pot the first week in March and raised in a warm frame or greenhouse, such plants being ready for planting in the open about the third week in April.]

Grubs in croquet lawn

We have a croquet lawn which is infested with cockchafers' grubs. Could you tell me if there is any means of destroying them without injury to the grass, and, if so, what do you advise for same? H. W. P.

[Mix ¼ bushel of fresh lime in 30 gallons of water and allow it to remain a day or two to become clear, then water the lawn freely with this, which will not injure the grass in any way.]

Manure from moor

(F. Gloucester).—The manure will be valuable for all garden purposes, but if it is to be kept for any length of time it should be placed under cover and moistened occasionally. In the open it will contain its useful qualities for about a month. It is quite suitable for both the purposes you mention. However collected, the treatment remains the same, but gather it fresh if you can.

Clearing pond of duckweed

I would be glad to know what is the way to clear a pond of Duckweed without injuring Water Lilies. My pond is too shallow for a boat. One of your correspondents mentioned how destructive moorhens were to Water Lilies. I have had to wire my clumps round as a protection against these.

C. G. UFFORD.

[The only safe method of clearing the weed from your pond is by cutting it off—as low down as possible in the water—with a scythe or swap hook fixed to a long handle. It will then float to the surface and can be collected and disposed of. This is not a difficult matter with small ponds which are limited in depth, as the worker can, by wearing wading boots, get close to his work. We know of no chemical which would destroy this particular weed without injuring the Lilies. Water hens and water rats are destructive to Lilies, and to get rid of them trapping must be resorted to.]

Watering

Can you give me some points on watering? How much water to give at a time to pots. How often. Shall I leave till quite dry before giving any more? Treatment of plants in pots in a cold greenhouse. Also 4-inch and 5-inch pots of seeds sown and put in a cold frame before and after germination (such a baffling problem to me). If pots should be placed in a bucket of water up to the outside rim, level with soil in pot. I find if put in water 2 inches or 3 inches up pot it takes hours to get wet to the top. Or if water overhead, and how much should be given.

NEW FOREST.

[(1) Always fill the pots to the top, and water only when the pots, on being tapped with the knuckles or a stick, ring like an empty (sound) vessel. A cracked pot will not ring, and such must be watered with discretion. There is no sound advice other than the above with regard to the application of water to plants. Such things as set times and quantities of water to apply to plants in pots are absolutely unpractical and end in failure. Discretion is necessary in every case. (2) Plants in cool greenhouses should be examined for water once each day in winter and twice in summer. The house should be freely aired, but cold draughts avoided; all plants in bloom kept together, enabling those not in bloom to be syringed at least once each day. Any necessary potting should be carried out in March. (3) After sowing the seeds stand the pots on a bed of ashes in a cold frame; water carefully with a fine rose, just sufficient to moisten the soil right through; cover with a sheet of glass; shade from bright sunshine until germination has taken place and until which further water is rarely needed. Following germination gradually expose the pots to air and sunshine, but if the weather is hot, and bright sunshine prevails, a little light shading will prevent undue evaporation during the hottest parts of the day and growth will be enhanced.]

Weed infested lawn

(J. Borden).—The weed infesting your lawn is the common Chamomile (Anthemis nobilis), and your only remedy for getting rid of it is that of hand-pulling, using an inch carpenter's chisel to cut the roots. Carterite, offered by J. Carter and Co., Raynes Park, London, S.W. 20, might be tried.

Bees in house wall

For some time—more than a year—bees have found a home in the wall under the sill of a window on the second storey of my house. I wish to dislodge them, and am told that the best way will be by making a hole in the wall from inside and injecting some fluid or vapour. Can you recommend me something for the purpose which would not render useless any honey that may be there?

HON. W. N. BRUCE.

[Make a round hole in the wall sufficiently large to insert the tube of a sulphur vaporiser as used by keepers for bolting rats and rabbits from their burrows, and, after making quite sure that the apartment the bees occupy—and also the hole around the tube—is absolutely airtight, pump in the sulphur fumes. Three or four minutes' pumping is usually sufficient to destroy the bees, as the fumes are exceedingly strong, but, of course, all depends on the size of the cavity occupied by the bees. This should be done late in the evening when most of the

bees are at home, and after the tube has been withdrawn the hole must be sealed up immediately to prevent any escape of the fumes and left for 24 hours. Expose the honey to the air for a few days before using. Any gamekeeper in your district would probably grant you the loan of his sulphur burner for a small consideration to cover the cost of the sulphur.]

BOOKS

Pot pourri from "The Flower Show"*

"To-day Mr. Lovejoy was of the soil. He looked rather like something that you find in a bunker on a suburban golf course."

"A Wheelright garden, with its steps, its paving, its loggias, pergolas, fountains, and gazebos, became almost as envied a possession as a Wheelright house. Though forming no part of the original estimate, they accounted for a very large part of the final cost. It also took a far larger staff to keep them in order than any other gardens, with the possible exception of the hanging gardens of Babylon, had ever required. So that your wife, who was of her period and simply adored flowers, was enchanted."

". . . the five judges are all honestly doing their best. They take everything into consideration. Even an exhibitor's politics. . . . While (Nutlington) Horticultural Society has this year a grand total of 134 entries it is also offering, all told, 125 prizes."

"They just lolled there on the ground like large pale slugs, but, unfortunately, also like small pale Marrows. . . . A Marrow is the least temperamental of fruits in appearance, but because it can grow so extraordinarily fast when it chooses, there is certainly a temptation to charge it with malice when it doesn't."

Horticultural Societies' News

Gladiolus Society

The British Gladiolus Society held their fourth annual show at Taunton on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. The event was held in conjunction with the Taunton Deane Horticultural Society and proved a very great success. It was a thoroughly representative show, as entries were received from England and Wales, Canada, United States, Holland, France, and Germany, and the blooms, which numbered over 50,000, made a magnificent display, and there was a good deal of interest in the new varieties, which included some shown by Mr. A. E. Amos, of Colchester, the Secretary of the Society.

Kelway and Son, of Langport, secured the Society's gold medal for the best non-competitive display with a collection of Gladioli of over 2,000 blooms. Sutton and Sons, James Carter and Co., Grullemans, Ltd., and K. Velthuys and Co. (both of Holland), and R. H. Bath, Ltd., Wisbech, were awarded silver-gilt medals for very fine displays.

Mr. H. Clarke, of Taunton, in a class open to Europe, won the "Abol" £25 silver trophy for an exhibit demonstrating the advancement of the Gladiolus as a decorative cut flower. Hewitt and Co., Solihull, took second prize, and Tresider, Ltd., Cardiff, were third in this section. The Society's silver championship trophy for 24 new varieties of large-flowered Gladioli went to Kelway and Son, Langport, with Messrs. K. Velthuys, Holland, taking second place. A further silver trophy for new Primulinus varieties was secured by R. H. Bath, Ltd., Wisbech. The Kelway silver challenge trophy for 36 spikes of British varieties was awarded to Watkin E. Samuel, of Wrexham, and the Unwin challenge trophy for 24 large-flowered Primulinus varieties was secured by Mr. Ivor Thomas, of Liverpool. Major George Churcher, of Lindfield, President of the Gladiolus Society, was successful in winning the American Challenge Vase, given by the U.S.A. Society, for 12 vases of American originations. Mr. A. Amos, of Colchester, was the winner of the Bath Championship Cup for 24 spikes of large-flowered and Primulinus varieties. Among the other winners were such well-known Gladiolus growers as Mr. W. J. Unwin, Cambridge; Mr. W. Glen, Chippenham; Mr. W. Yandell, Maidenhead; Mr. S. H. Gregg, London; Mr. F. W. Ransome, Colchester; Mr. W. E. Phillips, London; and Lady Wharton, Halswell Park, Somerset.

* "The Flower Show," a novel by Denis Mackail.—Wm. Heinemann, Ltd.; 7s. 6d.

Flower Shows at Lewis's S

Liverpool, Manchester, Birming

This year's, the fourth of these shows were larger than ever, more th exhibits being sent in by 500 com In each store the whole of the vast fl occupied by the exhibits, making vi vista of satisfying display. Entri made under 140 headings, rangi Carnations to Cucumbers, from Ma Begonias, with special sections for a holders and transport workers, both calling forth very long lists of compe

The shows were carefully organi the exhibits arranged so as to distri colour over the whole show. Sweet all three cities were represented in number and variety. With so much and variety on view at once it is di choose favourites, but among those

Burpee's New Sweet Pea

Adorable

A new colour in Sweet Peas which will meet with a ready welcome from all flower lovers. A delightful shade of clear salmon-cerise on a cream ground. There is just a suspicion of bronze around the edge of the standard which, together with the bronzy suffused reverse, adds a glistening sheen to a bunch of Adorable.

Strong and sturdy, the many four-flowered sprays are borne on long stems in the greatest profusion.

The colour of Adorable will make it tremendously popular. Attractive by day, Adorable becomes fascinating under lamp light.

Happiness

Happiness is a delightful shade of coral-pink on cream. The wings are slightly deeper and shade to rose-pink. A tone of light salmon overlies the standard and wings. The lemon keel and the lemon blotch at the base of the standard give the finishing touch to a flower of wonderful beauty. When bunched the colour effect is a bright eosine-pink with a rose suffusion. A fascinating, refined, yet lively colour.

Happiness is vigorous. It produces big flowers in fours on long stems

For exhibition or cutting purposes Happiness will be in much demand.

Everyone will desire Happiness.

Brilliant Rose

Award of Merit, The Scottish National Sweet Pea, Rose, and Carnation Society. Brilliant Rose is a marvellous new shade—glowing bright tyrian rose with a scintillating suffusion of bronzy rose. Clear and sparkling. Distinct from all others and more desirable than any in its colour class. Brilliant Rose is of such pure and glistening colour that other rose varieties appear dull by comparison.

Vines of vigorous habit, strong and robust. The plants carry an abundance of four-flowered sprays on long stately stems.

Announcing

The Ruffled Sweet P

Fluffy Ruffle

A great, big flower; vigorous free blooming — the first of Ruffled Sweet Peas. A new t duplexed and frilled, with l stemmed, well-proportioned sp of four almost globular flowers. other Sweet Pea exhibits suc consistent doubling and ruffling its petals. Twelve sprays mak more massive bunch than eight sprays of an ordinary Spe Sweet Pea.

A lovely rich rose-pink, a gl of soft salmon, and a bright crea undertone blend into a harmon cream-pink shade that must seen to be appreciated. A flo of exquisite texture and sw fragrance.

The vines make a sturdy gro and bear a profusion of blooms.

The highest achievement attained in the most glorious annuals is Fluffy Ruffles — Ruffled Sweet Pea.

Each 1/- per Packet

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The Royal Horticultural Society

FRUIT SHOW

AT VINCENT SQUARE, S.W. 1
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 1927

SUBSTANTIAL PRIZES. NO ENTRY FEES

Schedules now obtainable on application to THE SECRETARY, R.H.S., Vincent Square

Intending Exhibitors at the R.H.S. Amateur Vegetable Show (September 13th), are reminded that the Entries close on Tuesday, September 6th, 1927.

which struck the imagination most were a climbing Fuchsia grown in a shop window, which rose 10 feet high on trelliswork, and quite a number of Scarlet Runner Beans which the foot rule revealed to be 15 inches long. Some of the collections of vegetables were remarkably fine. There were heads of Celery 3½ feet from top to bottom, Cucumbers 19 inches long, great Red Cabbages, and creamy Cauliflowers as big as footballs. The Roses made a brave show everywhere, and there were many Gladioli of outstanding size and rich colouring.

These shows are almost unique in that the products are exhibited free, and there is also no charge to the public for admission. When these factors are taken into consideration together with the large number of exhibits it is not surprising that the vast floors were packed with tens of thousands of visitors all the time the shows were open. The bands of the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards and of the R.A.F. Cadet College, Cranwell, were engaged to play for the public entertainment.

The success of these shows is most gratifying, not only because they encourage the grower, but also because they introduce a new and large public to the great work that is being done in the North and the Midlands in the cultivation of fruit, flowers, and vegetables, and must make converts to the love for gardening.

An interesting condition common to all three shows was the magnitude and profusion of the entries.

The shows in Liverpool and Manchester were organised by Lewis's and the "Daily Dispatch," and in Birmingham by Lewis's and the "Sunday Chronicle."

The R.H.S. Gladiolus Show

FEW flowers, if any, have been so much improved within recent years as the Gladiolus, and the show at Vincent Square on August 16th was exceptionally interesting.

Messrs. Carter and Co. occupied the centre of the hall with massed bunches in baskets. Messrs. Kelway, of Langport, filled one end of the building with a very beautiful show. Another handsome group was staged by Messrs. R. H. Bath, and Cuthbert and Son utilised Hydrangea paniculata in an effective background.

A large group of Gladioli was staged by Messrs. Konynenburg and Mark, Ltd., of Noordwyk, Holland, who were awarded a gold medal.

The group consisted of splendid varieties raised by the exhibitors, and they were shown in remarkably fine form, many of the spikes having as many as eight open flowers. One of the most outstanding varieties was Albatross, which is pure white, and a great advance on Pour Le Mérite, which is creamy-white by comparison. Among other varieties of special note were Pfitzers' Triumph (bright salmon-rose), Mrs. van Konynenburg (lavender-blue), Barlow's Yellow, Mrs. Dr. Hauff (bright scarlet), and Phenomenon, which is a delightful combination of pink and yellow.

There were six competitors for the Foremarke Challenge Cup, which is offered annually for the best exhibit of 20 spikes of Gladioli in not fewer than 10 varieties. The cup was awarded to Mr. A. E. Amos, of Colchester, who showed 20 varieties, including telling spikes of Richard Diener, Princess Elizabeth, Leslie Henson, and Sunset.

After the Gladioli, perhaps the exhibit which attracted more attention than any other was a fine display of about a dozen varieties of Bodger's strain of Dahlia-flowered Zinnias, shown by Messrs. Dobbie and Co. Many of the flowers were between 5 inches and 6 inches in diameter, as large as Dahlias, borne on stout stems, and the colours were most attractive. Some of the best varieties were Golden State (golden-yellow with orange-scarlet centre), Illuminator (rich carmine), and Dream (mauve).

Beautiful Roses came from Messrs. Ben Cant and Son, Colchester, and Rev. J. H. Pemberton. The double Gypsophila named Bristol Fairy was shown by Mr. W. Wells, Merstham. This was particularly attractive. Mr. House had his pretty Scabious in all colours bordering on blue, and Phlox in the brightest tints came from Mr. H. J. Jones, Lewisham. Herbaceous plants in all colours formed a large exhibit from Mr. Ladhams, Southampton, and a pretty pink Echinacea came from Mr. E. Ballard, Colwall. New Dahlias made their appearance in the committee-room, but it is early to think about the flowers of autumn.

Messrs. Daniel Brothers exhibited their late Black Currant, September Black, while

The late Arthur Garnett

Messrs. Laxton Brothers showed the Veitchberry and Mr. J. J. Kettle had a collection of Raspberries. Mr. Lionel Rothschild sent Rhododendron prophantum, a tender species with coral-red flowers, which received an Award of Merit. The same award was made to a new Watsonia called Orange Beauty, and to Cypripedium Hirœthlyn, exhibited by Lady Aberconway and the Hon. H. D. McLaren. The only other plant which received an Award of Merit was a peloric form of Odontoglossum grande in which all three of the inner perianth segments resembled the normal labellum.

Among the Gladioli most conspicuous in the hall were Mayor of Taunton, Golden Measure, Perfect Peace, Jacoba van Beyer, Vesuvius, Rose Precose, Baron Hulot, Scarlana, Nydia, Maiden's Blush, Orange Queen, Atlanta, and Hermione, many of these being of the Gladiolus Primulinus section, and therefore in great demand for decorative work.

OBITUARY

ARTHUR GARNETT

IT is our sad duty to record the pa Arthur Garnett, who was drown bathing off the Dorset coast near on Friday, August 12th. Arthur son of the late Richard Garnett, Lib the British Museum, was widely k gardening and literary circles. F years he was associated with th Gardens, Kew, where he worked as in the Curator's Office with the late Watson. He was a frequent contri these pages. Leaving Kew in 1915, spent eight years fruit farming in Ta and his comparisons between the me fruit-growing in Tasmania and Eng to interesting correspondence in the about two years ago. He was also portant witness in the Tasmanian In Bradley *v.* Federated Steam Navigat which was up before the House of L spring. Garnett had the happy making useful friends wherever he w was fond of walking, and only a l before his death he had walked all from Princes Risboro' to Bridport, over the Berkshire and Wiltshire do genial and kind-hearted man, he simple life and had lately acquired small and picturesque cottage and o Holmbush, Henfield, Sussex. H original views and did not measure in life from a monetary point of view over, he possessed the great and prec of humour. His passing will be gr plored by a wide circle of garden literary friends in almost all part world.

NAMES OF PLANTS

Regular Readers.—Achillea alpina

M. D. Dreguid.—Rose Marie van

Clara Meyers. — Cratægus

Queries are not answered through t

G. D.—1, Veronica Mont Rose; 2 lanata (Lamb's Ears); 3, Œnanthe (Hemlock Water Dropwort); 4, Ulmaria (Queen of the Meadows).

Lady Lilian Digby.—Symphyand manni.

Taunton.—1, Hibiscus syriacus all 2, Caryopteris Mastacanthus (Blue 3, Teucrium latifolium; 4, Oz rosmarinifolius.

Record, Bromyard.—Artemisia st

Benn Brothers' Other Jou

The Cabinet Maker.—The Art of the Middleman; Retail Furnishin tising Criticised; Furniture Shipmen June; Industrial Designs Competiti

The Chemical Age.—"Micro-org Chemical Industry," by Dr. G. Dyson; Chemical Trade Returns The Making of a Chemical; The Cl Trade Review.

The Electrician.—"Electricity S the Consumer," by J. Rutherford "The Wilkinson 'Change Circu H. M. Sayers; Determining Ter Distribution: A Contribution to th tion of the Flow of Heat in Isotrop "Batteries for Electric Road Veh L. W. de Grave.

The Fruit Grower.—Pollination Production; Cambridge Fruit (illustrated); Egg and Poultry Mar

The Gas World.—Annual Meetin Irish Association of Gas Managers Concrete in Road Construction; Sc on Sulphate of Ammonia.

The Hardware Trade Journal.— in Relation to Merchandising; T Trade: The Gramophone Pick-up; Imports and Exports.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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A Delightful Hobby

GROWING PEACHES AND NECTARINES IN POTS

DENING has many ramifications is continually revealing new develop-ts and fresh enjoyment to its de-Among these may be mentioned that ng those luscious fruits the Peach tarine in pots. While some prefer ch and others the Nectarine, both uire the same treatment, and they as is sometimes thought, difficult to and the system of growing them in o more difficult than the cultivation anthemums in large pots!

sults are, however, quite different. of a show of blossom in autumn we in the spring. We have the quick y blossoming period, but we have d things to come!

y method of growing and Nectarines in o obtain established pots of 10 inches or in diameter during If obtained from a firm these should n the spring in a cold They require no heat but when in blos-has to imitate the the bee and fertilise om with pollen by a camel-hair brush l of a rabbit tied to f stick. Naturally, must be gentle to e bee, or the fragile tions of the blossom me bruised.

ditions which favour set" of blossom are uoyant atmosphere, time about noon on, le, a sunny day chosen, the ventilators of the house n meantime. After the early blos-e been thus operated upon, at an f a few days the later-opening e treated in the same way.

nd of about 10 days we may see the our handiwork. The blossoms die, ts commence to swell, and we have t of watching their rapid develop-mpanied by that of the leaves.

this stage, although no anxious eeded, some attention to watering iven, for, as the fruitlets and leaves to develop, root action likewise e and assimilates much more water p till now been required. The soil vell watered through, as if at any ecomes abnormally dry before the n, the latter are liable to drop.

nd of about three weeks after set-ting, a little quite weak soot-water may be given and repeated weekly, and by the sixth or seventh week this may be changed to a little stimulant given in a very mild form of liquid cow manure or other well-known arti-ficial manures.

The comparative ease with which these choice fruits may be grown is demonstrated by the fact that as soon as danger from frosts is past, the trees may be placed outside in a sheltered position if space in the greenhouse is required for other subjects. In this case the pots should be plunged in soil or ashes nearly to the rims, as this avoids rapid drying out. The precaution is taken to see that the hole is a little deeper, if possible, than the pot, in order to ensure good drainage and that a space is left between the bottom of the pot and the earth to keep worms from entering the hole of the pots.

The fruits of an ideal hobby

Peaches, Nectarines, Grapes, and Melons grown by an amateur

Treated in this style the trees are in no way forced; the fruits ripen in their normal season, during July, August, or September, according to variety. If preferred they may, of course, be returned to the greenhouse to ripen the fruits, extra care in this case being given to water copiously.

A word as to the treatment of the trees subsequent to the ripening of the fruits and to ensure the trees to blossom freely the next year. After fruits have been gathered the trees should be returned to their position outside and treated kindly. The pots should remain covered during the winter. While feeding may be discontinued, watering must in no way be neglected. On the other hand, a good syringing with water during hot, dry weather helps to keep them in healthy con-dition.

With the growing import of Peaches and Nectarines there is a danger that the luscious flavour of the home-grown article will be for-gotten by those who buy fruits gathered be-fore they are ripe and packed in a cool chamber for shipment. Indeed, this has already happened with the Fig, the imported fruit of which is in no way comparable to the home-grown article.

There are other interesting items in con-nection with growing Peaches and Nec-tarines. Those who would like to exhibit them or secure the best-coloured fruits should give a little attention to re-moving those side shoots which shade the fruits, or by removing any leaves which likewise prevent access of the sun. These side shoots must only be shortened back to about six joints from the main stem.

A few good varieties for cultivating in pots are as fol-lows and in the order of ripening:—Peaches: Duke of York, Hales' Early, Pere-grine, Royal George, Dymond, Sea Eagle. The first ripens in July, while Sea Eagle is ripe in September, and then likes all the sun that is available. The best Nec-tarines are Early Rivers, Rivers' Orange, Elruge, Lord Napier, Humboldt, Pine Apple.

Other fruits may be grown in pots as easily as the Peach and Nectarine. Gage Plums in several varieties and early Apples and Pears may be had ripe in July, also Figs, which produce two and, with heat, three crops in a year; but I will deal with these on a later occasion.

L. J. C.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

The R.H.S. Daffodil Show

THE Royal Horticultural Society's Daffodil Show will be held next year on April 17th and 18th, and the schedule, which has recently been issued, may be had on application to the Secretary, R.H.S., Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W. 1. The competitions are open to all residents in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Channel Islands, whether they are Fellows of the Society or not, and there are no entrance fees. In addi-

tion to the open classes there are special sections for amateurs, novices who have never won a first prize at an R.H.S. Daffodil Show, and market growers. In the past it has sometimes been said that there was no chance of winning a prize unless one could afford to buy the expensive new varieties, and so this year it has been stipulated in a number of classes that all the varieties exhibited must have been listed in a retail catalogue in the autumn of 1927 at a price as low as a certain specified sum. It is hoped that these classes will attract exhibitors from the ranks of those who are not Daffodil specialists, but who are more or less keen admirers of the queen of spring flowers.

Nigritella suaveolens and N. coccinea

These two Alpine Orchises have been beautiful in flower. The colour of the former is a light soft rose, and its flowers are deliciously fragrant; that of the latter is bright scarlet. They thrive well when planted in well-drained sandy peat.

Calochortus Benthami

This is a rare and pretty species. In size and form of blossoms it is similar to C. elegans, but the colour of the flowers is deep rich yellow, and the inside and margins of the sepals are covered with short, dense hairs of the same colour. It is a native of California whence it has been imported successfully in quantity.

Oncidium macranthum var. hastiferum

A fine variety of this large-flowered Oncidium is now in flower. It is furnished with from 40 to 50 blooms, each about 3 inches across, with pale olive-yellow sepals, bright yellow roundish petals, and a brownish-crimson hastate lip surmounted by a white crest. The flower-spike measures from 5 feet to 9 feet long; it is, like the type, a native of Ecuador.

Hæmanthus Kalbreyeri

The brilliant effect which this showy bulbous plant produces when grouped in large numbers is unsurpassed by any other plant with which we are acquainted. The number of flowers borne on each stem is very remarkable, and as they develop in quick succession, thus supplying the places of those that die off, the length of time the plants last in flower is accounted for.

Hunnemannia fumariæfolia

We met with a good specimen of this handsome Mexican plant the other day. It is an erect-growing perennial from 2 feet to 3 feet high, with glaucous leaves, which, as its specific name implies, resemble those of some of the Fumitories. Its flowers are large and showy, of a rich orange colour, and in form resemble those of the well-known Eschscholtzia californica, but superior to them, inasmuch as they continue in perfection for a considerably longer period.

Variety of Iris Douglasi

A distinct and well-marked form of this fine Californian Iris has flowered. Its foliage is more erect than that of the type, without the conspicuous ribs on the surfaces reddish tinge at the bases of the leave flowers are of a creamy-white, d pencilled with mauve, and have a b orange colour on the claws. This was collected at Santa Cruz, Californ though not so showy as many kinds worth including in every collection of

Primula capitata

The flowers of this beautiful Hi Primrose assume a variety of shades vation. One of the finest has blossom are of a deep rich purple, are of lar and contrast admirably with the whit substance with which the flowers veloped. It would be interesting to these fine varieties can be perpetu means of seed or by off-shoots only would, we imagine, be rather a slow

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Primulas in heavy soil

WITH reference to "N.S.C.'s" remarks on p. 496, I do not see the necessity of going to such extreme trouble as he does in preparing soil for Primulas. I find trenching (bastard trenching) up to 3 feet deep will give good drainage, which is so necessary on heavy clay, and also deep root-run for Primulas, especially those of the Candelabra section, which like to get their roots down deep and can keep cool and moist. If available, leaf-mould and sand will help in keeping the clay open, and also on the surface will prevent cracking in dry weather, which lets so much moisture out.

If, however, only a small patch is to be planted, say, 10 or 12 plants, I would certainly remove the whole of the clay if it is of the real Sussex brand—like Cheddar cheese. I have to grow Primulas on this type of subsoil, and I find deep trenching is the best method.

I am glad "N.S.C." is going to grow some Bartley Primulas, but why does he call them "hybrids"? I never hybridis at any time. They are pure-bred pulverulenta. G. H. DALR

The Nurseries, Bartley, Hants.

Primula flexilipes

It would appear almost impossibl prove on the habit of that lovely n loving Primula, P. sikkimensis, b would appear impossible has been Nature in her production of Primu lipes, one of the vast number of new which the daring and perseverance botanical explorers have discovered great gratitude. In height it i 9 inches, and it bears a number of l lemon-yellow flowers in the manne sikkimensis, but drooping more from the stems. It has been aptly de "a refined sikkimensis," and sur mendation can go no further. It w under the same conditions as P. sikk S. A

Yucca bed in a Guildford ga

I AM enclosing a snapshot of a Y in this garden, which we took ab weeks ago. I thought, perhaps, be of interest to your paper. There heads in full bloom at the same tim (MRS.) E.

The Greenwood, Merrow, near Guildford.

Primula Florindæ

I had an opportunity the other day ing the nursery of Messrs. Oli Hunter, Moniaive, Dumfriesshire, ceived a First-class Certificate for Florindæ in 1926. As is now well the firm specialise in hardy Primu Mr. Adamson, one of the partners, ally interested in these flowers. thousands of plants of this fascinati are grown at Moniaive, and amo perhaps the most striking was the Primula Florindæ. Any doubts w may have felt regarding the tru perennial habit of P. Florindæ m been dissipated by seeing the old this nursery. Quite a large num still in bloom in the open, and pr most delightful sight. Mr. Oliver me that they had had as many as 16 flower on one plant, and that a d quite a common number, and this w out by the plants which were in bloo reach a height of 3½ feet and upw the effect of a mass of this Primula is exceedingly fine, with so many of

Magnificent Yuccas in a Surrey garden

of drooping yellow flowers. The ement of the flowers has been de- somewhere as "mop-like," but this does justice to the inflorescence, which h more elegant than this term would The plants at Moniaive are slightly by a few branches, so as to give the approach to the natural conditions, erwise no protection is afforded. The us number of young plants also well for the constitution of P. æ, and it will be interesting to see the of the hybridisation in which Mr. ɔn has been engaged and some of the ɡs of which were seen, though un- d. S. ARNOTT.

Book on Primulas

ve read your reply to "Novice" *re* Primulas. May I supplement your tion by saying that Farrer's "My Garden," published by E. Arnold, describes 70 Primula species; his Yorkshire Garden" 34 and Kingdon "Romance of Plant Hunting" 70 (all W. Chinese). Probably the formative work of all is in the R.H.S. Vol. XXXIX., Part 1 (1913), which e papers read (not only on European s) at the Primula Conference, to- with a number of fine photographic ctions. The report runs to 120 pages vell worth study by a Primula lover. ɔod news to all such that a further ce is to take place next May, which, be hoped, will help to establish the of the many new and fine species ed by Capt. F. K. Ward and others e former conference.

BURTON F. J. COOPER.
ıam, Canterbury, Kent.

Omphalodes linifolia

pleasure to read an appreciation of rming annual. I grow it regularly ar, and though constantly remarked admired, I find it is little known. r a chance plant of pale pink Canter- ll came amongst it which, with a ınd of the purple-tipped Clary, made picture. I find it very useful for cut- ng quite as effective as Gypsophila, and, associated with Crimson Flax (Linum grandiflorum) in a plain glass goblet, has a delightful and dainty appearance.

V. A. C. M.

Iris japonica

IRIS JAPONICA, also known as Iris chinensis and Iris fimbriata, is a handsome, strong-growing, free-flowering plant for growing under the shelter of a wall. It has proved quite hardy on a border under the wall of a greenhouse facing east. No special care or protection is given the plant other than the protection afforded by the wall, and in this position it flowers profusely every year.

It is a native of China and Japan, and has long been cultivated as a greenhouse plant, doing quite well when given plenty of light, air, and sun. As a plant for the open garden it has not proved suitable in the neighbourhood of London or farther north, but probably succeeds in the south-west of England.

Mr. Lynch grew the plant many years ago at the Cambridge Botanic Garden at the foot of a wall, and states further that "it seems little inclined to flower."

That the plant is very attractive and a good grower will be seen by the photograph herewith.

A. HOSKING.
The John Innes Horticultural Institution, Merton, S.W.

Exhibiting and judging at flower shows

Our pugilistic and infallible friend "A Scottish Gardener" seems to have been pretty hardly hit by my article on this subject; so much so, indeed, that he has got a bit mixed in his desire to "knock me out." However, I have long ago learned that the man who has the hardihood to expose evil actions always comes in for a lot of abuse, and even with all his wealth of invective "A Scottish Gardener" "leaves me cold." Being Scottish our friend will understand the phrase "facts are chiels that winna ding," so as my remarks were simply statements of facts it does not really matter much what "A Scottish Gardener" thinks on the subject. If he *really* thinks that there are no, or very few, dishonest exhibitors, he must either be very easily gulled or else his experience must be very limited indeed, for I have, during a long and varied experience over wide districts, *always* found a pretty large percentage of these mean and unsportsmanlike individuals. As recently as a month ago I came under the displeasure of one of the fraternity by failing to give him a higher place for *his* Roses, while the fact is, he hasn't a Rose in his possession. The man who supplied the flowers "let the cat out of the bag." Nor is this an uncommon case. Not long ago, because I passed his exhibit of Carnations, an exhibitor threatened personal violence, and yet he hadn't grown a single bloom, this whole exhibit having won at Glasgow some days previously and been handed to him by the real grower of the flowers. Nor are these isolated facts, for did space and time permit I could give plenty more of the like that has come under my own notice.

Iris japonica

ris japonica under the shelter of a greenhouse wall facing east at the John Innes Horticultural Institution, Merton

I'm afraid "A Scottish Gardener" would get a "nasty knock" when he got the length of Messrs. Kelway and Son's letter bearing on the subject, especially after the amount of tears he had shed over my indiscretion in enlightening officials of societies in the south as to what goes on in the north. It is some time since I was so much tickled, and poor "Scottish Gardener" must feel sore at Messrs. Kelway for so rudely disproving his assertions. But probably he will "wipe the floor" with these gentlemen, too, seeing he has "the gloves off."

The other two correspondents who write on this subject, although they appear to think that the evil is less than it really is, both admit that they know of its existence, and I am in agreement with much that they say, some of the points raised being worthy of wide and intensive discussion, and I hope that this may be so, and when time and opportunity offer I hope to take some further part in it. SCOTS JUDGE.

Senecio clivorum by the waterside at Twyssenden Manor, Goudhurst, Kent

The Col du Lautaret

May I be permitted to correct two slight errors in the recent article by my friend Mr. F. C. Surtees Robinson, on the flora of the Col du Lautaret (pages 470 and 488)? I cannot agree with Mr. Robinson's definition of a "col," which he describes as both a shoulder and a pass, and as the highest point of a valley. While a col may, on occasion, be the highest point of a valley, this is not invariably the case. The word "shoulder" is hardly correct. A shoulder may be described as a buttress flanking the side of a hill, and would have no connection with the general level of the valley-floor. I suggest that "saddle" would be a better word. Par example. To travellers in Switzerland the Zermatt valley is well known. Lying parallel to this, but divided from it by a formidable array of mountain peaks, there is another valley. The two are connected by a pass which cuts between two great soaring masses of rock. The top of the pass—the col—is thus situated in a saddle, but it is not the highest point of either of the two valleys, neither can the pass itself be called a connecting valley. In the case of the Col du Lautaret, the actual col is situated in a saddle, and acts as a miniature water-shed or "divide," with the valley of the Durance on the one hand and that of the Romanche on the other.

The other point which I venture to correct is the statement that on the way up to Lautaret from Grenoble one goes through Aix-les-Bains to Vizille. This must, surely, be a "slip of the pen," and I offer the suggestion that Uriage-les-Bains is the watering-place intended. In this connection it is interesting to note that only the P.L.M. autocars are scheduled to travel by this route throughout. Most of the other motor coaches vary their itineraire, as follows:—They leave the town by the long straight road which runs south without a curve for nearly 5 miles, after which they bear to the left and follow the River Drac almost to Vizille, and thence straight on eastwards to Bourg d'Oisans. Only on the return journ the motor strike north through Uri Bains, entering Grenoble from the do not know if the P.L.M. Compa change their route thus for the be passengers, but it is possible.

It is with regret that I appear to te in the wonderful garment of phrasing which Mr. Robinson has about beautiful Dauphine, for I kn genuine enthusiasm for the hills an treasures, and such slight discrepanc have found are so easily made. Fa from me to alter by one word his description of the flowers and scenery delectable corner of God's garden.

L.

Heuchera sanguinea

I raised some plants from a mixed of seed five years ago. They flower well on the rockwork. I divided the two years and used them as edging They have done amazingly well, thro spikes quite 2 feet high. I put som on rockwork. These have never flow all, and those I put in a very damp s did no good.

Wilts.

Senecio clivorum

THIS is a handsome plant for the side, and its broad leaves, wh semble those of a large Coltsfoot quite early in the year. The tall stems, however, grow up in August to a height of 4 feet, just clear of full-grown foliage, and bear large, golden-yellow flowers, each 3 inch inches across, in broad branched The young leaves and flower-stems a favourites with slugs, and if not p from these pests of the bog garden clump may be ruined. Although a lished clump will cover a large s ground it is not rampant as are so the strong-growing waterside plants, contain itself within its own bou Closely related to this species Veitchianus, which, however, bears numerous and smaller flowers on branched stem and has long, toothe but requires similar treatment. these, with S. Kæmpferi and S. ja which are grown for their handsome are grouped in a section, Ligularia genus Senecio, whose name is deriv the hoary pappus hairs on the seed, Old Man. This is one of the most n genera of flowering plants, and has been, therefore, sub-divided by some into many sections. The chief characters common to all are the sim of involucral bracts, which are ofte with dark points, the hairy pappus, absence of scales between the flore Ligularia section come mainly from East, and are distinguished by the ally bold herbaceous habit and their stigmas.

The genus includes the common G but is best known as Ragwort, the Ragwort, S. Jacobæa, being a comm plant. S. tanguticus is a tall bord with inflorescence like that of Gold but this variable group of plants also the Dusty Miller (S. Cineraria), th Purple Ragwort (S. pulcher), the Cineraria of many hues, derived Canary Island plant, S. cruentus pretty New Zealand shrub with gr leaves and panicles of yellow flo Greyii. Emilia and Cacalia are nam are often included in the genus, an Southern Hemisphere not only shr also climbers and some fleshy C species are found.

MISS JEKYLL AND HER GARDEN

With a foreword by MISS WILLMOTT

The following paper was read at a recent meeting of The Garden Club

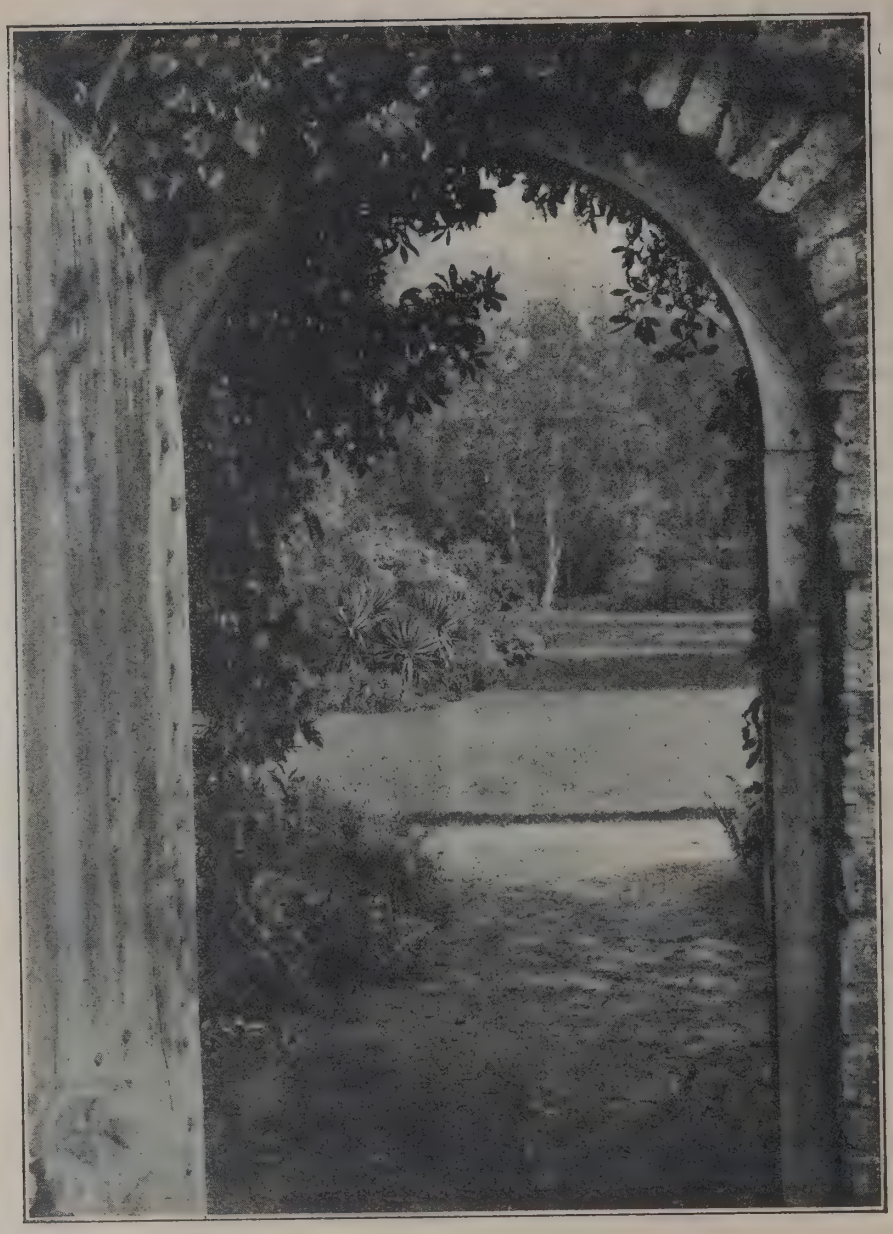
The love of gardens has never died out in England. There have been times when fashion has led in other directions, but up and down the country there were always ardent amateur gardeners who kept the flame alight, caring for and treasuring their plants quietly and unobtrusively. This we know from old family papers and letters, lists and inventories, and also from the books which were published from time to time. It has been reserved to our days to see the great and wonderful interest in gardening becoming so strong that it has spread to every class and every walk of life, and from its moribund condition to have borne the Royal Horticultural Society on the crest of fashion's wave to its present great prosperity and to an eminence hitherto unknown in any other similar Society. This great movement is due primarily to Miss Jekyll, that distinguished and gifted lady whose name and work are known throughout the world. Loving gardening intensely, she combines the artistic sense at its best, together with great experience of the practical side and the indispensable knowledge of plants. These are some of the foundations upon which Miss Jekyll's great reputation has been built. In addition to all this she has the gift of writing of her knowledge in such a way that pleasant, readable, and charming as are her books there is not a flaw in any of them that the most captious critic could discover. The veriest tyro reads with pleasure and advantage the same book in which the more experienced amateur finds inspiration and help. Had Miss Jekyll's horoscope been cast, her parents might well have wondered at so many gifts being bestowed upon one child. She has, indeed, made good use of each and all of them. Another advantage was the simultaneous advent of that prince of gardening journalists, Mr. W. Robinson. Their collaboration has produced the results which we have all seen and admired. It is, therefore, easy to understand how such a fortuitous combination of circumstances has made Miss Jekyll's fame world-wide and has penetrated wherever garden craft is loved and practised. These few lines are but a small, spontaneous tribute to a dear friend who has all my life commanded my highest admiration.

Erythroniums or Dog-Tooth Violets in cool woodland at Munstead Wood

My interest in flowers began at a very early age, for my family left London for a country home when I was 4½ old. But I had already made friends the Daisies in the Berkeley Square and with the Dandelions in the Park. During the next few years were the delights of Primroses and ls, and Wood Anemones and wild besides the carefully-kept gardens, bove all, the well-stocked shrubberies new home. Here there were wide ths among clumps of shrubs, with a general background of Rhododendron ponticum, for the hybrids were as yet not generally known. For the date when the shrubbery was made it was well planted, for, besides the usual flowering shrubs, there were the sweet Azalea pontica, and Vacciniums and Andromedas, and some of the old Roses, the double Cinnamon, with its flat pink bloom, and Rosa virginiana rambling about among the shrubs. The larger things were a number of evergreens of the Arbor Vitæ and Cypress class, Ailanthus, Hickory, Cut-leaved Beech, and Taxodium distichum, ending in a thick plantation of common Laurel that was by no means devoid of interest because every spring the thrushes built in them.

The soil was deep though sandy, partly peaty, and always cool. The place was a good one in which a child might gain some early acquaintance with shrubs, and I spent hours and hours in it, getting to know them all intimately by sight and handling, and keenly inquisitive smelling. The kitchen garden was some way off, but that, also, was full of attractions. There was a bed of Lily of the Valley under a north wall and a quantity of Musk, with that delicious scent that it has now lost, and a narrow border at the foot of another wall of the old double purple Violet, now rarely seen. There were very few hardy plants, though there was what passed for a mixed border along one of the middle paths. But the only things I remember in it were a purple Tradescantia, some Day Lilies, blue Centaurea montana, a very poor but sweet-scented lilac Phlox, and a quite shocking Michaelmas Daisy. But it had also the variegated sweet-scented Mint (Mentha rotundifolia), a precious plant to this day. I think the border was filled up with Stocks and China Asters, and any superfluous bedding plants for the summer. But the best thing about this border was the hedge of Sweet Peas at the back, Peas really sweet, though in the four old colours only, one a mixture of bluish and reddish purple, then a pink and white, a sort of grey roan, and a white. It must have been quite 20 years later that an all rosy-reddish one appeared, and it was thought a wonderful novelty. There was a long Lavender hedge close to some Gooseberries, and as the bloom of the Lavender which I was set to cut coincided with the ripening of the earliest Gooseberries

tead Wood: Erinus, Rosemary, and other flowering plants in the steps to the loft



Munstead Wood: A framed picture

usual Myrtle, Lentisk, etc., that we familiar with on the nearer Mediterra coasts. There was not much chance of ing home plants, but from Rhodes I br a root of an Iris of which there was a tity in the Turkish cemetery. It prov be I. albicans. There was not muc flower then—it was in November—or good sprinkling of Cyclamens in the n wilds, and these not easy of access as were no roads in the interior, only difficult mule tracks.

Some years later I had the good fortu become acquainted with the greater nu of that wonderful company of amateur others who did so much for better gard in the last half of the nineteenth cen One day stands out in imperishable mem a meeting at Mr. Barr's original nurse Tooting with Sir Michael Foster and Bennett-Poë. It was for the stud Hellebores, of which Mr. Barr had col all that were then available. He to around and told us all he knew about Sir Michael putting in occasional ques When the tour was over, Sir Michael g *résumé* of what we had been told—ters lucid and richly informative—he had missed a single point. Later Canon afterwards Dean of Rochester, becam friend, and he brought us Mr. Rob who came to us often afterwards, an whose good help I can never be suffic thankful. Mr. G. F. Wilson, then pl his Wisley garden, was another grand h He was kind enough to let me come a actual spade work with him. I reme especially, one strenuous day whe formed a mound in about the middle position of the present rock garden. I all these friendly gardeners, the one wh felt to be the most valuable was the R Wolley-Dod—scholar, botanist, and English gentleman; an enthusiast for life, an experienced gardener, and the k of instructors.

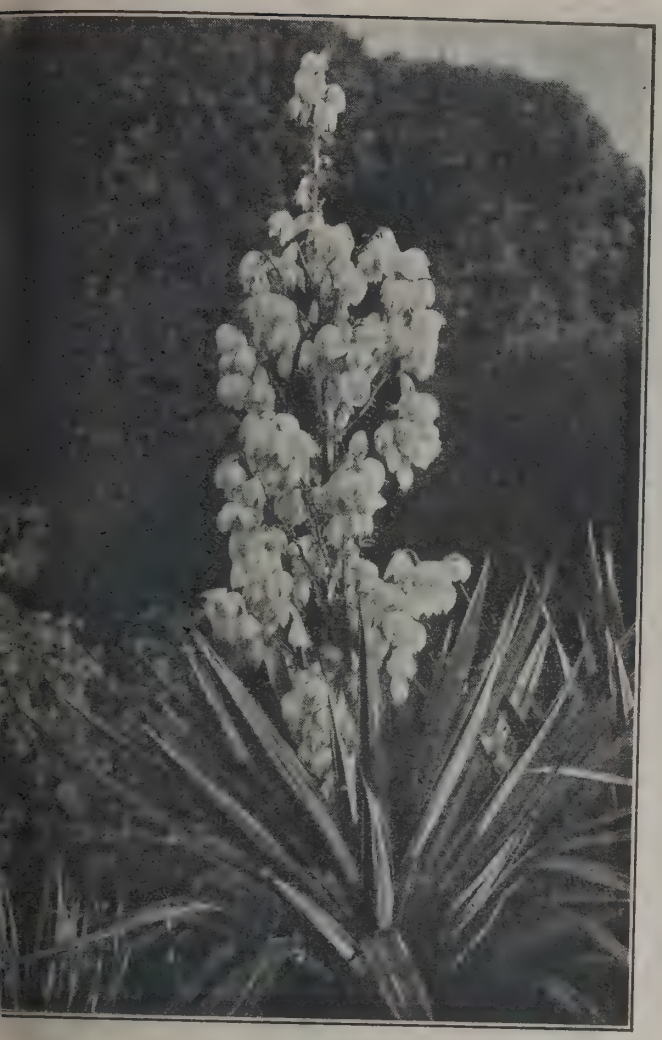
In the early seventies I had a win Algiers with my friend, Mme. Bod Her house was a good way uphill, qu the top of Mustapha Supérieur, the suburb of Algiers. Beyond that was al country, delightful rambling ground home of Iris stylosa and I. alata. Hec Prickly Pear were garlanded with Cl

I thought very well of the association. Then there were the plant-houses. My father was fond of these, and for the time we had quite a fair collection. There were Passion-flowers, the old quadrangularis and the beautiful red racemosa, Allamanda, Stephanotis and Gloxinias, with stove Ferns, and in cooler houses Bougainvillea and Lapageria, and the usual array of Primula, Cineraria, Cyclamen, Calceolaria, and fancy Geraniums. There was a bedded-out garden on each side of the house, one of concentric rings of beds entirely filled with scarlet Tom Thumb Geranium, the other, on the drawing-room side, bedded for both spring and summer after the manner of the time.

I had my own little garden with an arbour at the end covered with that lovely Rose, Blush Boursault, which I cannot remember ever to have seen elsewhere. I am thankful to have kept it, for I do not think it is easy to obtain now.

When I was just grown up, though still in my late teens, I had the great advantage of going with friends to the Near East—the Greek Islands, Constantinople, Smyrna, and Athens, with several weeks in Rhodes. Though from the sea the Islands look so barren, it was delightful to find them clothed with a quantity of sweet herbs besides the

Well planned borders round Miss Jekyll's home
Rosemary and Hydrangea on the south front



Yucca gloriosa at Munstead Wood

Lent Hellebores in the Nut Walk

with its quantity of warm, white, ed flowers. In other grassy places were a number of small Orchises and diminutive Daffodils, and we often had a visit from the good old botanist, M. Durando, who would name any plants I had collected.

To one who is in sympathy with growing things there is a keen delight in seeing some beautiful flowering plant for the first time in its own home. But it was painful to see a colonist, in clearing the land for cultivation, grub up dwarf Palm and Cyclamen, and the great Scilla maritima and other plants that would be treasures in gardens, throw them into heaps to be burnt, and then express his satisfaction by saying the ground was now "plus propre"!

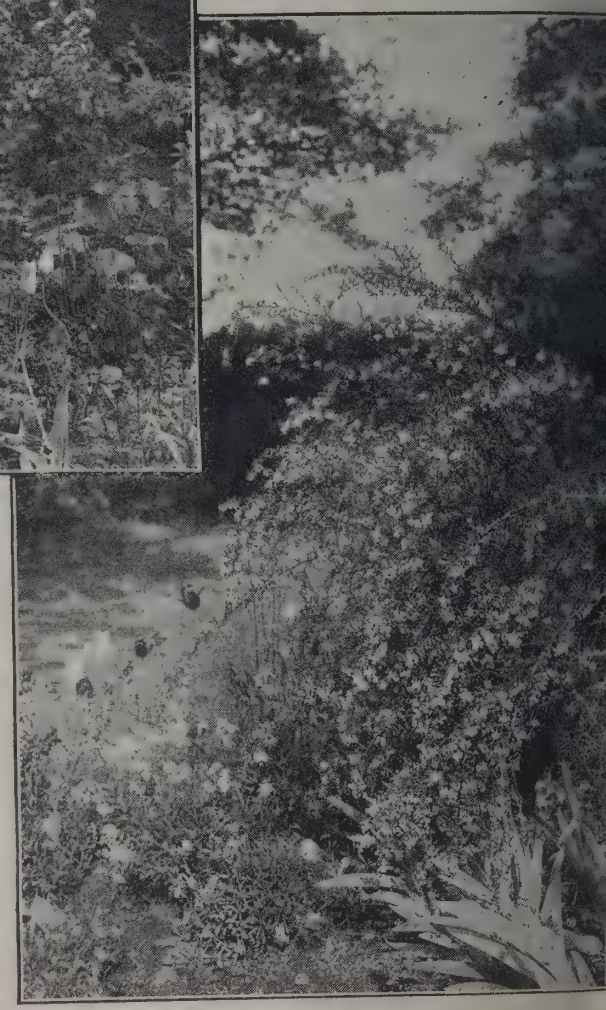
The only garden carefully tended in Algiers in those days was that of our friend, Mr. Edwyn Arkwright. It was a glory of good things too numerous to describe, but one of its most prominent features was an immense Poinsettia, a yard-wide mass of scarlet on a trunk about 5 feet high—a wonder to see when one's hitherto idea of Poinsettia was the single head of bloom so often seen on London dinner-tables. After flowering, Mr. Arkwright used to chop it back with a hand-bill.

In the early eighties I became possessed of the 15 acres in south-west Surrey, where I have made my home. It is, roughly, triangular in shape, widest to the south, and slopes down to the north-west. There had been a close wood of Scotch Pine lately felled in the upper 9 acres, then a wide strip of Chestnut coppice, and at the narrower end a small field of poor sandy soil. The sandy field is now a profitable kitchen garden, the middle space is the site of the house and surrounding lawn and shrubs and flowers,

The grey borders

Pink, white, and purple flowers in a setting of silver-grey foliage

The warm coloured end of the s
garden is seen in the top illustr
and the arching sprays of Be
gracilis below



and the upper, wild part, where the Scotch Pines were cleared, soon became filled with young trees of natural growth—seedling Pines, Birch, Holly, Oak, Mountain Ash, and Spanish Chestnut. They all grew up together, and my first care was to keep the kinds a little apart in order to get natural pictures of one kind of tree at a time. A space near the middle was cleared for Azaleas and for a bit of Heath garden. Now, after 40 years, it has all grown into a state of satisfactory maturity. Daffodils were planted under the trees and many spaces were filled with Lily of the Valley, and more recently with my pure white Foxglove. There is little else of wild gardening except for a shady region where there are hardy Ferns, Trillium, and Solomon's Seal, and a big patch of the beautiful Erythronium giganteum, and further away a wi growth of Gaultheria Shallon, w taken only too kindly to my sand do not want more, for I think th kinds of planting for pleasure, wild needs the greatest caution and restraint.

MUNSTEAD WOOD: SOME CORNERS OF THE SPRING GARDEN

Munstead Wood: Pieris japonica in woodland

If the ways of gardening that se the most worthy, and that I have tri some idea of in my books are found others it is because I have never line that was not accounted for work and experience. What I deavoured to describe about arrang colour and the making of pictu living plants was helped by some e ing, for when I was young I was be a painter, but, to my life-long was obliged to abandon all hope after a certain amount of art school account of extreme and always p myopia. But my interest in and d the fine arts has always been o keenest joys, and with it a love with all its beauties and wonder am thankful to have been able to habit of close observation, so that my bad eyes I can often detect o effects that well-sighted people ha unnoticed.

rming bowl of Anthemis tinctoria

The Chamomiles

LOWER seen nowadays in only the -fashioned garden is Anthemis tinc-a, and why this excellent border ould be left out of any garden that is l to provide sheaves of flowers for purposes is a mystery. Flowering larger Moon Daisies, and after the s have given their best, the Chamo-e most useful in the border, and fill left by the Erigerons, which are of e same height and occupy the same e border.

nthemis are especially happy in a rder; not too dry, however, if large are the consideration. The flowers peculiar shade of creamy-yellow, the sunlight appears to be white, n needs the contrasting flowers of tar Daisy or some other snow-white o emphasise the difference. The oo, often varies even on the same me of the blossoms being of a de-low and others almost white.

are, however, some excellent im-arieties with large flowers, and, as a se are light in shade of colour, the lossoms being those which show the ellow. A. t. Kelwayi is, probably, st in flower of any variety. It has d decided yellow blossoms. A. t. ra is similar and the blossoms are The lighter colour is seen in E. C. nd Mrs. H. T. Brooks, the first a lemon-yellow and the second a very wer with a creamy-yellow that is hite.

e rockery there are Anthemises hite flowers—A. ætnensis and A. ana, silver foliage; A. aizoon, with owers and silvery foliage; A. , A. macedonica, and A. montana possess also silvery foliage and white Daisy-like flowers of large size. These alpine species are extremely useful in the rock garden, seeing that they flower at a time when the bulk of the early summer plants have finished, leaving the rocks somewhat bare of flowers.

The chief charm of the Chamomiles—especially the A. tinctoria—is their usefulness as cut flowers. They last well in water for some days, especially if cut just after they are fully expanded, and the flowers are excellent for massing in a bowl without any foliage but their own. H. A. Day.

Double-flowered Potentillas

We have received examples of these showy hardy plants, which are finer than we have ever before seen them. Some of them measure fully 2 inches in diameter. They vary in colour from a deep rich crimson to a clear yellow, and in some flowers both colours are combined. They seem to be crosses between P. atro-sanguinea and P. insignis, both Himalayan species with wrinkled, trifoliate leaves, which are covered with silvery down on the under surfaces.

Anthemis tinctoria Buxton's Variety flowering in careless profusion

The graceful sprays of lemon-yellow flowers, like Marguerites, are most useful for cutting

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Grass seed

Where lawns and grass walks have been planned and made during the summer months a final survey should be made and any depressions or other variations which may have appeared in the levels made good. The surface should then be raked sufficient only to form a fine tilth, following which the seed may be sown forthwith. The best seed only should be used for playing grounds and garden paths, but for use on woodland rides and paths a coarser grass may, with advantage, be employed. Sow generously but evenly, as a percentage is always taken by birds. A very good plan and one regularly adopted here is that of mixing a little paraffin with the seed previous to its being sown. This renders such seed repulsive to birds for a time. After sowing give the ground a thorough rolling, following which no further care is necessary, but all this class of work must be carried out when the soil is fairly dry on the surface and works freely without clogging tools.

Hedges of Holly, Yew, Box, and Thorn

These should be given a final trimming, which will leave them tidy and also encourage dense growth for the rest of the season. Young and newly-planted hedges should be topped to encourage thicker growth.

Seedling Carnations

Prepare beds in readiness for those raised in March and which are now fine, strong plants. Carnations are lime-lovers, and where old mortar-rubble is available a quantity should be incorporated into the soil. Above all, beds for Carnations of any kind should be well drained. Watch carefully those on the layering ground, which should not be permitted to get dust-dry at any time. Overhead watering following hot days enhances growth and assists in keeping the plants clear of insects.

Late flowering shrubs

Such shrubs as Perovskia atriplicifolia and Vitex Agnus-castus, which are pruned hard back each year, must be supported with brushwood stakes, otherwise they will be rendered ineffective during heavy rainstorms.

Climbing plants and shrubs

Cuttings struck during the past season and planted out in nursery lines are making abundant growth and must be supported with stakes of some kind.

General work

Remove dead flowers regularly from Roses, shrubs, and herbaceous plants in order to assist the plants and encourage later blooms. Pinks struck last month in frames should be hardened off by being stood on a bed of ashes in the open. Sow further batches of hardy Primulas, Gentians, and many alpine seeds as they become ripe, for these germinate better now than if kept until the spring, particularly the former.

Lavender

Pieces 6 inches long—torn with a heel attached—from the plants and inserted in sandy soil at the present time strike freely and are available for beds or borders by the following autumn.

Apples and Pears

Gather the early kinds slightly in advance of their ripening, their condition being proved by a gentle tilting of the fruits. Codlin Apples are best used straight from the trees. If birds become troublesome netting of the fruit will be inevitable, and the same applies to late Plums, many of which are carrying heavy crops.

Tomatoes in the open

Gather the fruits when about half-coloured and finish them on sunny shelves. Feed the plants liberally and secure them to their stakes regularly and thus prevent their being broken over by strong winds.

Spinach

Thin out the plants of former sowings to a distance of at least 6 inches, and make a further sowing to stand the winter on a warm, sheltered border.

Celery and Leeks

Earthing-up of these crops will require constant attention during the coming months. The sticks should first be cleaned of all decaying or yellow leafage before being encased in brown-paper, and should the weather continue dry a soaking of water should precede each addition of soil.

Red Cabbage

Where these are in demand for cooking—and there are few more delicious vegetables than these when so used—the present is a good time to sow seed; good heads will then be available from the middle of July onwards.

Salads

Thin and transplant Endive and late-sown Lettuces, the bulk of which should be accommodated on a south border, and a sowing of early Turnips will provide sweet, small roots throughout the winter months.

Mignonette

This is much appreciated for indoor decoration, and seed sown thinly in 5-inch or 6-inch pots at the present time will provide excellent material for blooming during late winter. Seven or eight plants only should be left in each pot.

Brompton Stocks

Plant out into their flowering quarters in order that they may become well established before winter sets in. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Figs

Maintain a rather dry and buoyant atmosphere in the house where the fruits are ripening. Rub out any further fruits that may appear, as these can never mature, and their presence only weakens the trees. During the next few weeks is a very suitable time for repotting any that may require to be so treated. A very moderate "shift" should at all times be given a Fig tree, for overluxuriance is certain if too generous treatment be given.

Orchard-house trees

Trees in pots or tubs requiring a shift into larger receptacles should have attention during the next month or so, it being most advantageous to give them time for the roots to get a good hold of the new soil before winter sets in. Rough, but fresh and sweet, fibrous loam should be the chief ingredient in the compost. Do not include animal manures, but a good amount of bone-meal and a standard fertiliser like Thomson's Vine and Plant Manure will give fine results. In the case of Plums, Cherries, and Peaches a generous amount of mortar-rubbish from an old building should be added. Pot very firmly.

Melons

Extra care is necessary with these r
see that the temperature is well main
so that the fruits may finish off pr
while watering has to be very judi
gone about.

Tomatoes

The house must not be kept too c
the fruits will drop before ripenin
weather be cold better allow a little v
in the pipes, with abundance of air,
will ensure the later fruits attaining go
and flavour.

Freesias

Shake the bulbs out of the old soil
pot, choosing only the larger, and p
from five to seven in a 5-inch pot. Pot
but not really hard. Set in a cold
and, if shaded until growth appear
little watering will be necessary. As
growth appears raise the pots up close
glass and give water when require
move to a greenhouse shelf befor
weather causes damage.

Climbing Roses

As soon as flowering is over, much
old wood should be removed and
strongest of the young growths laid in
place. This is work more comfortal
better performed now than after cold w
arrives.

Bedding Pelargoniums

Great numbers of these are stil
especially in districts where the soil
and dry. Cuttings should now be
and inserted in pots or boxes of san
and set in full sunshine. A good pla
set in a sunny frame, removing the
but running them on when rain th
This prevents damping. The sashes
tilted, back and front, while over the c

Pentstemons

It is rather early for inserting th
batch of cuttings of these stately a
flowering subjects, but where it is de
increase, as much as possible, any
scarce variety, such cuttings as are a
should now be taken, which will ve
induce the plants to throw out numer
shoots that, later, will be available
tings.

Nepeta Mussini

This deservedly popular plant is e
creased from cuttings inserted now i
frame. Boxes may be used if
Ordinarily plenty of sturdy young
spring up in the centres of the old pla
these, if taken off about 4 inches lon
admirable cuttings. Treat like Pa
Pentstemons.

Pansies and Violas

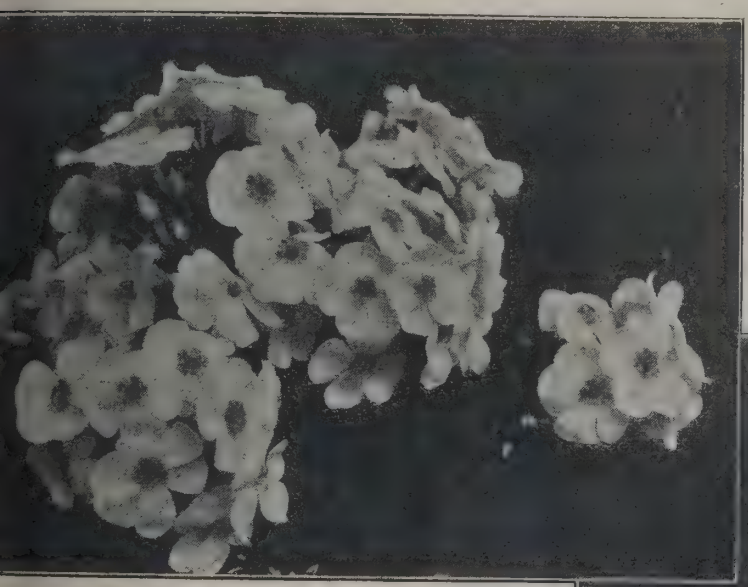
From now on till the end of Se
cuttings of these useful and popula
plants should be secured as opportunit
While boxes of sandy compost suit qu
it is, usually, best to make up a be
same material under a cold frame,
fairly firm and about 4 inches ir
Dibble in the cuttings about 2 inche
water well through a rosed can, ke
and shaded for a week or two, and
there is little trouble in rooting th
tings. The young sturdy shoots tha
from the centres of the plants are m
ferable to the points of the old f
stems. These latter, of course, may
when there is any scarcity of the othe
C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

ɪerbaceous Phloxes at Ryecroft Nurseries

WEEK or two ago I spent some con-derable time in inspecting the splendid llection of herbaceous Phloxes at the House Section of Ryecroft Nurseries, ıam, S.E. I have always been very ted in these beautiful hardy plants, recent years have given more than y attention to all that has been, and being, done to improve them.

ɔst every successive season Mr. H. J. ɔublishes a list of new Phloxes, many ch he has raised himself. He also, me to time, acquires sterling novelties ɔther sources, so that these newer s combine to make a large and com-sive collection of the herbaceous Phlox, present a wonderful picture in the ng season.



ERENNIAL PHLOXES AT RYECROFT NURSERIES

Europa, white with dark carmine eye; stands alone for colour effect

2. Mrs. Jeans, pale silvery-pink of tall and branching habit

rder to satisfy myself that I was notes of only first-class varieties, I y looked through the whole collection, y as I came to those that stood out for st-rate quality did I feel justified in g their good points. I am pleased, e, to mention some of the more note-varieties in the order in which I saw A grand batch of C. Edwards first my attention. This is a rich salmon -flowering; height, 2½ feet. A plant s high is Mrs. H. J. Jones. It is free inct, and may be described as mauve, pink, with a carmine eye. A deep purple is William Ramsay; height, Mrs. G. Adams is a striking violet-h a large white eye; height, 2 feet. y with a very large pip is Rhine-colour, light salmon with a carmine ght, 2 feet. One of the most note-is Mrs. Scholten, which was seen in m in several instances. It is a glori-ur which may be described as deep ɔink, and the trusses are very large; 18 inches. Another beautiful light ɔink sort is G. E. Parsons; height, Charm is a dwarf plant—15 inches Another noteworthy sort is Leo er. My description of the colour is scarlet. Mr. Jones' description is carmine with darker centre. It is a fine Phlox and its height is 18 inches. Every Phlox grower probably knows Europa. It stands alone for its colour and large pip and truss. Its colour is white with carmine eye; height, 2 feet. For its early period of flowering and its beautiful colour (bright rose-pink) Jules Sandeau should always be grown. Its height is only 18 inches, and it is consistently good. Coquelicot, for its bright orange-scarlet colours merits a place in all collections, although the pip is not so large as in some of the newer sorts. Mrs. J. B. Riding is a beautiful and refined-looking Phlox. It is very distinct, the colour being a shade of soft mauve. Elizabeth Campbell is still a refined Phlox, but the truss will not compare with some of the finer sorts of recent introduction; colour, light salmon, passing to pink in the centre. Evelyn is a beauty. It is a free-flowering rosy-salmon coloured variety and is worthy of inclusion in all collections. A very fine pink sort is Selma. A cherry-red eye enhances its beauty; height, 2½ feet. Another beautiful soft pink sort with a bright carmine eye is Riverton Jewell. This is a plant with a good habit; height, 2½ feet. A plant with a good truss of large white flowers with a carmine eye is Exquisite; height, 2½ feet to 3 feet. An interesting sort is Mrs. Ethel Pritchard, the colour of which is rosy-mauve. G. Bronderson is a grand rosy-pink sort with very large pip and truss. A special note should be made of this sort; height, 3 feet. Very refined is the blush-pink variety, Mrs. Edwin Beckett. It is free-flowering and attractive. A plant 18 inches high is Rosine. The pips are large, and the colour, deep rose with red eye, makes it quite good and distinct. Mrs. Jeans, a pale silvery-pink of tall and branching habit, is selected for an illustration. A noteworthy novelty is A. E. Amos. It is a Ryecroft seedling and the colour is particularly good, being a brilliant scarlet; large pip; height, 2 feet. Dove, as the name suggests, is a refined flower; colour, white with soft mauve centre; height, 18 inches. Another novelty is Calypso; colour, beautiful cerise; grand pip and truss; height, 15 inches. Evangeline is sometimes described as a greatly-improved Elizabeth Campbell; colour, beautiful light salmon; one of the best Phloxes; height, 2½ feet. F. A. Buchner still maintains its position as one of the very best white Phloxes extant. The truss is compact and of beautiful form; height, 2½ feet to 3 feet. A brilliant red sort is September Glow. A splendid pip and truss, and with dark foliage; height, 3 feet. Mrs. A. Fincham is a grand novelty, and there was a grand breadth of this handsome salmon-pink sort. The pip is large and the truss of exceptional size and beauty—one of the best of recently-introduced sorts; height, 2½ feet to 3 feet. By far the largest and most noteworthy novelty is Daily Sketch. This is a plant with a huge truss and very large pip borne on a tall, stout stem. Rich rose with a carmine eye is a good description of its colour; height, 3 feet. The last two were selected by the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society for trial next year at Wisley. No awards are now made by that body until after the plants have been tried in the Wisley garden.

The foregoing are especially meritorious and are the result of a very careful selection from a large number of beautiful Phloxes. D. B. CRANE.

Two promising new Star Dahlias

There were two beautiful new Star Dahlias shown at the Royal Horticultural Society's meeting, Vincent Square, S.W., on Tuesday, the 16th, and of which a special note should be made. They are as follows:—

BELMONT STAR.—This new Star Dahlia will be valued because of its distinct colour, this being quite different to any other Star variety in cultivation. The colour may be described as rich orange with yellow centre. The florets are rather broad and pointed, and are neatly disposed round the golden dial. The flowers are nearly 3 inches across and are borne on stiff wire-like stems so useful for decoration. Height of plant, between 3 feet and 3½ feet.

CROYDON STAR.—Those who know the beauty of the colouring of Charlwood Star (fiery-orange) will appreciate the value of this new Dahlia when it is stated to be a distinct improvement on that variety. Both were shown by Messrs. J. Cheal and Son, Ltd.

Shrewsbury Floral Fete

There is something about the Shrewsbury Floral Fete which attracts gardeners from all parts of the country, for whatever his taste and favourite plants may be there is sure to be something which will especially interest him, for first-class examples of every branch of horticulture are seen there to profusion.

IT may not be possible for many amateur gardeners to grow the gorgeous Crotons and coloured Dracænas to be seen in such groups as that staged by the veteran Mr. J. Cypher (who has attended this show since its inception in 1875), yet one can see how well they look in association with such simple plants that anyone may grow in a conservatory, such as the Bridal Wreath (Francoa ramosa) or Humea elegans. That useful summer greenhouse plant that blooms throughout the season, the Streptocarpus, was a feature in the group from Messrs. John Peed and Sons.

Tuberous Begonias have reached a perfection which the coming generation will find hard to beat, such varieties as Betty Hampton (deep orange with high centre) and Lady Ann (a clear rose) being examples of these shown by Messrs. Blackmore and Langdon.

The Dahlia, too, is another plant which has been improved upon immensely, as instanced in the dwarf bedding types of Lady Aileen, a charming single rose-pink, and in Pink Pearl, a small double rose-pink. The Pæony type Ullswater is one more instance, an orange, suffused rose. Dahlias were extensively shown by such firms as Messrs. Treseder, Cardiff; H. Clarke, Taunton; H. Woolman, Shirley, Birmingham.

ROSES

Each season brings to the fore the type of Rose best suited to it. The present wet one is favourable to the thinner types with fewer petals that are not affected by the wet. However, among the best at Shrewsbury were that wonderful full-shaped pink, Dame Edith Helen, which, with Columbia and Rose Marie, may be counted among the best in the rose-pink class. Etoile de Holland is the best crimson, for while Hortulanus Budde was equally well shown, it has no scent. Among the most fragrant is Wm. Kordes, pink, flushed orange and copper. Immense flowers of George Dickson were the largest in the dark reds. It should be remembered that this Rose does not bloom freely if pruned at all hard. Mrs. Barraclough is a novelty in the salmony rose-pinks. Rose Berkeley is much like that wonderful Shot Silk that every rosarian should grow in its fascinating shade of old rose-pink shot with yellow.

The above Roses came from Messrs. Robinson, Nottingham; Gunn and Son, Olton; Bees, Ltd., Chester; McGredy, Portadown.

HERBACEOUS FLOWERS

Messrs. Bees had several interesting things in their group, which included the tall red Lobelia, Huntsman, and the quaintly-tufted Poterium obtusatum. Phloxes from Mr. John Forbes, of Hawick. Gladioli and Liliums were associated with many hardy flowers from Messrs. Webbs, Stourbridge, in delightful style. The somewhat unusual Sidalcea came from Messrs. Stark, of Ryburgh.

ORCHIDS

This year the Society offered a new class for Orchids, with three prizes aggregating £50 and a trophy, the first prize being awarded to J. McCartney, Esq., of Bolton (gardener, Mr. C. F. Potts). The gorgeous Cattleyas were the chief variety. A. M. Barber, Esq., Wellington, also had good Orchids, and the day may come when it may be recognised that this class of plant is not among the more difficult plants to grow.

CARNATIONS

This being at the end of the season for Carnations it is worthy of mention, as pointed out by one of the exhibitors at Shrewsbury, that the plants from which the flowers for this show were cut came into bloom on the first occasion for Holland Park Show at the end of September last, so that the present completes the twelfth consecutive month from which these plants have produced bloom.

Mr. C. Wall, Bath, had his Glorious in good shape. Messrs. Engelmann, Allwood, and Stuart Low all staged their usual fine displays, prominent varieties being Brenda (chestnut-red), Master Michael Stoop (cerise), and Daphne (heliotrope-mauve, paling to French grey).

FRUIT

The champion decorated table class, for which £72 10s. was offered in prizes, with a 15-guinea trophy to be won outright, brought forward some wonderful fruit which showed no evidence of the trying season. Deeply-coloured Nectarines were Pine Apple and Dryden. Peaches Dymond and Peregrine, Plum Kirk's Blue Gage and Jefferson, Apple Lady Sudley (not the best for an amateur, being inferior to Jas. Grieve), Pear Triomph de Vienne, and several varieties of Grapes were staged by Mr. S. Barker from the Clumber Gardens of the Duke of Newcastle. Lord Belper, the Marchioness of Tweeddale, Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Messrs. Webber and Son, Minehead, and Viscount Hambleden all sent fine exhibits in this class.

There were classes for Grapes and other choice fruits, Lord Belper's gardener securing the medal offered by GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, together with the first prize for the best four bunches of Grapes (two black, two white).

Wonderful vegetables from the Hon. Vicary Gibbs (gardener, Mr. Beckett) and Messrs. Sutton and Sons, each staged in their inimitable way, as well as fine collections from Messrs. Dickson and Robinson, down to smaller exhibits from cottagers, were there.

The Society granted Awards of Merit to Messrs. Stark and Sons, Ryburgh, for Sidalcea The Jewel; to Pitcairn Campbell, Esq., for his two Phlox decussata, Olive Pitcairn Campbell (white) and Ann Pitcairn Campbell (salmony-rose); to Messrs. Kelway, Langport, for Gladioli Sky Rocket and Early Morning.

H.M. the Queen honoured the show by a visit on the opening day, and was said to have remarked to her gardener from Sandringham (Mr. T. H. Cook, who was one of the judges) that she hoped that he was taking note of all the good things.

This year's show will rank among the best held at Shrewsbury. A friendly note of criticism would be on the bad, stuffy atmosphere of the tents. The weather was cool, but one heard continually, both from visitors and exhibitors, complaints of the lack of fresh air. The tents are large, but top ventilation is not sufficient to move the body of air on the ground-level when they are packed as they are at this show. However, the very capable Committee deal with greater problems than this, and no doubt it will be remedied in due course, for if inlets for air were provided by a continuous flap 2 feet to 3 feet from the ground (which could be closed in stormy weather) running around both the ends and sides of the tents, probably sufficient fresh air would be obtained to keep the atmosphere sweet.

A. SWALLOW.

The Rose season in Southe Scotland

This has been a remarkable year fo cessful floral culture, and Roses, assu have been no exception to the prevailing In every garden where the fairest and impressive flowers are adequately culti Roses, Oriental Lilies, Carnations, Peas, Gladioli, and Shirley Poppies (artistic capabilities can very easily be estimated) have been large and lumin their influence, beyond all descr During the last three months I have se early flowers in Aberdeenshire, Ross and Inverness-shire, and the later va including those I have already mentior the most southern of Scottish countie in all those regions their artistic and ins influence has been supreme. They had rain to create their perfect growth, an light, not seldom of an electric charac give radiance to their flowers. One first Roses to open with me on the wal sheltering garage at the head of my border was Mme. Edouard Herrio famous variety raised by Pernet Ducl Lyons, who has given us so many noblest floral possessions, followed by Alfred Carriere, my favourite among ing pure white varieties, which, in a to its peculiar and pendulous grace, ceedingly fragrant. Emily Gray and ing Mrs. Herbert Stevens, two Ro strongly contrasted colours, which I h no means found floriferous; Romeo, as a climber is an abundant and e bloomer; "the fair Ophelia," son sparing of her grandly impressive fl Paul's Scarlet Climber, raised by one greatest friends, which blooms with s effectiveness and great facility; Dr Fleet, Zephyrine Drouhin, and S White, which had 100 fragrant, micr blooms and is, in all respects, a v gem. The uniquely lovely Angela (Pernet Ducher) and my own beauti not too robust Lyons Namesake were finer in their wonderful colour this than I have ever had the gratification ing them before. Remarkable fo beauty have been such Irish Roses as Emblem, Norman Lambert (of most tive hue), White Ensign, a pure whi grant creation of great impressi Gwyneth Jones, and Mrs. A. R. Barra while older introductions from the E Isle, such as Margaret Dickson (whic fails to be effective) and George and Dickson, noble "rivals in renown," are splendidly fragrant, have been q conspicuous in their decorative influen former years.

DAVID R. WILLIA

VEGETABLES

Two winter vegetables

IN the warmer counties there is tim Turnips and Spinach, having been ful with both sown the first week tember, and this month with the suc one frequently favour us with exc weather in the matter of sunshi warmth, when the young plants mak headway under it, and the heavy dew prevalent at this time of the year. Th few roots more in demand than throughout the winter, either as a s dish or for flavouring. It has been s this vegetable will grow anywhere may grow, but whether one could ca eatable is quite a different question. us know that the quicker the root mat better the flavour, so that a fairly g not necessarily freshly manured, one carried Peas or Lettuce, would be s

dug, and then a thin coat of soot or revious to forking it over sufficing for hese vegetables, making the ground ately firm, especially on light soils be- awing the drills, which should be from nes to 15 inches asunder and 1½ inches

n the almost daily rainfall it has been ifficult on some soil to procure a suit- ed-bed of late, but as both crops are ant brook no delay in committing the the ground the first opportunity. The season favours our enemy the slug, must be on the alert night and morn- irreparable mischief will be done, y among the Spinach. A mixture of nd soot will generally defy their at- so that an early thinning out may be ed, 6 inches to 8 inches being ample nts standing throughout the winter. nay think by leaving them closer they each other from cold winds and frost, e exposure of each plant while grow- s proven the best policy to adopt. es such as All the Year Round, s Red Globe, and Green-topped Stone able for these late sowings of Turnips, rickly is the better Spinach generally; he western counties the Round with- qually as well as the former. To en- quick growth and destruction of seed- eeds keep the soil frequently hoed er a couple of dry, bright days come

J. MAYNE.

ction of growing crops of Potatoes

than 750 applications have already eived by the Ministry of Agriculture r from growers who desire to have ops of Potatoes examined. The ob- the issue by the Ministry of Purity ites for use in the event of the sale of , or part of it, for seed. The inspec- ust be completed before the haulms Potatoes die down, so that those who wish to place themselves in a to meet the increasing demand for tatoes certified to be true to type without further delay, send in their ons for inspection to the Ministry.

mato culture under glass

research station for nursery and garden crops at Cheshunt, in Herts, ntly issued its report for the year is surprising what progress is being that institution in applying new ge to cultivation. In regard to s in glasshouses, for example, the station reports that the usual of manuring practised by growers is ich in excess of crop requirements. es 30 or even 50 tons or more of anure per acre is put into the soil anting; 15 tons is shown to be ample, vier dressings produce no heavier he report tells us also that if the nder glass is allowed to dry out in g the crop will be diminished con- , and it advocates, therefore, the flooding of the soil in the winter.

ops of Tomatoes in 1925 and 1926 aller than those of any of the previ- e years. The research station has ed the causes of this shortage, and t in both years it was due to the the tops of the plants to yield fruit. bottom trusses yielded well up to but the top trusses did not. The failure of these top trusses was dif- the two years. In 1925 a period of ry weather seems to have occurred ne the sixth to eighth trusses were , and the dry atmosphere in the as most unfavourable to the setting it. That is shown by the fact that where growers shaded their houses and moistened the atmosphere the top trusses set perfectly. Growers are invited to note this point and are advised to prove the value of applying a light shading to the glass during the heat of summer this year, where they have Tomato crops still to harvest. A mixture of flour and water gives a sufficient shading for the purpose.

In 1926 the cause of failure of the top trusses was damage done to the plant in the spring through root injury. This damage was due to dryness of soil. For some reason unexplained Tomato soils under glass dried out that year some three weeks earlier than in any of the previous seven years. That dryness was accompanied by cold nights, and soil temperature was lowered. The roots became at once susceptible to attack by the black dot fungus, which usually does not attack Tomato plants till the end of the season. The disease, therefore, stepping in early, took full toll of the crop when the top trusses of fruit had set. These did not swell properly, and later failed generally. To prevent that happening again, Tomato growers are advised to keep the soil in their glasshouses uniformly moist and warm in the spring.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

Rhododendrons not flowering

I have planted some Rhododendrons in my drive, which the first year bloomed well. The second year they did not have a single bloom on, yet they are apparently growing and flourishing nicely. Can you suggest anything I can do to encourage bloom for next year in way of manures, peat, etc.? AMATEUR.

[This is not at all unusual, as the nurserymen generally send out only those plants which are well set with flower-buds, and the strain of flowering, in addition to the plants having been moved and planted in less congenial soil, very often renders them too weak

The Willow Gentian (Gentiana asclepiadea) is seen in the foreground in the wooded slopes of the Tyrol

It is a beautiful subject for naturalising in open woods, and flowers at this season

(See "Plants to Name," page 541)

to build up flower-buds for the following year. As you say they are growing luxuriantly there is little cause for anxiety on your part, for they will most probably bloom all right again next year. The greatest assistance you can give at the present time is a mulch of litter, and take care, should the weather become hot and dry, that they do not suffer from lack of moisture at their roots.]

Cutting back old wall trees and pointing Bay trees

I am asking your advice *re* the hard cutting back of old wall trees, chiefly Pears. Most of them are 50 years old and the spurs are, in many cases, a yard or more away from the walls. Would it be possible to bring them back into bearing if they are pruned back hard, leaving only a short piece where they branch out from the main branches? There are upwards of 100 trees, and they are all 10 feet high and would be a large item to grub them all out. Also would it do to point Bay trees into shape now? "CHAS."

Wilts.

[Yes, you might cut back a number of your trees as you suggest if they are healthy, in which way you would bring back the growth to the face of the wall. Such drastic treatment is rarely resorted to, and we would advise treating a small number first, and in future being governed by results; but in any case cut every branch of any particular tree selected, as to cut half and leave half is useless, and would end in failure. It will be two or three years before such trees fruit, and grubbing out and replacing with young ones would be the most profitable in the end. This must be done in February or March. Yes, you may safely shape your Bay trees during the present month.]

GREENHOUSE

Soil for Camellias

(B. E. Watson).—An excellent compost for Camellias consists of three parts sweet and fresh turfy loam, such as was cut from pasture land in the autumn and stacked until the present time, and one part made up of well-seasoned leaf-mould, peat, and sharp sand. All should be free from lime or other calcareous matter, and the plants should never be watered with lime-water. Potting should be carried out only when the plants have filled their present pots with roots. There is no necessity whatever to repot every year. Every third year would be nearer the point, but all depends upon the growth and vigour of the plants.

Cut flowers

I have 350 feet run of glass (four houses each 15 feet wide) and have only grown Tomatoes in them and a few Chrysanthemums afterwards. I have been advised to purchase bulbs and force them in a small greenhouse which I hardly ever have heated, but considering the price of bulbs (60s. to 90s. per 1,000) I do not think I would get more than that for the flowers. Then I have been advised to sow seeds of one kind and another, and bring along flowers for Christmas. Certainly I want flowers of some kind from Christmas onwards for the local shops. What, in your opinion, would be the most profitable line of action? J. L.

[Judging from the quantities of bulbs forced for the production of cut flowers and for selling as room plants there must at least be a living to be made from the business. Of course, you would require expert labour if not yourself trained to the business, for it does require skill to do these well. As to sowing seeds for raising plants to bloom at Christmas and later, only skilled workmen could produce "the goods." Primulas of kinds, Cyclamen, Cinerarias, winter-flowering Begonias, and a few others can all be had in flower at that season, and draw good prices if well done, only the seeds should have been sown months ago. Indeed, in the case of the Cyclamen the seeds are sown now for blooming 15 months hence. You mention Chrysanthemums. These, if well handled, can be had in fine condition at Christmas and into the New Year. Of course, special varieties must be chosen. The names of these we can give you if you care to let us know.]

Preparing for autumn propagation

(T. McCann).—The most suitable soil for the autumn propagation of cuttings consists of two parts fibrous loam, one part well-decayed leaf-mould, and one part coarse silver sand. This should be well mixed together and passed through a ¼-inch sieve, placing the roughest portion in the bottom of the boxes or pots to act as drainage. Fill the receptacles to within ½ inch of the top and level and press down firm. It is beneficial to scald the soil before inserting the cuttings to destroy any insect life and purify it. This should be done several days in advance of inserting the cuttings to allow time for the soil to drain and settle down. A good sprinkling of sand should be placed on top when inserting the cuttings, to work down around the base as the work proceeds. Yes, the cuttings of Antirrhinums, Pentstemons, Pinks, Violas, etc., should be cut across immediately below a joint. The cuttings should be from 3 inches to 4 inches in length and taken from flower shoots. Remove the lowermost leaves and insert them half their length at a distance of 3 inches apart, and make firm as the work proceeds. When finished, give them a good sprinkling of water from a fine-rosed can to settle the soil around them, and place in a cold frame on a bed of ashes. Keep the frames close and shaded during hot sunshine for a month or six weeks, when the majority should be well rooted and air may be given. Do not water the cuttings without the soil becomes dry or the cuttings show sign of flagging, as too much water is one of the chief causes of cuttings damping off. Being that your frame is shaded with limewash no further shading is necessary. Try the following method with the Helianthemums, or Rock Roses:—Select shoots 4 inches in length of partly-ripened wood, fill some 5-inch pots of the soil already mentioned, with the addition of a little more sand, make this firm, and insert six cuttings around the edge of each pot. Treat them exactly in the same manner as the other cuttings and you should have no trouble with them damping off. We find these strike readily in a bed of sandy soil and covered by bell-glasses or cloches.

Eelworms at the roots of Carnations

(T. McCann).—The slaked lime which you have in the box and has now become a fine white powder is quite suitable and may be used as described on page 507. Take care that the liquid is clear when using, and allow the sediment to remain at the bottom if used for pot plants. It is advisable to mix the lime and water the day previous to using. The difference between quick or unslaked lime, which is one and the same thing, and stone lime, known more widely as ground builder's lime, chalk, and crushed shell, is that the former contains 90 per cent. of pure quicklime, whilst the others which can be recommended for using on light soils contains a much less proportion.

FLOWER GARDEN

Sweet Peas and their tendrils

I would like to know if it is doing harm to the Sweet Peas to clip off the tendrils, or better to leave them on and take off the laterals, which I am doing. Will be to hear your expert opinion.

St. Boswells.

[If growing for exhibition it is sup be an advantage to remove the tend for garden decoration and cut-flower it is hardly worth the trouble.]

FRUIT

Seedling figs

In my own garden, and in at le others near, seedling Fig trees have both last year and again this year. of no Fig tree in the near neighbour the origin of the seedlings is someth mystery. Can you suggest any expl Is it a common occurrence? It is q to me. And are the Figs, if grown o to be any good? (CAPT.) F. W.

Salisbury.

[The cultivated Fig can be propag means of seed, suckers, layers, and budding and grafting. We should th it is likely that the seedlings have your garden from seed which has bee by birds. If the seedlings are from variety of Fig we see no reason, if prepared to wait the necessary peri they should not in due course bear goo Seedling Figs take from six to eig before they attempt to fruit; sometim never fruit. If you desire to hasten ling Fig into the fruitful stage y graft it into an older plant. We do commend the propagation of the Fig b of seed unless new varieties is the view. It would pay better to purchas tree of a known variety than to g seedlings on, unless, of course, you pared to grow your seedlings on pur experiment and take the risk of dis ment later.]

Pear sawfly

(W. A. B.).—Your little black have arrived safely this time and pro the larval stage of the Pear Sawfl campa limacina, Cameron). The la sometimes called slugworms, becau bear a superficial resemblance to slu foliage of Pears and Cherries are m damaged by this pest, but records attacks by this or nearly allied spec Apples, Plums, Hawthorn, and ma plants. The life-history of the Pea is as follows:—The adult flies appea and June. They are small, black, four wings. The females lay their slits, which they cut in the foliage w saw-like apparatus. This saw-like a is situated at the end of the abdome eggs give rise to larvæ after an in period of from 10 to 14 days. W larvæ are fully fed they lose their appearance and change to orang caterpillars, not unlike that of the Go Sawfly. The fully-fed caterpillars m way down to the soil and spin a within which they pupate and a fre of Sawflies emerge in about a f There are always two, and sometim generations each year. The last ge of the season, when fully fed, enter and spin cocoons as mentioned ab they remain in the larval stage throu winter, pupating in early spring. the affected trees when the slugw actually feeding upon the foliage is, the best control measure. Nicotine the best for the purpose. Naphtha into the soil at the rate of 2 ozs. pe yard at the end of February will re caterpillars resting in their cocoons.

Apple mildew

Will you kindly tell me, thro medium of your paper, the cause of

Orange defoliating and being such a our, and could you tell me what to do edy same? I should be greatly I imagine it is shortage of some chemical, and if I know what, I would to land. PUZZLED.

specimen Apple shoots you have sent is are affected with Apple Mildew, s caused by the fungus Podosphæra cha, Salm. We should advise you to your trees at once and cut out the d shoots. If you examine the shoots you will notice that they are d with the mycelium of the fungus. uld cut out the whole of this whitened Next spring, when the buds begin d, the affected trees should be ex- again; all whitened shoots, whether flower-trusses or fruit-buds, should out and burned. If the above two ns be well carried out you should le trouble with Apple Mildew next but if the work is carried out in- ly the disease will break out as bad Spray the affected trees with soluble phur. One gallon of concentrated to 60 gallons of water is a useful id to help control Apple Mildew.]

MISCELLANEOUS

nging trees

trees in a neighbour's garden over- my garden, greatly to its detriment. act fail can I compel the owner to cut boughs? It is a job which would a day. "SOUTHERN."

r neighbour permits the branches of to overhang your ground you can im to so prune them that the points clear of your garden. That is to branches must be so trimmed back drip from them does not fall on your In the event of his refusing to do are justified in cutting back such h your half of the dividing fence. t be done from your own side of the Ve think that by asking your neigh- a courteous manner to have the medied he will see the justice of your nd have the thing put right.]

nd destruction of weed in lawn

Baker Cresswell).—The plant you e Procumbent Pearl Wort (Sagina ns), which has been exceptionally ne in lawns and gardens this year. al from rockwork and borders can rried out by hand-weeding, but a ing of lawn sand applied during the ek in October at the rate of 1 lb. to e square yards would clear it out lawn and encourage the grasses to tent that seedlings could no longer Ve advise you to procure the lawn a reliable firm who will quarantee ss, as lawn sand which has been bout on ironmongers' premises for e is undesirable.

ring shrubs for waterside, also

Gifford).—Hypericum calycinum, shallon, Cornus alba, Rosa vir- otoneaster horizontalis, Pernettya hybrida, Salix rosmarinifolius, variety, Periwinkles in variety, ileata, Sweet Gale (Myrica Gale), nifolia, Rubus irenæus, Berberis Berberis Aquifolium, Tree Ivy ted), Euonymus alatus, Skimmia accinium pennsylvanicum. Ferns: ris pennsylvanica, Polystichum P. munitum, Lomaria magel- cksonia pilosiuscula, Osmunda cinnamonea, Onoclea sensibilis, acrostichoides, Woodwardia vir- angustifolia.

Treatment of Californian Poppy (Romneya Coulteri)

I have a Californian Poppy in my garden which was planted about two years ago. It has not, so far, been pruned in any way, and has grown very tall. Would you tell me how to treat it? Should it be pruned, if so, to what extent and when? BM/CAE5.

[About the first week in November cut all the growths back to within a foot of the ground—providing your plant is growing in the open border—and protect its crown by placing a heap of coal-ashes around it, leaving about 3 inches of the remaining stems protruding from the top. The second week in April remove all the ashes and prune the shoots down to live wood, which will then be developing fresh shoots, prick up the surface, and give a sprinkling of bone-meal. If growing at the foot of a warm wall train a few of the best-ripened shoots to the wall, removing only the unripened tips.]

Belladonna Lilies not flowering

I have had some of the above for some years planted in a southern aspect and in well-drained loamy soil, but up to the present they have never flowered. Can you suggest a remedy? I am of opinion that some little time ago I saw a note in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED that they should not be planted too deep. W. PAINTER.

[The bulbs should be planted 9 inches deep, the soil should be rich, well drained, and of an open, friable nature in itself. Such soil naturally dries out quickly at the foot of hot southern walls, and for this reason frequent applications of water, with an occasional dose of liquid-manure, is necessary to build up strong flowering bulbs. Of course, this should only be applied during the growing season, and as soon as the leaves turn yellow, water should be withheld altogether. If you follow these instructions your Lilies should bloom all right in due course, but from what you say we suspect that the roots of your plants have been too dry during their growing season, the Belladonna being a gross feeder.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

Gentian.—Gentiana asclepiadea (the Willow-leaved Gentian). A beautiful subject for open woods. Its effect at this season among the grass in a wood is, indeed, charming. It is freely increased from seeds and by division. Native of Europe and much in evidence in the Tyrol and in the woods on the lower slopes of the Dolomites. (See illustration, page 539.)

S. Devon.—1, Carnation; do not recognise, probably a seedling; 2, Mimulus glutinosus; 3, Buddleia Lindleyana.

W. Mooring.—Roses: 1, Mme. Segond Weber; 2, Rev. F. Page Roberts; 3, probably Mme. Leon Pain; 4, this fell to pieces when we lifted it out of the box. It might be C. V. Haworth.

A. C. Smithson.—Carnation King of the Yellows, an old variety. A rich sulphur-yellow self.

G. G. Andiner.—Flower absolutely decayed. Please send a better specimen in a tin box.

H. E. S.—Othonnopsis cheirifolia syn. Othonna cheirifolia.

Dr. Speirs.—Lilium Henryi. It is not unusual for it to grow 6 feet or even more in height. It is one of the best Lilies ever introduced.

A. Cravan.—1, Lilium pardalinum Johnsoni; 2, Centaurea macrocephala (Great Golden Knapweed); 3, Veronica salicifolia.

J. H. E., Tyrone.—1, Diplacus glutinosus syn. Mimulus glutinosus, native of California; 2, Euonymus japonicus; 3, Cassinia fulvida syn. Diplopappus chrysophyllus; 4, Olearia Gunniana.

NAMES OF FRUITS

J. Whitton, Claygate.—A local Apple in Surrey and Sussex known as July Pippin.

Bangor Show

Bangor Horticultural Society's summer show, which has won an outstanding place among the flower shows of Ulster, was held in the Castle grounds, Bangor, on Wednesday of last week. All records in the way of entries and attendance were eclipsed, and the quality of the exhibits, notwithstanding the unfavourable spring and summer, was even better than in previous years. The show has taken an outstanding position among the flower shows in Ulster. This was only the fifth that the Society had held, and every year was better than the previous one. This year there were 1,250 entries, an advance of from 150 to 200 on last year.

The opening ceremony was performed in brilliant sunshine by the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, who said that although she was only a novice in the matter of gardening she counted herself among the great band of flower-lovers. They in Northern Ireland were sometimes heard to complain of their climate. Even if that complaint was justified they had, at any rate, one great consolation—that the flowers seemed to appreciate it. She could speak from personal experience, as three years ago she started a rock garden, and friends from England would scarcely believe that it had only been in existence a short time, so wonderfully had the much-maligned climate of Northern Ireland dealt with her plants.

Magnificent displays of flowers and vegetables were staged in the various marquees. The array of Sweet Pea was wonderful, and competition was very keen, and it would be difficult to beat the vase which won a gold medal for Lady Clanmorris. The Roses exhibited by amateurs were very good, perhaps remarkably so, when the early frosty weather is remembered. The bad weather of the past fortnight also militated against the blooms. In the fruit section Apples were excellent, and Grapes and Peaches and hard fruits were very fine. Vegetables were better than last year.

A particularly fine show was that of the various nursery firms—the Donard Nursery, Messrs. Dicksons, Lowe, and Gibson, Ltd., Hewitts, and W. Hamilton and Co. The latter firm was awarded first prize and a gold medal for a collection of Sweet Pea in the nurserymen's class, a gold medal for a display of Gladioli, etc., and a gold medal for a novel display of artistic floral designs, which included a miniature airship composed of flowers. The other nurseries mentioned were all awarded gold medals, and a similar award was made Mr. R. M. Jamison, the Downshire Gardens, Bangor, for a rock garden exhibit.

Gardener's claim

An unusual claim for compensation was made at Hereford County Court, recently, when Alfred Broome, formerly gardener to Mrs. Clive, Whitefield Court, asserted that he had lost the sight of his right eye through pollen from a Cineraria.

Broome said he was in the greenhouse preparing 25 blooms which Mrs. Clive wanted to give as a wedding present when pollen from one of the flowers entered his right eye. It pained very much, and he rubbed it for 20 minutes. Some days later he found that he was going blind in the eye. Two opera-

tions were performed, but he lost the sight of that eye.

Dr. Barnes, of Hereford Eye Hospital, said there was severe hæmorrhage of the right eye, which might have been caused by hard rubbing or the sudden breaking of an artery, but he saw no reason to doubt the man's statement that it was poisoned by Cineraria pollen.

Dr. Richardson, for respondent, said Broome's left eye was affected by sclerosis, and in his opinion the right eye had been damaged by the same cause.

Judge Ingham, stopping the case, said it was not proved that the pollen had caused loss of sight, and the claim was dismissed.

Benn Brothers' Other Journals

The Cabinet Maker.—Special Dominions Issue: Modern Furniture and the Dominion Market, Dominion Home Ideals, Empire Timbers for Furniture, Inside Some Dominion Homes, Wood-bending Machinery; Illustrated News for Woodworkers.

The Chemical Age. — Acid-resisting Materials; The Problem of Corrosion and Its Prevention; "Micro-Organisms in Chemical Industry," by Dr. G. N. Dyson.

The Electrician.—"Factory Cable Protection," by J. O. Knowles, M.A.; "Loaded Telegraph Cables," by J. J. Gilbert; "Electrical Contractions," by "Feeder Box"; "Inventions and Patents," by J. Hettinger.

The Fruit Grower.—Research in Strawberry Culture; Guernsey Growers' Marketing Problems; Fruit Preservation.

The Gas World.—Producing and Selling Household Ammonia; Concrete Roads and Gas Pipes; "Elementary Thoughts on Gas Distribution," by Walter Hole.

The Hardware Trade Journal.—Dominion and Colonial Issue: Empire Trade Development; Canada's Sixty Years of Progress; Indian Trade Problems; Hardware Opportunities in Australasia; Packing Tools for Export; Selling Overseas; Questions for the Manufacturer.

The Timber Trades Journal.—Facts about British Timber: The Position in Latvia; Trinidad's Timbers.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

Sutton and Sons, Reading.—Seeds for summer and autumn sowing, flower and vegetable.

Staket Co., Bedford.—New flower-stake for bulbs.

H. Den Ouden and Son, Boskoop, Holland.—General plants for autumn, 1927, and spring, 1928—Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Hydrangeas, Coniferæ, climbers, Clematis, Roses, evergreen shrubs.

Carter and Co., Raynes Park, S.W. 20.—Tools and requisites, flower and vegetable fertilisers, worm killer, Daisy killer, and insecticides.

Laxton Bros., Bedford.—New fruits—Apples, Plums, Pears, Gooseberries, Currants, Raspberries, Blackberries, Strawberries, and Roses.

G. Beckwith and Son, Hoddesdon, Herts.—Wholesale price list of new Roses.

Wellesley Farms, Mass., U.S.A.—Irises.

Ant. Roozen and Son, Overveen, Holland.—Dutch and Cape bulbs, Hyacinths, Cape Hyacinths, Tulips, Narcissus, Crocuses, Begonias, Anemones, Dahlias, Cyclamen, Freesias, Snowdrops, Gladiolus, Irises, Lilium, Pæonia, Phlox, Primula, Ranunculus, etc.

A. W. Thorpe, Birmingham Road, Lichfield. — Chrysanthemums, early-flowering special novelties.

Toogood and Sons, Ltd., Southampton.—Bulbs, seeds, Roses, garden requisites, etc. Special early-forcing bulbs.

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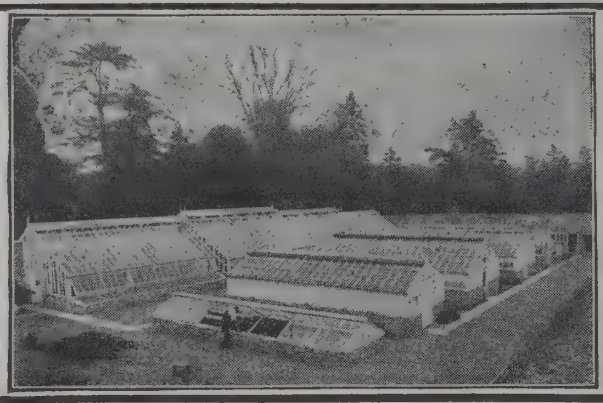

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Woodland Work for September

aining, layering, seed sowing, preparing ground for smal evergreens, and other seasonable work in plantations

RING the present month such pro-ss should be made with the general rk of the woodlands that towards its early in October the forester may be give his undivided attention to plant-rations. To enable him to do this ring the land into a proper state for ption of the plants, draining, trench-ching, and pitting should at once be

Pruning should now be brought to and all thinnings removed from the The removal of large evergreens e finished without delay. Watering, e present time, been required, s to be feared cold and sod-e of the land unfavourable e transplanted stock, and, as f the young ill not mature y wet soils, the ill be all the ble to be cut spring frosts. efully through ns formed last emoving dead preparing the or filling up. ination of the d the land may extent reveal s of failure—mproper plant-nuch pruning, ancy of mois-unfavourable ers may now from coppice here the land n previously and prepared; uld be firmly wn and covered with a few inches Layering may be practised upon the , Spanish Chestnut, Birch, Alder, e, Plane, Poplar, and Willow. efully performed it affords a cheap itious method of filling up thinly-ppices; and the connection which is ime maintained between the layers arent stools enables the former to forward upon rocky soils where ted trees would either fail alto-make very slow progress. Such uld be selected as have completed d year's growth; and if it be not layer again from these, they may be severed from the stools at the end of either the second or the third year, according to the quality of the soil. In good land the shoots from layers will sometimes attain a length of upwards of 4 feet during the first year.

Lay out and allot coppice falls for the coming season, as the first in the market generally command the highest prices. Small lots by inviting more competition generally command relatively higher prices than large ones. While the weather continues open wash young trees in situations where they are liable to the attacks of hares and rabbits. Towards the end of the month collect the seeds of Birch, Maple, and Sycamore. Those of the Birch, Barberry, and Wild Cherry may be sown at once, and the Maple and Sycamore may be stowed away for spring.

If the ground has not yet been prepared for the smaller evergreens these should now be raised and pitted or planted temporarily in lines upon fairly dry or warm soil ready for after removal. Such plants may be afterwards removed late in the season with greater safety than such as have not been previously lifted.

In the nursery continue to dig between the rows, and clear off weeds by hoeing and raking, removing them to the rot heap, and afterwards treating them with some hot lime. Plant out evergreen hedges—Holly, Yew, Lonicera nitida, Laurel—and transplant evergreen Oaks and seedling Hollies.

Where accidents to trees have been occasioned by the late high winds (and these are numerous in consequence of the great weight of foliage and the poverty of the sap), prune off the stumps close to the trunk, and apply a plaster of white paint or coal. All dead and decaying wood should be removed, and the stump or the wound upon the trunk should be thoroughly dried out before anything is put upon it.

Specimen Hydrangea in a Cornish garden

Notes of the Week

Hydrangea in a Cornish garden

I SEND a photograph of a Hydrangea growing in the gardens of Mr. J. Cliff, Manacle View, St. Keverne. It is on one stock, is 20 feet through at the base, and 11 feet high. At least half of the flower-heads measure 10 inches across.

W. F. Tremelling.
Coverack,
Cornwall.

Temple Gardens Exhibition

There are twice the number of entries for this year's exhibition of London-grown flowers held at the Inner Temple Gardens, Victoria Embankment, on September 3rd, 4th, and 5th. The exhibition is organised by the London Gardens Guild in conjunction with the "Daily Express," and the show supersedes all other events of its kind. There are more gardens to be seen this year. James Carter and Co. have constructed a replica of the London Championship Back Garden, and a model garden is put down by Messrs. E. J. Redgrove and Son, with "Neolite" paving by Noel Thomas. Messrs. Rhymney Quarries have made a unique garden with paving-stone and garden ornaments. The most pro-

minent feature is a wonderful display of London-grown flowers by amateurs, including corporate displays as well as individual exhibits. A number of Borough Councils send displays of cut flowers, and there are trade exhibits by Amos Perry, S. R. Russell, Ltd., R. Neal and Sons, Benj. R. Cant and Sons, Lowe and Gibson, Ltd., Castle Nurseries, R. J. Case, Isaac House and Son, Reamsbottom and Co., Wilson and Agar, H. Langridge and Co., Allwood Bros., Castles Shipbreaking Co., H. J. Jones, Shearns, C. Engelmann, Ltd., W. J. Unwin, and A. Dawkins. There is also a Gardens Guild Advisory Bureau with a rota of qualified gardeners in attendance all the time, and the Ministry of Agriculture have a tent for the sale of the Ministry's publications.

Tuberous-rooted Begonias

Messrs. Blackmore and Langdon continue to produce improved varieties of this popular family of plants, the most recent results being remarkable not so much for the large size of the blossoms as for the rich and uncommon colours which they possess, varying, as they do, from the most intense scarlet to a pale rose. One variety in particular is very beautiful, its flowers being of fine form and of a pleasing cherry-rose tint. An extensive collection is in full beauty and well worth a visit.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Comments on a recent issue

THREE points raised in your issue of July 30th have specially interested your Scandinavian readers:—

(1) The hybrid Mullein mentioned by Mr. Turner, of Godalming, has spontaneously originated in a neighbour's garden and was successfully propagated in mine, while crossings of both V. phlomoides and V. olympicum with our indigenous V. Thapsus were recorded, all of which were characterised by larger flowers, some even larger than both the parents.

(2) The flattering memory of your correspondent "A. B. C.," of "the wind-swept moors of Northern Sweden." As I am writing from my cottage and garden on just such a spot allow me to recommend to "A. B. C."—or any owner of subsequent letters of the alphabet—a few woodland beauties of Northern Sweden which I feel convinced would take kindly to any British soil not too exposed to heat and drought:—Aconitum septentrionale, the egregiously high (over 7 feet), bracteate, lilac form of the European species A. Lycoctonum, Mulgedium alpinum with its pure blue flowers in late summer, and Anemone (Pulsatilla) patens, the early summer pride of Northern Scandinavian crofts.

(3) There was an allusion to an, alas! only too true, observation that florists and nurseries too often pester us with inferior forms of Foxgloves, while insufficient attention is being paid to the real improvement in strains called Gloxiniæ-flora. I cannot find, even in the best, any similarity with Sinningia (no Gloxinia being in cultivation!), but I am astonished that a curiosity of great gardening interest, the monstrous queer-shaped top-flower of some of these cultivated strains is seldom mentioned in literature, neither was it alluded to in your paragraph. H. B. GOODWIN (DR.).

Airedale, Saltsjöbaden.

Raising seeds

Can any of your readers give me some suggestions as to raising seeds which are slow in germination? If my seeds germinate within a month or so all goes well, but those which much exceed this period usually fail from the soil turning green and ultimately becoming covered either with a mossy growth or, still worse, with a black slime. Stirring the surface ameliorates its condition, but can hardly be good for seedlings which are just germinating. I thought of sterilising the soil, but will seedlings grow in sterilised soil? Can I use sterilised (burnt) soil for the top ½ inch, say, with some fertile soil below it? A. H. WOLLEY-DOD.

[Seeds germinate perfectly well in soil sterilised by heat, though there is a little delay—amounting, perhaps, to two or three days. Much of the green growth referred to, however, is derived from water used in watering the pots or from dust which falls from the air, and the best way to prevent its growth is to keep the pots in the dark until germination begins. This can be done by covering them with brown-paper.]

Lilium candidum

In the garden here I had two large tubs planted with these Lilies, all of which flowered well, but their decorative effect was entirely ruined by the disease, which robbed them of their foliage and left them in a deplorable condition. Since reading the very interesting article over the signature J. Cornhill, on "Lilies easily grown," in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED of August 13th, I have instructed the gardener to take up the bulbs, leave them on the surface of the ground until they show signs of growth, and then barely to cover them with soil and to await results. A few small clumps of these Lilies in the borders have been very little affected by the disease, but with the exception of Lilium auratum in pots, which have succeeded very well, we are unfortunate with Lilies, even the Crown Imperials going blind after their first year. The soil is heavy, but we give peat and sand and wood-ash to lighten it.

L. L. YORKE SMITH.

Boughfield Cottage, Sidmouth.

Gentiana sino-ornata

Plenty has been learnt now about the needs of this delightful plant, whose wonderful blue flowers continue in bloom from September into the winter in utter disregard of frost or snow. In my garden I have seen these flowers in November white with frost and quite stiff in the morning, yet as fresh as ever again the same afternoon. I always divide mine in August-September, just before the flowers appear, thinning out young shoots to include a node where a young rootlet has started. These I dibble into some well-rotted leaf-mould and pack with some Moss (Polystichum) from a wood. The dark Moss supports the stem and its bud, and not only forms a good background for the blue flowers, which are not prevented from opening in good time by the operation, but also keeps the rooting stems damp. These cuttings can equally well be placed in a pot or bowl and grown on for house decoration, to be planted out again later. J. K.

Verbascums

Where the seedsmen get their specific names I know not, but I have long come to the conclusion that the tall kinds that produce fertile seed are exceedingly useful plants for the back of the mixed border. They fill up gaps between perennials, and, biennials, it is easy to spud them out produce too many plants. The V. phœ hybrids are disappointing, often pro flowers of a washed-out purple hue.

As Col. Wolley-Dod, like myself, se be an admirer of the genus, he has no suffered the annoyance of seeing his devoured by the larvæ of the Mullein (Cucullia verbasci). The ragged cond the foliage produced by this caterpill be avoided by occasional spraying w advertised remedy, "Katakilla," w have found makes short work of these

HAROLD DOW

The Grange, Martock, Somerset.

Rose Silver Moon

I was very interested to see the note Rose in the issue of August 20th planted it here about 1910, and it has into an enormous bush, overhanging in one direction and throwing great over a Thuya hedge in the other.

Four years ago I took some cuttin and transferred them to a Devonshire where in two years' time it covered the side of the cottage. I see no trace of in it. Creamy-white, of delicious sce with a very large single bloom is my tion of it. Altogether a Rose to lo cherish. It was neglected here for years, but last autumn we thinned an out drastically, and this summer it ha a new lease of life and has made gre rods from the base 10 feet and 12 feet

I believe it came from Benjamin C Colchester, but it no longer appears catalogue. I would gladly send cutt it to anyone who is interested in it.

P. B. HALC

63, Alumshine Road, Bournemouth.

Thalictrum dipterocarpum

I have tried this in dry and damp and find that it succeeds far better latter. I put in some self-sown se two years ago, and this year they ha very well.

Trowbridge.

Grazing in grass orchards

With reference to your article on "(in Grass Orchards" (issue August 6t 486) I think a good deal of the advic is open to criticism from a practical p view. I will, however, confine my r to one point alone, *i.e.*, the ques renovating a poor pasture in a grass c The writer states that "either (1) pigs be turned in to root up the turf . . ., *better still*, grass should be *ploughed* cultivated for two or three years by int ping with vegetables and roots. . . . end of three or four years lay down t again." I have an idea this advice cently broadcast per wireless, and I ha trying to imagine the look on the fa practical West Country grass orchar he listened-in that evening. The would be worthy of "Punch." I kn West Country—the home of the orchard—very well, but in all my ex I have never heard of ploughing an vating a grass orchard once it ha established. I agree that the turf in orchard should be maintained in a fi condition. This can be done by tre as well as the rest of the permanent on the farm. Protect all trees where sary and stock the orchard with cattle and pigs, in turn, whenever p Harrowing and rolling the turf is e practice if the lay-out of the orchard these operations. Briefly put, every should be made to improve the pastu grass orchard, as the grazing should

n to cover rent, rates, etc., of the d, leaving the Apple crop, which is mes an uncertain quantity, as practi- lear profit to the farmer. D. M.

Heuchera sanguinea

ve had just the same difficulty in grow- d flowering the above-named plant as 7. E. Wright has experienced, but I the cure for the difficulty is *chalk* and I was so unsuccessful with it in two in Hertfordshire that I gave up it, but in my present garden, with a spect on the South Downs, where chalk but a very little way below ht Downland top soil, Heuchera ea grows and flowers luxuriantly.

e same little rock garden Tigridias in arlet, white, and yellow varieties, s primulinus, Eccremocarpus scaber, n jasminoides, and Passiflora cœrulea happily flowering after having come the winter in the open, and in part of the garden the shrubby as are also in blossom. The pale l crimson varieties look particularly en associated with the white-flowered which divides them from those of the d purple tints. H. H. W.

Peas for exhibition held about July 20th

onstant Reader," Kilworth, desires eas that will stand a chance of a prize at an exhibition held about h he should sow his seeds at the g of February in a warm greenhouse e, and as soon as the seeds have ed they should be removed to a shelf l greenhouse or frame from which n be excluded. When the young e 4 inches high the tops should be out to cause them to break from the ney should be grown as hardy as as if subjected to a long period of they will become drawn and puny, make satisfactory headway. They hardy, and it is far better to raise rely in a cold frame than in a heated se. A little warmth certainly germination, and there is less risk of the thin-skinned varieties rotting last week in March the plants hardened to outdoor conditions and at the second week in April. Plenty will be the result if grown in this healthy plants that should be at their very best during the last two weeks in July. The 10 varieties recommended are a reliable set, yet why not grow a dozen to choose from? W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

A garden plot in the first and second year

I ENCLOSE two photographs which show the progress made in laying out and planting a small town garden. The first illustration was taken last year and the other in the August of this year. The growth of the Dorothy Perkins has been really remarkable, even when one remembers the wonderful gardens that spring up in a night or day (more or less) at Chelsea. H. H. W.

A small town garden in the making—1926

The same garden—August, 1927

British chalk plants

I was much interested in the article on the British chalk plants, by Mr. J. E. Grant-White, which appeared in your issue of August 6th. The beautiful deep azure-flowered Round-headed Rampion (Phyteuma orbiculare) that your correspondent mentions is tinting the Downs near my house at the present time, and grows with the charming small Scabious, S. Columbaria, and the dwarf Meadowsweet (Spiræa Filipendula), with its creamy-white flowers and crimson buds, and amongst them the deep vermilion-spotted Burnet moths flit about with lazy flight. Their name reminds me of another lovely Downland plant, the Burnet Rose (Rosa spinosissima), which has been flowering earlier in the year, the scent of which is so delicious in the evening. Earlier still the rich purple Anemone Pulsatilla, or Pasque-flower, is to be found on many a chalk-hill, surely one of our most beautiful early spring flowers, which, like the Daffodil, appears "before the swallow dares." In the early summer the bright Valerian provides the richest colour.

On the lower slopes of the Downs at the present time the Rose Bay Willowherb (Epilobium angustifolium) is growing in great patches, and the effect of it in the distance is not unlike that of the Rhododendron. The Greater Knapweed carries out the colour-scheme with a deeper note, growing amongst the graceful silver foliage of the common Artemisia. The Clematis Vitalba must also be included amongst the chalk-loving plants, and it now festoons hedgerows and lofty trees with its wealth of sweet deep cream blossom-clusters, and remains in beauty as "the Old Man's Beard" late into the autumn.

Iris fœtidissima, with its scarlet seeds set in the whitest satin, carries its beauty through into the winter.

The Hart's-tongue Ferns are never so fine as when upon the chalk. I have gathered fronds over 3 feet long on the lower slopes of Bonniface, and amongst the Ferns one must include Ceterach.

To digress to other chalk-loving denizens of the garden, Flag Irises on a limy soil have grown more in one year than in the previous five when transferred from a soil where lime was absent, Canterbury Bells and Stocks are very much finer, Wallflowers and Antirrhinums are perennial.

Mr. Grant-White mentions the Red Valerian (Centhranthus rubra), and those who have seen it covering a deep chalk cutting on a railway like a carpet, where the white, scarlet, and rose varieties all closely intermingle, can b[illegible] realise it is THE plant for rapidly covering any bare chalky surface. There is one plant which I do not think Mr. Grant-White mentions, that is a particular favourite of mine. It is the Chicory or

Cichorium, which, if grown at all, is usually relegated to the kitchen garden, but it is one of the most exquisite true blues we possess. In the district where I resided for many years no trace of it was seen till we walked to the top of a hill where the chalk cropped up, and there it grew abundantly. Geranium phæum is another lime-loving plant, and I have never seen it growing so abundantly as at the foot of the low stone walls on the Cheltenham Road near Burford.

In forming a miniature chalk Down the rock used should be of hard limestone as chalk boulders crumble rapidly with frost.

Sussex. F.R.H.S.

Garden planning in a small way

It is rather strange to see "wavy" outlines advocated now for garden design (issue August 6th, page 482). The vogue for curves sprang up 30 years or more ago as one of the fruits of the reaction from the prim lines of Geranium and Calceolaria of Victorian days. As so often happens, the pendulum swung to the opposite extreme, hence the meaningless bulges and weak curves, then considered "artistic," which still disfigure so many of our public gardens. We are learning now that the simplest rectangular and geometrical forms display the beauty of flowers better than vaguely meandering edges and mis-shapen tadpole-like beds. One hopes that no garden owner, large or small, will be persuaded to exchange simple and dignified straight lines for wavy ones. Who would put a beautiful picture into a "wavy" frame? To see the perfection of rectangular design in a small garden study the exquisite little "Henry VII.'s garden" at Hampton Court, a model for all time. L. D. DIGBY.

Evershot, Dorset.

Exhibiting and judging at flower shows

I am following with great interest the discussion on exhibiting and judging. Almost every show one attends, this subject crops up, but I fail to see what "Scots Judge" is aiming at. If he suggests very hard-and-fast rules he will find there would be very few exhibitors or judges. I say treat every man honest until you prove him a rogue, then deal with him. I agree there is, and always has been, too much of the "give and take" business going on, both with exhibitors and judges, but, on the whole, there is not much to grumble about. After over 40 years' experience I find we are no worse than our forefathers.

Committees, as a rule, draw up their schedules so as to ensure good entries at their shows, and appoint judges to carry out their duty without bias in any way. However good the judges are they will not please everybody.

But I am afraid some judges have their own "individuality," as Mr. Bound very nicely puts it, which, I fear, is rather on the increase, but if judges would leave that little word *Self* at home (it does not assist them in any way) it would be much easier for them to carry out their duties in the show tent. As a judge for many years, both north and south, I much prefer "single judging," which is better for exhibitors and Committees, and would help to minimise the time allowed for judging. To have two judges together, to my mind, is wrong. Some years ago I had occasion to differ with my co-judge. We had to call in a third man (not an expert), who gave his decision in my favour. I at once jokingly offered him my book, as I thought he was the best man to carry on. That is only one case, but I am sure there are many more.

If judges would sink their personal opinion when judging it would be much fairer to exhibitors all round. I find this especially in floral arrangements. Some judges have their so-called "pet" colours and mode of arrangement that carries a long way in their decision; a very unfair thing to the exhibitor who cannot always arrange the colour to suit the judge. They should be judged on their merits.

I agree with Mr. Barnes. I do not object to exhibitors being in the tent during judging, providing they give the judge plenty of room, but leave their comment till judging is over, when I am always willing to point out where defects lay.

I should like to say a few words on the "continental" flowers. I am afraid the public care very little where the flowers are grown so long as they get a good show for their money.

It is always a difficult point for secretaries of local shows to get exhibits to make a show so as to ensure a good gate, which, after all, is what counts at shows. Secretaries seldom give any restriction as to the flowers in non-competitive groups being the products of the exhibitor's own garden or nursery. I am afraid if they did, the result would be disastrous. What could we do without Continental flowers?

F. J. CUBBERLEY.

—— I quite agree with "A Scottish Gardener" that single-handed judging has much to recommend it, especially so if each judge is not given too much to get through. If the judge then showed his preference for "individuality," to the detriment of other good exhibits, the selectors of judges would know what to do.

With the same number of judges, or in some cases a less number, each would have time to judge well; oftentimes now it is a rush to finish, and every judge should bear in mind that what he settles in a few minutes has meant, in many cases, 12 months' thought and work, and to do judging well one must have time. Much of a judge's time is taken up in interpreting the meaning of the wording in schedules.

Why cannot we have a compilation of every class required in any horticultural show? Each Society could then abstract their requirements that would ensure standardised wording. The late Rev. W. Wilks read a paper at the Affiliated Societies conference meeting in 1911 on the difficulties in "flower show schedules," which everyone interested should read. Page 84, in 1920 issue of R.H.S. code.

He found then, after 25 years of experience, the difficulties both for exhibitors and judges, and I venture to say it is now just as bad. This could and should be remedied, and I for one hope such a compilation will be forthcoming. I will instance two classes.

Four dishes of bush fruit. What is bush fruit? I say any fruit grown on a bush tree.

Table of ripe fruit, nine dishes, decorated for effect, two varieties of Grapes permitted to front view. What is to stop anyone showing nine bunches of Grapes in two varieties? The Rev. Wilks in 1911 recommended that schedule-makers should attack their work from the quibblers' point of view and then get several more to do the same. Why should this be necessary? Most shows want very similar classes according to season, and with a standardised schedule that has been very carefully revised schedule-makers would save a heap of time and judges would be relieved of deciding how to judge such cases as I have enumerated, and many others. I hope exhibitors, schedule-makers, and judges will express their views on this.

Redhill. W. P. BOUND.

—— I have read with interest the recent letters on exhibiting, and I agree with "Scots Judge" that most exhibitors are pot-hunters. Personally, I do not agree that anyone on a Committee should be allowed to exhibit. Some members of Committee are culprits. I know of instances whe have been to inspect a garden. They straight along the path and out, an they had done so could not explai quality of produce was there. I kn town show where there were thre mitteemen exhibitors. In different they held the three prizes. One o classes was for four Ferns, where t petitor was highly commended after g the morning of show to three places pot each. I have known nurserymen up groups for exhibition, not havi the produce in their possession until a two before show. How many ex have things come by rail and post? many arrange for it to come to t station to where they are residing? it has been done. Often judges allowed long enough time, but no deny that judges vary. INTERE

—— As "Scots Judge" has ampli original statement I will, according mise, deal further with the matter. I am "pugilistic" or "infallible" i the point, but may I suggest to Judge" that what I meant by s would take the gloves off did not, as pears to imagine, imply any threat of violence to anyone? I merely mean would make a quite straightforwar ment, without mincing matters and regard to the personal feelings of thos I am about to indict in cases where lent exhibiting is carried out. In spit diatribe of "Scots Judge" I am co that the evil is not widespread. I a vinced that it can be stamped out. convinced that it ought to have been s out, where it exists, long ago. Judge" endeavours to score over me pardon his little crow of triumph) matter of Messrs. Kelway's letter. T to which they refer is not at all anala this particular question—it is a trad private, concern. The parties who o and who can, stamp out the evil are number. By combining, these three could speedily hunt the fraudulent e into his native obscurity. The first the members of show committees. bodies are usually fairly numerous, were strange, indeed, if one or another is not able to say that exhibitor is exhibiting under false pr The second party consists of the o hibitors. No one need tell me that, shows, exhibitors do not know whe are showing stuff which was not gr them. In the majority of cases they they shun the unpopular task of expo wrongdoer, and more especially if th been beaten by the latter. Such is nature. The third party consists judges themselves. I mean, more larly, local judges at local shows, wh ally have a good idea as to whet particular competitor has really gr exhibits. Let me, in this connectio from "Scots Judge's" most rece "As recently as a month ago I cam the displeasure of one of the frate failing to give him a higher place Roses, while the fact is he hasn't a his possession. The man who suppli 'let the cat out of the bag.'"

The man did rightly. If others w the same then, as I say, the evil wo go. But why, under the circumstar "Scots Judge" give the fraudulent any "place" at all, knowing the fac ought to have removed the exhi amongst those of honest men and marked it "Disqualified. Not Gr Competitor." "Scots Judge's" instan be, as he calls them, not merely "i facts, yet the evil is far from being s

as he would have us believe—other con-
tors to the discussion agree with me. I
ink, more, I do maintain, that the dis-
t exhibitor is a negligible quantity. I
, too, that "Scots Judge" very
usly refrains, on this occasion, from
g further aspersions on other Scots
s, and this, at least, may be accounted
him for grace. Finally, "Scots Judge"
t possibly know whether I am easily
l or whether my experience (of judging)
y limited indeed any more than I know,
deed, care one rap, concerning his gulli-
or his experience. And so I take my
of him. A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

The value of the pig

s should be kept in every garden for
dung. I do not see how any large gar-
an be run successfully without them.
s unable to buy manure. I was in the
position four years ago. I asked my
yer to commence pig-keeping, and I can
readers I do not regret the day he did
ome people say that pigs do not pay. I
t say that, but even if they do not you
he dung and the drainage water. You
o consider that. I do not think anyone
be much at a loss, no matter how low
rkets were for pork.
n writing this for the benefit of my gar-
ends who are struggling along without
e. If you have not a pigsty get one
also a catch pit for the drainage. You
on get your outlay back. Keep half-a-
pigs always going, with plenty of
g. You will be surprised to see what
ill make. S. DEVON.
lleigh.

Self-sown Asters

pears to me that the gardens in Scot-
re a good deal in front of those in
d, according to the note under the
heading, signed "A Scottish Gar-
" (see page 514). In this the writer
that Ageratum and Nicotianas appear
y, and, if transplanted, they bloom
the end of August. I must confess
my 30 years' experience in various
gardens where these plants were
I have never come across seedlings of
of the forementioned plants that had
on their own, and I should feel sorry
to sow seeds of either in the open garden until the end of April, and then should be quite prepared to see no more of them, as there is a great deal of difference between the seeds of these and those of Asters. I wonder what my friend near Linlithgow has to say about this. W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Weldenia candida

Campanula Zoysii

ALPINES

Campanula Zoysii

THIS is one of the daintiest and prettiest of the smaller Campanulas, a good plant of which is a gem of the first water, with its beautiful tufts of small leaves and a crowd of lovely, quaint, bright blue flowers, shaped, as some writer has described, "like soda-water bottles." One may excuse the description, seeing that it is wonderfully accurate, and gives a good idea of the general form of the little bells, which are on slender stems. It is not often that one sees good plants of C. Zoysii, for the simple reason that it is very apt to die off after a year or two, or even during the first season after planting. It does not seem at all difficult to cultivate in loam, leaf-soil, and sand, with a little grit about it, and it is quite probable that the failure of the greater number of plants is due to the attacks of slugs, which delight in cropping it. At any rate, they eat it with avidity, and it is well to guard against these foes as far as possible. It seems to do best in sun, provided it does not get too dry at the roots, this being most effectually guarded against by placing stones about the plants. C. Zoysii is increased by division or by seeds.

Allium pedemontanum

A reader sends a remarkably fine example of this bulbous plant, which is, without doubt, the finest of all the Alliums in cultivation. It grows about 1 foot high, and has deep green grassy foliage produced in tufts, from which arise slender flower-stems, terminated by a drooping umbel of bell-like blossoms of a deep mauve tint, and which last a considerable time in perfection. It is a native of the limestone mountains of the south-east of France and north-west of Italy.

Weldenia candida

THIS interesting plant resembles a dwarf snow-white Spiderwort, to which family (Commelinaceæ), indeed, it belongs. It is a gem which deserves to be brought very close to the eye, either by growing it in a pot and keeping it in the alpine-house or planted in a frame, the surface of the soil of which is some 3 feet 6 inches from the ground. Its home is Mexico and Guatemala. We have found it slow of increase, for the three plants, purchased in 1919, have only increased to four. Now, however, that the plants are strong, we hope that progress will be quicker. We have tried artificial pollination, but so far with no success. The plant is in flower for some six weeks. A. C. BARTHOLOMEW.

Reading.

Myosotis as a wall plant

The accidental discovery of a few flourishing patches of Forget-me-nots in an old brick wall in my garden reminds me that these plants might well be added to the list of suitable plants for furnishing a wall with a north aspect. Of course, in a state of Nature one finds many walls furnished in a manner which one would not dream of imitating in one's own garden. The birds and the wind are indiscriminate sowers of seed, and are no respecters of species, but now and then they throw out hints of which the gardener would be wise in making use. Those who would like to grow Forget-me-nots in their old walls can either ram some seed-sown soil into the crevices between the stones or they may transplant young seedlings. Either method should be successful. As a companion to the foregoing I would suggest Corydalis lutea. Both these plants have a long flowering period, and, when growing together, they will form as pleasing a picture as one could hope for in a sunless situation. H. GREAVES.

Planting spring flowers

Primroses and Polyanthuses raised from seeds sown in the early summer may now be planted in their permanent quarters. When accommodated in beds and borders these plants make a brilliant show in the spring, the best being obtained by massing and grouping the plants on a sunny slope.

G. W. B.

Up-to-date Gaillardias

THE all-round qualities of Blanket flowers, as they are popularly called, have won for them a high place among the aristocrats of the herbaceous border. When properly placed these plants furnish fine material for the formation of telling colour effects, and as the blooming period lasts from June until well on in the autumn, they may be regarded for this reason alone as valuable garden plants. Then, again, the quantity of bloom yielded by plants which are growing in congenial situations is perhaps as lavish as that produced by any other herbaceous plant. When we come to consider the size and wealth of colour of the individual blooms of present-day varieties it is difficult to believe they are descended from the old G. aristata and picta. The wonderful hybrids which own these species for parents are now known under the appropriate name of G. grandiflora. The colours of the flowers embrace every imaginable shade of crimson, orange, yellow, and gold, sometimes appearing as self colours, but more often blended in marvellous schemes of harmony. The size of the blooms, too, is prodigious, and one may expect to find them measuring anything up to 4 inches or 5 inches in diameter. The value of the blooms for cutting should not be overlooked when estimating the utility of Gaillardias. They are borne on long, stiff stems, they last a considerable time in water, and they are certainly the most effective flowers we have for house decoration.

Although the culture of Gaillardias needs no special skill, they have certain requirements which might well be catered for in order to get them happily established. They are essentially sun-loving plants, and should be placed in positions where they may be bathed in sunshine for the greater portion of the day. Soils which are on the heavy side, and which become too retentive of moisture during winter, will not suit these plants, and before their culture is attempted they should be mechanically improved and well drained. A nice light loam liberally treated with old stable manure or cow manure forms an ideal soil for Gaillardias. Although they are good drought resisters, yet the quality of the bloom is likely to deteriorate if the roots are kept over-dry during the flowering season. In spite of the hardiness of Gaillardias, many gardeners have a practice of covering the roots with some littery material during severe weather.

Like many perennials which are profuse bloomers, these plants are apt to become exhausted after a few years, and it is advisable to keep a stock of young plants in hand to replace those which are worn out. Se are very easily raised, and two-year-old will give a fair show of bloom. Ev first year a few flowers will sometim pear, but it is advisable not to enc these to develop, as the strain is too for the young plants to bear. Seeds r sown either in spring or summer. good plan to sow in pans or boxes in t frame or greenhouse, and to prick seedlings when ready into 3-inch pots. may remain in these pots and under t tection of the glass until the following when they may be planted in their per quarters. Another method of increasi plants is by division of the roots in a or spring. Propagation by stem cutt not, as a rule, satisfactory with Gaill as the plants so produced are usually and untidy. Root cuttings, on the hand, are generally quite a success. are best taken in the autumn and inse a sandy compost in pots and placed in a greenhouse.

Gaillardias as cut flowers

Gaillardia Lady Rolleston

A clear yellow self is Gaillardia Rolleston with overlapping petals, a m sirable sort to grow where cut bloo wanted. It is one I can recommend town and suburban garden, as it has fl profusely this year, the dull, damp w appearing to suit it. Coming into bl June one may rely on blossoms a lon into September. Like other Gaillard does best on young plants, and it is propagate fresh plants annually fro tings, which may be taken in August tember and planted in sandy soil. Sh a dry summer, they are even more s time when wet is prevalent. Flowe particularly useful for table decorati they keep a good time in nice conditio

TOWNS

Hampton Court Garden

ALTHOUGH some may speak "West End" being empty in London is unusually full of owing to the largely increased facilit travel, and a far greater number of su tors are interested in gardening tha before. Those who are thus int should on no account neglect t Hampton Court. Quite apart fro historic interest attached to the Royal Palace and gardens, the flower selves are superbly grown, and the b and artistic way in which their colo blended teaches more in an hour or the perusal of any book can do.

If one wanders down the broa which runs for half a mile or so al east front of the Palace the famous border at the side of it will form a s itself, while on the other side of th pathway the beds on the lawn fo equally pleasing.

One of these beds was planted w coral-pink Begonia, Commandant Fe a grey ground of Leucophyton Brown this also formed a grey border about wide. Another bed was filled wit coloured tall Heliotropes and the rich Streptosolen Jamesoni, bordered Chlorophytum elateum. Next to t with tall-growing plants, which serv screen, one planted with the deep ve Begonia, Bourgomaster Max, blend and bordered by white Alyssum, form lightful picture. Near this bed anot planted in delightfully cool tones. carpeted with the pale lemon Begon Lanssedat, with the small Delp Butterfly Blue, pricked in sparsely a them, and near the edges of the bed tum Blue Cloud and Grey Leucophy

YUCCAS IN 1927

Group of Yuccas in Rollesby Gardens, Norfolk

Yucca gloriosa in a London garden

ith the graceful light grey Centaurea ima.

ly-coloured bed was made by plant- carlet-flowered Begonia, Triomph de , with its deep bronze foliage edged te foliage plants. Another charming formed with tall well-flowered plants nk Miss Willmott Verbena and the ue Delphinium edged with white

long border before referred to great use was made of masses of Humea hutting off one colour-scheme from nd providing rest for the eye. A group was formed of double pink s with Phloxes of the same colour of them, leading up to the xy-flowered Bouvardia Humboldtii. leasing combination was formed by ble Hollyhocks with the rich deep Celosias in front of them. White as associated with the mauve looked well. A fine clump of the ery Cross Sweet Peas looked very associated with dark-flowered s. Near these, white Hollyhocks Sweet Peas formed a background wny-yellow Celosias rising from a t of the Leucophyta. A group of g blue Plumbago formed a pleas- st to the warm tints in the long full of colour and yet for all so s, many of the harmonies being quiet and restful.

ing combination was the violet- ite flowers of Arctotis grandis as- ith Achillea Ptarmica, while for a ere soft pink Phloxes rising be- t of dwarf Coreopsis of rich chest-

elightful Dutch pond garden fine gapanthus in tubs decorated the d were used also with beautiful d the large fountain, where their ion intensified the colour of the ter and mingled with the tints of ul Nympheas. It formed a cool ing picture when seen from the d this was framed by the dark ancient Yew trees. H. H. W.

Yuccas in readers' gardens

Yucca gloriosa

ROUND about Norfolk this year the stately flower-spikes of this plant seem to have been far more profuse than usual. It certainly cannot be that a dry summer this year has been the cause. Is it the opposite, a wet summer following the dry autumn of last year? At Merton Hall gardens in one long border I counted over 20 plants in bloom. In the City of Norwich, in the small front garden of a cottage, one plant sent up a huge spike, causing much comment and amazement amongst the artisans, and bringing many inquiries as to the period of it coming into flower. "Once every seven years" seems to have got a hold in the locality, but it is not so. I am sending with this note a photograph of a small batch taken this year in the gardens at Rollesby Hall, near Gt. Yarmouth. It depicts a profusion of flowers upon a small clump of plants.

AYTCH PEA.

—— I send a photograph of a fine specimen of the Yucca gloriosa cultivated at Nunhead, in south-east London. The plant is said to bloom once in about 15 years. The bloom then kills the heart of the plant and it sprouts out with fresh growths from the root. The plant is a native of Southern United States. From the ground to the top of the highest stem of flowers is about 9 feet.

J. H. G.

Podocarpus chilina

A tree of much grace, freshness, and charm is this, and a subject which is made far too little use of in the South of England. Even when no more than a few feet high, it is so attractive and distinct as to arrest attention, especially during July when the newly-made leaves are seen in their fresh, bright, green tenderness.

In Cornwall recently I met with several large specimens, one in particular which impressed me by its beautiful form and proved its usefulness along our southern coast. This particular tree I calculated to be 50 feet high, perfectly furnished, and a maze of bloom; this proved to be a male tree. Such a beautiful foliage tree should find a larger circulation among our southern and west coast gardens, for there is no other genus possessing greater distinction. It comes from Chile, and is often erroneously referred to as Podocarpus andina in gardens.

E. M.

Cotoneaster horizontalis

Now the "autumn" is creeping into this lovely species of Cotoneaster to turn it soon into a picture of vivid red berries and foliage the same colour it impresses one more and more that this well-known Cotoneaster holds its own as one of the first shrubs which should be planted for autumn effect. Except for a brief period when its leaves are fallen, C. horizontalis is always attractive, with its nice compact habit, its branches growing more or less horizontally with the main stem. It is sometimes used as a wall shrub, but, better still, being a hardy shrub plant it in the open, preferably on a high place in the rock garden. There it is at its best.

This Cotoneaster, like most of the species, will thrive in sun or shade in almost any kind of soil, but where possible plant it in good soil and full sun, then it will prove one of the thrills of the garden in the late autumn and early winter.

It is easily propagated by layers or cuttings in early autumn, also from seed. C. horizontalis is sometimes listed as C. Davidiana.

R. MOORE.

The Gardens, Thorpe Hall, Essex.

Clethra Delavayi

A very handsome new shrub is this, of rather erect habit of growth, and well furnished with large, crinkled leaves, glaucous on the underside. The erect and thickly-clustered racemes of white flowers are from 5 inches to 6 inches in length, and surrounded by red stalked young shoots of the current season. E. MARKHAM.

ROSES

Rose Euphrosyne

THE subject of the illustration is an old Rose compared with the many that have been produced of late years, for it is one of the earliest derived from R. multiflora x R. polyantha. If I remember rightly it was one of three that were distributed at the same time and were prettily named after the three Graces—Thalia, white; Euphrosyne, red; and Aglaia, yellow. The red Euphrosyne is the subject of the picture. It grows in the top of a double dry wall; that is to say, a wall on each side enclosing a bank of light soil that is 4 feet wide on the top and 6 feet at the base. The position suits it admirably, for its wide-flung arching branches are every year loaded with bloom. It is one of the compensations for those who live in poor, light soils, where it is impossible to have any of the beautiful Hybrid Teas, that the Ramblers derived from R. multiflora and R. Wichuraiana grow rampantly and flower profusely, as well as the old Ayrshires, which ought never to be neglected. G. J.

Rose Marechal Niel

Notwithstanding the flight of time since the introduction of Maréchal Niel in the early sixties, it has still many adherents who continue to grow it under glass, and has yet thousands who admire its golden-yellow blossoms as they open in early spring. It cannot be recommended for outdoor culture as one is justified in doing other yellow sorts like Golden Emblem or Rev. F. Page-Roberts, as, unlike them, its constitution is not so hardy, but for a cold greenhouse, or one where it is not necessary to fire very much, Maréchal Niel is quite at home, and seldom fails to reward by a profusion of its lovely sweet-scented blossoms.

My experience with it under glass prompts me to say that it is best grown in a large pot or tub, as then one can place it out of doors when done flowering, whereas if grown in a bed within the house it often becomes debilitated through the heat during summer. It is a great advantage to be able to put this Rose —or any Rose—outside after it has been cut back, so that air, and rain, and coolness may do their helpful part. For a cool house Maréchal Niel is still the best yellow Rose, and that is saying a good deal after 60 years.

W. F.

Rambler Roses after flowering

Radical treatment

"What is the best thing to do with Rambler Roses when they have done flowering?" This question was put to n amateur who had a number of such R had become in a hopeless tangle their exuberant growth this season. vice, based on many years' experie them, was that on their finishing blo once cut out most of, if not all, the ol ing wood, and give the abundant suc duced from the bottom a chance. not the slightest advantage in wait spring before adopting this radical tr and there is no use in half doing it. Roses should be treated much the s as one does Raspberry canes, *i.e.*, cle old rubbish away. As they have d work, give light and air to the you more vigorous shoots that will give bloom another year if they are but opportunity. I wonder how many reading this note who do not know take which many folk make in leav robust sorts as Dorothy Perkins to th and the sorting out there is to do if th neglected for a time of taking awa wood? Why is it that so many idea of pruning Ramblers in the aut allow the young shoots to become s with the old and useless wood, often in mildew and other evils? There i like a radical clearance if one wishe healthiest wood another season, as the old material is of little service, bars the way of progress of the ne tember is a good time to start operat

Rose Euphrosyne

VEGETABLES

Broad Beans for early crop year

THE Broad Bean is a hardy p passes through a rather sever well enough if it is hardily grov

In general, the seeds are sown to the year—in November; then the plants are very sappy and lack solidit early stages. It was by accident tha out how well early-raised plants against late-raised ones. The ea ones were from seeds accidentally d dropped from some pods left on old a secluded part of the garden. October the young plants were seve high and very short-jointed, the joi almost directly opposite each oth later, when the plants were flow stems seemed to be entirely cove flowers and the resultant pods touc other.

This plan of early sowing has b factory ever since, and as it was ca in the south it ought to be equally g north.

Where the Broad Bean crop follo Potatoes additional manure is not but firmness of soil is very essential firmness must be secured early whi is in a very dry condition, not late is in a rather moist one.

Poor ground should be enriched well-rotted manure. The seeds planted with a pointed trowel at a 3 inches. In the north sow, or seeds about the third week in Sep the latest, and in the south abou 10th. I have found the varie Giant Longpod a suitable one, bu may have their own favourite sorts.

Hants. GEORGE

Early Rhubarb

To obtain supplies of Rhubarb not be in possession of heated gr or even cold frames. Rhubarb g the open can be forced into growth placing some temporary protectio

s, such as Sea Kale pots, old sugar or margarine tubs, &c. If heating al, such as fresh stable manure, can d this should be placed thickly over ound the boxes, but even when leaves, or soil, and no heating material are he plants speedily commence to grow,
G. W. B.

Tomatoes out of doors

present season has been one of the for the development and ripening of oes out of doors, so much so that in localities fruit, unless helped, will y reach the ripened stage. Where have been grown under a south wall—is seems to be the only position worth ring out of doors—the best plan now ring into requisition any spare frame which can be reared to the wall, and these they will make progress. All growth at this time must be pinched leed, the grower will be well advised cting his attention to the helping of ormed and in not considering any flowers, rubbing them off as they ap- as to concentrate the energies of the into the swelling of trusses of fruit on the plants. Permit no side shoots, orten foliage wherever possible, feed- plants with liquid-manure two or three week. It is no use considering fresh at this period, as the time is gone by ve may expect them to fill up and naturity.
MIDLANDER.

management of an allotment

Ministry of Agriculture has issued, in let No. 315, suggestions for the crop- manuring, and cultivation of allot- o as to help allotment holders to make st of their plots. At present not all nt holders obtain by any means a full rom their allotments; there is a sur- one vegetable or a shortage of ; odd rows of green crops interfere nter digging, vegetables are planted itable land, and manures, perhaps, orrectly applied. Part of the plot be "double dug" each year; culti- and labour spread over the longest period; correct methods of manuring ing employed; the proper proportion vegetable grown; and the proper rota- crops and manuring followed. The which the correct quantities of seeds ures can be estimated is also shown.

CROPPING SCHEME

lition to suggestions on these topics let includes a chart showing an ideal scheme. It is arranged in three -first, a plot plan with three divi- which the rotation is worked, show- e and how the crops might be sown, ances between the rows, etc.; second, the spring and summer crops, with of sowing, planting, and season of and indicating their positions on the ird, showing the same for the nd winter cropping.

eat importance of proper soil work- orough and deep digging is insisted p cultivation exposes the soil to the air, rain, and frost, making the soil work; it increases the supply of d in the soil; it improves the drain- provides ventilation; it enables the nserve moisture during dry periods; es the number of soil pests by ex- em for destruction by hand or by d it breaks up the subsoil, soil-pans, of hard, compressed soil which, by d with drainage or cultivation, fertility.

of this leaflet can be had on ap- to the Ministry's offices at 10, Place, London, S.W. 1.

Itea ilicifolia now flowering in a garden in Kent
A graceful hardy shrub with catkin-like racemes of fragrant cream-white flowers and bright green Holly-like leaves

Itea ilicifolia

SHRUBS that flower in late August and early September are all too few and far between. The most interesting shrub now flowering in the writer's garden is Itea ilicifolia. It is well named ilicifolia, for the shiny evergreen leaves are decidedly Holly-like. The pendulous racemes of flowers are about a foot in length. The flowers are creamy-white or pale yellow and, when fully open, very fragrant.

The shrub in question is growing on well-drained soil and in partial shade. It seems a good-natured subject that would probably do well in any ordinary soil or position.

It is a native of Central China and is, apparently, quite hardy, having stood outside in a Kentish garden for six years without protection. I do not recall any other shrub that is at all like it. It is placed in the Natural Order Saxifragaceæ and is allied to the genus Escallonia.

The largest plant of this species I have seen is in the gardens at Wakehurst, Sussex, the plant in question being about 5 feet high, presenting a glorious sight when liberally draped with its long, graceful, catkin-like racemes. In its native habitat it is said to attain a height of nearly 20 feet. Apart from its flowers this shrub is well worth growing for its bright green Holly-like leaves which retain their glossy character all through the winter.
H. C.

Cattle poisoning by Yew

Reports have recently been made of live-stock being poisoned by eating the foliage of the Yew tree. It is, unfortunately, the case that horses and cattle do die from Yew poisoning if they take large enough doses of the old leaves and young shoots. Dry, withered leaves are especially deadly, but the bark, leaves, and the seed are all poisonous, and will kill other stock besides horses and cattle. The chief poison is the alkaloid, taxin, which is a heart depressant, and causes death from suffocation. The poison, therefore, is not cumulative, but rapidly effective, so that animals may die suddenly without any previous symptoms having been observed. Small quantities of Yew leaves may be eaten without any harmful results being apparent, especially if taken on a full stomach. Where there is good reason to believe that illness among animals is due to Yew tree poisoning a veterinary surgeon should be called in at once, and any treatment given in the interval of waiting should consist of purgatives and stimulants. It goes without saying that clippings from Yew trees should be moved out of the reach of any stock that may be grazing in the vicinity of trees or hedges.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Malmaison Carnations

Those layered as advised earlier should now be ready for potting, and if a good watering is given a day or two previous to lifting, the soil will be in an excellent condition for the work and the plants will scarcely feel the move. The compost for this potting should consist of sweet fresh loam three parts, the remainder being made up of well-decayed leaf-mould, old mortar-rubble, and a little wood-ash and bone-meal, the latter used at the rate of a 5-inch potful to each barrow-load of compost. 60-sized pots are those generally used, and these are quite suitable unless a specially large plant has to be dealt with, when a larger pot may be necessary to prevent undue stripping of the layer. After potting stand the plants on a bed of ashes in a cold frame, shade from bright sunshine for a week, and keep the plants rather close for the same period, following which sun and air may be admitted and increased with the progress of the plants.

Richardia africana

Often planted out during the summer months and by this time making vigorous growth, such plants should now be lifted carefully and potted up into 10-inch or 12-inch pots according to the size of the ball of roots. After potting stand the plants for a time on the cool, shady side of a wall or fence, and should the weather prove hot and dry syringe the foliage twice daily.

Humea elegans

Make a sowing of this elegant plant during the month, using well-drained pots and fine, sandy soil; water with extreme care and place in a cold frame. Prick off the seedlings when large enough to handle into 3-inch pots and grow on steadily in a cool frame or greenhouse, keeping the plants at all times near the glass.

Propagating summer bedding plants

Hasten this important work and avoid sappy growths when dealing with Pelargoniums. Quite a lot of things can be struck in cold frames, including Fuchsias, Verbenas, Mesembryanthemums, Violas, Gypsophilas, etc., if taken in hand before the summer is on the wane, but if left until later fire-heat will be necessary.

Sweet Peas

The ground intended for the autumn-sown crop should be deeply trenched and liberally manured, and if the soil is deficient in lime this should be incorporated in the mixing. Three feet is a good depth to trench for these flowers, and the soil should be well drained, the last foot of surface being rendered more porous by adding lime-rubble and a little sand and spent Mushroom-bed. If prepared now the soil will settle down in readiness for the sowing of the seed about September 15th. Peas sown at this date commence to bloom the last week in May.

Gladioli

Many of these require staking, and this should be completed in advance of the opening of the blooms, otherwise the fallen flower-spikes are rendered ineffective. This applies to the late plantings.

Sweet Violets

Frames must now be prepared for these, good and deep loamy soil with a free addition of well-decayed manure and wood-ashes being used. This should be finished off at about 14 inches from the glass, and after being made moderately firm left to settle down for 10 days or so before planting the Violets.

Annuals

Where these have been used in large numbers and have passed out of bloom they should be removed and the ground cleaned and prepared for an autumn-sown crop. This, however, should be of a totally different type to ensure success.

Late Peas

These must be generously treated if the best results are to materialise, frequent applications of liquid-manure being given in addition to a mulch of some kind, and should thrip or mildew make its appearance the plants must be sprayed in the late afternoon when the weather is settled. Tits are very troublesome and will eat half the crop unless netting is resorted to.

Celery

Continue to earth-up this crop, placing only a small depth of soil around the sticks at each earthing. About eight weeks are necessary to perfect the blanching, which should at no time be hastened. A small amount of soil applied often is the best rule to follow. Continue to feed and encourage strong growth in the latest batches of both Celery and Celeriac.

Potatoes

Lift the roots of those on which the haulm has ripened, as nothing is gained by leaving them in the ground after this date, and if there is insufficient storage room under cover make a pie in the open lined with straw, in which they will keep throughout the winter sound and plump.

Choice Pears on walls

These should be netted, otherwise they will be spoilt by tits and other small birds, which appear to enjoy picking a hole in the finest fruits near the base of the stalks.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Autumn-sown Onions

Frequently, during dry weather, well hoe between the rows of these. It is sometimes advised to leave all weeds among this crop until spring as a protection during winter, but this is wrong, it being much better to induce firm, sturdy growth rather than half choke the little plants with dirt.

Celery

Continue to earth up this crop as growth advances, it being better for the plants and more easy of accomplishment than when the whole of the work is done after the plants have attained full growth. To prevent soil getting into the hearts of the plants either use Celery collars or else tie each plant with a thin strip of raffia. The latter method is excellent, but care must be taken to cut the ties after each earthing, or else the plants will be spoiled.

The earlier Potatoes

As these ripen have the crop lifted and stored, for nothing is to be gained by permitting the tubers to remain in the soil, especially in such a wretched season as the present one. Where it is intended to preserve "seed" for planting next year the best-shaped and medium-sized tubers should be selected as the crop is being harvested, these being spread out in shallow boxes and left in the sun for several days to "green," this being advantageous in several ways—the keep better, are distasteful to rats an and they produce earlier and sturdier as a rule, than do those stored as lifte

Border Chrysanthemums

At moment of writing, these promi very late in coming into flower, so t very probable that early frosts may before one is able to enjoy their full unless some means be adopted for p temporary shelter should such be r A few stout stakes of suitable length be driven in round a bed or along e of a row, and be linked with stout t or light laths in such a way as to mats, tiffany, or something of like Usually only slight protection is requi this may prevent the blooms being d and so ensure a fine display later.

Double Wallflowers

Of old known as German Wall these handsome Stock-like plants do a rule, pass safely through our north ters, so it is advisable shortly to lift and pot at least part of the pla ensuring a fine display in the green spring. Like several other plants o nature, they do not lift easily, so so care must be exercised to prevent falling away from the roots. Cro clean 7-inch pots and take them to where the plants are growing, so as as little handling of the subjects as Pot firmly, give a good watering, close under a north wall until they from the check. A cold frame is place for them during winter, but t mum amount of air must be given frost is absent.

Autumn propagating

No more time must be lost in full stocks of all the more tender plants inserted. While a cold fram far, quite a suitable place in which t boxes of cuttings, very soon they accommodated in a house or pit, little warmth can be given when n Even Pansies, Violas, and Pentstem very soon have attention, but in t beds of light, sandy compost made u frames is the ideal spot for cuttings

Planting Daffodils

The sooner now the planting of be finished the better will be the next spring. Especially urgent is t the bulbs are to be planted in grass a trees.

Early forcing bulbs

The sooner these can be proc potted up the better and earlier are be the results. It is always advant have all forcing bulbs well rooted b are taken from the "plunge," t specially so in the case of the Daffo

Young Gloxinias

It sometimes happens that som plants raised from seeds in sprin flower the first year. To dry these usual way is very often to lose th even, if they do survive, the bulbs a that little good is got from them t ing year. For quite a number o have kept all such growing sl steadily, on all through the winter pots, giving a shift into the 7-in February, when an early and exc play invariably repays any little t tailed.

C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithg

The Late Arthur Garnett

ny expressions of appreciation mingled with regret have been received from friends of late Arthur Garnett, who, as reported in our issue of Aug. 20th, was drowned while hing off the Dorset coast. He was a man of remarkable gifts and personality. his picturesque little cottage in Sussex, he entertained every week parties of itors, devoting his life, as one of his many mourners says of him, to helping his nds as other men toil at their professions The following short article was written after a visit to him about a year ago

nder the greenwood tree

By May Hall

oyable experience which has recently my lot is to live, care-free, under the od tree.

d myself in Sussex the guest of oodfellow. He is tall and thin and ressed in brown clothes, and with a very grey, almost white, hair. He re like a Faun than a human being. e is a railway carriage which was ago embedded in concrete. It is Teak and Mahogany, and is water- weather-tight, and has lately been d by the best thatcher in Sussex. a brick hearth on which it is very ndle a wood fire from the abundant ry wood stacked under the thatch. e all our meals in the open air on a den table set in a forest glade, and in full leaf screen us from the lane. man hails us, and brings us our d the fish pedlar from Brighton h fresh and dried fish at a wonder- price. From the farm close by we cream, butter, eggs, and bread. abounds with rabbits, so, like the e can always have a rabbit stew in

a hut for stores, and an oil stove be used for cooking instead of the water supply consists of a rain- k for washing, and the drinking to be fetched from the farm, but t ale made from malt and Hops e price that Londoners pay for chemicals can be had, we only re- r for tea and coffee.

squirrels play about in the trees, already interested in the good t. Our Apples here altogether the Victoria Plum trees are dead e renewed. The nightingales have long ceased to sing, and only the tame robins who pick up crumbs can be heard. Hard by is a place called Badger's Wood, where four badgers have been seen towards nightfall. By next year a garden must be made, so that vegetables and bush fruit can be planted. At present we are supplied from the gardens of kind neighbours.

We have plenty of society, as two families of relations live close by, and for week-ends three boys can sleep in the bunks in the railway carriage. There is also a wooden hut fitted with boxes for storing Apples not wanted this year, where Robin Goodfellow sleeps with the door open and the sounds and scents of the forest round him.

Glimpses of the late Arthur Garnett's home and surroundings

Autumn leaves

With stable and farmyard manure so costly and scarce, an admirable substitute will be found in leaves and road sweepings. In towns where these are collected by the public authority allotment holders have a unique opportunity of securing a supply usually at very little cost. In some towns local authorities convey this material to a common "shoot" for the purpose of getting rid of it. Now that the autumn is upon us a large proportion of this material will consist of newly-fallen leaves, which, when rotted, make excellent organic manure. Committees of allotment societies are advised to wait upon their local Councils, who will generally be found only too glad to supply large quantities free of charge and cartage to allotments within their area. During the next two months the best quality road sweepings are available. Country readers have no such privileges, and, contrary to general belief, farmyard manure is often most difficult to procure, even in agricultural districts; but there are fallen leaves in abundance for the trouble of gathering them in. G. W. B.

Gas lime

This is a by-product in the manufacture of coal gas, and consists of slaked lime saturated with compounds of sulphur through its being employed as a purifying agent in the making of gas. The percentage of lime is very small, and great care must be exercised in dressing the land with it, owing to its caustic properties. It is specially useful in dressing soil infested with ground insects. Land dressed with gas lime must not be cropped for several months. G. W. B.

Sawdust as manure

The use of sawdust in gardens is not advised. The effect of applying any kind of wood to the soil is to produce obnoxious fungi, which in many cases may cause a considerable amount of harm to crops. The same applies to wood shavings used in the place of litter in stables. G. W. B.

A Great Display of Flowers at Southport

FOR a Lancashire town to have created "one of the greatest flower shows in the world" within the space of the few years since it held its first—but four years ago—is an achievement possible only by the enthusiastic skill of its originators and support of its exhibitors. A show which was nearly as large as Chelsea, and in some respects superior, such was held on August 24th, 25th, and 26th.

FRUIT AND FRUIT TREES

Fruit of the quality seen the previous week at Shrewsbury was alone worth a visit to the show. There one might see the best Peach for the amateur to grow, Peregrine, which with Dymond and Royal George are also the most easy to cultivate. Of Nectarines, Pine Apple and Humboldt were in the winning decorated tables of fruit where chief honours were again won by Mr. Barker, from the gardens of the Duke of Newcastle. On these tables were also Apples Ribston Pippin and Cox's Orange, the two best-flavoured of all Apples; Lady Sudeley, inferior in flavour but unexcelled at this date in appearance; Jas. Grieve, the most juicy Apple for September use. The above were all ripe, consequent on being grown in pots. Pear Triomph de Vienne and Durondeau represented quality. Conference, the Pear which seldom fails to fruit, and Choice Plums, such as Jefferson and Kirk's Blue Gage, combined with Grapes, Melons, and green Figs to make four most attractive tables for which prizes to the value of £87, with a challenge trophy valued at £50, were offered. Other exhibitors in this class were Mr. Jas. McCartney, Kingaton Hall Gardens, Derby, Mr. Geo. Anderson, gardener to the Earl Balfour, Haddington, and Lady Cunliffe Lister, Masham, Yorks.

Fruit trees growing in pots and heavily fruited were a wonderful display from Messrs. Thos. Rivers and Son, Sawbridgeworth. This consisted of Apples, Pears, Plums, and Cherries. Peaches, Nectarines, and Grapes of the handsome Appley Towers variety. Oranges in pots carrying several fruits, each flanked the group.

From Messrs. The King's Acre Nurseries, Ltd., Hereford, came also beautifully-fruited trees in pots. Lord Hindlip is thought to be one of the coming late dessert Apples of good quality which keeps until spring. Herring's Pippins, one of the handsome-coloured varieties which also combines quality, a point always considered by the judges. The handsome Pear, Louise Bonne of Jersey, is also a good cropper when grown on Quince.

There were many individual exhibits of dishes of fruit, Apples, Pears, Plums, and beautifully-finished (coloured) Grapes, from amateurs and private gardeners.

HARDY FLOWERS

There were some 50 exhibitors of these flowers. Messrs. Bakers, Codsall, had Phloxes which revel in the present wet season and cool positions; Mr. Maurice Prichard brought from Christchurch, Hants, some wonderful Kniphofias, while from still further Somerset Mr. H. Clarke brought a collection of Dahlias that included the Little Eddie, a dainty salmon-rose, and Beafield, an orange stained with salmon. Dahlias likewise came from Messrs. Dickson and Robinson, with other hardy flowers and vegetables. Pentstemons and Phlox from John Forbes, Hawick.

A large table of Antirrhinums was staged by Messrs. W. H. Simpson from Birmingham. Pink and blue Scabious from Mr. Isaac House, of Westbury-on-Trym.

That gorgeous Montbretia, His Majesty, was prominent in a large group of Gladioli from Messrs. Daniels Bros., Ltd., Norwich.

Messrs. Kelway had a wonderful display of Gladioli, Aviator being a striking variety.

Dahlias came from Messrs. Woolman and Jarman and Co., and many other trade and amateur growers.

Sweet Peas were not numerous, but Mr. Robt. H. Bolton's Royal Pink was fi deliciously fragrant.

Delphiniums from Messrs. Bees, Lt Hewitt and Co. were still good.

CARNATIONS

This being the occasion of the Pr Show of the British Carnation Society, the large tents was nearly filled b flowers, shown for the numerous offered. Mr. A. F. Dutton's variet A. J. Cobb, again secured the gold the best-scented variety. There were entries for this class, which demo that raisers are now studying this im quality.

Some grand blooms were sho amateurs in the special classes for residing in the north of England. E. Harpin won in the class for the bes with White Pearl. W. B. Feeny scor Lady Inverforth for the best pink Harpin scored again in the class fo vases, which secured the trophy a prize offered, one of his vases of Eile being superior to Laddie shown in c tion.

Mr. C. Wall, Bath, had his Glori awards) in fine shape, other exhibito Messrs. Keith Luxford and Co. wit prominent, Messrs. Allwood Bros., w a novelty in Maud Allwood, which i deep apricot, Messrs. Stuart Low C Sir Philip Sassoon as their chief vari

Messrs. C. Engelmann, Ltd., filled and corner of a big tent with a g similar to their display at Chelsea was composed of many hundred d flowers. Palette is a very interestin variety with pale buff ground and pin

Mr. W. H. Page secured the cup best novelty not in commerce with hi Page, a rose-pink of compact form a substance in the petals.

ROSES

As might be expected, these sho signs of the wet season, but Messr J. C. Thornton is a reliable red weather, with a nice scent. Desmo stone (rosy-red with orange base to a flower) is one of Messrs. McGred things for next year. Their Mrs. Bar won the cup for the best novelty. Elizabeth and Charming Princess interesting novelties, being sp Queen Alexandra. The flowers ar or gold with a deep vermilion edg petals. These were shown by the Messrs. Wheatcroft Bros., Gedli Thos. Hancock, Mansfield.

A sensational win in one of the cl Mrs. John Laing, which grand old still worthy of cultivation. This wa by Mr. John Mattock, Oxford.

Fine groups of Roses were s Messrs. Alex. Dickson, Newtowna had a large basket of Shot Silk mad flow in an artistic style. Mr. Tho son, Nottingham; Robt. Wright, Waterer, Son, and Crisp, Ltd., John Mattock, Oxford. These ext length of a tent, making a delightfu Etoile de Holland is sweeter than geous crimson, H. Budde. Clarice a better white for the amateur's ga Mrs. H. Stevens. Columbia, in from Mr. R. Manson-Gateacre, al dry weather Rose, opens well e Rose Marie, which one seldom se shows, is one of the best rose-pin garden.

The blush-white Anne Baxter an Rapture were novelties from Mess Smith and Son, Stranraer,

GROUPS OF GREENHOUSE

The amateur who is so fortunate

The Mayor and Mayoress of Southport inspecting the rock and water garden by Messrs. Hayes and Sons

This exhibit was awarded the special prize, valued at £100, given by the Southport Corporation

e with hot water pipes finds much joy ving such plants as were seen here, uch than anything seen at Chelsea. e classes for prizes amounting to £500 Jas. Cypher, W. A. Holmes, W. R. g, T. M. Petch, Mr. McDonald, gar- Sir Geo. Kenrick, and the Trustees Cheadle Royal Mental Hospital d groups which made a complete avenue throughout the main tent. pecimen Crotons, coloured Dracænas, ed with the graceful Francoa a Bridal Wreath, and homely da mimosifolia and similar plants d a glorious effect.

s. John Peed and Sons' group of such and Liliums, Caladiums, etc., was ne piece of work in the non-competi- ion.

anging-basket Begonias of Messrs. re and Langdon are worthy of at- o those who want fine effect in the tory. Mr. R. Lawrie also brought -away Carnwarth, in Lanarkshire, e specimens in excellent condition. MacDonald, Harpenden, had one of racteristic displays of grasses. in flower from Mr. L. R. Russell ctive.

s filled nearly one side of a tent. rs of these included Messrs. Jas. McBean, Charlesworth and Co., art Low Co. Several amateur had nicely-grown plants of these. Adamson, Esq., Blackpool, and G. , Esq., were prominent. Mr. J. Colwyn Bay, had several choice

VEGETABLES

with flowers in colour and attrac- vegetables are now a feature of Such were staged by Messrs. Sutton whose Capsicums were wonderful, rs. J. Carter and Co., who had a play of choice things. Vegetables shown by Messrs. Dickson and and Dobbie and Co., who had a collection of Potatoes that included the best second early, Eclipse, but irran Consul (early maincrop) and ver (second early).

OUTSIDE GARDENS

nd formal gardens outside were and of the style seen at Chelsea g works were made by Messrs. ith a Japanese garden, Messrs. Brydon, Darlington, Robt. Hayes, R. W. Wallace, Tunbridge Wells, l others which space does not per- ribe, neither can even reference be it a fraction of the 3,000 entries of this wonderful show, for which had been so fortunate as to secure gardeners in the land to judge. uded both the gardeners of H.M. rom Windsor and Sandringham).

of Merit were made to Apple Barnes (the promising son of Mr. es, killed in the war), which is the cross between Gascoigne's Scarlet Orange, a handsome kitchen

s Certificate to Apple Millicent he above cross reversed, which an Apple much like a well- ival in appearance with dessert oth were shown by Mr. N. F. Eaton Hall.

Merit: Carnation Glorious, a nk of large size and considerable nd a glorified deep rose-pink En- own by Mr. C. Wall, Bath.

A. SWALLOW.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

VEGETABLES

Celery Blight]

I am sending a leaf of Celery affected with a kind of Rust. Will you, please, name the disease, the cause thereof, and any remedy for same? The plants had been growing strongly until now and nearly ready for earthing-up. "BRISTOL."

[The Celery is affected with Blight, which is caused by the fungus Septoria apii. The spores of this disease live throughout the winter attached to the remains of a previously-attacked crop, and are also to be found attached to the seeds obtained from diseased plants. The disease often shows itself in the seedling stage of Celery, and is sometimes overlooked until later in the season. The disease can, however, attack Celery at any stage of its growth. At this time of the year we do not think that you can do much to check the disease. We should advise you to earth-up your plants and obtain what crop you can when lifting the plants. You should take care that all the trimmings of the crop are burnt. Next season you should grow your Celery as far removed from where it is now as possible. Watch carefully for the first sign of attack and then spray the plants with Bordeaux Mixture. It would be a good plan in your case to spray next year's plants as a preventive with this mixture. At least two spraying operations would be useful. The first should be carried out as soon as the plants are established in their permanent quarters.]

FRUIT

Fly-covered Vines

Will you, please, tell me what the fly on enclosed Vine leaf is? I have it in large numbers on the leaves near the top ventilators. I do not think I have seen it before. It does not seem to have done much harm at present. J. T. B.

[The flies you have sent in for examination belong to the class Diptera and are not an injurious insect. They breed in the soil and live on decaying organic matter. As you found them near the top ventilators they may have come in from outside; on the other hand, they may have been introduced into the house in the larval stage with soil or leaf-mould. You will find that they will not do the Vines any injury.]

Brown Rot of Plums

I should be much obliged if, through the columns of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, you would indicate what steps ought to be taken to overcome the failure of the enclosed Plums to ripen properly. G. H. CROFT.

[The specimen Plums sent for examination are affected with Brown Rot, which is caused by the fungus Monilia cinerea, forma pruni. This disease is a serious one wherever Plums are cultivated. If you examine your trees now you will find that some of the tips of the young growth and some of the spur wood are also affected with the disease. You can detect the disease by the presence of dead wood and leaves at the points indicated. The fungus commences its attack on a lone Plum, generally at the tip; the fungus eventually invades the whole of the Plum, and instead of the fruit rotting away entirely it becomes mummified and drops to the ground or, more often, remains hanging on the tree throughout winter. When an attacked Plum is resting on a sound one the sound one becomes attacked at the point of contact. Spores are produced on dead wood, leaves, and from the mummy Plums. The spores so produced commence operations by attacking the Plum flowers, which are killed. This stage is called Blossom Wilt. The young green wood is next attacked, and much of it killed. This stage is called Wither Tip. Finally, the ripening fruit is attacked, and this is known as the Brown Rot stage. You should go over your trees carefully and remove the affected portions. All the diseased material should be burnt. The trees should be sprayed at the end of February (not later) with the following mixture:—1 lb. caustic soda, 1 lb. of soft-soap, 10 gallons of water. The cutting out and spraying should be repeated each season until the disease is under control.]

Peach foliage

Referring to your suggestions on p. 507 of August 13th, I failed to obtain any results from shaking the trees at night, but enclose you two beetles obtained from the hay-bands —one from each tree. G. H. T.

[The weevils sent from the hay-band traps are the Black Vine Weevil (Otiorrhynchus sulcatus). We felt certain from the nature of the damage done to the foliage you sent in at first that weevil was the cause of the trouble, and we are glad you have been able to find the culprits at last. The adult weevils such as you have sent appear in spring and early summer, according to the temperature of the house in which they are living. After the egg-laying period most of the weevils die, but some of the females live over until the second year. This is why you have had some difficulty in finding specimens at this period of the year. The weevils deposit their eggs in the soil. The maggots appear shortly after and begin to feed upon the roots of the host plants. They feed throughout the summer and autumn; in fact, they do not change into the chrysalis state until the following spring. After a short period in the chrysalis state the adults emerge and feed upon the foliage of many plants, but they are very fond of the Peach and Vine. You will have noticed that this pest does damage in two periods of its life-history, damage being done to roots by the maggots and to foliage by the adults. Spread naphthalene evenly on the top of the soil at the rate of 2 ozs. per square yard and dig it in as deeply as possible without damaging the root-system of the Peach. This treatment will account for many of the maggots. Traps put down in spring will

enable you to catch many of the pest that survive and emerge as adults next spring. Hay-bands make good traps. The weevil maggots can often be found at the roots of pot plants, such as Cyclamens, Ferns, Primulas, and rock plants.]

Diseased fruit

I have sent you some Figs and leaves of a Chaumontel Pear tree. The Figs are a large crop, but many of them are curled like those sent, and during the last two or three weeks have been dropping off, having spots of decay at the eye. Has the weather caused the mischief? The leaves of my Chaumontel Pears shrivel as if burnt by frost about the time when the first shoot is about 6 inches or so long. It does not affect the growth of the trees, and the fruit grows to perfection. Other Pear trees in the same position are not affected. The Fig trees are standards, and always ripen their fruit well. I observe that the White Genoa Fig, which is much earlier than the Brown Ischia, is not affected in the same way, but has not so abundant a crop this year. E. T. R.

[We cannot give you any explanation of your curled and mildewed Figs, but we think you are right in referring their unsatisfactory condition to the abnormally wet and cold season. The common moulds now on the fruit are quite a secondary symptom. In reference to the Chaumontel Pear leaves, it is singular that they should be badly affected and the fruit, as you say, grow to perfection; we are, on this account, inclined to refer the black and discoloured leaves to the action of frost on the very young foliage. We can see no fungus, and had there been fungus at an earlier stage of growth it would, doubtless, have attacked the fruits also.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Pinks, Lavender, and Lupins

(1) Which Allwoodii most resembles Mrs. Sinkins, *i.e.*, in fragrance, colour, and *laced edge?* (2) Would a young Hypericum calycinum be injured by transplanting on or before September 29th? (3) Where can Regal Lupins be obtained? (4) Is enclosed the dwarf or ordinary Lavender? It has been planted 21 months, but is only 18 inches tall, the flowering branches all being under 3 feet. C. Forth.

[(1) The variety Allwoodii Alfred most resembles Mrs. Sinkins Pink in colour, but it never splits its calyx, whilst the stem is slightly stronger than Mrs. Sinkins; also, of course, all Allwoodii bloom from early June until late October. (2) Hypericum calycinum may be safely transplanted from September 1st onwards, and you will assist your plant if you cut away its growth to half its original height. (3) The Lavender you send is that known as the Dutch Lavender, the best dwarf kind is that known as Lavendula nana atropurpurea, which rarely exceeds 1 foot in height, but has very richly-coloured flowers. This is a beautiful edging plant. (4) Regal Lupins may be obtained from either Wallace and Co., The Old Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, or Barr and Sons, Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead.]

Spring garden

Will you kindly give me your advice on the following? I have a three-sided herbaceous border enclosing a square of grass with formal sundial in the centre. I want to move the border elsewhere, and was wondering if one could plant May-flowering Tulips (or would the early ones be better?) and leave them in the ground, and sow annuals for a summer display. Would the Tulips be over early enough to ensure a good show of annuals? "Spes."

[For your borders for spring display it will be best to use the May-flowering Tulips, and to sow the annuals in the first week of September; then the earliest of the annuals will be in flower with the May Tulips, and the beauty of the annuals will continue through May and June. The best annuals for the purpose will be Limnanthes Douglasii and Platystemon californicum (yellow), Calendula Prince of Orange, Godetia (double rose-pink), Collomia coccinea, Malope grandiflora, Linum rubrum or grandiflorum and Papaver glaucum (red), Collinsia bicolor (white and purple), Cornflower, Nigella, and Convolvulus minor (blue), Gypsophila elegans, Omphalodes linifolia and Sweet Alyssum (white), also the Larkspurs, especially Delphinium consolida, in purple, pink, and white colourings, and the Opium Poppies, white, red, purple, and pink.]

Trouble with Gladioli and Carnations

I enclose Gladioli plants and should be much obliged if you could tell me what is the matter with them, for it is serious. For the first time I am losing quite a number, and they go off at all stages, from a few inches high till almost in flower. The most robust kinds, such as Halley, suffer equally with the rest, yet the nearest neighbours of a dying plant or batch are most healthy and vigorous. One big bed of several hundred is in same ground as last year with a good dressing of bone-meal, the other some way off on last year's Onion bed. I also send Carnation cuttings for inspection. F. M.

Ditchling.

[Your Gladioli are attacked by fungus (Myriococcus), which is best checked by burning the affected plants and giving a heavy dressing of sulphur to the ground, afterwards trenching 2 feet 6 inches deep in autumn. Dipping the corms for about two minutes in a solution of one part of formaldehyde to five parts of water has proved a check to the disease. Another solution recommended is 1 oz. of sulphate of copper dissolved in 10 gallons of water. The Carnations sent are infested with red spider, to destroy which dissolve 1 oz. of common salt in a gallon of water and spray the plants with same early in the morning, care being taken to wet all parts, and a few hours later again spray the plants with clean water.]

Carnations and Pinks

Kindly let me have (1) the names of, say, two or three good white self Carnations (double perennial) that will bloom over a *lengthy period,* suited to being left in the border all the year round. (2) I have been told that there are varieties that will bloom from May until the frost comes. Is this so? If there is such a white of the above type it is obviously what is required. (3) Also the names of two or three of the *best white* Pinks. Would you please let me have them in the order of merit you regard them in, the periods of blooming, also if laced or fringed edge? (4) Also the names, please, of two or three really good *white* Roses (bush); principal requirement, *long-blooming period,* and preferably of the compact sort with lasting blooms, *i.e.,* slow in coming out to full flower, and of good substance and strong or robust habit. Kindly place in the order of merit you regard them in and periods of blooming. "Dian."

[(1) Since you desire white Carnations only, the varieties from which to select are, in consequence, somewhat restricted. There are no good pure white Perpetual Border Carnations, so you must fall back on the older kinds, and of these we suggest Elaine, Amy Robsart, and Bookham White as coming fairly near to your specification, but you must understand that no Carnation will continue to thrive and flower indefinitely, but must be renewed every two years or No border variety will bloom conti for the period named. (3) Her Majes Sinkins, and Fair Lady. The two are somewhat similar, but Mrs. Si more fringed than the other, whi Lady is a newer variety with smoot like a Carnation. It is hardly pos give the exact time of flowering, th ing so much in the different distri Frau Karl Druschki (Snow Queen David McKee, and Lady Quartus E

The Edelweiss

Can you inform me how this is cul Will it do best on a rockery planted

[It will succeed in any ordinary which is exposed and well drained. should be rather light and rich, but not absolutely required. Seedling should be grown on in frames pre being planted in the open border.]

Water plants

Is it impossible to have goldfis Water Lily, Forget-me-nots, and in the same little pond? I had the pots and stood them in the pond—a basin 4 feet across—but the mould water so dark and dirty I could h the fish. Now I have changed the have lifted the pots right out, onl the Lily—a common one—back wit earth. Would water Forget-me-n without earth, too? "Cas

[None of the plants you mention, the Water Lily, will live for very your pond without soil. The m plunging plant pots containing th plants is quite a good one, and if waited long enough you would ha that the water would clear so that have seen the fish. You do not depth of your pond, and we are i think that some of the plants will by the frost, as will the fish. At le of water is necessary to protect the most water plants hardy in this cou your pond is only 4 feet across w clined to think that the plants and require protection during winter. remove the fish to a greenhouse ta winter and re-stock the pond wi each spring if you found it neces pond water will clear itself if left u long enough.]

Malformed Sweet Pea

(Mrs. E. Micklem).—We thank yo ing the curious flower-stem. Malf frequently occur among heavily-f otherwise they are of no special i are certainly undesirable among th ing flowers.

TREES AND SHRU

Lavender dying

I am writing to ask you ab Lavender plants which I planted ago to form a hedge. The plants ally dying off and the remaining no new growth, look diseased, turning yellow and the flowering s brown. Can you tell me the ca remedy? M. Whi

Hayward's Heath.

[Something is wrong either wit or the plants, for newly-planted should flourish without any special providing the soil is properly prepa hand and the planting done corre least four years. From your acco plants it is doubtful whether they keeping. But in any case we ad lift the healthiest of them and tra to fresh and well-prepared—but

d—ground, and obtain a fresh clean o replace them. Before planting on ne site take out the soil to the depth hes by 9 inches wide, and replace with rden loam to which has been added freshly-slaked lime.]

o conspicua

may I clip this (as I do yearly the Grass)? My plants of it are full of d leaves, alive at the base, and so e pulled. I once clipped an Arundo spring, and it took two years to but I am sure if done at the right ey would make greener and tidier
J. H. W. T.

u clip your plants at all do it in ust before they begin to grow. They ire the rough foliage as a protection r.]

GREENHOUSE

nes in a greenhouse

ld be very grateful for hints on grownones in pots in my small green. My attempts last winter resulted in leal of foliage, but the few flowerat appeared did not mature. This e been because I was trying a less rt, Blue Gown. I want the brilliant t my greenhouse is unheated and little sun in autumn and winter. me, ordinary bulbs do well in it. I understand watering bulbs in the ge. Perhaps I may have given too the house is damp in the winter
J. M. Cooper.

xtremely difficult to get satisfactory om Anemones in pots in a small e, because Anemones, particularly nemones, St. Brigid Anemones, and Caen, are not really suitable for re. They resent any attempt at nd artificial heat is fatal in most it is particularly desired to grow ots one corm to a 4-inch pot is suffie soil should be a fairly rich heavy and from first to last give a more and cooler culture, when better rebe obtained. If corms are potted, is season, a first watering after beshould suffice for a week or more; an occasional watering to keep the becoming dry.]

MISCELLANEOUS

rt

ou tell me the best way to keep a in good order, also treatment for ering caused by damp situation? covering appeared a week after it re-covered.
A. J. C.

gest you communicate with the En Co., Ltd., Syston, near Leicester, a copy of their "Instructions to n for Keeping a Court in Order lay." This should help you con. With regard to the green Moss, easily killed with dressings of the pany's special caustic soda. They have particulars.]

rdeners at Kew

nan).—Candidates are required to ears' practical training in horti. re entering Kew, and that during s they remain at Kew they under. of lectures and training in sciences horticulture, in addition to their ining. Opportunities await the nt of horticulture who is keen to g of the world and does not mind not unconnected with real ad. the tropical colonies of the Em. opportunities, of course, are not unlimited, but many of the student gardeners at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, who desire a life overseas and who are physically fitted for it may secure appointments in the service of a Colonial Government. These posts are generally in the horticultural section of a Colonial Agricultural Department, though often appointments are made to the general executive side of the department. The initial salaries vary from £300 to £480 per annum, and the prospects, which entirely depend on the individual, are good.

Treatment of Black Currant cuttings and earthing-up Celery

(1) I have some young Black Currant cuttings taken last November and rooted well, with growths of 3 feet. (*a*) In transplanting into their permanent quarters should I shorten these rather long, sappy growths? (*b*) When is the best time to transplant? (2) Celery: In tying brown-paper around the sticks, as now advised by some, how low and how high should the brown-paper be fixed, and how does the brown-paper affect the earthing-up? Does the latter go over the brown-paper, or does the paper dispense with earthing-up?
W. A. L. Everitt.

[(1) (*a*) Yes, reduce these back to harder wood, leaving the plants 2 feet high, but not until most of the leaves have fallen, and in February prune the remaining growth back to within 14 inches of the ground. (*b*) The second week in October. (2) Celery: To blanch Celery with brown-paper a fairly stiff quality paper should be used and cut into bands about 5 inches in width. These are fastened securely, but not too tight, round the plant with two or three strands of stout raffia so that light and air are excluded. A little soil should be placed round the base of each band so that feeding and watering may not be interrupted. The foliage should be dewed over each fine afternoon and moisture, with stimulants about twice each week, abundantly supplied. About every eighth day an additional band of paper should be put on, care being taken to guard against damage to the young leaves. This must continue until the plant is bound up to within 6 inches or 8 inches of the top, the last band being more loosely tied. During the process of blanching the whole of the paper should be removed occasionally and the plants carefully examined for vermin and decaying leaves. Before any paper is put on, the sticks should be cleaned of all old or bad leaves and side shoots, and thus admit of the first sheet touching the soil. From 3 inches to 4 inches of soil is all that is necessary, and this should be placed firmly round the base of the sticks, as the paper dispenses with any further earthing-up. We would point out, however, that this treatment is most suitable for early-maturing Celery, and where late rows have to be maintained until the end of February, and therefore face the possibility of severe frosts, earthing-up becomes necessary. But even in this case brown-paper placed round each plant is an advantage, as it tends to protect the succulent sticks from the ravages of slugs. Not more than 3 inches or 4 inches of soil should be added at each earthing-up, and this at intervals of 10 days or so, this being pressed firmly round each stick as the work proceeds until the limit has been reached, when the ridge should be finished off like the ridge of a house so that water will run off freely.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

C. C.—Pyrus salicifolia (Willow-leaved Pear).

B. W. A.—1, Helxine Solierolii; 2, Lamium maculatum; 3, Campanula rotundifolia.

Studio.—Ononis rotundifolia, native of Southern Europe.

W. Cole, Hants.—1, Buddleia nanhœnsis (hardy); 2, Veronica Andersoni (hardy near the sea and in southern counties, half-hardy elsewhere).

J. T. R. W., Slough—Aralia spinosa.

J. C. N.—Lilium Martagon.

W. P.—1, Liatris spicata; 2, Calceolaria amplexicaulis; 3, Spiræa Ulmaria; 4, S. sorbifolia.

M. T.—Solanum crispum.

P.—1, Echinacea purpurea; 2, Gymnogramma chrysophylla; 3, G. tartarica.

M.—Aster Tripolium.

E. C.—Campanula fragilis; the other is Linaria Cymbalaria.

Lady C.—Cerinthe aspera.

Gramineæ.—Stipa pennata.

F. C.—1, Echinacea purpurea; 2, Hibiscus Trionum; 3, Campanula fragilis; 4, Davallia Mooreana.

S. J.—1, Asclepias syriacus; 2, Campanula pyramidalis.

M. J.—Spiræa palmata.

G.—1, Liatris spicata; 2, Anemone rivularis; 3, Œnothera fruticosa; 4, Sedum Aizoon.

A. S. M.—1, Helenium autumnale; 2, Centaurea ruthenica; 3, Bupthalmum speciosum; 4, Sedum spectabile.

J. H. Payne.—Santolina incana (French Lavender).

NAME OF FRUIT

H. Stanley Stephenson.—Adam's Pearmain.

Autumn propagation

In the reply to Mr. T. McCann on "Preparing for Autumn Propagation" (issue August 27th, page 540) a printer's error has crept in. The sentence reads: "The cuttings should be from 3 inches to 4 inches in length and taken from *flower* shoots." This should be *flowerless* shoots.

Awards to Annual Poppies

Awards of Merit have been made to the undermentioned flowers by the Royal Horticultural Society after trial at Wisley:

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Miss Sherwood, sent by Messrs. Barr.

Shirley Type.

Picotee, sent by Messrs. Barr.
Picotee, sent by Messrs. Watkins and Simpson.
Shirley, selected mixed, sent by Messrs. Barr.
Shirley, mixed, sent by the R.H.S.

Nudicaule Type.

Sunbeam Improved, sent by Messrs. Stark.

Species.

Papaver apulum, sent by the Chelsea Physic Garden.

Autumn Rose Show

The National Rose Society's great autumn show will be again held this year in the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, S.W., the dates fixed for the exhibition being Friday and Saturday, September 9th and 10th. This annual exhibition is, without doubt, the most extensive, beautiful, and varied display of autumn Roses to be seen in any part of the world. In the artistic classes the competition this year is likely to be very keen, and some very attractive exhibits are promised.

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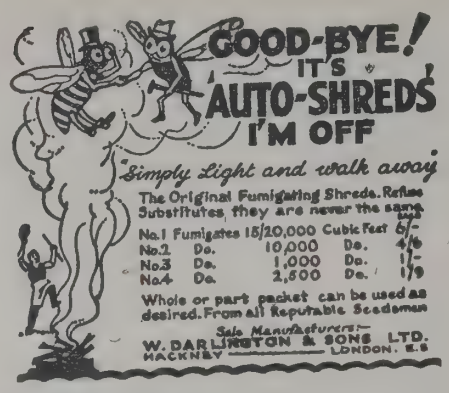

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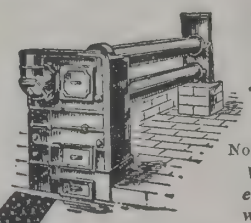

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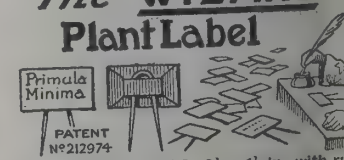

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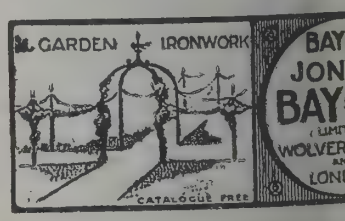

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Lifting and Replanting Daffodils

Deep culture and annual lifting and replanting will be found a practical panacea for many of the diseases and drawbacks to which Narcissi are subject in our climate

the late Canon Ellacombe who first of that delightful tradition which gers in the flower and fragrance bic mind as to the bunch or cluster of Algeria, of which the True aid: "He that has two loaves of him sell one for flowers of the for bread is food for the body, but is food for the soul." Far-fetched raphrase may appear to be, it is Covent Garden a literal fact, for herein find the flowers or the brown his sweet and delectable flower ex- sale side by side e fruits of the are pleasant to d good for food a word, the im- rcissus is one of ties of existence r time, just as the thoughtful et's own days. t, as the poet ure is ever and dear old nurse, e apt to toddle her so soon as comes, and in the hybridisers lature a step or l in their race ew forms of This state- at least for the accepted as a ugh when all of Nature's , such as N. re fully known, found that the e, after all, is s the children nd admires.

t point most noticeable about seed- si is their growing and increasing ler cultivation in our gardens. atural hybrids, N. Bernardi, from in heights of Gedre and Gavarnie, fully amenable to cultivation, and beauty as in numbers, year after being so, one need not hesitate the mere upset price as it were, eal trouble begins when we pay for those sorts which "haste oon." The thing really serious is

your hours do and dry away,
to the summer's rain,
earls of morning's dew,
to be found again,

As to the culture of these delightful flowers of spring, the annual lifting and replanting of the bulbs are strongly recommended. On light, sandy, suitable soils the bulbs may apparently increase in beauty and vigour year by year, as may be seen in old-established clumps and masses. Even in deep, rich, alluvial soil wherein N. maximus and Sir Watkin grow a yard high during favourable seasons, even here we find the permanent advantage of lifting and replanting all Narcissus bulbs in July or early in August. July is not too early to lift the bulbs, though they may with advantage be planted now. It is well to plant this month. Deep culture and annual lifting and replanting will be found a practical panacea for many if not all the diseases and drawbacks to which Narcissi are subjected in our climate. Our only manures are well decomposed leaf-mould, coarse sand, bone-meal, and now and then a dressing of wood-ashes.

Daffodils on a lawn

Among the many varieties suitable for naturalising and planting in woodlands, shrubberies, orchards, and in grass are Emperor, Empress, Sir Watkin, Golden Spur, Henry Irving, Barri conspicuus, Old Pheasant's Eye, Ornatus, and Telamonius Plenus, the double yellow Trumpet Daffodil

Daffodils relifted annually

All the Daffodils are very much the better for being relifted and replanted every year, provided the operation be performed at the right time. This is when the leaves turn yellow in June, and they had better be lifted too early than too late. The practice is general in Holland, and in England and Ireland, wherever Narcissi are really well cultivated, and not simply allowed to take their chance, as they do in the woods and meadows where they are wild or naturalised. A friend of mine has two sets of Daffodils of all the finest kinds. One set he grows in pots and tubs to flower under glass in cool structures and the other set he grows in the open air on a sloping sunny border. It follows, of course, that one lot is planted out and the other lot relifted for forcing every year, and this is carried out with perfect success. The bulbs replanted annually always flower better than those left in the ground year after year, and, what is more, they increase more rapidly and form larger and more shapely bulbs, besides which, for bedding-out purposes one has the advantage of knowing exactly that there will be no weak spots or failures in the bed, a drawback sure to occur if the bulbs are allowed to remain in the same soil year after year. Uproot them every year in June or July at latest, replanting them at once or a month later as convenience demands. It is by far preferable to the old plan of allowing them to become well established or to die out, as the case may be. The best growers always relift and replant every year.

Daffodil Grower.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Spring-flowering bulbs

THERE are several kinds of spring-flowering bulbs so cheap as to be within reach of all, and they should be largely used by all who have gardens to adorn. Very pretty and pleasing effects may be produced by planting some of them amongst the grass under deciduous trees, as in such places Crocuses, Winter Aconites, Snowdrops, Squills, Dog's-tooth Violets, Chionodoxa, and Daffodils look quite at home, especially in cases where the trees are on raised ground, as then the flowers show off to advantage. All that is necessary in the planting is just to

dibble the bulbs in and to fill up the holes with light, rich soil, putting them in in patches here and there, so as to make them look as natural as possible. By leaving them to make their growth and ripen off, the bulbs will become established and come up from year to year.

Herbs of Peace

The tall blooms of the purple Loosestrife—probably the "long purples" which Ophelia turned into her funeral garland—make a welcome patch of colour by the side of the stream, grown turbid with the rains of an unkindly summer. It is a common plant, but there is a small hyssop-leaved species which is rare.

Purple and yellow Loosestrife

The purple Loosestrife has no botanical connection with the Yellow Loosestrife which also grows by the side of streams and in ditches, and is a member of the Primrose family; but both plants were supposed to have the power of abating quarrelsomeness, and the great yellow kind, as Gerard tells us, was discovered by King Lysimachus to be of virtue in "appeasing the strife and unrulinesse which falleth out among oxen at the plough if it bee put about their yokes." Hence its Latin name of Lysimachia, which it shares with the Creeping Jenny, the pretty little Yellow Pimpernel of the woods, and others.

Buphthalmum speciosum

In many respects this is a striking and noble plant when seen at its best, and one which requires a cool, moist, deep soil, shelter from cutting winds, and partial shade during the early part of the day. It will grow very well and flower satisfactorily under quite ordinary conditions, but to see it to advantage, with huge luxuriant leaves 18 inches across and 18 inches long, and stout branching flower-spikes 6 feet high laden with showy, fringed, yellow, Daisy-like flowers, each with a dark centre and 5 inches across, the suggestions made above are essential. Once established no further care, other than an occasional dividing up of the roots, is necessary, and for this reason it is an admirable subject for wild and waterside gardening. Plant in bold groups a yard apart and this imposing subject will not only take care of itself, but will actually prevent weeds growing.

E. M.

Clematis Perle d'Azur

One of the most beautiful climbing plants known to the writer is this Clematis, of which many are now in bloom. One old specimen—now 30 years old—produces thousands of handsome azure-blue flowers annually, and numbers of vigorous specimens which have from time to time been layered from it are serious rivals in point of beauty and luxuriance. One of these which I layered a few years ago is growing on a fence, and, when measured by a visitor a few days ago, was found to have a spread of 36 feet, the fence being 6 feet in height.

E. MARKHAM.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Narcissus Opera

I HAPPENED to be one of the judges in the "single bloom" at a leading Daffodil Show last spring, and I am profoundly thankful that we were not called upon to decide between the relative merits of Opera and Jessie. Both belong to the same section, which show people know as Barriis, with white perianths, but this is pretty well all they have in common. Were the two together in a competition it would bring up in an acute form the relative importance from the standpoint of the show flower of size and refinement. In Opera we have an ideal, or as near an ideal as we can ever hope to see, but as things go now it lacks size, being only 2¾ inches in diameter. The perianth is a very pure white, of beautiful texture and with broad, overlapping segments. The cup is well proportioned and has a greeny centre which becomes more yellow towards the edge, culminating in a well-defined rim of a Will Scarlet red.

L. J.

Newly collected Daffodil bulbs

I have just counted 43 superfluous tunics on some bulbs that have come from the Pyrenees. Is it better to remove them or plant with them on? I fancy it is better to remove them, especially for cultivation in the wet British climate. I have been an observer of roots, and, among the rest, of bulbs of the common Snowdrop in its wild state and the wild English Daffodil, and I have come to think that from the present point of view, *i.e.*, of the present high culture of these bulbs, the numerous tunics after a certain time become a hindrance to the old bulbs. I think it will invariably be found that thickly-coated bulbs of Daffodils seldom have offsets, and such as they have were evidently formed years before, when the parent bulb was young or not thickly coated, because the offsets, too, have many tunics. Indeed, it may be observed in gardens that if the bulbs are left alone for years they become thickly coated and fail to make offsets. Premising that the formation of offsets is an indication of health and vigour, I conclude that that which prevents offsets is against the well-doing of the plant. Two years ago I received a present of 20 kinds of newly-collected Daffodils; all the bulbs were as clean and bright as newly-shelled Chestnuts, so I am sure they had been trimmed. The point, however, is that nearly all flowered, and most of them increased largely the first season, which they had not done for so evidently, in their wild homes, be bulbs were perfectly round and so basal root rings. I do not wish that the flowering was in the least removal of the tunics, because, as the flowers are formed the year bef proves that the development is not by such removal, and, to my mind offsets are a clean gain.

Narcissus Opera

A hardy form of Iris japo

If I may, I should like to suppl interesting note on I. japonica syn. sis, contributed to a recent issue paper by Mr. Hosking (issue Aug page 529). The Merton plant can ally from a certain famous garden tham Cross. Before that I had another remarkable garden at Cross. I have little doubt that variety now sold as "Ledger's Mr. Ledger, whose *flair* for new remarkable, has already told the the plant. (See note and illustra hardy form of Iris fimbriata syn I. issue July 16th, page 435.) Mr. H not emphasised the fact that, plant ordinarily sold as I. japonica, is quite hardy. At any rate it flou protected in the poisonous (horti climate of the Fens. Curiously it is turned up in Botanical Magaz be found that, in the thirties of la it grew freely in the old Chels Garden, but was wiped out in Thames-congealing frost about I have had the pleasure of distri find to many of my friends. W ception they have all been delight It is undoubtedly the most easily the I. cristata class. It is a p cannot be crossed with its dainty gracilipes, whose evasiveness most must deplore.

A. B

Buddleia nanhoensis naturalise

A reader at Symond's Yat, He who sends sprays of this Buddleia fication, writes:—I shall be obliged if you can name the enclo spray. It is evidently a Buddleia is growing wild in the woods here loss as to its variety. This is the I know of in these extensive w about 3 feet high, having been ch last year by the woodmen when ground for the young Fir trees. the woodmen have not been along axes and the Buddleia has be flower. It is strange how it shou there, as there are no houses with of a mile and no Buddleia of tha any garden that I know of in thi

Phlox Drummondi and Daffo same ground

The double cropping has been cess. Being somewhat of a novic culture and the fortunate possess bed of the very best sorts that flowered grandly, I naturally deci best way of ensuring a still better year was to leave the bulbs in possession of the ground. The o in the way of my doing this w border is in rather a conspicuo Either the bulbs must be lifted, o must be planted between the line apart—of the Daffodils. This i history of the magnificent be Drummondi in mixed colours th pletely covers the soil, and as th not make very large roots I do n any injury to the Daffodils. friend who ought to know, after

was told about the Daffodils, when of approving the plan said, " What Daffodils flower best when lifted Mr. So-and-so always lifted his, is the reason he always shows such ers." I confess that this was news nd I shall be greatly surprised to t the practice is general. If it is, ut the Daffodils in the meadows that ıpied the same places for ages, and to perfection? D. D. P.

g and judging at flower shows

interesting subject has arisen in s and one well worth thrashing out. fully reading the " Scots Judge's " d the reply from " A Scottish Gar- vho seems fully capable of dealing ormer, I feel inclined to agree and my few remarks with Mr. W. P. d Mr. R. Moore, who give their a more genial and open spirit than ıdge." I have had over 20 years' in horticultural shows and judg- am at the present time one of the County Council judges on their scheme. So far as I am concerned ver been associated with any gar- County Council judge who ever had grind"; all adjudicating was done nd open manner, with no thought ibitor whatever, whether local or I have had the experience as Mr. , not only with Shallots, but many es, and it is very rare that two or es ever entirely agree. As regards I have had very little cause to ne, for, as a rule, the Committee- n the alert, and in many cases mpetition for the best cottage gar- llotments in the district. Amongst petitors, chiefly, are those who produce to the show tent, and ery few who have the audacity to than their own, as there is always g as raising an objection amongst , and I have on several occasions n to visit the gardens and settle

re's statement that the Committee ht to visit and inspect gardens and at any time within a week before olds good in this part, and one can that if any doubt whatever exists adhered to.

P. Bound mentions the R.H.S. dging. This we use, and it would to obtain any more useful and es than those given. Talking llots, from my own experience, more difficult class to judge than e they are strongly represented, the children's bunches of wild ifty or 60 of these take a little W. E. WRIGHT.

Gardens,
igiau, near Cardiff.

Self-sown Asters

l known, and is well proved on hat Asters (single varieties) will ter the beds have been well dug l with another subject, and in they become as troublesome as have had scores of them this up on their own where they were . Some were given away and o the fire. It is astonishing how healthy the young plants appear. trace of foot rot or black leg I noticed when one of the beds were cleared of nets and several plants had found their way uggled on, not under ideal condi- plant now flowering is 2 feet h and quite as much through. is Sinensis. I have not yet had experience with the beautiful new Southcott Beauty, a most welcome race for those that want something good for cutting.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Eustoma Russellianus

By T. HAY, M.V.O., V.M.H., Superintendent, Hyde Park

The remarkably fine bed of Eustoma Russellianus that has for weeks been flowering in Hyde Park has led to many inquiries about the cultivation of this unusual and beautiful plant that had previously been given greenhouse treatment. The following article by Mr. T. Hay, V.M.H., Superintendent of Hyde Park, has been written by request and in answer to correspondents. The bed of Eustoma Russellianus is still flowering. It is situated within one minute's walk of Hyde Park Corner.

EUSTOMA RUSSELLIANUS is the " Lisianthus Russellianus " of Hooker, the " Eustoma Russellianum " of Grisebach, but familiarly and affectionately known as " Lizzie Russell " to certain members of the Kew staff and youthful seedsmen.

It is magnificently figured in the Botanical Magazine at tab. 3,626. Seeds were first collected by Drummond in Texas in 1835, and we are informed that in a note accompanying these seeds these words were given—" not excelled in beauty by any other plant."

The geographical range of this plant ought to have convinced us long ago that its cultivation in the open air should be quite possible in the warmer parts of these Islands, but it has always been grown as a greenhouse plant. I cannot remember ever having seen it in the open. It has always been considered a plant difficult of cultivation, and for a reason that will appear later it has always been grown in first-rate style at Cambridge Botanic Gardens. I naturally went to Mr. Preston for some advice on the exact time the seeds should be sown, so that the plants were of the right type and size to carry through the winter. The seed-sowing should be done about the end of April, but this, though important, is not the secret of the Cambridge success. The secret, perhaps, is supplied by an American writer, the Rev. J. M. Bates, who has pointed out that it is a thing of beauty in the Nebraska flora and is only found on strongly alkaline soils. This may account for the luxuriance shown in the specimens that have at times been exhibited from Cambridge, and provides the hint as to what the soil requires to grow this plant successfully. Lime, and plenty of it, is no doubt essential, and this the Cambridge plants get in the soil and water of that county.

When determined to try this plant as a park feature I had the enthusiastic co-operation of my chief propagator, Mr. Kent, also of Mr. White, who had the growing of the plants. Being both modest men they are well aware that our plants are but moderate specimens. Considering the trouble with damp, London fogs, and other enemies, the result is good indeed. In this plant we have a subject that flowers over a very long period, of a unique shade of royal purple, far more interesting and attractive than many plants on which we lavish much care and attention.

Sow your seeds, then, in April in a pan, the soil of which should never be allowed to get dry. When the seedlings are large enough to handle place them singly in small pots. A cold frame is the right place for them right up to early winter, then a cool, airy greenhouse. In February they can be potted in 5-inch pots and planted out in May.

If your ideal is to be, as it ought, the Cambridge standard for house decoration, finish them in 8-inch or 9-inch pots. Then you will have huge plants 2 feet through with many flowering stems of glorious purple.

The bed of Eustoma Russellianus and Sabbattia campestris now in full bloom in Hyde Park, near Hyde Park Corner

Planting bulbs outdoors

October is a good time to plant outdoors bulbs of various kinds intended to flower next spring. The Daffodils and Tulips may be planted in the grass, flower-beds, and borders, or massed together in plantations for the purpose of supplying cut flowers in the spring. Anemone roots should be planted in clumps, in which manner they give a gorgeous display. The St. Brigid types are especially brilliant in colour. The crowns are covered with about 3 inches of soil, the clumps of roots being divided by about 6 inches.

G. W. B.

Tulips to Plant This Autumn

EACH year the love for garden Tulips increases, and it is not alone the cottage plot that boasts its flaming masses of the splendid Gesneriana, a Tulip that rises far above its fellows in grace, colour, and vigour. Growers for market are thinking more of the class of bulb which blooms at a season when no glut occurs. When the Daffodils are practically over, the garden is made brilliant with the many late kinds, offering a charming and interesting series of colours, from white to deepest crimson. We hope that the interest shown in the late Tulips will not decline. The bulbs grow to as great perfection in England as in any other country, and when in bold masses, each bed planted with one kind, a picture of colour is obtained—brighter and richer than anything else in its season can supply. The broad beds in Messrs. Barr and Sons' nursery at Taplow, or in Bath's nursery at Wisbech, or Wallace, of Tunbridge Wells, or Dobbie's in Essex and Scotland, not to mention the Tulip growers of Ireland, are evidence of the striking character of May-flowering Tulips when well planted in suitable soil.

One has been a little frightened, perhaps, by a disease that has attacked the Tulip, but nothing alarming has occurred, the best way of dealing with unhealthy bulbs being to get rid of them. The late Tulips should be planted in quantity—not a miserable flecking, so to say, here and there, but broad masses to make telling groups and beds of colour. First and most important is Gesner's Tulip, and many forms may be obtained now in good nurseries, the growing love for the flowers cheapening the bulbs. No attempt is here made to classify them. The Tulips are considerably mixed up, due partly to their variable character and to the garden names given to mere forms of species. Fortunately, however, catalogues are consistent, and one may be certain of getting the true kind. Before growing any other Tulips, commence first of all with the late kinds, those that make the garden bright with colour in May, flowering being dependent in a great measure on the weather. One of the earliest species is Tulipa Greigi, which we should not plant largely, but a bed of it on the outskirts of the lawn, or a few clumps in the border are brilliant. It is showy and variable, displaying almost a self-yellow tone, then bright carmine and crimson, the flowers very large, goblet-shaped, and the leaves conspicuously barred with chocolate on a glaucous ground. We have seen the various forms given distinctive names, but in such a variable flower as the Tulip this is surely a mistake. Two splendid kinds are fulgens and elegans, particularly the former, which is a form of T. Gesneriana. It has that graceful aspect characteristic of the race, the flowers very rich crimson, and produced on tall scapes. This looks remarkably well in a small bed, especially if the latter be carpeted with some plant like the White Rock Cress (Arabis albida), Stonecrops, or Iberis, just t bare surface of the soil. T. macro form largely planted in Miss Jekyl at Munstead Wood. It is one of sweetly-scented of all Tulips, i bright carmine in colour, large, an ably handsome. T. G. spathulata very fine late Tulip, found wild in a superb variety for beds. Its f very large, more so than in the bright red, enriched with an al blotch at the base of the segments name for it is T. G. vera, under given in some catalogues. Ele charming Tulip, conspicuous for i flowers, the deep crimson segmen gradually to the apex, where the reflex. Three very fine varieties w of yellow shades are T. retrofle d'Or, and Golden Crown. The three has a touch of T. acumin known, perhaps, as T. cornuta, segments tapering to quite a poin gesting such relationship. It is a ful hybrid, tall, graceful, and vigo yellow in colour, and one of the m and beautiful Tulips of its clas Crown is getting more popular bold beds, and it deserves to be pla the flowers being large, yellow, crimson edge to the pointed Bouton d'Or is of a deep self-yel very different from another desi called Picotee, in which the se white, recurved gracefully, and soft rose. The Tulips describe sufficient, and in each colour on is really required, the great poi select just a few of the finest i ticular shade. T. acuminata is v but a bed of it we once saw was n its petals are too long and thin display. One seems to trace t of this remarkably distinct specie of the garden Tulips, elegans a also the strange "Parrots," wh blaze of vivid hues when in pe viridiflora is useful for variety. flowers are very quietly but coloured, soft green, set off with yellow to the petals. The la Tulips, where still unrepresented should be made good use of. T florists' varieties are of quaint they must not be planted in the s the self kinds. The byblomens, l allied sections should be used in where their colours are interest effective. It is effect that must in the garden; something that impart colour and rich beauty.

Readers with a taste for col ment have endless opportunity Speaking generally, these brill look best when planted in beds o in flower borders or even in the

Many prefer to plant each vari and there is much to be said in f procedure.

On the other hand, the simpl maroon and yellow, as of Fra A retroflexa, for example, is very e tall black maroon Zulu is more the soft pinks, while the ap John Ruskin goes well with the crimsons. These colour comb unending, and it is well for re more attention to them.

PARROT TULIPS.—It would be teresting to know the exact c Parrot Tulips, which are wo freely in beds or in places where or creeping plant surfaces the s the bold flowers getting splas Their heavy character is a faul spects, but one must admire series of colours distributed on shaped segments.

Pleasing effects may be produced in May by planting Tulip bulbs in autumn

Zulu, tall black maroon

The apricot-coloured John Ruskin

Tulipa retroflexa, honey yellow, beautiful in form and colour

he Culture of Daffodils in Pots

all the spring-flowering bulbs suitable growing in pots the Daffodil is, in ny respects, the most satisfactory. It y easy to manage, blooms for a fairly eriod if kept quite cool after coming om, is of great value as a cut flower, he bulbs, if given a little good treat- fter flowering, are of great value for g out-of-doors, either in the garden or gh grass, thriving even under large us trees.

n wanted for pot culture it pays, in the secure the best bulbs, even if a little as to be paid for them. While not at idious as to soil, it will be found that sults are had by using good, sound, loam, with about one-third its bulk mould added, and enough coarse sand ure porosity. On no account use manures, but the compost will be im- by allowing a 6-inch potful of bone- each barrowload of soil.

ots should be perfectly clean and have amount of drainage added. For the s with large bulbs 7-inch pots are best, he 6-inch size suits for those with roots.

ulbs may, with all safety, be packed osely together, thus the pots will hold e to seven roots each, and will make display when in flower. The bulbs t be quite covered, or at least part of s may be left above the surface. The should be left a little loose *under* s, but must be quite firm on the sur- fter potting, arrange closely together sheltered corner out-of-doors and on ash bottom. Give a good watering a coarse-rosed can and then cover d around with sand, or even old soil which has been passed through a iddle. Coal-ashes should not be used nging material unless they have lain for a year or more.

more so than with other bulbous s it necessary to have the Daffodil well rooted before removing from the plunge. Three months is not too long, while it must never be less than 10 weeks if best results are to be looked for. After being assured that the bulbs are well rooted they may be removed from the plunge and set in a cold frame, covering the sashes with mats for a few days and keeping rather close. Afterwards gradually admit abundance of air and all the light possible. A fortnight in the frame and they are ready for a light, airy greenhouse. No more fire-heat must be given than just sufficient to keep out frost. This is very important, especially at first, for a high temperature will cause the bulbs to go "blind." The only time a little forcing is permissible is after the flower-stems rise, when a little gentle warmth will encourage the blooms to open a little earlier.

If wanted for planting out, the pots, after the flowers have faded or been cut, should be set in a cold frame, be given water when necessary until the hardest of the frost is over, when they can be stood outside until the foliage dies down, and can then be shaken out, dried in an open, airy shed away from the sun, and planted out in August or September.

While the majority of Daffodils do quite well in pots there are some specially suited for this method of culture. I have found the following always reliable, free-flowering, and of strong, robust habit:—Emperor (very good, but the blooms last a shorter time than the others), Empress, Horsfieldii, Sir Watkin, Victoria (probably the best bicolor for pots), Henry Irving, Golden Spur, Mme. de Graaff, Mme. Plemp, P. R. Barr, Princeps, and Weardale Perfection. C. Blair.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Crocus iridiflorus

Although it would appear that C. byzantinus is the name which has the priority in the nomenclature of this lovely Crocus, that of iridiflorus has been generally adopted, and we find that it has the imprimatur of Mr. George Maw, and, as has been pointed out, C. byzantinus is misleading so far as regards its native land, as it comes from the Banat and Transylvania. It is one of the most beautiful of Crocuses, and the fact that it blooms in autumn—generally in October—renders it of high value, as it comes at a time when such flowers are exceedingly welcome. It is a Crocus of considerable size and has broader leaves than the majority of the race. Its blooms, too, are very distinct in form, as the outer segments are considerably longer than the inner, giving the flower a good deal of the appearance of such an Iris as I. unguicularis. So pronounced is this Iris-like form that a botanist of considerable repute placed it in a separate genus which he termed Croco-iris, but this classification has failed to find support. C. iridiflorus is highly ornamental indeed, with its outer segments of rich purple and the inner of violet. The stigmata are purple and constitute a pleasing feature of the inflorescence. Its usual period of bloom is October, and it appears to prefer a slightly shaded place. It varies a little in point of colour, but the name of major added as a varietal title does not appear to have any warrant, as corms secured under that name do not look larger in bloom than others. Corms may still be planted and placed about an inch deep in light soil, rather shallower in heavier compost. S. Arnott.

Bulb planting

This should now be in full swing, Tulips of both Cottage and Darwin sections being freely planted for spring effects, and Narcissus, not omitting a few of the refined and beautiful species, grouping them in choice spots which readily catch the eye and where they will remain undisturbed for a number of years. Angels' Tears Daffodil (Narcissus triandrus albus), N. cyclamineus, N. moschatus, N. Bulbocodium monophyllus, N. minimus, and N. nanus are gems of this class, and I would add N. Queen of Spain.

A Brilliant Show at Vincent Square

THERE was something particularly attractive about the gold medal collection of aquatic plants shown by Amos Perry at the fortnightly meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society on August 30th.

Nymphæas of many colours and varying forms floating in a long shallow pool provided the chief centre of interest. Among the Nymphæas were two novelties, viz., Souvenir de Jules Jacquer (deep rose) and Nymphe (pale blush with yellow stamens).

Major Churcher had some attractive novelties in Gladioli, one of the best being Revue, a very pretty Primulinus hybrid with soft yellow flowers edged pink (see illustration).

All types of Dahlias were shown by Messrs. Cheal and Sons. The Mignon varieties were especially well represented, *i.e.*, Canary Bird, Coltness Gem, Janet, and Blanche. Dahlias were also shown by Mr. James Stredwick, who had six novelties selected for trial, two of the best Cactus-flowered being illustrated,

Part of the extensive Gold Medal exhibit of Nymphæas and other aquatics beautifully arranged by Mr. Amos Perry at Vincent Square

Here also were to be seen the very small Nymphæa pygmea, its variety rubra, and N. tetragona alba. Many aquatics were shown in glass bowls in company with small fish in variety. Mr. Perry told us that bowls such as these are now being taken up by schools for Nature study, and we can well imagine the interest that children take in the association of small fish and aquatic plants.

Messrs. Kelway, who this year have shown Gladioli better than ever, had an extensive collection of outstanding varieties in which we noted Phenomenon (salmon-rose), Voluptuary (crimson-maroon), Imperator (creamy-white), and Langport Triumph, which was selected for trial at Wisley.

viz., Golden Rod, a large sulphur-yellow, and Saxon, yellow centre, passing to pale buff or fawn on the outside. Both flowers are of perfect form, and, what is very important, they hold their heads well on stiff stems and do not need wiring.

An attractive exhibit of pot fruit trees and gathered fruit was shown by Mr. J. C. Allgrove, of Slough. The greater part of the display consisted of Plums, but Peaches, Apples, and Pears were also represented. Among the dessert Plums were such excellent varieties as Greengage, Transparent Gage, Comte d'Althan's Gage, Denniston's Superb, Washington, Jefferson and its red sport Allgrove's Superb, while the culinary varieties included Giant Prune, Pershore, Seedling, Victoria, and President. Sudeley Apples were also well shown collection. Raspberries were shown J. J. Kettle and the Veitchberry by Bros.

Two very fine Montbretias, viz., Notcutt and Lady Wilson, were showr Hon. Mrs. Montague from her ga Beccles Hall, Attleborough. These bretias, both of which received Aw Merit, are descendants from the Earlham strain and are being grown J. G. Fitt, who was gardener to the l Sydney Morris, of Earlham Hall. variety Lady Wilson (here illustrat golden-orange flowers. Its parent Henry VIII. x His Majesty, a descendant of two of the best of the E strain.

New Dahlias

The first meeting of the Joint Comn the Royal Horticultural Society a National Dahlia Society of the presen was held at the R.H.S. Hall, Vincent London, S.W., on Tuesday, Augus when quite an interesting series of r were submitted for adjudication. Th ing varieties were selected for trial at next year :—

MRS. FRED WARNER.—A splendid Dahlia for the garden, having long narrow florets slightly incurving at t and building a large flower. The st stiff and erect, and show a splendid on most other flowers of this type; rosy-pink with white centre. From J. Stredwick and Son, Ltd., St. Leon Sea.

MRS. S. SANDEMAN.—Another pr Cactus Dahlia for the garden, havin broad, pointed florets, building a flow 6 inches to 7 inches across; colour pink. The flowers are borne on sti stems of good length. Also from M Stredwick and Son, Ltd.

ALFRED DYER.—This is a large de Dahlia some 8 inches across, having slightly pointed recurving florets of g stance. Pure white. The flower-st stiff and erect. This variety should for both garden and exhibition. Messrs. J. Stredwick and Son, Ltd.

R. H. HOLTON.—One of the large new type of Decorative Dahlias. Th are very broad and pointed, and twisted; colour, reddish-scarlet. As the blooms were about 8 inches to across and were of massive app Stems stiff and erect. Also shown by J. Stredwick and Son, Ltd.

DULCET.—A pretty garden Cactus having narrow florets evenly arrange ing spiky-looking flowers some across; colour, rosy-bronze. Sh Messrs. J. Stredwick and Son, Ltd.

PINK PERFECTION.—This new va longs to the miniature-flowered Pæ tion of the Dahlias, and should pro tinct acquisition for the garden. Th are fairly broad for a flower about in diameter, and there are several florets; colour, rose-pink with narrow zone. The flowers are borne on st stems. Shown by Messrs. J. Cheal a Ltd., Crawley, Sussex. D.

Young Geraniums

Very little water must be given t rooted Geranium cuttings, otherwis sale losses will occur through th rotting near their base. Ventilate fine days, also at nights in fine weat G.

Gladiolus Revue
Pale yellow tipped with pink

Dahlia Golden Rod
Clear sulphur yellow

Dahlia Saxon
Yellow with buff and amber shading

Montbretia Lady Wilson
Flowers very large, bright yellow with orange sheen
Award of Merit

NOVELTIES AT VINCENT SQUARE

THE QUEST OF THE UNUSUAL IN IRIS

Experiences of an American enthusiast with the whims and vagaries of fascinating natives and other

THE Iris enthusiast who, having become the proud possessor of all the "easy doers" in the family, rests satisfied with his acquisitions and dreams of no further excursions in search of new worlds to conquer, misses much of the joy which lies just around the corner.

The "easy doers," of course, are those which have few cultural demands. This class would include the Tall Bearded and the Dwarf Bearded kinds of the Pogoniris section. "Garden Iris" seems a good name for the tall group, for it adapts itself readily to varying garden conditions and seems to require little attention after it has been planted. In the Beardless or Apogon class among the "easy doers" would be the sibiricas and orientalis and their hybrids, also the Japanese with their big blossoms, for an Iris grand finale.

A present of the little I. cristata was the impetus which started me along the path of adventure. By rights this belongs to the easy class, as it seems to have very few requirements, being contented as I have it on the rocks in full sun and no encroaching companions and also in full sun growing out into the grass path and pressed upon on all sides by alien growths. This little dwarf comes from the mountains of the South. The type is a very pretty blue with the crest of the Evansia group, outlined with a dark blue and white blotch. It blooms very freely and with the open blossoms and spreading standards looks like a spot of blue carpet. My first plants came from Virginia.

A reference to the white variety as "very lovely" started me on its trail, and later two shades from the Ozarks tempted me again, until finally they are all now inhabitants of my garden with others "collected in North Carolina."

Iris lacustris, described as "a frailer, smaller cristata," I do not yet possess. This is found growing in the vicinity of the Great Lakes, and is now considered to be quite distinct. Both cristata and lacustris belong to the Evansia section, in which the crest takes the place of the beard on the top of the falls.

There are a number of species belonging to the Evansia section, one of the most beautiful of which is the Roof Iris (I. tectorum) from Japan. In the case of tectorum the crest is very pronounced and conspicuous. That is one of the most beautiful Iris. It comes in two colours, blue and white, the white variety being particularly lovely. It is one of the easy ones; wants a well-drained position and sun, also rich soil, liking well-rotted manure and no lime.

The little Iris gracilipes, from the woods of Japan, also belongs in this group. My first experience with it was fatal. I had it on the rocks with tectorum, thinking that both being Evansias and both from Japan they would require similar treatment. Experience is a dear school, and often knowledge comes too late. A second specimen planted on the east side of the rocks in rich soil and shielded from the south and west sun has flourished beyond my hopes, and last spring delighted me with two beautiful flowering stalks. It grows about 9 inches high, the slender stem, somewhat branched, bears the tiny pinkish-lavender blossoms with an orange crest. This is a temperamental little Iris, growing most luxuriantly when conditions are to its liking and being wholly unresponsive when its desires are ignored. Wood soil and half-shade are its requirements, also a well-drained position, but at the same time it needs, during the flowering season, moisture which runs off quickly and does not stand around the roots.

Iris japonica, from Central China and Japan, also belongs to the Evansias. It is not hardy in the East, but makes a good house plant; but in California (where its foliage is too abundant to make it effective from a garden standpoint) it is quite hardy. It is an exquisite little flower, the individual blossom resembles a cristata in size and colour, but is noticeably fringed. There are 20 or 30 blossoms on a much-branched stem 2 feet or more in height. The blossoms are very fleeting, but there are so many of them that the blooming period lasts some time.

There is another Evansia Iris in the catalogues. I. Milesi from the Himalayas.

Possessing one native Iris, in the present of the little cristata, I searched all catalogues for a possible reference to others, and discovered the little I. verna tucked away in one catalogue of wild flowers. This little dwarf also comes to us from the mountains of the South and opens out its fragrant lilac-blue blossoms in May. It is said to be the nearest approach to the Bearded group found among our native Iris, which, after all, is some distance away. It does resemble a small pumila in form, for it has no stem and the standards are larger in proportion than those of the other natives and are quite upright. We realise at once that it in no way belongs to that class which we call easy. It sulks and is "miffy," and if it cannot obtain the conditions which it desires, quietly takes its leave. I struggled with it for some years, and last spring for the first time it spread out its fans of fine stout leaves and sent up a fat flower-bud. Authorities generally agree that partial shade and acid soil are its requirements. I have top-dressed my plants from time to time with commercial humus. I do not seem to recall having seen anywhere any reference to the rootstock, whether it should be on top of the soil as with the Bearded group or covered with the earth. I had mine originally planted with the rhizome creeping above the ground, and I count the first show of success from the time when I covered the root well from view.

Iris missouriensis is another native that I acquired shortly after the little verna. It has been on my rocks for years, looking very happy and spreading in a commendable manner, but never offering one blossom. I know now what the trouble has been. It did not give sufficient moisture. Thinking of it as a Rocky Mountain species it seemed logical to suppose that it would be at home on the rocks. It is, however, the Iris of the mountain valleys and the meadows usually wet until after the blooming season. I am going to try the treatment I accorded gracillipes, and, while giving it good drainage, give it also abundance of moisture. Its flowers are a lavender-blue. There are two other varieties offered, a darker blue or Bluebird, and a white or Snowbird. I. missouriensis also grows easily from seed. It is the mountain form of I. longipetala, one of the California Iris from the coast region.

I. longipetala procured in plant form from California did not survive the first winter, although it has the reputation of being fairly hardy and not too exacting. It flourishes in moist, heavy soil, and its flowers are very effective and handsome. "Large flowers veined with violet on a white ground." The leaves of missouriensis die down in the winter, while the leaves of longipetala are evergreen. There is another form of longipetala, known as Iris montana and spoken of as being particularly beautiful. I do not know it, nor do I know where it can be procured. It is one of the next unknowns fo trail.

This "collecting of labels," as has called it, is one of the greatest and has many side issues of very occurrence. The late Mr. Dykes gi another form of longipetala, called a but I have never seen it advertised, ferred to it in any Iris literature. T cross between two of these longipetal called Iris Tollong, which we owe Michael Foster.

California has a number of other Ir are not generally grown, as they are to transplant even from neighbourh dens there. However, they are easil from seed, which is obtainable. He East the seed is to be planted in flats the ground, with only a covering after freezing. These Iris have quit range of colour, straw, lavender, a true blue, purple, and very nearly a r The only one that I know is I. Dou not gorgeous like Opera or Lord of J a dainty bit of loveliness.—SUSA HOMANS in *Garden and Home Build*

Planting Irises in Septen

I HAVE often been asked "Whi best time for transplanting Irises?" I know there has be difference of opinion on this subject, sonally, I always follow my husban

If Irises are only to be moved f place to another in the garden and t not kept out of the ground for mor few minutes one can proceed to do mediately after the plants have flo even when the plants are still in fl carefully handled the young roots w no damage, and soon push out again soil. If, however, plants have to be of the ground for some time, as in of sending out plants by post, etc., to wait till August, or even Septem this time the root fibres will be m less liable to injury through exp rough treatment.

July is not a good month fo Bearded Irises, as most of these f embryo buds for the following ye month, and, if disturbed, they are be checked and will not flower the year. Plants which are moved qu mediately after flowering or d months of August and September later, usually flower freely the follo My husband moved all his Irises John Innes Horticultural Institute to this garden during the first fo September. There were thousands and some had to be left unplanted f days, but in spite of this more thirds of them flowered the followi

Last year I transplanted a g Irises in September and they flowe tionally well this year. Among t Amber, Aphrodite, and Moonligh have never seen these flower more

Irises need to be transplanted e year if they are to do really well, a shallow-rooted and increase very r when once planted they need very l tion beyond occasional hand-wee loosening of the surface soil. In th when the leaves begin to wither, th be removed from time to time w come off easily, but on no account leaves be cut short in order to m look tidy. KATHERINE

Woking, Surrey.

Irises in Mrs. Dykes' Garden at Bobbingcourt, Near Woking

Above: A long border of Irises with Souvenir de Mme. Gaudichau in the foreground

Mrs. Dykes' home is situated in a land of seedling Irises

Above: Two noble Irises Alcazar and Lent A. Williamson

A good bed of Amber, one of the finest of all yellow Irises

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Vines

Maintain a dry, buoyant atmosphere in late houses containing crops of fruit, otherwise many berries will commence to decay. Even in the best-regulated vineries this trouble arises during extended periods of dull, rainy, and sunless weather, and the bunches must be examined frequently, when all fruit showing signs of decay must be removed. If wasps are troublesome muslin or wasp-proof netting must be fixed over the ventilators. Any necessary watering of the borders should be carried out early on sunny days.

Peaches and Nectarines

The trees in the earliest houses are already casting their leaves, and this may be accelerated by passing a new Birch broom lightly over the branches. This must be very carefully done, the broom being drawn from the centre of the tree outwards and upwards, providing the friction which the wind provides in the open. This will give the wood a better chance of ripening.

Annuals in pots

Thin out earlier-sown batches and make a further sowing of Clarkia elegans in variety, also Antirrhinums. These make excellent pot plants if grown under cool conditions, sown in small pots, and potted on before becoming seriously root-bound. It often happens that a single plant is quite sufficient for eventually occupying a 6-inch or even 8-inch pot, although many prefer to grow them on in threes in order to promote a bushy habit, the tops must be pinched out on two or three occasions.

Gloxinias, Begonias, and Achimenes

As these pass out of bloom they should be placed in a cool frame to finish the ripening of their growth previous to their being stored away for the winter.

Mignonette in pots

Make a further sowing to produce plants for flowering next spring, and as soon as the seedlings appear keep them as near the glass as possible. Those which were sown earlier are now in need of light stakes in order to maintain the growths in an erect position. Grow on in a cool, airy house or frame, and a weekly application of liquid-manure may be given these earliest plants.

Sweet Peas

Autumn-sown plants invariably produce the finest and earliest blooms, and those who desire quantities of cut flowers should make a sowing during the next 10 days on ground which has been well prepared. For this purpose a mixed collection of seed is often very desirable, but the seed should be obtained from a reliable source, otherwise a large percentage of poor blues and purples will appear at the expense of choicer shades. Choice and expensive varieties which are intended for grouping in their separate colours should be sown singly in 3-inch pots and kept in cold frames for the winter, plenty of air being admitted at all times following germination.

Annuals

Prepare beds and spaces in the foreground of flowering shrubs for colonies of hardy kinds, such as Cornflower, Nemophilas, Gilia densiflora, Nigella, Silene, Collinsias, etc. The soil for this purpose should be good, but not heavily manured, and the seeds scattered thinly over the surface and raked in.

Border Carnations

Beds should be prepared and the rooted layers of those intended to winter in the open planted without delay, as it is essential that these plants should have taken well hold of the soil before winter. Such plants produce much better results than those potted up and wintered in frames. Some varieties, however, demand this latter treatment, the beautiful Lady Hermione being a case in point, and if left in the open on heavy soils succumb to the constant heavy rains.

Hardy Cyclamen

Plant corms around the base of old stem-clear Yews and other evergreen trees, and Grape Hyacinths, Snowdrops, Snake's Head (Fritillary), Windflowers (Anemone), and Squills freely in the grass.

Spring Cabbage

The main batch may now be planted out. Land previously occupied by Onions will suit this crop, although many prefer land which has been previously prepared and become settled down.

Cauliflowers

These are turning in freely, and as there will be constant danger of frost from this date care should be taken to see that a few leaves are placed over the flower at night.

Mushrooms

Material must now be procured and prepared in readiness for the formation of new beds in the Mushroom-house.

Endive

A frame should be prepared and planted with this late salad, which often gets frosted in the open after the first week in October. The lights should not be used until danger from frost arises, generally in October.

Carrots and Onions

These crops should now be lifted and the former stored, the latter being spread thinly out on a sunny border before storing in a dry, airy shed. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Pansies and Violas

It is now time to tackle the propagation of these useful and showy subjects. While cuttings may be inserted in ordinary cutting-boxes, it is, as a rule, advisable to make up a bed of light, sandy compost under a cold frame, planting the cuttings firmly therein, allowing about 2½ inches between. Water well through a rosed can, close the frame, and shade from all sunshine for several weeks afterwards.

Pentstemon cuttings

About the present time is very suitable for inserting cuttings of this beautiful and stately autumn-flowering border plant, side shoots of moderate strength and without flower-buds in the centres being by far the best cuttings. They should be about 5 inches long and the soil should be well firmed round each, while to ensure proper moistness a good watering should be given immediately the frame is filled with cuttings. Shade carefully from all sunshine for a few weeks, and, ordinarily, no more water will be required before spring.

Hesperis matronalis fl.-pl.

This is one of the plants that demand more than ordinary care in their cultivation, for it is very easy to lose altogether if annual propagation is not attended to. Cuttings, they can be secured, are by far the means by which this plant can be incre and if suitable growths are available should now be carefully taken off w " heel " and planted firmly round the of 4-inch or 5-inch pots filled with a s sandy compost. Place four or five in pot, water well, and set in a cold f Keep shaded from the sun, but do not the frame too close or the leaves wi yellow.

General work

After this date many amateurs co that the season is over and discontinue p attention to the keeping of the flower g in a neat condition. This is a great take, as in many seasons we get s weeks of quite good weather yet, so thing should be kept free of weeds, edges should be regularly clipped, mown, and, in brief, everything attene as if it were still summer.

Spring-sown Onions

Seldom have we had such a dull, and sunless season, and Onions of all have made very slow progress. Mo them are still very soft and green, so likely means must be resorted to to i the plants to mature. Twisting the and laying the tops down flat is very he but even better is partially lifting the To do this push in a digging-fork close plants and bend it sharply back, thus pa severing the roots. The check thus will encourage ripening, although, of c the bulbs will swell no more.

Late Peas

These, as a rule, are looking quite mising, and if only a spell of decent w would come along the chance of a go turn would be increased. It helps co ably if the points of the shoots are out, this encouraging the pods to swell

Keep the hoe going

Whenever the ground is dry enou the Dutch hoe between all crops, not o the destruction of weeds, but, even m encourage the various plants to make s firm growth before winter appears. have been most troublesome of late, so larger ones should be pulled by hand a moved before the hoe is used.

Spent vegetables

As soon as all the useful parts of an are gathered all stumps, haulm, etc., be removed to the rubbish-heap, thei tinued presence in the garden breedin min and disease, while, in many robbing the ground of valuable prop All such material if stacked in som where they may be kept free of sec roots of perennial weeds will rot dow a very valuable manure later on.

Clarkia and Schizanthus

Seedlings raised last month are now potting up. Clean 3-inch pots should b and the soil should be light and not ver Return to the frame and raise up near glass. Keep close and shaded for a few afterwards admitting plenty of fresh a

Herbaceous Calceolarias

Continue to keep these as cool as po There is no advantage in having th large pots during the winter, the 5-in being preferable until February. If l cool, well-aired frames and shaded fr sunshine there is seldom any troubl vermin. C. B

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow

VEGETABLES

Potato disease

the southern parts of Britain the com-on disease of Potatoes is well known nder the name of Potato Blight, but in northern parts the same disease is more rally termed Demie. The disease causes damage in some seasons than others, n a wet season like this the number of s attacked is considerable.

tato Blight first shows its presence by ing dark spots on the foliage. These increase gradually in size until the e of the Potato haulm loses its green ation. Spores produced on the foliage vashed down to the soil and eventually the tubers, where they germinate and enter, producing in the tubers the well-n brown stains. When the growth of ungus is rapid the whole of the tuber is ed and other organisms enter, and often uber becomes a wet, rotted mass.

e spread of the spores of this disease the foliage to the tubers can be checked raying the Potato haulms with Bordeaux ure, but when the haulms are big and y rain it is often impossible to use the cide with any effect, and so other ures have to be adopted. The most ssful measure is, undoubtedly, to lift ubers as quickly as possible after the se makes its appearance in the tops, and this can easily be done in the case of and second early varieties without any ge to the keeping qualities of the s it is not so easy with late varieties.

en a crop of Potatoes is immature damage can be done to the crop if it is carelessly. The diseased tops are best way at the soil-level, removed from the and burnt at once. Several days should owed for the soil to dry out somewhat, he tubers should then be lifted and ex- to sun and wind for 12 hours or so. exposure will do much to harden the of the tubers and allow the grower to p the crop without rubbing them badly. s stage the tubers should be handled as as possible, and if they can be picked baskets and left in them for a week so the better. A Potato crop so handled lifted when it is far from mature, with nsequence that the spread of Blight or is arrested, while at the same time eping quality of the tubers is not hurt. ther point often overlooked when deal-ith Potatoes in a season favourable to is that while it is easy to pick out diseased tubers when the crop is lifted, not so easy to detect slightly-diseased . The fungus often develops very in these slightly-diseased tubers as s the latter are stored away, hence it necessary to look over and sort out ed tubers within a month of storing p away.

Winter Lettuce

rtain amount of risk attends the grow-Winter Lettuce, in that they may be ted to long periods of wet and cold, nothing of various pests which attack

re are many hardy varieties of Let-of both Cabbage and Cos types, speci-ited to wintering in the open. Hardy , All the Year Round, Brown Dutch, White, Hardy Green Hammersmith ge varieties); Imperial Brown, Black Bath, Hick's Hardy White, Victoria and Winter Density (Cos) form ul selection. Dig deeply, burying a g of manure several inches below the , and sow thinly in shallow drills. watch for birds and slugs—light dust-soot are useful in keeping these away. Thin them to 5 inches or 6 inches apart in the first instance, and in the early spring each alternate plant can be pulled to give more room.

A light well-drained position is most favourable to them, sheltered from the cold directions by a high hedge, wall, or other obstruction. Where the plants cannot be wintered with success seeds may be sown in September in boxes, the seedlings being thinned so that they do not touch one another.

G. W. B.

Treatment of Leeks

The object in earthing-up Leeks is the same as for Celery—to blanch the stems. Without blanching a Leek plant would be green and coarse and somewhat stunted in growth. The long, succulent, silvery-white stems are the result of good cultivation, generally not the least important part of which is proper and adequate blanching. Earthing-up should be done gradually, at intervals as growth proceeds, the crown of the ridge of soil being well up under the lower leaves of the plant. Leeks should be left in the open to be dug as required for use.

Green Tomatoes

Fully-grown green Tomatoes may be ripened indoors by placing them in a window with a sunny aspect, or they may be buried in dry sawdust and stored in a cool place until coloured. Green Tomatoes make excellent pickle, and for this purpose the small and unshapely fruits can be used if it is desired to keep the better fruits until ripened.

G. W. B.

Celery reminders

The object in earthing-up Celery is to blanch it, the effect of shutting out the light being to prevent the colouring of the leaf stalks. The operation should be performed gradually, in stages as the growth proceeds. Special care is needed to prevent soil falling into the heart of the plant, and where two pairs of hands are available one can hold the leaves tightly together while the other packs the soil against the plants. The sloping sides of the ridge formed by earthing-up should be beaten firmly with the back of a spade to throw off the rain.

Herbs

When well-grown, herbs pay, even on allotments, but more often they are very much neglected, in which case they are a nuisance instead of a benefit to plotholders. Mint, especially, is often left to take care of itself, whereas, every other year, at any rate, the crop should be lifted and the ground thoroughly cleaned and replanted. This should be done in the early spring.

G. W. B.

Early Seakale

Those who possess a warm greenhouse can easily secure supplies of Seakale from Christmas onwards from one-year-old roots. Cut off all the long tapering roots. The new roots should be severed at a joint about 2 inches from the main root, all of which are "heeled in" in a line packed close together in a trench from which supplies are taken as needed for forcing purposes.

Secure boxes or pots about 10 inches deep, lift a sufficient number of the roots, and place them in the pots or boxes thickly, say, 2 inches or 3 inches apart, merely allowing room for soil to be pressed in between them. When planted the crowns should be seen just on the surface. Soak with water and place another pot or box inverted on the top to exclude the light. The higher the temperature of the greenhouse the more rapidly will be the growth. Keep the roots moist, and in a high temperature watering must be done pretty frequently. To maintain a continuous supply for the table fresh batches must be brought in to be forced at short and regular intervals.

Storing Celeriac

Celeriac may be lifted at the end of the month to be stored in sand or sifted ashes. If this crop is left in the ground the soil should be drawn to a deep ridge over the roots to keep out sharp frost. G. W. B.

Report on condition of Horticultural crops on September 1st, 1927

VEGETABLES.

Beans (kidney runner).—Late, but now cropping fairly heavily.

Beet.—Growth good; average crop, but roots inclined to be coarse.

Broccoli.—Plants healthy, and making very good growth.

Brussels Sprouts.—Growing satisfactorily; require sun.

Cabbage (spring-sown).—Well up to average; good heads being cut in some districts.

Cabbage (autumn-sown).—Germination good.

Carrots.—Good crops generally; fly still troublesome in parts.

Cauliflower.—Good cuttings being made in some districts, but crops poor in others; later varieties growing well.

Celery.—Plants healthy and making very satisfactory growth.

Cucumbers (under glass).—Still cropping well, but need more sun.

Cucumbers (outdoor).—Backward, and much below average.

Kale.—Growing well.

Leeks.—Growth very satisfactory and condition good.

Lettuce.—Crop plentiful and of good quality generally.

Marrows.—Backward, though much improved lately; crops good on the whole, but need sun.

Onions.—Ripening delayed by lack of sun; mildew very prevalent.

Parsnips.—Good crops in most places.

Peas.—Late varieties slow in filling; require sun.

Savoys.—Making very good growth.

Sea Kale.—Crowns good, but ripening delayed by lack of sun.

Tomatoes (under glass).—Late crops good, but require sun.

Tomatoes (outdoor).—Backward owing to unfavourable weather conditions.

Turnips.—Early sowings variable; late sowings growing well.

FRUIT.

Apples.—The crop is swelling and ripening very slowly owing to lack of sun. A good deal of dropping has occurred, and scab is reported to be prevalent in some places. Among culinary varieties Bramley's Seedling is poor; Newton Wonder, fair; Lord Derby, Lane's Prince Albert, Emneth Early, and Lord Grosvenor, fair to good. The best of the dessert varieties are Worcester Pearmain, James Grieve, Allington Pippin, and Ellison's Orange; Beauty of Bath and Cox's Orange Pippin are only fair. Cider varieties are a little below average on the whole.

Pears.—Poor crop generally. A good deal of fruit has been brought down by high winds; the remainder requires sun. Hessle, Fertility, and Conference bear the best crops.

Plums (ordinary).—Variable, but poor crops generally. Belle de Louvain, Monarch, and Prolific, fair; Victoria and others poor.

Plums (Gages).—Considerably below average.

Plums (Damsons).—Crops fair in places, but poor generally.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

ROSES

Standard Roses

Last March I planted 12 standard Roses. Three have perished. The Briars appear to have rotted; the rest are blooming well. For 18 inches down soil is old garden. Below is yellow clay, followed by gravel clay. What would you say was the cause of the failure? Before planting 50 bush Roses I want to make sure of the soil. Should I get loam, and would same be best on its own or mixed with either of the above? The garden at present is one mass of weeds. As I shall be digging down a few feet can you recommend anything to stop their growth? Could you also name an up-to-date book on the Rose?

W. H. S.

[Without having seen the plants before being planted it is hard to say why the three perished. Your soil seems fairly suitable for Rose culture. We would not, however, trench, but rather double-dig the bed for the new bush Roses. At the same time, we would advise that the yellow clay subsoil be well broken up and some rough strawy manure mixed with it, which will greatly aid in draining the bed. If you can procure some good, fresh, fibrous loam you could, with advantage, mix it with the present soil, while you must also add a good dressing of well-rotted farmyard manure, taking care, however, to keep it some 9 inches below the surface, so that the roots may not come in contact with it at planting time. If the weeds are merely annuals you could skim off the surface and bury in the bottom of the trenches as you proceed with the double-digging, but if of perennial growth you must fork out and burn. A very useful little book on Rose culture is "Roses for Amateurs," by Rev. J. H. D'Ombrain. It can be had for 1s. 9d. post free from Barr and Sons, 11, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. 2.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Diseased Violas

(P. E. Bullock).—Your specimen Viola leaves are affected with a fungus of the Rust type, but we do not feel satisfied that this is the sole cause of the trouble. If you will send us a complete plant packed in a tin box we will examine it and report in due course.

Spring bedding

Could you, please, give me some particulars of plants for beds in autumn to be filled with Tulips which would harmonise and blend in colour? I have yellow Wallflowers and blood-red, also Polyanthus, mixed Siberian Wallflowers, and Forget-me-Not in reserve garden. I want to make best effect in colours.

WEST SOMERSET.

[Most Tulips look well when carpeted with Myosotis, but white, pink, and bright red varieties are specially pleasing when so blended. We have seen some pleasing effects with beds of yellow Wallflowers dotted with pink Tulips and edged with Myosotis. The blood-red Wallflowers do not lend themselves so well to this form of bedding, but deep yellow Tulips should look well in combination with this. The mixed Polyanthus is not suited to artistic arrangement with Tulips, nor can the Siberian Wallflower be safely used, its brilliant orange shade being difficult to harmonise with any of the others.]

Taking Pentstemon cuttings

(McDougal, Forfar).—From among the cuttings you send, No. 4 is the most suitable for propagating purposes, but if you have any difficulty in procuring enough cuttings cut two or three plants down to within 4 inches or 5 inches of the ground, following which a little bush of cuttings, all suitable for propagating, will appear, and all will bloom quite freely next year. Failing this, take all you can, similar to No. 4. Pentstemons enjoy a fairly rich soil in which to bloom, such as the soil found in the average kitchen garden, but for the striking of cuttings a fine soil containing plenty of sharp sand is essential.

Blue border

My employer wishes me to make a blue border that will give a continuous season of flowers. Of course, it will not be in flower in winter, but as long a season as possible with herbaceous flowers and Tulips. The border is 6 feet by 20 feet long, wall at back with Pear and Plum trees. Crazy paving path in front. Border faces east. There is only about 4 feet that can be planted, as we must get to the trees behind.

WEST SOMERSET.

[The narrowness of the border considerably restricts the choice of flowers, such floral gems as Asters, Delphiniums, Aconites, Lupins, and other tall-growing kinds being debarred, as only dwarf plants can be used. The following should be suitable:—Chionodoxas, Scilla sibirica, S. hispanica, blue Hyacinths, Muscari Heavenly Blue, Gentiana acaulis, Veronica nitida, V. Barr's Royal Blue, V. subsessilis, Linum perenne, Salvia virgata nemorosa, Polemonium cœruleum, Campanula persicifolia, C. italica, C. carpatica, some of the dwarf "butterfly" Delphiniums, Iris germanica, Aster subcœrulea, Lithospermum prostratum, and Tradescantia virginica.]

Wanted: A continuous display of bloom

I have recently taken over a garden with three borders, each of about 100 feet in length and about 6 feet wide. I have thought it quite likely that plans may be procurable for providing a continuous display of bloom of harmonious colouring for a great part of the year. A number of plants are growing, but in great disorder. The three borders are well in the sun. The whole affair must not be very expensive.

DISPLAY.

[To have flower borders in beauty for the whole season at small cost is practically an impossibility. It can only be done by having a large reserve of plants that can be put in to replace those that have gone over, as is done in the gardens at Hampton Court. In your case, as you have three separate bord the best way would be to give each border a season. No. 1 to March-April-May, No to June and July, and No. 3 to Augu September-October. In No. 1, then, sho be Doronicum caucasicum, Daffodils, Tul Wallflowers, Myosotis, double Arabis, e Irises, Doronicum plantaginium, Aubrie Alyssum, Pansies, Grape Hyacinths, Pr roses, and Pulmonarias. In No. 2 Pæon Irises, Lupins, China Rose, Scotch Bri and many Roses, Foxgloves, Catm Centranthus, Rocket, Spiræas, Arun venusta and double Ulmaria, Day Lil Gaillardia, Campanula persicifolia and macrantha, orange and white Lilies, phinium, Thalictrum, Œnothera frutic Pinks, Erigeron, Anchusa, Alstrome Helenium pumilum and H. cupreum, Carnations. No. 3 should have Echin Gladiolus, Snapdragons, Dahlias, P stemons, Clematis, Helianthus, Phlox, a good supply of half-hardy annuals, such Sunflowers, French and African Marig Stocks and China Asters. Among the h plants there would also be Rudbeck Chrysanthemums in variety, and Michael Daisies. A few Michaelmas Daisies c also be planted in the earlier sections, so they should not be without bloom in the l months, and annuals could be sown in in any vacant places.]

Begonia flower-buds dropping

(A. W.).—This trouble can generally traced to the plants having been at some too dry at the roots, followed by applicat of manure-water. Examine the roots those growing in the open to see what condition is, for you can scarcely overdo t with water during their growing sea although such is possible when plants confined to pots. Some cultural detail is cause of your buds falling, and we advise to water with clear water only for a t The soil they are potted in and your acc of the house in which the pot plants grown appear to us to be quite correct.

Carnation foliage

I have care of a garden in which are rather large Carnation plants with cons able foliage. They have bloomed splen this year. Would you advise cutting o their foliage or leave them as they are am anxious for them to bloom well next If you advise cutting off all their foliage soon should it be done?

J. BARDI

[All you can do at the present time pull off all dead or disfigured foliage u you desire to increase them, in which you must layer a few without delay. B no account must you cut away the folia the way you suggest at any time. I plants are healthy they will flower all next year.]

Perpetual Carnations

I should be very glad if you can te how to go on with my Perpetual Carna I had them this year from the grower they were then in 3½-inch pots, and when were filled with roots I repotted them 6-inch. Now most of them are in fl some finished flowering. They have be the greenhouse since I had them, about What I should like to know is what ment they will want as they finish flow I want to get the best of them and inc the quantity so that I can have Carna nearly all the year round. Some of have nice shoots up the stem and some not any.

BEGINN

[You have hardly treated your plants best way, as they should have been g in a cold frame during the summer. ever, you should now cut back the flow

to a healthy young shoot, and if you growing on the old plants carefully using the 8-inch size. Water with care, both dryness and over-wetness of l being fatal. Syringe overhead daily weather. A temperature at night of 45 degs. is best. Give abundance of ir. The best cuttings are those on the and they should be 3 inches to 4 inches If taken off with a "heel" they root readily. December is the best month erting the cuttings, very sandy coming necessary.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

aburnum as a climber

ll the literature I have read I see no n of the Laburnum adapted as a climbub. I have seen one specimen grown ee which appeared to be pining to be climber, and also one large firm lists um Vossii in climbing form. Could l me if it is a success grown in this "CLIMBER."

Laburnum is occasionally used to a wall, and also open framework, t can be trained as desired. It is not, r, a true climber, and when used for g arbours, open trellising, etc., strong g plants only should be used. The at- L. Vossii is a hybrid between L. and L. alpinum, and is quite a suceated as a climber, especially when and allowed to mingle with the blue a. The flowers are pale yellow and emes nearly 2 feet in length.]

hus Gloire de Versailles as a nber

ere any chance of Ceanothus Gloire ailles being hardy enough to be grown ully on the framework of a pergola ltered garden of East Yorkshire? If ld spring or autumn be the best time ting? "CLIMBER."

Ceanothus is too tender for such a in your county, although it succeeds pen bush in the south. It would sucined to a warm wall, and should be early in April.]

ises dying

ave had considerable trouble with our s this season. Some were planted in er and some in the spring. They gorously for a time, some even to the flowering, then we noticed the leaves and finally withered away. Some lants started to grow again from the he soil we used was of a loamy texth some rotten manure and limevell mixed. We have been in the putting coal-ashes on the face of the to prevent too much moisture. Do k the ashes would injure the plants? n I am enclosing few leaves of a gone these last few days for you to D. THOMAS.

sudden dying off of your Clematis is of yours, and is, unfortunately, a mon occurrence due, to a large exthe grafting of these beautiful and imbers on unsuitable stocks. If you e to prove this lift one of your plants, the soil from the roots, and you will find the roots of the stock alive, and wood up to the point of union—the the stock are dense and hair-like—ometimes—indeed, very often—hap- the true Clematis has made roots e point of union. These are stout ch or more thick, and easily disd, but cannot make headway during ne of those of the stock. We advise tain your next plants on their own en results should prove more satisfactory. These are obtained by layering cuttings and by seeds, and if you have a plant large enough you should put down a few layers in March next year. We do not say that grafting is the only cause of Clematis dying off suddenly, but we maintain that it is the principal one, and hundreds of plants succumb annually. A good loamy soil into which has been worked a small proportion of leaf-mould or well-decayed manure, lime-rubble, and sand to a depth of 2 feet is quite suitable, but raw manure should be avoided. A few coal-ashes around the base of the stem during winter, but removed at the end of April, serves to protect the young shoots from slugs, but it is a fallacy to suppose that the Clematis can suffer from too much moisture unless planted in undrained land, or water is artificially supplied. One point, however, is important, and that is shade over the base of the stem, and where this is supplied by a host plant, such as a Rose or other shrub, the writer has known plants with stems $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick to send out strong roots at 6 inches above the ground-line. A layer known to the writer of one of the large-flowering kinds put down a few years ago and planted at the foot of an open fence is to-day 7 feet high with a spread of 36 feet, and has borne thousands of blooms this year. The growths you mention as springing from the base are, probably, those of the stock, the true Clematis being dead.]

Lavender dying

Could you tell me the cause and a remedy for Lavender failing? I put in new plants three years ago. None of them have done well; some have died, the others are not at all healthy-looking, making no new growth. M. W.

[If your soil was properly prepared the plants should have gone on for years. Lavender enjoys a free, open soil, not too rich, and a position which is fully exposed to sunshine. When the soil is made too rich the plants grow rank and die within a few years. We suggest that you put in a stock of cuttings at the present time, taking these from the healthiest plants, the cuttings to be from 8 inches to 10 inches long—in fact, small branches—torn from the plants with a heel attached, and plant firmly in lines in sandy soil. These will make nice plants for a new plantation next year.]

FRUIT

Disfigured Apples

(Sir John Edwards Moss).—The fruits you send are attacked by the fungus disease called Scab, or Black Spot, caused by Fusicladium dentricticum and F. pyrinum, and there is nothing you can do at the present time which will help you, except to gather all the worst-affected fruits. These are diseases which can be prevented if taken early, but if permitted to get established it is almost impossible without destroying both leaves and fruits. The following has been used with great success in combating this trouble:—Dissolve 2 lbs. of copper sulphate in 40 gallons of water and apply this to the trees in spring before the buds begin to open with a good syringe. This should be followed by a light spraying of Burgundy Mixture, 2 lbs. to 3 lbs. of copper sulphate, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to $6\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of soda in 20 gallons and 30 gallons of water respectively, applied just before the flowers open, or as soon as possible after the petals have fallen. As soda varies, it is safer to use testing paper for the Burgundy Mixture. If it turns pink it will be safe, if it remains white add more soda. *Re* Clethra Delavayi.—It is doubtful whether this fine new shrub is obtainable in the trade yet. Digitalis gloxinæflora in purple, white, and mixed colours, also other varieties, are offered by Messrs. Barr and Sons, The Nurseries, Taplow, near Maidenhead.

Name of Plum and cordon Pears

(Ashworth).—(1) The Plum is Prince of Wales. Denniston's Superb is greenish-yellow and an excellent Plum. (2) Twelve feet is rather higher than usual for cordon Pears, but we know of instances where they are very satisfactory at this height. It is certainly not abnormal. They are most probably on the free stock. Cut back 4 feet from the top before transplanting and all should be well with them.

Treatment of Raspberry canes

Can you tell me what I should do now with some Raspberry plants (Lloyd George) I planted last autumn? They have each sent up three or four strong, leafy stems, some of them branched. I have cut off any attempts at fruiting this year, and the ground was well manured at planting. Should I leave all the stems as they are? L. R. T.

[Assuming that your Raspberries are in lines and trained to some kind of support we advise you to select sufficient of the strongest and best canes to average 12 inches apart along the lines, cutting away the remainder to the ground-line. Permit those which remain to grow unchecked and branch out as they will, for it is from these very shoots that you should shortly be gathering very handsome fruit. To allow such canes to fruit will not harm them in any way whatever.]

Ringing fruit trees

Do you consider "ringing" non-fruiting, gross-growing fruit trees to be an efficient substitute for root-pruning, which is a rather difficult job to perform properly? I believe the bark should be cut off about 1 inch wide and about three-quarters of the way round the stem of the tree. Is this correct? F. L.

[Ringing trees to accomplish as a substitute for root-pruning is a doubtful practice, and we advise you to lift and transplant any trees which are making excessive growth at the expense of fruit. When ringing is resorted to it is usual to proceed along the lines mentioned in your letter.]

VEGETABLES

Mushrooms

((Sir) S. H. B.).—The Mushroom specimen arrived in such a badly decayed condition that we are unable to name it with certainty. From the shape and general appearance we think that it is Agaricus campestris, which is, of course, the species usually cultivated, but this species occurs wild in many parts of Britain. It is not unusual for a prepared Mushroom bed to behave in the manner described in your letter, and such a bed will often continue to produce Mushrooms over a very long period. Further, after the bed has been broken up and the old manure used for other purposes Mushrooms will appear at intervals in the positions where the manure was used. If you would like to be absolutely certain of the species and you could send us one or two more specimens we should be pleased to name it for you. If you do this, please send specimens not quite so far advanced as the last one, and pack them in a tin box with Moss as packing material.

Waxy Top in Tomatoes

(G. P.).—The specimen Tomato you send is affected with the trouble known as Waxy Top. This trouble, the cause of which is obscure, is very common this season, and may be due to weather conditions. It has been noticed that the trouble can be very much reduced by watering Tomato plants

with a solution containing sulphate of potash, and you should try this another season. The solution should be made by adding 4 ozs. of sulphate of potash to 25 gallons of water, stirring well. At least three good soakings should be given at intervals of, say, three weeks, and the first should be given when the plants are well established. Do not save any seed from affected plants, and keep the house as airy as possible. We do not think the sulphate of potash solution would have any effect this season, but there would be no harm in trying it.

MISCELLANEOUS

Garden beetles

(L. S. W.).—There are so many kinds of beetles which might occur under the conditions mentioned in your letter that we are afraid to attempt to name from your description. If you would like to send us some specimens packed securely in a tin box we should be pleased to name them for you and to tell you the part they play in the soil. If there are more than one kind you should send them in separate boxes and number the boxes. You should, of course, keep a key specimen to correspond to the numbered one sent, so that when we reply No. 1 beetle is so-and-so you will know to which specimen we are referring. Some ground beetles feed upon slugs, and it may be that the specimens you are collecting are present because of the slugs.

Making a hard court

Can you furnish me with particulars of how to lay down a hard court? The ground is heavy loam to a depth of 18 inches, with yellow clay subsoil; an area of 120 feet by 80 feet is available, a slight slope of about 8 inches in the lengthwise direction. Am anxious to understand clearly method of construction, also after-care. H. E. S.

[The 8 inches slope mentioned is quite useful and will tend to make a natural drain, which will save the necessity of making land drainings. There must be a minimum depth of 6 inches of clinker. A brick or strong wooden border (bricks preferred) commencing at the shallow end 6 inches deep should be made. The deep end must be made up so that it is perfectly level; in other words, square the prospective court with a solid border. Then you will have to put level pegs in, say, 10 feet or 12 feet apart (or whatever depth will correspond with the straight edge proposed to be used), which will be a guide in laying the clinker. This completed, it will be necessary to fill in with rough clinker to within 1 inch from the top of the pegs and thoroughly water and roll it, making it comparatively level. After this work is completed cover with 1 inch very fine clinker, and repeat the rolling and watering, which will by then leave ¾ inch for the finishing top-dressing. Knock all the pegs right in and get two pieces of wood ¾ inch thick and 12 feet long, and lay them down for levelling purposes. Proceed to put the red material down. Afterwards draw your straight edge over the wood and finally level out. The quantity of material required for a court 120 feet by 60 feet would be:—Rough clinker approximately 130 cubic yards, fine clinker 14 cubic yards, and top-dressing 14 cubic yards. The rough clinker could be procured from a local gas or electricity works or factory, and for fine top-dressing there are several preparations advertised.]

Clearing a pond of Duck Weed

(Ralph A. Newman).—The treatment is the same as for Flannel Weed. First, calculate the cubic contents of your pond by multiplying together the length, breadth, and average depth in feet, then multiply the result by six, which will give, approximately, the number of gallons of water in the ponds. For each 10,000 gallons put 2½ ozs. of copper sulphate into a bag and pull it through the water until all is dissolved and you will find your trouble disappear.

Preparing plants and flowers for exhibition

(A. W.).—We know of no book which deals with this subject, although a few deal with individual flowers, such as, for instance, Sweet Peas, but no general handbook on the subject.

Book on Primulas

"Novice" might find useful "The Primulas of Europe," by J. Macwatt, published by George Newnes. W. H. M.

NAMES OF PLANTS

E. M. D.—Senecio Veitchianus.

C. B. Moreton, Devon. — Hydrangea Lindleyana.

Rushford.—1, Spiræa salicifolia; 2, Myrtus Luma.

E. I. Auden.—The plant from the walls at Sorrento is Trachelium cœruleum (the Throatwort). It is frequently cultivated as a pot plant in English gardens. The Campanula from near Amalfi is Campanula isophylla var. alba, also a frequently-grown pot plant and especially beloved by cottagers as a window plant. The plant from seed gathered in Hadrian's villa garden near Rome is Delphinium consolida, an annual species frequently found wild in the south.

A. E. P.—1, Horminum pyrenaicum var. album; 2, Cyananthus lobatus.

Mrs. Virginia Chaffey.—The Rose sent is certainly not Mme. Ravary. It might be Le Progres.

C. M. Talbot.—The shrub with small purple flowers is, probably, Buddleia japonica. It arrived in a very shrivelled state and it is difficult to be positive. The Bellflower is, undoubtedly, Pentstemon heterophyllus. You should save seeds of this or strike a few cuttings as the plant is short-lived and requires frequent propagation to keep a stock of it going.

Ludlow.—Roses: 1, Golden Emblem; 2, very much "weathered," so cannot be certain; might be Archie Gray; 3, the Queen Alexandra; 4, Mrs. Herbert Stevens; 5, Lady Pirrie.

NAME OF FRUIT

F. L.—1, King of Tomkins County; 2, Ribston Pippin; 3, James Grieve. No. 1 is badly attacked with Apple Scab (see reply to Sir John Edwards Moss). There is nothing you can do at the present time except gather and destroy the badly-affected fruits.

TRADE NOTES

F. Pratten and Co., Ltd., Midsomer Norton, near Bath, were recently awarded the gold medal at the first annual flower show, Blackpool, for collection of glasshouses. Readers are cordially invited to visit the works and inspect Messrs. Pratten's large collection of glasshouses and other portable buildings when in the neighbourhood.

A remedy for wasps

Simultaneously with the droves of wasps and flies which have come into the open with the brief return of fine weather, our attention is drawn to a trap for these pests just put on to the market by Corrys, and now obtainable of all seedsmen, chemists, ironmongers, and sundriesmen. It is known as the "Little Marvel," and consists of a glass cone inserted in the neck of a jam jar bated with a mixture of beer, jam, and sugar, which is placed about one-third of the way up the jar.

Cardiff and District Gardeners' Association

The Association's Summer Meeti

During the present season the Society has held several very successful ings, visiting places of interest by kin mission of their various patrons and fr

The May meeting was held at "Fai House," Llandaff (Evan David, Esq. Rhododendron Dell being the chief feat interest.

In June "Coryton," Whitchurch, was the rendezvous, where the member hospitably entertained by their Preside J. Herbert Cory, J.P., and a most pro afternoon was spent in these be grounds.

In mid-July "Ty-Gwyn," Lisvane Turner, Esq.), and "The Orchard," L (W. North Lewis, Esq.), were visite later in the month Mrs. Morgan "Elsinore," Llanishen, invited the m to spend an afternoon in her garden, visits also being paid to "Wrangb (Douglas Cory, Esq.) and "The Rise Hann, Esq.). At all these places th pitality given greatly helped to the suc the meetings.

On August 8th the annual outing place, 60 members going by charaban Cardiff to "Eastnor Castle," near Le the residence of the Rt. Hon. Lord S D.S.O., M.C., Governor of Victoria dener, Mr. Mullins), and to "Daven Malvern, the residence of C. Dyson P Esq. (gardener, Mr. Melrose). The tunity of viewing these two large est ments was greatly appreciated by all September meeting took place on Sa last to "Duffryn," near Cardiff, b mission of Reginald Cory, Esq. (ga Mr. J. Smith), the members being pri to see a fine collection of succulent shrubs, and a wonderful collection of D to mention but a few delights of this ful spot. For this meeting it was dec invite lady friends of members, and th innovation proved to be most popular.

The Society enters into its winter on Tuesday, October 3rd, when Mr. Treseder, of W. Treseders, Ltd., h sented to take the opening night, the being "Roses." An interesting feat the session will be the competition GARDENING ILLUSTRATED medal for th est number of points gained for e brought to the fortnightly meetings Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. F. Cowa Dogfield Street, Cardiff, will be ple hear from all interested in horticult the activities of the Association.

Japanese Prize Garden, Southport

In reference to our issue of Septem an error was made in giving the nam exhibitors as Messrs. Hayes. This have read *Messrs. W. H. Gaze an Ltd.*, of Kingston-on-Thames, who cordially invite our readers to insp largest model gardens in the country, Gazeway, Surbiton.

Specimens and questions received

Gladioli from "Gladi"; Phlox a samples from "Troubled"; Tulip A. H. Wolley-Dod; Query *re* the Pr of Fruits from Frost; Birds and Tom W. Gibson; and Insecticides from "S. Readers should look for replies in issue.

CATALOGUES RECEIVE

P. de Jager and Sons, Heiloo, Ho Bulbs, Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, I

Toogood and Sons, Ltd., Southam Seeds—vegetable, flower. Bulbs Narcissus, Irises, Ixias, and Gladioli

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Impoverishment of Trees on Lawns

The importance of top-dressing lawn trees with leaves, good soil, or rich compost

is a subject meriting the serious ıtion of all planters and of the yet ɜr numbers that feel an interest in doing of trees on grass. Such trees ɔverished in two ways—the grass their expense and they are deprived e's annual enrichment in the form ınd dying leaves, weeds, or grasses. lt of these robberies of the roots ıost disastrous to the trees. So ɔften are these starving effects that me the trees reach middle age or ıey have begun to look prematurely have already under disease;

Lichen has their limbs and adding, it may ɜw beauty to s, but also pro- snug lurking- insects, and he attacks of True, ungenial ils may often ɜs down into tates of de- or premature but for every becomes dies through ɔils a score or sh of sheer Of course, ils the process as the roots and run far; can thus keep out its good- y day, month and year by ɜceive nothing without be- finally ex- s if these two uses of im- ınt were not sufficiently mis- ot a few cultivators still further s the roots by the weekly shaving rying away of all the grass that them. The grass is grown ıe expense of the roots, and were decompose where it grows this y recoup them for its production; ssant mowing and removal of the double drains on the soil. t s all. A surface of closely-shaven dily dried by sun and wind. In of the root-runs of trees it is not r, but much of the most soluble, most valuable constituents of the the soil that is dissipated or wasted through the air; hence the common dressing of grass under trees masters the growing force of the earth in a fourfold manner, thus—by the growth of the grass, its removal, the sweeping up of fallen leaves, and consequent exposure of semi-bare surface to the wasteful action of sun and air. And where is the benefit? It is hard to say. Assuredly there is none to the tree. That alone ought to condemn and abolish the practice. We are supposed to work for the good of the trees, chiefly that they may grow up fast and strong, and continue healthy as long as possible. A smooth, clear base assuredly does not favour any of these objects, but it pleases the eye. But the tree ought so to fill and satisfy that, with its graceful or stately beauty, the eye shall have no desire nor room for any smaller or less pleasure. Now, all well-grown specimen trees on turf should form their own base, so dense and low that nothing else should be visible. One of the main objects of having trees isolated is to save their bases, for forests provide us with poles in abundance. Our lawns should furnish us with perfect specimens feathered to the ground, with their lower boughs hugging the turf so closely as to kill it, and providing a screen so dense as to hide from view the annual showers of fallen leaves. These at once cut off all active sources of impoverishment, and tend to maintain at par the feeding properties of the earth. Surely such trees—models of form as well as perfect in health—please the eye far more than so many of the half-starved abortions so often met with on lawns—single specimens of what such trees ought not to be, or never would have become, but for our starving treatment. It is far better to leave the natural *débris* of the trees to rot over the roots, thus forming at once a natural manure and a not unsightly mulch. This holds good, especially of all the Firs. There is nothing so very unsightly in needles, as the leaves are popularly called, and if they are only let alone it is astonishing how soon the worms partially bury them, sufficiently so at least to prevent them becoming a nuisance as litter. In performing this work, too, the worms throw up casts or heaps of earth that seem rich in manurial matter.

A pleached alley of Lime trees by the lawn at Westbrook, Godalming

Fallen leaves were certainly meant to protect and feed the roots of trees. The quantity that falls, even in the case of Conifers, is wonderful. Under some trees, such as Pinus insignis and P. Sabiniana, barrowloads of needles might be gathered up yearly. Left where they are they prove an impenetrable barrier to frost. As to their unsightliness, very few of them will be seen by the end of April, and, besides, the lower branches in most cases cover them up from observation. The fallen leaves perform another useful service, they kill or prevent the growth of the grass. By forming a layer of porous *débris* on the surface the free passage of water to the roots is ensured, while these natural mulchings hinder the evaporation of moisture. Of course, the bottom branches of those trees which spread very much likewise assist in most of these useful purposes. They keep the roots from being frozen, and protect them from sun scorching or air drying. In any case where it might be undesirable to prevent the impoverishment of the roots by such means,

some other methods of recouping them should be devised. There are few better modes than the application of an occasional top-dressing of good soil or rich compost according to circumstances. Those who prefer a surface of soil should keep it rough and loose. But Cocoanut-fibre refuse is more sightly as well as far more useful than any kind of earth as a top-dressing for single trees. Some recommend well-rotted farmyard manure. When obtainable there is no objection to this for the majority of deciduous trees, though it must be employed sparingly, if at all, for Coniferæ. Good loam forms the most suitable top-dressing for Conifers, though, if planted in fairly good soil and treated as here recommended, their own leaves will generally prove a sufficient top-dressing to maintain them in sufficient vigour, and preserve them in robust health. In a garden all waste soil, such as old potting mould, should be saved and used as top-dressing for Conifers, it being one of the best tree fertilisers.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Red-berried Elder (Sambucus racemosa)

NOTICING a large group of gracefully-disposed shrubs laden with bright red clusters of fruits in a large wood of Corsican Pine on this estate recently, and finding it to be the above, we are at a loss to know how such a plantation came there, as no one appears to have any recollection of having planted them, and there are no others growing within 400 yards. If the birds deposited the seeds there they have served us well, for it is the last place we should have chosen for this handsome shrub, it always having been understood to love plenty of moisture and deep soil, whereas its present actual site is not only beneath a canopy of Corsican Pine, but the soil is dry and shallow, and close to sandstone rock. The bushes are from 10 feet to 12 feet high, and, as I write (September 9th), are laden with beautiful bright scarlet clusters of fruit which render them very attractive even at a considerable distance. This charming shrub is a native of Europe, but not of Britain, and is said to fruit admirably near Paris and in the upland valleys of Switzerland. Here this shrub lives near the waterside, but refuses to thrive, and therefore the lesson taught by the birds or other agency will not be lost sight of. Another important factor is that it is an addition to our rabbit-proof shrubs, and will undoubtedly be used to advantage near woodland rides.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Fruiting of Periploca græca

Although the vigorous, climbing Periploca græca is a fairly popular garden plant and one frequently used to clothe walls and pergolas, its fruits are not so well known as its fragrant, starry, brownish-purple and yellow flowers. Occasionally we see the quaint fruits of this species; the cylindric pods are in pairs and taper to a point where they are joined. Periploca græca exudes a poisonous, milky juice when its stems are broken, and it is also interesting by reason of the curious tuft of long, silky hairs attached to each of the many seeds, many of which are packed tightly in the slender pods.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Polygonum campanulatum

THIS extremely pretty Knotweed is one of the best plants of recent introduction to gardens. It is of moderate height, under 3 feet, and of a neat, bushy habit with panicles of warm, white bloom rather pyramidal in shape. It is a native of the Himalayas and was first flowered in England in 1911. So many of the Polygonums are troublesome in gardens from their root-running habits that it is all the more to the advantage of this pretty plant that it is not a root rambler. The plants shown in the illustration have been in their place f or five years, and have not exceede allotted space. It should be reme that it is a plant that cannot endure d It should be planted in a place that is cool and damp, and in slight shade, also saves it from injury by late fro the young shoots are destroyed if any wet that may be upon them is thawed

Polygonum campanulatum

This pretty Knotweed from the Himalayas—now flowering in English gardens—is not a root rambler like many of the Polygonums

Seedling Figs

Capt. F. W. Jones' note with regar seedling Fig trees (issue August 27t 540) opens up a subject which is not simple as your answer would lead suppose. You are probably right in that the seeds were carried by bi where did the birds obtain the seed Figs ever bear fertile seeds in E Unless Figs under cultivation have themselves to self-fertilisation the would seem to be an emphatic "No

What we know as "green Figs" reality, the flower-trusses, and each sists of a number of small flowers— all female or imperfect—which are the inner side of the succulent Pea receptacle. The only means of c access to these flowers is through small hole at the apex of the recepta construction can easily be seen by open a Fig from stalk to apex.

For the fertilisation of these flowe natural way two things are necessa The presence of the functionally m of the Fig tree known as the Capri (2) the presence of a particular wasp phaga grossorum), which passes thr small hole at the end of the flower Capri Fig to the Fig carrying som pollen with it. The fertilisation of is one of the most interesting and re examples of the inter-relationship plants and insects for their mutua but it would take too much space t it in detail.

Are these two conditions ful England? It is quite possible that specimens of the Capri Fig—ordi seed produces both Figs and Cap but as the fruit is quite uneatable bable that they are not common.

With regard to the Fig wasp, seem quite impossible for it to England. It cannot complete its cy without the Capri Fig, and in any climate would kill it. When Figs introduced into America it took m of patient study of the life-histor wasp and a great deal of perseverar it could be successfully established

Whence, then, do these seed trees come? Capt. Jones' experie no means unique, and we may acce established fact that they do occur

Two alternatives seem possible:- come from imported Figs, the seeds would be fertilised in the usual Figs are now used in such enormo ties that it would not seem impro many are thrown away—perhaps when a grub has been busy—and birds who have distributed the Has the Fig, unable for many England to obtain its natur fertilisation, developed some meth fertilisation? In the common Fig often, near the apex, a few abo flowers. Has the absence of th cross-fertilisation induced the tree to produce a few perfect male flow of the aborted ones and thus re fertilisation possible? At first, pe would be inclined to put this aside rate, highly improbable, but it is a thing to dogmatise with regard to ability of Nature, and I personally

all beyond the bounds of possibility, s is supported by the analogy of other Thus the Bee Orchis (Ophrys , whilst still possessing the elaborate ction of the Orchids for cross-tion, seems unable to obtain the visits cts, and has retrograded to self-tion. The Violets, Lamium amplexi-Oxalis acetosella, etc., produce cleisto-lowers as a sort of second string to w. When the Red Clover was first ed into Australia it never bore seed there was no bee with a proboscis ough to reach the honey, and it was, iently, unvisited by insects, and there-ertilised. A short time ago I saw a it it had now developed a method of ilisation and bore seeds, but I have pportunity of verifying the statement. ps some of your readers who are ex-growers of Figs would examine them if they can find any perfect male and any traces of pollen, and also if raise any seedlings from their own refully excluding the possibility of ence of any seed from imported ones.

C. O. S. HATTON, F.L.S.

n, Christchurch.

Veratrum viride

to forward to you a photograph of rum viride (Green Hellebore). This has grown to a height of over 8 feet and looks very handsome against a nd of the dark green Arbor Vitæ. rs ago you published a photograph feet high. I am glad to submit this r publication. MARY LUMSDEN.

Valley House, Freuchie, Fife.

Raising seeds

. H. Wolley-Dod appears to be under ression that sterilising soil means g" (see note under above heading 544). Few seeds of any description erminate freely in pure burnt soil, would do so in soil that had been or baked, not "burnt." The best bake the soil where only a small is required is to place it in an oven becomes well heated through. This all insect life, sweeten the soil itself, ent any fungus appearing on the f the seed-pans for a considerable

I mostly adopt when sowing very eds is, when the pans or boxes are h soil to give a thorough watering ing water through a fine-rosed can. the soil is given sufficient time to fore sowing this will answer the rpose as sterilising by heat. It is to keep all receptacles shaded until ion has taken place and use as little possible until the seedlings appear.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Self-sown seeds

nen, I daresay, would resent—and turally—the innuendo conveyed by E. Wright concerning my statement otianas, Ageratums, and Alonsoas nually in the open (and bloom) from seeds. My own feeling is merely ild amusement. May I inform him glacial period in Scotland is long that, really, we do not live under conditions? I repeat, categorically, ratums, Alonsoas, and Nicotianas appear, and bloom, in the open from seeds. I have, during the present te season, hoed down large quanti-lf-sown plants of these, and others now (September 5th) in bloom or point of blooming. If Mr. W. E. ere to sow seeds of Nicotianas and Ageratums in the open garden at the end of April and to be prepared to see no more of them I am glad to think that even "his friend from Linlithgow" would not be so pessimistic. A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Specimens of self-sown Ageratum

"A Scottish Gardener" sends self-sown Ageratum seedlings with the following letter:—Many are in bloom now. These were lifted from a hard gravel walk. It is interesting to note how the roots of one plant in particular have run. There are innumerable specimens of self-sown Nicotiana, both

The Green-flowered false Hellebore (Veratrum viride), over 8 feet high

N. sylvestris and N. Sanderæ; indeed, many were hoed out.

Self-sown Nicotianas and Asters

Nicotianas and Asters sow themselves freely in my garden (Surrey). Many years ago, when winters were more severe than they are now, in a garden in Suffolk a Nicotiana bed under a south wall kept itself supplied by its own seedlings. AMATEUR.

—— I must confess to having paid but little attention to the correspondence that has been going on during the last week or two on the above subject, but as Mr. Wright has asked specially for my experience with Ageratum and Nicotiana I must, briefly, state my experience. Not that I can claim to do so at all authoritatively, as it is seldom that plants of either Ageratum or Aster are left to ripen seeds, while I have not grown Nicotiana for 20 years or more. Even were plants left to seed, the cultivating of the ground in spring and summer would destroy any but a very odd seedling, should such appear. I have certainly often seen seedlings of Antirrhinums come up in box edges or close to other plants, where they had escaped the hoe, but do not wonder much at these, seeing this plant is practically hardy, whereas the others are very tender, so, like Mr. Wright, I feel somewhat astonished to hear that such germinated and flowered in a Scottish garden when the seed had lain in the ground over winter.

C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Exhibiting and judging at flower shows

I do not agree with your Scottish correspondent *re* showing and exhibiting. In Cornwall we have, I should think, over 60 summer shows. These are all well attended and are, in most cases, the social events of the year. A good sporting spirit is shown throughout, and they certainly do much to create healthy rivalry and improved cultivation. Bad judging in many cases has been responsible for bad feeling and shady methods on the part of the exhibitor. Cornish shows are "clean," and we do not come across the type of vegetable that is "case-hardened and whiskered," or, in other words, knows its way to the staging because it has been there so many times before. I would suggest that your correspondent should come west to see healthy, vigorous shows of the type I have described. As an educationist I think them a valuable channel for giving instruction not only to allotment holders, but also to the small commercial growers of which we have so many.

I would suggest that if there is a grave danger of northern shows going "west" through the failure described by your correspondent he should come west to pick up a few tips to prevent such a catastrophe.

HY. W. ABBISS,
Truro. Horticultural Supt.

—— I am glad to see that we are "getting on" with the controversy on this most interesting theme, for we now find that the most violent of my critics have come round to my opinion that the evils mentioned in my initial notes on the subject are in existence, and the only points at issue now are the widespread nature of these evils and the most practical and successful method for dealing with them.

It does seem comical to me that, although so many of the correspondents on this subject aver that the evils of which I complained are very negligible, they, everyone of them, offer more or less practicable advice as to how the scandalous practices are to be stopped. If, as they seem to want us to believe, the dishonest exhibitor is a "very poor crop," what use is there of framing drastic rules for his extinction? If there is no disease there is no need of the doctor prescribing remedies. Of course, really, with all due respect to the opinions and personal experiences of my critics, the evil does exist, and that to an alarming extent.

Quite recently I had a long and very interesting letter on the subject from a reader of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED who lives in the English Midlands (will "A Scottish Gardener" please take note?), who, among other first-hand evidence of the practice, tells me that on one occasion he had cultivated, on the cordon system, a row of Peas with the longest pods he had ever seen, with from 12 to 14 seeds in each. The night before the local show these pods were stolen and exhibited at two shows, and took first at each. Of course, as he says, who could swear to a

dish of Peas, so the culprit escaped, but my friend, from that moment, gave up showing, and one good, honest exhibitor was lost. My friend, who is in a position to learn many things, affirms that there is only one man who exhibits in his immediate neighbourhood that he would absolutely trust to show nothing but his own produce, so I am afraid that my exposure of northern growers has not, as "A Scottish Gardener" feared, been so very indiscreet.

It is rather difficult just to follow what F. J. Cubberley (page 546, September 3rd issue) means when he says, "If judges would sink their personal opinion when judging it would be much fairer to exhibitors all round." What exactly does that mean? What is the use of an experienced judge at all if he has merely to meekly follow out some other person's opinion? The thing is simply absurd. As to solo judging, I think it one of the worst methods ever thought of. For one thing, the "lone" judge loses much interesting discussion that, except in the case of the man who knows everything already, is both educative and entertaining, for, after all, so far as my experience goes, no single gardener really knows the points of every class of produce exhibited, and if asked to judge a long list of kinds must make mistakes.

I seldom meet a judge who cares to adjudicate on the Pansy and Viola classes, while other "ticklers" are French Marigolds, herbaceous plants, Antirrhinums, and a few others. It is, therefore, desirable to have the opinion of at least two judges when these things are being considered. A good deal has been said about the disqualifying of dishonest exhibitors, and more than one correspondent appears to imagine that this duty devolves on the judges, whereas the judge is there to give his opinion on the various exhibits set up in competition and not to usurp the place of the Show Committee. Of course, when an exhibitor transgresses the rules laid down for his guidance, say, in the size of pot, in the number of blooms in a vase, and so forth, it is the duty of the judge to disqualify, or, at least, call the attention of the Committee to the matter; but how anyone could conceive it to be the duty of the judges to ascertain whether or not each exhibit is the *bonâ fide* property of those competing is, truly, astonishing. "A Scottish Gardener" takes me to task for failing to disqualify an exhibitor who showed Roses and yet had not a single Rose tree in his possession. The answer is simple. I was not aware of the facts until after the close of the show, so was, in fact, powerless to act.

Many more points might be raised, but space, or rather the want of it, compels the postponement of such in the meantime.

SCOTS JUDGE.

Saxifraga Cotyledon var. pyramidalis

Garden planning

As a landscape gardener I have been interested in the letters appearing on garden planning. The question as between straight and wavy lines seems to me purely a matter of opinion and taste, and one on which nobody should be dogmatic. Mr. Digby, in his letter, remarks that no one would put a beautiful picture in a wavy frame. To my mind, the garden should be the picture and the surroundings the frame wherever they are sufficiently natural, and in these cases wavy lines lend charm to the picture. In a flat suburban garden the position is different, but if the garden is not flat and the co allow of curves occurring with a natu pearance I believe in utilising the oppor What suits one ground does not suit a and this is a further reason against and unqualified expressions of opinion siderable experience has shown m people may have little knowledge of ing and yet their artistic taste will them to develop an attractive plan they give the matter the necessary am thought. The trouble seems to me to they simply look at their neighbour and more or less copy it without re that they are quite capable of schem something original for themselves. may call in a landscape gardener and views, but there is no need to slavishly them as perfect. Let the amateur small garden carefully think out and visualise the completed work before s and, in nine cases out of ten, he will himself, which, after all, is the main q

R. HOG

Rose Silver Moon

Re offer of cuttings (issue Septemb page 544). The issue was over-subscr two posts, the list had to be close letters of regret were despatched as possible. If any of the latter were on offer my sincere apologies. Silver struck (I hope the cuttings will!) and in. If those sent out succeed she w flung herself from Guernsey to Irelan Devon to Scotland. Long life to her

P. I

A great haul of snails

It may be of interest to some readers to hear that, having suspec discovered the presence of some ha large snails on a fine clump of Tri looked further and captured in three days 127 snails of various sizes, mos large. They were found on the unde the leaves, and many were near the g

F.

A garden symphony

The flower lover, who does not des Cinderella of the senses, will have in fully-arranged garden an orchestra scents which is never completely silen

This beauty is not spilled haphaza the garden, for the elements of it ar together in a broad symphonic desig slowly unfolds in the course of the ye

The symphony begins in January rich, deep chords of Chimonanthus f the "Winter Flower"; then fol simpler notes of Daphne Mezereum, clearly sweet in the bitter snow-w February.

The first theme is now repeated wi tions in the complex, slightly spi fruity scents of Viburnum fragrans winter Honeysuckles.

After a short pause the spring t introduced, whose chief motive is th scent, that strange, elusive perfum blends the smell of the awakening ea the very spirit of sweetness.

Little by little the music swells great chorale of summer, centring r subtle, many-coloured harmony of t whose delicate cadences are echoed inforced in the honey scent of the Li fresh sweetness of the Jasmine, th spiciness of the Clove Pinks, and balsamic scent of the Tobacco Plants

In the autumn months the music quieter, sinking into the soft notes dendron and Mirabilis, till the Phl nounce the death theme with their fallen leaves and the sweetness of d

There still remains the finale, and

rowing scentless in the last months of ·ar, sound a few notes, low and almost ible, of the spring theme. The smell ng Strawberry leaves—the lingering per- of the robes of Persephone—gives the motive, the autumn Crocuses and Iris a raise the ghost of Primroses.

is the end recalls the beginning and the sed return of Persephone.

ile the last notes are dying away the of the Chimonanthus are beginning to and the symphony is beginning anew. udience and the orchestra may change, e drama remains the same for ever.—*lated from the original Esperanto from rnational Language."*

nould on light and heavy soils

ere the soil is heavy it will be found advantageous to incorporate leaves with il in a semi-decayed condition, and if done before the winter is far advanced pening character of the leaves will r improve the soil by draining it. On soils the leaves are best left to rot in a and in the spring forked into the soil. great advantage of leaf-mould in light s that it helps to retain moisture in the er. In towns the road-sweepings are more valuable in the autumn, these largely made up of leaves.

G. W. B.

Three notable Saxifrages

E three Saxifrages here illustrated e:—S. pyramidalis, from Newark ırk, a form, and a very fine form, of ›tyledon. S. lingulata Bellardii (the ation hardly does it justice as it is diffi- › distinguish the plant from its sur- ngs). It is easy to grow and of such ing beauty that it should be much more seen than it is. It is a lime-lover, and a position not exposed to mid-day sun. da came to us with this name. Is it a ›f S. cochlearis?

ling. A. C. BARTHOLOMEW.

Saxifraga albida
Is it a form of S. cochlearis ?

Saxifraga lingulata var. Bellardii

FRUIT GARDEN

A few early Apples

THE crops of Gladstone, Beauty of Bath, Devonshire Quarrenden, and Worcester Pearmain appear plentiful, as they are all on the market in quantity, and of the four the second suits my palate the best. Those that prefer a firmer fruit would choose the Quarrenden, an excellent Apple in every way and a lovely colour whatever the season, also a longer keeper than the other three. The one trouble with these very early fruits is the birds go with gusto at them and quickly spoil the lot, especially on a small bush or espalier, so must be securely netted in good time, as most of the soft fruits are over by the time early Apples and Pears begin to ripen.

How is it that we see few of Red Astrachan, Benn's Red, Early Victoria, White Transparent, Feltham Beauty, River's Early Peach, and Irish Peach, the last a very old favourite? Is it that this variety gets too much pruning? In my boyhood days the fruit appeared in plenty in a nursery I was employed in. The tree requires but little knife, similar to Cornish Gillyflower, bearing principally upon the tips of its branches. The flavour is par excellence for an early Apple, while Red Astrachan used to grow in the orchards in plenty and White Transparent, a medium bright yellow fruit, bearing freely when the spring is favourable.

Market growers evidently fight shy of most of these just enumerated or by this time we should see more of them about including the one or two newer ones mentioned here. Worcester Pearmain appears to please the taste of the multitude, always selling well, and it is a variety that seldom fails to bear good crops, usually clean and of good colour a bit later on, which ensures a ready market as a rule. With these very early Apples the best time to test their flavour is within a day or so of being gathered. Few retain it for many days.

Among the earliest of cookers Keswick Codlin still holds its own, free-bearing and excellent for jelly. A larger fruit is to be found in Stirling Castle, an excellent bush tree and bearing in quite a young stage. Pott's Seedling, too, is reliable from September onwards. Lord Grosvenor and Suffield needs no recommendation as good cookers. The same might be said of Ecklinville, a real good Apple; bears well either as a standard, bush, or espalier.

J. M.

Increasing the Plum crop

Self-sterile Plums can be made to crop very regularly indeed if the following directions are carried out.

First see that the soil is regularly supplied with lime about every second or third year, either in the form of quicklime, carbonate of lime, or pulverised mortar-rubble. This is necessary to the Plums for stoning, and also as a base in the soil when applying manures.

The lime should be forked into the ground as far as the branches extend in December.

In March apply a dressing of bone-meal, about 2 ozs. to the square yard, over the same area, and wood-ashes, which should be lightly hoed in. The former will assist fruitfulness and the latter prolong growth and give colour and flavour. After the fruit has set and then stoned feed with a good nitrogenous manure to swell the fruits. Guano, sulphate of ammonia, or liquid-manure from fowls are all excellent at this period when the tree needs gross feeding if cropping heavily.

Withhold water as soon as the fruit colours or the flavour will be inferior. Immediately the fruit has been gathered prune out any broken branches and dead wood (I am referring for the moment to standard trees), and feed with a complete manure, *i.e.*, one containing nitrogen, potash, and phosphates, the balance to be in favour of the latter.

This late feeding is most necessary, as it assists the tree to recover itself after cropping and enables more fruit-buds, in my opinion, to be developed for the coming year.

By this method I have secured on standard Victoria Plums good crops for four successive years. DAVID WHITE.

Wimbledon.

Lord Anson Pea (Lathyrus magellanicus)

Now established in many gardens

From Sweet's "British Flower Garden," Tab. 344.

Triptilion spinosa, seed of which has been sent from Chile

It has small azure blue flowers and spiny leaves

From Paxton's "Magazine of Botany," Vol. X.

Sit Down and Travel—II.

By T. Hay, M.V.O., V.M.H., Superintendent, Hyde Park

The previous article under this heading appeared in our issue dated September 11th, 1926. The article in question created world-wide interest among those who cherish rare plants, and we are indebted to the writer for this further instalment. We now hope to make an annual feature of this interesting subject.—Ed.

About a year ago some notes under the above heading appeared in Gardening Illustrated, and the infliction of this second instalment is imposed on readers through no wish of mine, but is due to the persistence of the Editor, who thinks that another list of "lost treasures" should be given; also some account of the result of the first list. I have pointed out to him that such work ought to be undertaken by some leisured person, as any Park Superintendent who gets the day in with less than 12 hours' work considers himself on short time.

If the first paper has not provided us yet with all the plants asked for it has given the writer much pleasant correspondence and has been the means of making friends with many gardening enthusiasts in various parts of the globe.

Of the plants named last year it may be mentioned that the Anson Pea has now been established in many gardens, and the whole history of this Lathyrus has been written by two members of the Kew staff with much learning and skill.

Thunbergia chrysops, another of the plants mentioned, is again in cultivation at Kew and elsewhere.

Mr. G. Robinson, gardener at the Villa Serana, Vina del Mar, Chile, has sent abundant seeds of Triptilion spinosa, and it is hoped this lovely plant will be in evidence during 1928.

Seeds of the desirable Cape Monsonia have, I believe, reached this country, and it is said that the lovely Dracocephalum altaiense is once again with us, and lastly, but by no means of least importance, Mr. Clarence Elliott, that enthusiastic, restless, enterprising plant hunter who refuses to "sit down," has set out on a trip to collect the remainder. I am sure we will wish him a successful journey and a safe return.

There is a departure on this occasion from the first search we made, when attention was called only to plants that had been in cultivation and were now lost to our gardens. Among the following there are probably some plants mentioned that have never been in our gardens. Only books containing illustrations of plants have been quoted, but there are all the floras of the world to explore. It is true that a flora written by an expert botanist to the uninitiated is somewhat of a trial, but with a little application it soon becomes to the plant lover as exciting as a shilling shocker. I can well remember being asked to send a flora of Palestine to a correspondent there who had no knowledge of plants, but was anxious to learn the names of the plants of the country of his adoption, so I sent him a copy of Post's "Flora of Palestine." When I received his letter of thanks it was in the following terms:—"This is the most appalling book I ever possessed. It brought vividly to my mind my schooldays, when I was first handed a copy of Euclid. Cannot you send me a simple book on the wild flowers of Palestin coloured pictures of them?"

I would here remind my readers t title of these notes was suggested reading of that delightful book, "A Round My Garden," by Alphonse "Sit down and travel," said this Frenchman. We will do so. There no worry about tickets, packing, or lu The necessary outfit is a comfortable a pipe with fragrant tobacco, or a La if you can afford it, and the liquid ment according to nationality.

The first port of call will be Made it is stated in volume one of the B Register, tab. 57, that Campanula grows there. The botanists descril vast genus in their own terminology Flowers, blue or white, rarely yellow few species that have gone yellow have little to the beauty of the race. Rem ing that portrait painters have eve prone to the sin of flattery, this plate an exaggeration; in any case it depict strong-growing species with rich yellow flowers, and is no doubt one few species likely to help any of our of new plants who may have vision yellow form of C. pyramidalis or a Telham Beauty. There are those w that the plant is not found in Madeira the Canaries, so it will be well to e both Islands.

From Madeira to the Cape is but journey, and all gardeners want to li that paradise of flowers. The B Register, Vol. III., tab. 184, gives us handsome shrub, Selago fasciculata. large, handsome, capitate heads flowers with neat foliage; a very d plant for the greenhouse last heard of

At the Cape is to be found Teedia figured at tab. 209 of the same vol quoted above. It looks a lovely

ed plant of the Natural Order Scrophu-
a. It is said to have a disagreeable
but its attractive appearance ought to
nsate for that.

ol. IV., tab. 297, there is shown a beau-
ember of the Natural Order Malvacea
Malva calycina, a tall, elegant plant
ose-pink flowers. It may be described
t as a miniature Hollyhock having the
being a first-class border plant. We
informed that the plate was prepared
plant growing in a nursery at Fulham.
as in 1818.

vill leave the Botanical Register and
to some of the more modern books on
vers of South Africa, and first consult
th African Botanical Magazine, or, to
s correct title, "The Flowering
of South Africa." Six volumes have
been issued, and the plates are well
d. At tab. 3 is figured Arctotis
, one of the most magnificent of the
African composites. There are now
species of these attractive plants in
on, and they are proving much more
nan was expected. This fine species
e a welcome addition. The flowers
uge size, of a lovely shade of salmon-

. 198 is another handsome composite,
m Wyleyi. Plants under this name
ady in our gardens, but are yellow in
The real thing has deep orange
3 inches to 4 inches across. These
ns have two rows of ray florets.
er row remains flat like those of the
Pyrethrum, the top one stands nearly
giving the flowers a most unique
nce.

. 49 is shown Holmskioldia speciosa,
l as a most beautiful and showy
This looks a desirable plant, remind-
of a Clerodendron—salmon-rose with
ple centres, quaint and attractive.

work recently published, called "A
South African Flowers," is figured
at tab. 1 Anemone capensis, a particularly handsome species like a giant A. Pulsatilla. This is a plant much to be desired, but I must warn you that it is now a "scheduled" plant, which means that it is a criminal offence to pick or root it up. However, Anemone fanciers who have been successful in keeping out of the hands of the police at home will no doubt be able to circumvent the man in blue at the Cape. In any case a good supply of this lovely Anemone would be cheap at the cost of seven days in the second division.

In the same volume, at tab. 3, is figured one of the loveliest of all South African plants, and that is saying much. This is Podalyria calyptrata. It has large, handsome, rose-pink flowers of the Pea family. It is a prime favourite with all flower lovers in its native land; in fact, they boast of it as the Scots do about how they grow Tropæoleum speciosum.

From the Cape to Kashmir. We will take Coventry's "Wild Flowers of Kashmir" as guide-book. At tab. 4 there is figured another Anemone, A. tetrasepala, a fine plant with massive heads of pale pink flowers. This looks to be one of the finest Anemone species, and as our gardens grow successfully many Kashmir plants its hardiness is undoubted. It grows in great abundance on Mount Killenmarg at elevations of 11,000 feet. To secure it will be a tiresome climb if the weather is hot.

At present there is much interest shown in Scabious, so I call attention to tab. 23 of the same volume, where Scabious speciosa is figured and described as a very handsome perennial with mauve flowers in large heads. The foliage of this plant attracts attention, and is a plant, perhaps, that might be of service to the hybridist, and one that would be warmly welcomed by Mr. Isaac House. Like the Anemone, it grows at very high altitudes.

Still quoting from Coventry's charming little book on Kashmir plants, at tab. 32, we have the most delightful Primula figured. This is P. reptans. I do not think this species has ever been in cultivation. It is of quite creeping habit with minute foliage covered almost with pale blue flowers. It is said to be confined to Kashmir and found in Apharwat at elevations of 14,000 feet. This is a great treasure yet to come for the delight of our many Primula enthusiasts.

For those who like their plants to be small and minute there is figured at tab. 36 Mertensia Tibetica, and it is stated that it is a charming small alpine perennial with brilliantly blue flowers with a very long corolla tube and small radical leaves, and is common on Apharwat. No doubt a gem for the rockery.

In this book also is a figure of Lilium podophyllum, one of the few Lilies I have not yet seen in flower. It is in our gardens, but perhaps sparingly. I am informed that it is a scheduled plant and must not be uprooted. Good bulbs of this Lily would be of value, but having no experience of the Kashmir police it may be well to admire only and pass on.

(To be continued.)

Mentha Requienii

There are some humble plants which shrink from observation and only reveal their presence by the fragrance they exhale. Of such is the Corsican Mentha Requienii, known for some years erroneously as Thymus corsicus. This puzzled many who were unable to reconcile the name of Thymus to the pronounced odour of Peppermint, which is such a distinguishing and pleasing virtue of this minute little plant. It barely rises above the soil and has tiny green leaves and minute purple flowers. As a carpeter it is pretty in its way, but in appearance lacks distinctness. If, however, it is touched with the fingers our nasal organs are greeted by the Peppermint-like fragrance which is powerful for such a

Dracocephalum altaiense, the Betony-leaved Dragon's Head from Mongolia
Flowers large dark blue
From Sweet's "British Flower Garden."

Malva calycina
A tall, elegant plant with rose-pink flowers
From "The Botanical Register," Vol. IV., Tab. 297.

Arctotis Forsteri

One of the most magnificent of South African composites

From "The Flowering Plants of South Africa."

Holmskioldia speciosa

A desirable shrub reminiscent of a Clerodendron

From "The Flowering Plants of South Africa."

tiny plant. Once in the garden it is not too difficult to grow, and it will thrive in the crevices of stone paths or steps, or the rock garden. The writer also knows at least one garden where it has invaded the domains of the turf of the lawn, but not to its detriment, and the grass and the Mentha appear to agree. And the fragrance shed forth on the lawn being trodden by the foot is decidedly grateful. M. Requienii is, indeed, a delightful little subject, especially when it has become established in soil which is not too heavy. S. A.

Perennial Sunflowers

Among the more easily-grown herbaceous plants the extensive Helianthus family make definite claims that gardeners would do well to recognise. In large gardens, especially where economy in outlay has to be studied, these vigorous composites should be made welcome in wide perennial borders or on the fringe of the shrubbery border. In either place well-considered, bold groups will yield charming autumn effects and provide a wealth of highly decorative material for cutting. Where cut flowers are in demand for entrance halls or large reception rooms these flowers do inestimable service.

The majority of the old garden species have now been greatly improved upon and their glorified descendants have removed the stigma of coarseness with which gardeners once branded this family of perennials. London Gold, for instance, is a very excellent form of the well-known Helianthus multiflorus plenus, and has received due recognition from the Royal Horticultural Society. Other nurserymen's types of this species, such as Meteor and Etoile d'Or, are also worthy of consideration. There are also some very praiseworthy varieties of H. rigidus. Such sorts as Miss Mellish, Miss Willmott, and the Rev. Wolley-Dod are already favourites, but one not so commonly known is Monarch. I was much impressed by some plants of this which I saw in bloom last autumn in a Hampshire nursery. They grew about 6 feet in height and were surmounted by a quantity of immense golden-yellow blooms each with two rows of petals and of fine form. The single types should, of course, be planted largely for cutting purposes, and of these H. multiflorus maximus is probably the best.

H. GREAVES.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Phygelius capensis

A PLANT of the fine variety of Phygelius capensis, called coccineus, flowering in a border here, induces one to pen a note in its favour. This variety was shown before the Floral Committee of the R.H.S. on July 27th, 1926, and Messrs. Clarence Elliott, Ltd., received an Award of Merit for their specimen. It is a really handsome and distinct shrub, and even the more common form, which has much duller flowers, is appreciated when in bloom. The variety coccineus has bright red tubular or cornucopia-shaped blooms in considerable numbers on the branches. These flowers are made even brighter by the yellow of the throat. The South African origin of P. capensis leads to some doubt regarding its hardiness. It is frequently grown against a wall, and some years ago, when the writer first grew it, it was at the top of rockwork against a south wall. It throve well there, and was only cut to the base by a severe winter. It pushed out fresh growths and was still flourishing when the writer removed from that home. I trust I may have as much success with the plant I now have and which I am confident will survive the winters here. It is growing in a border sheltered from the frost, and not receiving the sun until well on in the day. Such a distinct shrub is quite an acquisition to an and the variety coccineus is the su any other we have yet seen. S. A

Dumfries.

Laurus camphora

This is an interesting and hands green, though hardy only in t favoured gardens of the south- recently met with a specimen of g which I put at from 40 feet to 5 height, with a spread of nearly d size. All parts of this noble Japan or tree are saturated with camph few leaves crushed and placed in hand generally creates a little asto Many of these handsome rare hitherto confined to the favoured are gradually finding their way gardens.

Myrtus pedunculat

This interesting shrub, with extr but compact branches, is now in bl if not conspicuous, is a pleasing a the ever-growing list of flowerin capable of surviving our winters. angled, glabrous shoots and tin scarcely half an inch across, and white flowers, each about ¼ inch in give the shrub a distinct appeara cially at the present time, the w having a coppery brown and whi ance. It is a native of North Islands of New Zealand, and known as Eugenia Vitis-idea. Th which I have not yet seen—are sai and ¼ inch long.

Ivy

Ivy planted beneath trees will th most other plants fail.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

outhern and Midland

santhemums

uses intended for the reception of these l now be cleansed and made as light as le. Early vineries and Peach-houses enerally the first to be used, and any e which falls easily when passing the along the growths may, and should, be ed, plenty of light and air being of the t importance. With the houses ready ants may be rapidly transferred on the ach of frosts, and although one may leave the plants out with safety a little than this it is advisable to be ready the end of September. Some of the t plants will be showing colour and orthwith be placed in a cool, airy house heavy dews will spoil the florets. Feed owering bush plants twice each week, ce the colour is developed discontinue stimulants.

men, Primulas, Cinerarias

se and similar plants which have been g in cold frames must have the lights over them at night from this date, and ouses or heated pits must be placed in ess for them when frosty nights inter-

se which have been grown in pots must e overhauled, as much as possible of rface soil being removed and replaced ood fibrous turf, broken fine, and to has been added a small proportion of ow manure and bone-meal. First of wever, it is essential to see that the ge is in perfect order and the roots as possible free from large worms which ained access during the time the plants een standing in the open air.

Peas

e are grown largely for flowering in nd for this purpose the seed should sown. I prefer to sow about three a 3-inch pot or seven in a 5-inch pot ift them on into larger sizes as re- After sowing, the pots should a cool, closed frame until germina- taken place, and shaded from bright e, but once the seedlings appear air admitted and the little plants gradu- posed to sunlight, even to the extent oving the lights altogether during weather. Dust them occasionally with l lime.

or forcing

vork of potting and boxing these will constant attention, and the sooner dealt with after arrival the better. f the May-flowering Tulips should be for late work, when they will be ost valuable for furnishing conserva- nd flowering houses. For providing ects six or seven bulbs should be 8-inch pots.

ylis coccinea and S. Mrs. Hegarty

are attractive autumn-blooming rom the Cape, and beds of them in re always objects of interest. These commencing to bloom, and the ould be steadied from the wind by igs being placed among them. The ariety not only suckers freely, but ry nicely from seed.

ees

-bands should be placed in position e next fortnight to arrest the female Moth. Before applying the bands remove any loose bark from the stem of the tree at the point where the band is to be fixed, then secure the band with a tie both at top and bottom. Moth Grip should then be smeared over the band with a stiff brush, and if properly done this will last effective for months. The captured moths must be removed occasionally, otherwise their backs provide a passage for others to walk over.

Pears

These are now coming in more rapidly and should in most instances be gathered slightly in advance of actual ripening. A gathering at intervals of a few days is preferable to the gathering of whole crops of certain varieties at one operation. Treated thus, ripe fruits are available over a longer period.

Lettuces

Those sown during the last fortnight in August are ready for planting out in rows at 1 foot apart, and where such are available a good planting should be made in pits and cold frames. These furnish delicious salading material during March and April. The newly-moved plants should be damped overhead for a few days if the weather continues sunny and dry, especially those planted in frames.

General work

Continue to feed both Celery and Celeriac, and earth-up the former at intervals of 10 days. Keep late Turnips, Chicory, Spinach, and other young crops growing freely by the constant stirring up of the soil. Spray late Peas against attacks of mildew, and net against tits, which are so troublesome at the present time. Place Onions in store.

Violas

Cuttings are now more plentiful and should be secured without delay, dibbling them into sandy soil in cool, closed frames. If green fly is troublesome around the base of the cuttings the latter should be dipped either in Abol or Quassia Extract. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Border Chrysanthemums

These are very late this year, and as there is frequently sharp frost for a morning or two about this time it is desirable to provide some temporary shelter for the plants, as not infrequently quite good mild weather follows the few frosty mornings and permits all undamaged flowers to open. A few stout stakes driven in round the beds or along the sides of solitary rows and linked up with strong tar twine so that mats, old sacks, or even double thicknesses of tiffany may be laid over the plants is usually all that is required to preserve the flowers from damage.

Bulb planting

The planting of Daffodils must no longer be delayed. These bulbs dislike being kept for any length of time out of the ground. May-flowering Tulips are also the better for being planted early, so that the roots may secure a good hold before winter sets in. On heavy, retentive soils a layer of coarse sand should be placed in the bottom of each hole before the bulb is put in, this assuring good drainage and free rooting.

Propagating bedding plants

This important work is in full swing, and every endeavour should be made to secure good stocks of cuttings of Pansies, Violas, Nepeta, Pentstemons, Antirrhinums, the variegated Veronica, etc., all of which are to be inserted in beds of sandy compost under a cold frame. Where only small numbers are required boxes may be used for most of these cuttings, but they must be set in a cold frame over winter.

Tender bedding plants

Cuttings of these inserted a few weeks ago and still in cold frames should now have the shelter of a house or pit where a little artificial warmth can be given during frost or spells of damp weather outside, when such things are very apt to damp off wholesale.

Dwarf Beans

These have been very backward this season, and it will be necessary to protect part at least of the crop. A few stakes thrust into the ground and connected with tar twine so that mats may be laid over the crop will in many cases do all that is necessary and ensure a few late dishes. Latest batches growing in frames must not be allowed to suffer from dryness at the roots. Pull off the sashes during fine days.

Cabbages

Another batch should now be planted so that an unbroken supply may be maintained. After this date it is hardly worth while planting more as there would be small chance of such taking root before the advent of winter. In dry weather continue to stir the soil between the rows of the earlier breadths so as to encourage steady, firm growth.

Celery

Continue to put more soil to this crop as growth advances, breaking it well up as the work proceeds. It is well to proceed with this duty when the foliage of the plants is dry and the ground in good working order—neither too wet nor too dry.

Strawberries

It is now too late for the making of new plantations of this popular fruit, but not so for securing "runners" for spring planting. These should be carefully lifted with hand-forks and planted in nursery rows on a sheltered border, where they will safely stand the winter and be in fine trim for transplanting to their permanent quarters in February or March. As a rule, this method is best suited to our northern gardens.

Fruit trees on walls

Where the time can be spared it is an excellent plan to nail or tie in the leading shoots of young trees, while the older branches should also be securely fastened to the wall, making all secure against the autumn gales. This is a great time-saver later on, the work being carried out expeditiously and in comfort, whereas during winter this work is most trying and laborious.

Housing plants

While Chrysanthemums may be left out a little longer it is well to get such things as Indian Azaleas, Camellias, and Salvias safely housed. Wash the pots and remove weeds and any dying foliage before carrying under cover. Give air freely day and night for a week or two and spray overhead daily for the first 10 days or more.

Nerines

These are now freely throwing up their flower-stems, so the soil should be thoroughly moistened by plunging the pots in water for a few minutes. Give them a good light position to prevent undue "drawing."

C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

The Beekeepers of Buckfast Abbey

By W. B. Jepson

THE monks of Buckfast Abbey, South Devon, are nothing if not industrious. The Abbey is a positive "hive" of industry, but the monks are not the sole workers. Here is an apiary of no less than 200 hives, where honey is measured by the ton and where the bees number millions.

This bee farm in the fertile valley of the Dart is probably the largest in the West of England. At Buckfast, it may be mentioned in passing, the monks, with their own hands, have rebuilt the famous Abbey of St. Mary. Under its shadow are 90 hives, and within its walls the most up-to-date appliances. Five miles out, in a clearing on an acre of woodland near Ashburton, is a smaller apiary. Lower down the valley, among the Apple orchards of Staverton, are still more hives, while away on Dartmoor, three miles from any other bees, is an isolation apiary, which deserves some notice. Most beekeepers find it well-nigh impossible to preserve their race of bees pure. At this Dartmoor isolation apiary pure Italian queens are raised and fertilised without risk of unwelcome native drones. It is hardly surprising, then, to find the whole apiary managed throughout on most scientific lines. Behind all is the master hand of Brother Adam, who has obviously become expert in the ancient craft of beekeeping.

But it will be asked, "Whence comes the honey for such a huge bee population?" Acres and acres of good honey-yielding land are found in this valley, where in spring the foam of the Apple orchards is a singularly beautiful spectacle. The main honey-flow comes from the white Clover in June. Devon abounds in white Clover fields left, for the most part, untouched from lack of bees to exploit them. At Cadeleigh, for instance, no less than 147 lbs. of honey were taken from a single hive a few years ago. Had there been 20 other hives they would all have done as well. After the Clover is finished, Brother Adam takes his bees up to Dartmoor for the Heather, which affords a second and by no means unprofitable harvest. By the end of July 10 tons of honey had been secured last year by the Abbey bees, and that in spite of feeding up to the beginning of June in some hives. As the honey is gathered, a few hives are weighed, with results which are highly interesting. In one season there were 12 hives which each yielded more than 200 lbs. of honey, one actually reaching 250 lbs. The greatest increase in the shortest time occurred in 1923, when one hive gained 108 lbs. in five days. According to Tickner Edwardes, in "The Lore of the Honey-bee," 5 lbs. per hive is the daily increase to be expected under the best weather conditions from a single acre of white Clover. One hundred and eight pounds in five days must be not far short of a record.

Should 10 fine days supervene when the Heather is in bloom the Abbey hives should yield 5 tons of Heather honey, the supply of which has never yet met the demand in any one season. The first week in August is an exceptionally busy time for Brother Adam and his assistants. After the Clover honey has been removed, the hives, consisting of brood chambers and surplus boxes alone, are covered with frames of wire gauze to secure ventilation on their journey to the moors. All stories are clamped tight, one upon another, by an iron batten back and front, when all is ready for removal by lorry. About 40 are carried in one lorry at a time, a motor van being loaded with the roofs and alighting boards. Many temporary hives are covered with nothing more than rainproof felt. One out-apiary is established near Paignton reservoir above Holne, another on Brent Moor.

Heather honey, whether from the Scottish moors or from Dartmoor, always commands a good price, though the harvest is uncertain. A dark amber colour, aromatic, and in some samples as thick as jelly, it is always worth the trouble and expense of taking the hives to the moors, because the bees winter well upon it. The best comes from the higher moors. Brother Adam has no trouble in disposing of his honey. Many retail customers in the Midlands and South of England repeat their orders every year, while honey is always on sale to visitors at the Abbey. Confectioners are well pleased to take what remains. Great quantities of wax are melted down to be made up into comb foundation by dealers for the ensuing season. Honey, moreover, is used in the preparation of the patent remedies which the monks produce. Strangely enough, the monks themselves do not consume much honey, for it appears on the refectory table but once a week. The making of mead has been abandoned because it invariably proved a most uncertain beverage. The monks drink cyder. They have their own cyder press at the Abbey, and deal with tons of Apples for the local farmers.

The hives at Buckfast are all interchangeable and fitted with zinc or sheet-iron roofs. They are very well found and painted pale green, being arranged in groups of four, a labour-saving device to facilitate manipulations between hive and hive. They are fitted with modified Dadant frames, which are deeper than the more usual standard frames. Brother Adam finds that the larger brood chamber yields about 50 lbs. more honey per hive in a season. Throughout the apiary no drone comb is fitted, and queen excluders are never dispensed with. There is no Isle of Wight disease, and every hive in August seemed to be filled to the brim with bees.

The prevention of swarming is the great difficulty in modern bee-keeping. Brother Adam maintains that once queen cells have been started there is one method only of preventing swarming. He clips the queen's wings, which prevents the escape of swarms, especially at the out-apiaries. The swarm has no alternative but to return to its parent hive. All queen cells having been destroyed, together with the old queen, the hive is rendered queenless for 10 days. Next, the new queen cells, made after 10 days, are destroyed and a new fertile queen is then introduced. That stock does not attempt further swarming for the season. This method, though it has the obvious disadvantage of reducing the hive population for a time, ultimately produces crowded hives and healthy colonies, because the young queen is so vigorous. At Buckfast there is little or no trouble from swarms among the 200 hives, a result only secured by an examination of each hive every 10 days.

The apiary is worked for extracted honey, but 1,000 sections are expected every season as well. The bees are nearly all hybrid Italians, though I was shown one or two hives of Carniolans. The latter were found to be none too clean, and disappointing as honey-gatherers.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the apiary is the queen-rearing house with its picturesque roof of thatch and its 10 stocks inside around the walls. Each stock has its outlet through the wooden wall. As well as hundreds of queen cells these stocks yield quite an appreciable surplus of honey. An incubator fitted with drawers carrying wire gauze tubes hatches out the queen cells by the warmth of an oil lamp. The machine is like an ordinary chicken incubator. the corks closing the tubes depend the queen cells, which, as they hatch o sold at prices ranging from 12s. 6d. to apiece, and the demand is by now fai stant. Every kindness is shown to by those in charge.

Garden Pests

Slugs.—Owing to persistent rain sl extremely active this season, and should be made to control them befo retire into their winter quarters, wh often inaccessible. Egg-laying, to commenced, and efforts should also b to destroy all groups of eggs that found. In this connection it should membered that a mature slug has bo and female organs within the same ind Two slugs meet, and, after pairing wi other, both are capable of laying Hence every mature slug destroyed less to lay a batch of eggs. The gr slug is capable of laying 400 to 500 eg single season, so the large numbers that can be found in a garden in a fav season is not to be wondered at, but action. Traps should be laid down positions where slugs frequent. Usef are pieces of board laid flat on the beneath which a small quantity of b been placed. The traps should be ex daily during wet weather; twice a w be sufficient during dry weather. A in the traps should be collected and into strong salted water. Powdered sulphate mixed with commercial kai useful dressing which can be used slugs in all positions where it can be without burning plant foliage. The should be made by taking 1 lb. of p copper sulphate and mixing it with 2 kainit. The mixture should be applie rate of 1½ ozs. per square yard. The is of no use unless the slugs are dusted with the material. There course, many positions in the garde this mixture could be used witho danger of burning foliage.

Woodlice.—In many gardens woo a great source of trouble. They almost anything in the way of plan and at this season of the year are par fond of ripening Plums hanging on w Trapping is an effective method of and we have obtained good results inverted 7-inch flower-pots loosely fi hay that had previously been steepe ing water. The traps should be e twice a week and the pests destr dropping them into paraffin or so suitable substance.

Red spider.—After the fruit h picked from Peach trees cultivators to neglect syringing the trees, owing sure of work in other directions, result that red spider makes a goo headway. The multiplication of r at this season of the year probably damage to the trees now, but w much trouble in the early days of son's growth. Spraying affected pl potassium sulphide wash is a good c

The time to dig

All soils are greatly improved quality and texture by the action of snow, and rain, and the chances of i fungoid pests are much reduced the considerable are the advantages of digging that it is surprising so few vantage of it. The tendency to p to-morrow what can be done to-da happily, deeply ingrained in mos but upon this matter of early di much depends that the thoughtful r give it attention forthwith. G.

The Production of Fine Turf

REALLY good and well-levelled lawn r grass plot, to use an old English ame, is what is wanted near every y house as well as in more public Such a flat and even lawn may be for games as cricket, croquet, and In all cases evenness of texture and horn grass are essential. A well-made atly-kept grass plot is a constant source asure in many ways, and during hot er weather it becomes, as someone once l it, "a mental salad"—so grateful is vety texture and cool hue to eyes full of nd bright colour. One may now and see lovely breadths of smooth, clean, ell-kept lawns near country or even own houses, but with one or two rare ions the finest lawns I have ever seen the grounds attached to the colleges at l and Cambridge. Perhaps in no other or city in the world can such rich and carpets of grass be seen; and there is of a rich American visitor who, after one of the college gardeners hand-, ventured to ask him what was the of such perfection. The man looked visitor a moment and then answered, , you see, Sir, this is how it be. There ecret at all about these grass plots, but been rolled and mown for nearly a nd years." There is, of course, some-nore than a grain of truth in the story, nstant rolling after rain and constant g (especially with a scythe) exert a ful effect on turf, as is generally well But when grass is mown and carried or years and no return made, even the lawns deteriorate; and so it naturally that some return in the shape of al top-dressings at least once every ust be given to the soil in which the s expected to flourish. If this top en-ement is not afforded the grass becomes nd weak, and ill weeds, such as , Plantain, Dandelion, Hypochæris, lamp and shaded places even Docks, lsel, and Nettles will usurp the vacant Constant mowing is efficient, be-grass bears cutting far better than do eds, and the same is in a measure true odical rolling after showers, but the oad to fresh, green, and clean lawns is a great measure to the well-directed tion of manure to the grass. In a good feeding and quickly repeated gs and rolling are at the bottom of eeping so far as lawns are concerned. September and October, and again , are the best times for the application dressings, but they may be applied at sons if finely-sifted materials be used approach of rain. When I was ad-the lawn in St. John's Gardens at some years ago the gardener there that a mixture of sulphate of am-finely-sifted earth, and burnt refuse l-ashes was used there, and he showed hes of Daisies that had been scorched by the application of the sulphate hot and dry weather. Having at that come responsible for some acres of and weedy lawns, I made many ex-ts with manures, and after repeated find the following mixture gives the sults on a light and dry limestone finely-sifted or screened earth, five ulphate of ammonia, one part; kainit d-ashes, one part; bones reduced by o parts; soot and fine coal-ashes, one Supposing each part to equal 1 cwt., here 10 cwts. of a mixture that forms active, and lasting manure for 5 acres . In some cases I used nitrate of stead of the sulphate, as it is cheaper, nd that it did not act on the soil so efficiently as did the best sulphate from the gas-works. I have tried farmyard manure, cow manure, bone-meal, basic slag, fish, and soot manure, but none of them alone in any way equals the permanent effects of the mixture I have given. Another excellent and lasting mixture is made by mixing thoroughly in a dry place 2 cwts. of bone superphosphate and 1 cwt. of kainit along with five parts of sifted earth. This should be applied in spring, say about March, and in April or May it can be followed by sowing nitrate of soda at the rate of 1 cwt. to the acre. Bear in mind that two top-dressings of 1 cwt. to the acre at an interval of a month or six weeks apart are far more advantageous than one dressing of 2 cwts. to the acre. I have used both the manurial mixtures in above proportions to flower beds and shrub borders with the best results, and they have been especially serviceable used rather more freely in renovating the grass where it is apt to become thin and sparse immediately beneath or near spreading trees.

There are many fine lawns in England. Indeed, the one thing American and Continental visitors to our shores first notice is the perfect green sward around our country houses. There is a very perfect bit of lawn at Hove (Sussex) by the sea front, fresh, soft, dense, and velvety green without a weed in it, this perfection being due to careful supervision. Good lawns and fine old trees are the perfection of good gardening.

Wherever artificial or chemical manures are not readily obtainable an excellent home-made mixture may be made up of old Mushroom-house or hotbed manure, soot, wood-ashes, or other burnt refuse, and even dust-like coal slack and coal-ashes may be added with advantage to damp and mossy lawns. All should be well turned over and mixed together, and finally when dry run through a ½-inch screen or sieve and applied at the rate of 10 tons or 12 tons to the acre. Above everything do not starve the grass, and if possible during summer it should be mown and rolled every five days. Happily, lawn manures may be purchased ready mixed, and this represents a great saving of time and labour.

L. B.

Grass plot and clipped Yews

Good lawns and fine trees are the perfection of good gardening. A perfect green sward is wanted near every house in town or country

THE AUTUMN ROSE SHOW

THE National Rose Society is to be congratulated on the success of the trade exhibits at the autumn show held last week at Vincent Square. These large groups were better than ever, and the display of Roses was unrivalled for brilliant effect. We could not help feeling, however, that it would have been better for exhibitors and for visitors if a little space had been allowed between each exhibit. In the class for a group of cut Roses on 8 feet frontage it was almost impossible to tell where one exhibit left off and the next one began.

Visitors were waiting outside long before the show was open to the public.

The attendance was exceptional, proving the great popularity of the autumn feast of Roses.

The news of the death of Mr. George Prince, of Oxford (recorded elsewhere in this issue), cast a shadow of gloom over this great gathering of rosarians, for Mr. Prince was most popular in the Rose trade and a regular exhibitor for many years. He will be greatly missed at the Rose shows.

Probably the best Roses in the hall were to be seen in Class 1 for a representative group of cut Roses staged on a frontage of 15 feet.

The first prize was awarded to S. McGredy and Sons, and the best Rose in this magnificent group was, we thought, Mrs. A. R. Barraclough, which is selected for illustration. This Rose formed the centrepiece of the group, and it was very conspicuous, even in the brilliant company of Betty Uprichard, Margaret McGredy, White Ensign, Admiration, Shot Silk, Mrs. T. O'Farrell, and Norman Lambert.

Messrs. Chaplin Bros., who were second, had a fine group of well-grown Roses, each bloom of exhibition standard, including Los Angeles, Emma Wright, Innocence, Clarence Goodacre, Fascination, Betty Uprichard, and the very fragrant Etoile de Hollande.

Mermaid, which has done well this season in many gardens, was admirably shown by J. H. Pemberton, together with Hybrid Musk Roses Pax and Vanity.

The varieties Hortulanus Budde and Mrs. Charles Lamplough were prominent in the exhibit by Mr. C. Gregory, Chilwell, Notts.

NEW ROSES

Many new Roses were shown. One only, viz., Desmond Johnston, was awarded a Gold Medal. This is a brilliant scarlet heavily flushed with orange and claret, shown by S. McGredy and Sons.

Dame Edith Helen, which is, surely, one of the finest of all new Roses, was a feature in the group staged by Alexander Dickson and Sons, and in the same group were the new Roses Lady Mary Elizabeth (carmine-pink) and Lord Castlereagh (rich deep crimson).

A new decorative Rose named Polly was shown by Beckwith and Son. The flowers, which are on the small side, are deep apricot in the centre, passing to pale yellow.

"THE SCENTED DRUSCHKI."

One of the best Roses in many of the trade groups was Marcia Stanhope (here illustrated), a pure white of good form and substance, designated "the scented Druschki." It is vigorous and free-flowering, and generally regarded as the best white Rose.

The class for a group of cut Roses on a frontage of 8 feet was keenly contested; there were eight good exhibits. The first prize was won by R. Harkness and Co. for one of the best exhibits of its kind we have ever seen. The group was remarkable both for arrangement and for the excellence of the Roses, which included Covent Garden, Lady Inchiquin, K. of K., Los Angeles, Independence Day, and Mme. Butterfly.

Messrs. W. Easlea and Sons, who were second, had a beautiful basket of the orange-coloured Emma Wright, while the third prize was awarded to John Jefferies and Son, Cirencester, for the noted Cotswold Roses, in which White Ensign and Ivy May may be singled out as being exceptionally good.

Marcia Stanhope

A white Rose of perfect form and delicious fragrance

It was pleasing to see the single-flowered Rose Dainty Bess so well used for table decoration by Miss Muriel Archer. The variety Roselandia is still a great favourite for table decoration, and was used by Mrs. Courtney Page and Mrs. Oakley Fisher in their winning tables.

Mme. Butterfly was the best of the cut Roses in the classes for bowls of Roses, while the pick of the Polyantha Roses in baskets were Greta Poulsen, Kirsten Poulsen, and Elsie Poulsen.

The Clay Challenge Vase for the best new scented Rose of the year was awarded to Alexander Dickson and Sons for their cerise-coloured Flamingo, which received a Gold Medal at the summer show of new Roses. It is an admirable new Rose, but at the autumn show it was not particularly fragrant.

H. C.

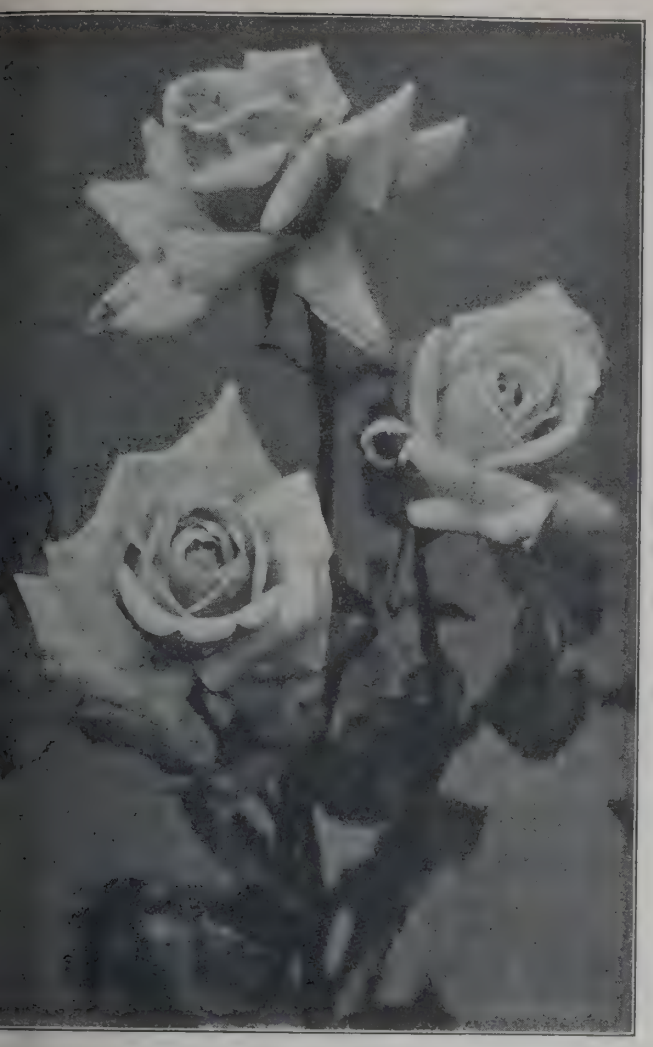
Cardiff and County Horticul Society

THE thirty-third annual show of the Society was held in the Drill H Cardiff on Wednesday and Thursda 7th and 8th inst. The various classes, numbered 118, were in most cases well with most excellent produce. Many ex exhibits not for competition were sent well-known nurserymen, and a most d ful large group of autumn flowers and s which contained a real good selecti Maples in their beautiful tints, set up b J. T. Smith, gardener to Mr. R. Cory Duffren. Exhibits from The Duffre always greatly admired, not only at C but many other large shows. Mr. Sm to be heartily congratulated as he alway at something original and something di each time.

On entering the door the first to attention was a magnificent display of both upon trees and on dishes, which many, from the veteran master hand on fruit, M Basham, of Bassaleg, near port. Amongst the many ex dishes of fruit worthy of note were some fine examp St. Celia raised at The Ba Nurseries, and which M Basham, Junr., informed m be regarded as a late Cox's, the Apple certainly rese Gascoigne's Scarlet, Pe Nonsuch, Hambling Se Charles Ross, Allington P and King of Pippins were in extra large size and perfe dition. Small trees in pots well laden with Coe's Golde and President Plums, Peaches, Apples, and Pear also in evidence.

In close proximity were glorious displays of Dahli first prize-winner being M Treseders, of Cardiff, with the best-arranged exhibits e up by that noted firm. O one in particular was wor special note raised by the This was the Bishop of Llan most dazzling dark red copper-coloured foliage an that will be sought aft bedding when more widely Amongst the many be decorative varieties was garia, with blooms 9 inch over across, Jersey Beauty, Loughor, Henry S. May, Carl Sandbach, Emblem, Cavalier, tonia, and Mabel Lawrence, whilst Pompone, Star, Collarette, and some ful Charms, one of the best being Booker, were also well represented in hibit. Mr. H. Clark, Taunton, was with a very creditable display. Swee were the next large display that attrac tention in the open section, and a beau arranged exhibit secured first prize silver cup for Mr. Alan Gibbs, of L amongst which were some well-grown of Riverscourt, Gold Crest, Youth, Scot, and Tangerine Improved. Mr. was second with very fine vases, a which the following were the best:- Tom Jones, Royal Mauve, Black Be Edna May.

The open collection of Roses was Mr. W. Treseders, which included such ties as Mme. Butterfly, Ivy May, Inc ence Day, Betty Uprichard, Mrs. H. Lady Inchiquin, Emma Wright, and de Georges Pernet.



lly, a new decorative Rose shown by Messrs. Beckwith
Deep apricot shading to pale yellow

New Rose Mrs. A. R. Barraclough
One of the most beautiful of all at the Autumn Rose Show
Shown by S. McGredy and Sons

y was a very fine exhibit which drew attention, staged by Messrs. J. Basham s, who secured second prize, amongst ere splendid blooms of Shot Silk, The Alexandra, Lady Roundhay, Los , Mrs. H. Morse, Mabel Morse, Mrs. vens, Lady Pirrie, and Etoile de le.

ations (open).—Mr. C. Englemann st for Perpetuals with a fine display ncluded many new varieties, some of t being Laddie, Katja, Spectrum, Sunstar, and Topsy. One vase 12 1st, Mr. J. W. Pyman; 2nd, J. E.

anthemums. — Six vases, distinct ; 1st, Mrs. Phillips. Three vases, t. Fletcher, Margam. One vase, 1st, urner.

prize-winners in the flower classes

ur collection of hardy perennial cut —1st, Mrs. Morgan Lewis, who had us display of choice blooms, in- Lilium auratum grown in the open, by Mr. Bennett (gardener). This with it the GARDENING ILLUSTRATED Medal.

—Collection of hardy cut flowers.— Treseders.

urs.—Six vases of Sweet Peas, 1st, Protheroe, Aberaman. This also the N.S.P.S. Silver Medal. One Sweet Peas, 1st, G. S. Meadows, Collection, one vase of Dahlias, of Roses, and one vase of hardy Cup, presented by Mr. W. Treseders, n by J. H. Ferry. Six vases l Asters, 1st, Mr. E. Horley, who showed excellent sprays of Acris, Royal Blue, Countess, Mrs. S. J. Wright, and Rev. J. Nunn. For one vase only Mr. Horley also secured first prize.. Bowl of cut Roses, 1st, Alan Gibbs. Vase of Roses, J. E. Turner. Bowl or vase of Dahlias (Decorative), 1st, W. H. Brain. Bowl or vase Pæony or miniature Pæony, 1st, Major Gaskell. Bowl or vase of Star, 1st, J. Griffiths. Bowl or vase of Cactus, 1st, J. Griffiths. Bowl of Dahlias arranged for effect, 1st, W. E. Wilkes. Twelve Cactus, W. E. Wilkes. One vase, any distinct type, 1st, J. Griffiths. Six vases cut flowers, distinct kinds, 1st, D. A. Burns, Cardiff. One vase of Liliums, 1st, T. J. Maurice, Merthyr. Three vases of Gladioli, 1st, D. A. Burns. One vase of cut Clematis, 1st, Dowager Lady Watson, Newport. Open—Bouquet for Bride, 1st, P. Thomas; 2nd, Wm. Treseders. Bouquet of Roses, 1st, W. Treseders. Basket of choice flowers, 1st, Wm. Treseders. Basket of hardy flowers, 1st, Mrs. Alan Gibbs. Best floral decorated dinner-table, 1st, Mrs. Williams. Bowl of hardy flowers for luncheon-table, 1st, Miss D. V. Jones.

Fruit.—Collection of dessert fruit, 1st, W. H. Brain. Two bunches of Grapes, 1st, Dowager Lady Watson. Six dishes of dessert Apples, 1st, W. H. Brain. Six dishes of culinary Apples, 1st, W. H. Brain. One dish of dessert Apples, 1st, Capt. Fletcher. One dish of culinary Apples, 1st, W. H. Brain. Six dishes of dessert Pears, 1st, W. H. Brain. One dish of dessert Pears, 1st, J. W. Pyman. Dish of nine Plums, 1st, W. H. Brain.

Vegetables.—There was a wonderful array of these and some very fine specimens of Onions, Runner Beans, and Cauliflowers to be seen, as well as many good collections and fine dishes of Potatoes.

Amongst the most notable prize-winners were:—Open and amateurs.—Collection of nine distinct kinds, 1st, D. R. Jones, Aberaman. Collection of six kinds, 1st, T. Hale, Aberdare. Collection of six Messrs. Sutton's, 1st, T. Hale. Three dishes of Potatoes, Mr. Moody, Barry. A basket of salads, 1st, J. F. Morgan, Whitchurch. Dish of 25 pods of Dickson's and Robinson's colossal Runner Beans, 1st, Alan Gibbs. Six bulbs of Premier Onions, 1st, J. E. Turner, who staged the best and largest Onions in the show.

In the cottagers' section special note was taken of the collections of vegetables, which showed quite as much skill as those arranged in the previous classes. The first prize in a strong competition went to S. Richards, Aberdare. The best three spring-sown Onions, 1st, Tudor Thomas, Peterston. This wonderful exhibit would have done justice in the premier section, and credit is due to a cottager who can produce such perfect specimens. Amongst the notable dishes of Potatoes, which were numerous, was a fine dish of Arran Comrade, which may be considered the best in the show and gained a first prize for Mr. L. John, Peterston.

Trade displays.—These are always a feature of the show, and included a very large collection of hardy herbaceous cut flowers from Messrs. W. and H. Evans, Hardy Plant Nurseries, Whitchurch, who put up excellent vases of the newer Scabious, including a new break in these beautiful flowers so much called for for table decoration. This is

named Columbaria rosea and is a beautiful semi-double pink. Increase of stock is by taking cuttings in autumn in the same manner as Pentstemons, really a beautiful plant. A new Helianthus that took my fancy was Quinquifolium, and a glorious Kniphofia in the name of Mount Etna.

Mr. S. Treseder had a grand show of Roses, fruit, Gladioli, Scabious, Delphiniums, and Gaillardias, amongst other good things. So also had The Forest and Orchard Nursery Co., who had some remarkably good dishes of Rev. W. Wilkes, James Grieve, Beauty of Bath, and other Apples. Mr. J. Crossling was represented with a fine display of Roses, Dahlias, Gladioli, etc.

Mr. P. Thomas had an artistic arrangement of flowers, and Mr. Isaac House had his usual wonderful show of Scabious, which makes every garden-lover's mouth water, as there are very few that are successful with these beautiful flowers and that can show them in the same manner as this noted raiser. Messrs. Clarke, Taunton, had a wonderful display of annual Larkspur. All the above, as well as Mr. J. Basham, previously mentioned, received various medals from the Society.

Last, but not least, mention must be made of the wonderful group of Cacti and other succulents put up by the Cardiff Corporation Parks Committee, which was greatly admired. Some fine specimens of Opuntia leucotricha, Cotyledon gibbifolia metallica, Agave Victoriæ Reginæ, and Echinocactus Grussonii were on view. W. E. WRIGHT.

VEGETABLES

Celery

Celery has been so greatly improved by years of cultivation and selection that to-day it ranks in the foremost row of garden esculents. At every stage of its growth there should be good culture, with abundance of moisture and liberal supplies of food, as Celery is a glutton among vegetables.

WITH amateurs it is a favourite garden crop, but how seldom do we find it grown as it should be; more often than not it is met with about 6 inches to 10 inches in height with a few short sticky leaves of no use whatever.

The chief cause of failure is sowing the seed too late, and thus not allowing sufficient time for the plants to make proper growth. If Celery is not grown fast enough it fails to produce nice succulent stems, thereby rendering the whole useless.

The first week in March should see the seeds sown for the general crop and for exhibition in September, October, and November. Earlier than this I am not in favour of Celery as an exhibition vegetable, but those desirous of showing in August should sow a pinch of seed in heat in February. Sow the seed in well-drained pans filled with moist, sandy soil and just covered with fine compost, and then place in gentle warmth. If this is not possible stand the pan in a cold frame, keeping the latter closed until germination takes place, when gradually inure them to more air to render the seedlings as sturdy as possible.

Weakly-grown plants are of no use whatever. Prick off the plants when large enough to handle in a bed of soil close to the glass or on a mild heap of fermenting material. Two inches of rich compost should be placed over the latter, and in this the plants should be put out 3 inches apart. Give water freely, never allowing the soil to become dry, and directly it is seen they have rooted into the fresh soil draw the lights off the plants to ensure stocky growth and sturdy leaves.

As to varieties, it is really a matter of taste whether white or red Celery is chosen, but for long keeping the red varieties are considered the best. The following will be found very good:—Red: Sulham Prize, Carter's Giant Pink, Major Clarke's Red, and Standard Bearer. White: Wright's Grove Giant White, Carter's Solid Ivory (grand), and Sandringham Dwarf White.

The trenches for the reception of the plants should be prepared some time before required and should be 18 inches wide and 10 inches or 12 inches deep, allowing a space of 4 feet between the rows. Remove the soil to about 1 foot deep, banking it up each side of the trench. Then proceed to break up the bottom of the trench for another 6 inches. Then fill the trench three parts full of half-rotted manure, treading it down firmly as the work proceeds.

If the Celery is intended for exhibition 3 inches of rich compost should be put on, but if intended for household purposes then chop a little down from the banks on each side.

When the time for planting arrives select showery weather if possible; if not, well water the plants before lifting so as to ensure each having a nice ball of soil attached to its roots.

Lift the plants carefully and commence planting at one end of the trench, allowing 12 inches between the plants, using a trowel for the purpose.

The plants should be well watered in as the work proceeds. If hot weather sets in directly after planting, a slight shading during the hottest part of the day will be of great benefit to the plants. The plants must never want for water, for it is neglect in this particular that is largely responsible for the production of hollow stalks. Liquid-manure is conducive to quick growth, and should not be forgotten. Provide an abundance of water and you will obtain a good class of Celery having solid and crisp stalks.

Earthing or banking up the soil should not take place until growth is nearly completed, as earthing up hinders it.

Perform the operation carefully, remove all suckers, and see that no soil falls into the heart of the plant. Finish off the operation with the hands so as to gently mould it round the plants, leaving the centre still free to grow.

Celery is generally blanched and ready for use in from six to eight weeks from the time of earthing up.

In the case of blanching for exhibition, strips of stout paper 6 inches or 7 inches wide are employed. The strips of paper are wrapped tightly round the plant, all side shoots and decayed leaves having previously been removed. The first strip of paper at base of plant is covered with soil from side of trench to exclude air from the base. As the plants grow, further strips of paper are added until the length of blanching desired is obtained.

To return to the operation of earthing up, which requires care. The plants must be kept erect and leaves close together, for if soil falls between them the result will be crooked sticks.

For this operation two people should be employed, which will avoid the necessity of first tying the heads with raffia. Chop up the soil quite fine before placing against the plants, for if pressed against them in lumps crooked and bulged sticks will be the result.

The soil should first of all be sprinkled with lime and soot to prevent attacks of slugs, which quite spoil the look of the heads. Two earthings are generally quite sufficient, the last taking place when growth is complete.

The whole row will now be in for ridge, which will throw off the rains fr hearts of the plants. If moisture gains to the hearts of the plants and shar follows, the sticks decay.

If severe weather sets in cover both and plants with Bracken, or, failin straw, to protect the plants from frost

Celery-fly is sometimes troublesome, prevent attacks and the deposit of eg quently dust the plants with soot. F

Protecting Winter Green

Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, and oth ter greens are liable to be broken placed when they are fully grown t being blown about by the wind. To this damage it is wise to fasten the plants, and those in exposed positi strong stakes driven into the soil. T tinual swaying of the plants in the wi loosens the roots; this can be overc a large extent by occasionally tread soil around and against the stems.

G. W

Turnips for winter and sp

To secure a supply of Turnips for during winter, or "tops" for the spr not delay getting in the seeds. Turni in warmth and moisture when growi only for another few weeks can the ditions be expected. Rake down a p land from which Potatoes, Peas, or have been taken, and sow the seeds broadcast or in very shallow drill seeds need no more than to be press the loose surface by rolling or t Choose a hardy variety, such as Gr Stone or Purple-top for this sowing.

Ripening Tomatoes

Outdoor Tomatoes beginning to t low will most likely ripen on the plant growing points of all plants should be out if this has not already been do side shoots rigorously kept down, so the energy of the plants can be conc on ripening the fruits. Leaves sh the bunches of fruit may be cut bac moved. G. W

Turnip flea

The pitted leaves or transparent s the leaves of Turnips or Radishes are by a very pretty, though none the sidious, garden pest called the Turn a tiny beetle capable of springing l tances when disturbed. It also attack Cabbage plants. Soot and lime du the leaves is efficacious. Another to tar a piece of board, and while pass it over the rows a few inches a seedlings. On being disturbed the spring into the air and come in cont the wet tar. The best of all means vention is to dust the leaves with bas

Preserving Cauliflower he

When Broccoli or Cauliflower b mature they should be examined fr to see which are beginning to heart. heart grows it becomes more expose is advisable to break the mid-rib o the surrounding leaves and bend it o to protect from frost or hot sun; it al the heart clean, and prevents it from soddened with rain. Broccoli shou be put on land containing rank man should always be put into firm groun

G.

When to plant Red Cabba

Red pickling Cabbage should be this month to provide heads for pickl year.

Answers to Queries

ions—Queries and answers are inserted in NG ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre-ts follow these rules: All communications be clearly written on one side of the paper nd addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING TED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. on business should be sent to the* PUB- *The name and address of the sender are l in addition to any designation he may o be used in the paper. When more than ry is sent each should be on a separate paper, the name and address being added As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent some days in advance of date, queries always be replied to in the issue immedi-llowing their receipt. We do not reply to by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

ROSES

Dorothy Perkins

ou tell me what is wrong with accom- bits of Dorothy Perkins, also treat- any? Planted early in 1925, it made owth last year, but began to turn about flowering time this year, and up very little new growth. Excelsa, Grey, and American Pillar within a ds are doing well. Soil, light, sandy
T. H. ROSE.

lity seems to have overtaken your The wood is weak and old-looking. se is most successfully grown when of the old wood is cut away annually wering and strong young rods tied in of those removed. It is too late to uch improvement this year, but in apply a generous dressing of well-ow manure. This should work a nprovement. At present you should y all old, worn-out wood and lay in of the young growths in its place. weakly new shoots should also be cut

white Rose

ou, please, say which is considered "*scented* white bedding Rose"? rl Druschki, I take it, is *the* pattern it is *scentless*. R. G.

bly Mrs. Herbert Stevens will suit, fragrant and a pretty little Rose that freely. British Queen is also and a good Rose, but always best idens." If a dwarf Polyantha would purpose Katherine Zeimet is excel-l quite fragrant. Then there is tanhope (see illustration, page 584).]

TREES AND SHRUBS

cing south and a dry wall

built a house on a slope. To make level a piece has been dug out, re- a bank 4 feet to 6 feet high to the the house, sloping south. Above is field. I can take from the field to e slope less steep. The top soil is m and has been in cultivation some e lower soil is sand or gravelly sand. the simplest way to treat this? If ould it be turf or seeds? I do not thing expensive either to make or
S. M.

just built a dry wall facing south; y loam which has been cultivated a . I want to have a path below and d for flowers, and wish to make a nd for the bed, dividing it from the w is impossible as I might want the field. I can make the bed any m 3 feet. Do you think a mixed background would be best or some edge? It need not be evergreen, but want it to grow more than 5 feet or n. S. M.

on 1.—As the slope faces south and light and warm it would be a good place for the Cistuses, especially C. laurifolius, which grows into a handsome bush 5 feet high. C. cyprus is another large-growing kind, and the shorter C. salvifolius and C. albidus may be advised. The beautiful tenderer kinds, C. purpureus, C. lusitanicus, and C. florentinus may also do well with you. Other suitable shrubby plants are Phlomis fruticosa, Rosemary, Lavender, and the Scotch Briars, with the dark Centranthus, Gypsophila paniculata, and the native Clematis vitalba guided so as to ramble about over the bank. Any of the Helianthemums would do well in the smaller spaces and close to the drive. A better alternative, though more costly at the beginning, would be to have dry walling planted with a good arrangement of the usual rock plants, and some of the neater kitchen herbs, such as the Golden Thyme, the walling not going up the full height, but allowing for a slight slope down from the field about 6 feet wide, planted as described above.

Question 2.—The path under the dry wall and the border below would always look awkward if they sloped away as in your sketch. They should both be on the same level, and if another stone dry walling on the field-side is too much of an expense you could have a turf wall built up in the usual way of the country when a hedge bank is made. Three feet is not enough for a flower border and a shrub hedge, it should be 7 feet at least, or much better if 10 feet. Suitable shrubs for the hedge would be Euonymus japonicus, Laurustinus, Holly trimmed to the height wished, Privet (green or golden), Whitethorn and Blackthorn, Ribes sanguineum, and Guelder Rose, the last kept trimmed as may be desired.]

Taking Hydrangea cuttings

Will you kindly inform me the right time to take Hydrangea cuttings, and what temperature is required to strike same?
CONSTANT READER.

[Cuttings may be taken at the present time. They should be from 3 inches to 4 inches in length, and cut off at a point where the wood is turning brown and therefore partially ripened. Insert the cuttings in pots filled with sandy soil and plunge the pots up to their rims in a closed frame—possessing bottom heat for preference—and inside a house having a temperature of 55 degs. to 65 degs. These plants will also strike—but take longer—in a closed, cold frame if inserted without delay.]

Planting a hedge

(A. C.).—Whatever you do, do not spoil your cottage by planting a Privet hedge. It is the commonest and meanest of all hedge plants. It would be much better to plant Cupressus, Yew, Box, Thorn, Holly, Beech, or Hornbeam. Any one of these would doubtless succeed. If you want an evergreen hedge use either Cupressus, Yew, Holly, or Box. Another very good hedge plant and quick growing is Lonicera nitida. The evergreen hedges may be planted now or in early spring, but the deciduous hedges are best planted in autumn, October being a very good month. Perhaps the best of all subjects for the position near the sea is Cupressus macrocarpa, an admirable shrub for a hedge.

Grown and shown by schoolboys
This collection of vegetables was shown at Vincent Square on September 2nd

FLOWER GARDEN

Seedling Dahlias

(J. D., N.B.).—Seedlings of the Coltness Gem type are in demand. The seedling you send is similar to others. It is worth cultivating, but of little or no commercial value.

Eustoma Russellianus

(F. W.).—See article and illustration on this plant in issue September 10, page 561. A fine bed of it is now flowering in Hyde Park, near Hyde Park Corner The Eusto-

mas belong to the order "Gentianaceæ," and are mostly annuals. The one in question however is of biennial duration, and although a native of Texas is hardy. Seeds should be sown either in August in a cold frame or on a slight hot bed in March, pricking off the seedlings when large enough to handle, and transplanting in the open border at the end of April or early in May. The flowers which appear in August and September are purple.

Lupin foliage turning yellow

Can you tell me the reason why the foliage of several Lupin plants in my herbaceous border is turning yellow? Are the plants likely to be affected by it permanently?

(Lady) DORIS VYNER.

[This is probably due to the natural ripening of the foliage, and is not unusual among these plants at this season. The plants should be in no way affected next year. You might nevertheless remove the yellow leaves from the plants at the present time.]

Diseased Gladioli

Will you please let me know through your paper what is the matter with the enclosed Gladioli? I planted over 200 in the spring all in the one bed, and quite a lot have withered just before flowering. The bed they were planted in was manured and trenched in the autumn, so it is not caused by fresh manure. The soil is light and sandy, but owing to the heavy rains we have had this season it is not lack of moisture. I will be greatly obliged if you can let me know what is wrong, as I have quite a lot of expensive Gladioli. I may state the situation of the bed is quite in the open.

GLADI.

[The specimen Gladioli sent in for examination are badly attacked by a species of Heterosporium, a fungus which does damage to a number of plants. We think your best plan would be to take up and burn all the plants that are so badly attacked as those you have sent to us; those that remain should be sprayed with a solution of liver of sulphur. To make the solution take 1 oz. of the chemical and dissolve in a little hot water, and then make it up to 3 gallons. Next season, as soon as the plants appear above ground, keep a sharp look out for the reappearance of the disease; spraying with the above solution should then be undertaken at once with the aim of preventing the spread of the trouble. At this time of the year 1 oz. liver of sulphur will do no harm to the foliage of your plants, but if you have to spray them early in their growth next year it would be wise to use 5 gallons of water instead of 3 gallons until the foliage becomes harder. Please see reply to S. R. Cookson as to the effect of sulphides on paint. Allied species of Heterosporium attack Montbretia, Iris, Freesia, etc., etc., and you should keep an eye on such plants to see if they are carrying the disease, especially if any of them are growing near to the Gladioli.]

Plants for terrace beds

I shall be very grateful for suggestions as to the treatment of eight good-sized rectangular beds on the terrace of this college. They are made of good garden soil on a gravel subsoil and are mostly surfaced with flat stones of a good colour and about an inch thick. They are fully exposed to the sun, the aspect being nearly south and sheltered on the north and partly on the east and west by the college, which is of brick. The stones are arranged in the style of a crazy pavement with rather large interstices to allow of planting. I know all the obvious things—Pinks, Aubrietias, Helianthemums, Thymes, Acænas, small Phloxes, dwarf species of Cheiranthus and Geranium, Nepeta, Thrift, and Oxalis, but I should be glad to hear of anything rather out of the way that these rather peculiar conditions would suit. Nothing that dislikes lime will do, and nothing that will insist on growing more than 9 inches high. The effect is to be that of flat beds which show stone where ordinary beds would show earth, the stone being, of course, employed to keep the roots cool in the very hot situation. A. M. A. H. ROGERS.

St. Hugh's College, Oxford.

[Any of the following would suit the conditions of the stone-surfaced beds you describe:—Achillea umbellata, Aster alpinus, Antennaria divica, Gentiana acaulis and G. sino-ornata, White Thrift, Artemisia Stelleriana, Erinus alpinus, Saxifrages of the encrusted and oppositifolia sections, Polygonum affine, Pterocephalus Parnassi, Sisyrinchium Bermudiana, Veronica rupestris, Tunica Saxifraga, Plumbago Larpetæ. It would be tempting to include the brilliant scarlet Verbena chamædrifolia; it is rather tender, but might survive with protection. In any case it is easily propagated by cuttings to be housed for the winter and planted out in the end of May. The best of the Stonecrops would also be desirable, to include Sedums spurium, Ewersii, murale, reflexum, and spathulifolium.]

Diseased Tulips

I am sending you a sample of my Tulip bulbs. Can you tell me what my trouble is? They get worse every year and appear to suffer from some fungoid attack. I have tried lifting them after flowering, but though, perhaps, my total losses are lessened thereby, there is no improvement in the survivors. They always split up into a lot of small bulbs, and it is chiefly the small ones which are attacked, though there are indications of the trouble on several of the larger ones. This year there has been a certain amount of external mildew, due no doubt to my having put them away in paper bags before they were thoroughly dry, but this mildew does not seem to penetrate the outer tunics. Are bulbs such as I send any use at all, and is it safe to plant any which show less signs of disease? Perhaps it would be better to scrap the lot and give up trying to grow them in this cold, badly-drained soil. I have shaken them up with sulphur, but that does not even check the mildew, much less alleviate the fungoid attack. Unless you condemn my whole stock I intend to plant the healthier ones about first week in November with a good handful of sand under each, since I imagine it is wet which induces the trouble.

A. H. WOLLEY-DOD.

[Your Tulip bulbs are badly diseased, and we could not find a single sound bulb amongst them. The responsible fungus appears to be a species of Sclerotinia, which species we are rather doubtful, but it appears probable that it is S. parasitica. If you examine the bulbs you will find the black sclerotia situated on some of the scales. There seems to be no other plan except that of burning all the affected bulbs. Why not try your plan of planting the healthier ones about the first week in November, with a good handful of sand under each, and, in addition, try the effect of watering the plants several times with a solution of Cheshunt Compound. This material is a good soil fungi deterrent, and we see no reason why it should not help you with your Tulip fungus. The cause of your Tulips being unsatisfactory is undoubtedly caused by this Sclerotinia fungus, but how far the fungus is assisted by your bad soil conditions we are unable to say. It is possible for you to sterilise a complete bed by means of steam or chemicals and then plant with new disease-free bulbs. You could then be sure as to the unsuitability of your Tulips. Under your present conditio new bulb goes into infected soil and ev goes under to the disease, so that the are rather against the Tulips.]

Carnations and Pinks

A reader who signs himself "Di quires the names of two or three goo self Carnations suited to being lef border all the year round and of p habit (see page 556). The two Border Carnations that come anywh to the reader's requirements that I k Pearl Clove and White Clove. Bo have a percentage of perpetual blood and throw up flowering shoots duri of the summer. It is advisable to la of the young shoots each year to k healthy stock of plants. These pl really at their best during July. tinuation of white cut bloom I kno plant to compare with Allwoodii Ha is a perfect large double white that split its calyx, and if some of the s are removed it will compare favoura any white Carnation, and blooms co from May till cut down by frosts. a newer variety, but not so well trie former. W.

Leaf Miner on Chrysanthemum

(J. C. T.).—The specimen leaves sent in are affected with a leaf-min is not the common one found Chrysanthemums. We are keep specimens in the hope that we can br through until they reach the fly stag we can name them for you. As only two or three specimens still aliv could send us some more specimens assist us. We take it that the measures adopted against the comm anthemum leaf-miner will be effec this species also, viz., pick off and bu affected leaves. Leaves which have or two maggots in could be dealt crushing the maggots between the Spraying the plants with a nicot would kill many of the maggots w leaf, but to do this a strong nicotin is necessary. In any case spraying with standard nicotine solution, *i.e.* 98 per cent. nicotine to 10 gallons would act as a deterrent to the a when egg-laying. Enough soft-so be added to the water to make the well.

FRUIT

Apple trouble

(A. A. S.).—The cause of your Seedling Apples cracking around end is, we think, due to the effec which they experienced very early development. A careful examinati cracks reveals the presence of the Apple Scab, but the spores are on in small numbers and we do not co cracks are due to this fungus. T Bramley Seedling has, in the main badly from the effect of frost d flowering period and immediately a In some cases the unopened flo killed outright, in others the open were blackened, but many cases yours, and the damage seems to done after the fruit had set and swell. You can do nothing to y and we should advise you to gathe when it is ready and store, taking the worst specimens up first. If y of the Apples down through the n will find that the scab does not run and if the fruit is dry when picked under good conditions we think th keep. One of the Apples sent w and rotten, and was affected with

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Particulars of Fellowship may be obtained on application to the Secretary,
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON, S.W. 1

of Apple. You should keep a sharp look-out for this disease, both on the tree and when the fruit is in store. All affected fruit should be burned.

Protecting fruit trees

What is the best way of protecting from frost fruit when forming on young pyramid trees of Pears and Plums and wall fruit? Doubtless your readers have different ways of achieving this, and advice as to the practical means adopted would be a boon to others besides myself. And, especially, what reading of the thermometer in the afternoon renders protection desirable, and for what length of time may the covering be kept on? I had, last spring, a good showing of Pears, and I take it that one or two cold nights did the mischief, taking even the Williams and Marguerite Marillat that I rely upon as certain, and leaving only a few Louise Bonne, Emile d'Heyst, Santa Claus, and one Winter Nelis. For the protection of fruit from birds and insects I find muslin bags quite effective —and laborious. E. R. M.

Chislehurst

[There are many ways of protecting fruit trees from frost during their flowering period. Permanent shelter of the nature of windbreaks should be always provided when planting fruit trees. Walls, hedges, and belts of trees are used for this purpose. For wall trees a glass ridge is often constructed on the top of the wall, and then during the flowering period Strawberry netting is hung from the ridge to the ground-level. The problem is not so easy with bush trees, especially if the trees are of any size. Covering the trees with netting is about the only practical proposition which will enable you to minimise the effect of the frost. We cannot give you a reading of the thermometer during the afternoon which will assure you as to whether or no a frost can be expected. The heat of the sun's rays are absorbed by the earth, and the air above is heated from the earth by radiation, hence during the day the lower strata of air is warmer than the upper, but a change takes place at night, radiation goes on the same, but the earth is not receiving any more heat to compensate for that lost by radiation, so the surface of the soil gradually cools down and the air above it is cooled by coming in contact with the cold surface. If conditions favour radiation then frost may be expected. A clear sky favours radiation; a cloudy sky retards radiation. Covering a plant with straw mats, netting, etc., are the gardeners' ways of retarding radiation. It is, of course, not an infallible rule that a cloudy evening means no frost that night, because the clouds may disappear during the night and a frost be the result. We have known many a gardener being caught napping because of a change of weather during the night. It often works the other way, too; freezing at 10 p.m., fires made up to keep the temperature of the glasshouses up, then a change during the night, with the consequence that in the morning greenhouses are stoves, and stoves are, well, warmer than they ought to be. Fruit tree protectors are from time to time advertised in our pages. These protectors are useful in protecting fruit trees during their flowering period, and can be left on throughout this period.]

VEGETABLES

Tits eating Peas

I am much troubled with tom-tits attacking my Green Peas. What is the cause and how shall I prevent them? W. GIBSON.

[On the whole the great tit and blue tit are more useful than injurious. During the greater part of the year they feed upon small beetles, flies, and other insects, and the eggs, grubs, and chrysalids of such creatures. The chief accusations against these birds are that they attack fruit buds in winter and less often Peas in summer. If in your district these birds have so increased in numbers as to be really a pest the only method of control would be to shoot or trap them. Before you do this may we ask you to remember that these birds are most useful in keeping under control insect life, and that they are doing this job for you most of the year? In the case of these birds we have a good example of the manner in which a small amount of damage done is noticed, whilst the good deeds pass unnoticed.]

Hollow Potato

(F. Calvert).—We have carefully examined the specimen Potato sent and cannot find any trace of an organism likely to cause the trouble. Some varieties of Potatoes are very liable to develop hollow centres during a wet season, and we think the season is the main cause of your Potatoes behaving as they have done. We should not be inclined to grow the same stock of this variety again, and we should think a change of seed and variety would be advisable.

MISCELLANEOUS

Soil sample

(J. T. S., Peebles).—A reply to your soil sample and query was published in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED for July 23rd on page 460. If you have not done away with the crop in question we should be pleased to examine a complete Potato plant for you and report in due course. It appears to us that the soil is not to blame, but it may be carrying an organism which attacks the Potato crop each time when planted. To find out this trouble a complete plant is essential, but you need not send all the tubers. The plant should be packed in a tin box.

Moss and Carnation boxes

(F. Wardale).—We know of no one who deals in such Moss, but advise you to advertise in this journal stating your requirements, when you would probably receive offers of quantities at cheap rates, as this Moss is collected largely for similar purposes in country districts. We know of no Birmingham firm, but suitable boxes may be obtained from most horticultural sundriesmen, such as Messrs. Bentley and Co., Barrow-on-Humber, Hull, and Messrs. Wm. Wood, Taplow, Bucks.

Young gardeners at Kew

I was very interested in your reply to "Journeyman" in last week's issue of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *re* young gardeners at Kew, and I would be glad if you would enlighten me on several points. How do young gardeners get into Kew Gardens? Have they to pass an examination? Is there an age limit for applicants, and must they be unmarried? Are wages paid during the two years served? If so, how much? Where can full information be had with reference to this matter? J. DEET.

[Candidates must be between the ages of 21 and 25, and they must be unmarried, and the *subsistence allowance* (not "wages") at the present time, inclusive of bonus, amounts to about 45s. per week. For full information on the matter and for student gardeners' application forms inquirers should apply to the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.]

Moth for name

(J. G. Jackson).—The moth you have sent in for name was very badly rubbed in the post and it was only by the portions of the body protected by the wings that enabled us to identify the specimen. The moth is a specimen of the Convolvulus Haw (Sphinx convolvuli, L.). The larva species can be found during July, t stage takes place in August, and th are on the wing towards the end o and through September. It is not means a common moth.

Lawns in autumn

I shall be much obliged for inforn to the best treatment in autumn tennis courts and lawns. GARDE

[A well-kept lawn is always attra pleasant. In spring and early sumn the grass is growing close and g quent cuttings with the machine k excellent condition, but in autumn ter it is not so easily kept in order. casts make their appearance, and w are run over with the roller they s and make the lawn look unsightly then, who wish their lawns to look now give them a good deal of Lawns should be well rolled, and p this all worm-casts and rubbish swept off. If the grass is thin a to of old potting soil to which has be some rotten manure will be very be

NAMES OF PLANTS

J. S., Bolton Hall.—Teucrium native of Southern Europe and har warmer parts of Britain, thriving dry soils in a sunny exposure and from cold winds. The genus Cytisu way related. We do not know Strakeyi.

E. A. H.—Teucrium fruticans.

J. N. B.—Polygonum campanul illustration, page 574).

Mr. Poland. — This Rose Uprichard.

Reply to parcel without nam Roses fell to pieces as we took t the box, so the following names suggestions:—1, Quite unrecogni J. G. Glassford; 3, all to pieces; 5, Gorgeous; 6, Modesty.

E. Wood.—1, Fuchsia Phenome Washington; 3, F. Fraudchen Bo F. Dr. Behring; 5, F. Mrs. Summers; 6, F. Mrs. Marshal Gottingen.

C. Forth.—1, This is Hydrangea p The shoots should be pruned back before growth starts. When t shoots are a few inches long all ones should be removed to obta panicles on those that remain. Philadelphus, but Spiræa Doug Veronica longifolia, a well-known plant, a native of Central Europe, in 1731. V. longifolia subsessilis, form introduced from Japan in 187 superior in form and colour for g poses.

J. E. M.—1, Phytolacca deca Virginian Poke); 2, next week.

BM/CAC 5. — Viburnum Op Guelder Rose or Water Elder), a n frequent in the underwoods of man also a good garden shrub plant i The variety V. Opulus sterile is known as the Snowball Tree.

NAME OF FRUIT

J. M. F.—Pear Citron des Carm

CATALOGUES RECEIV

Walter Blom and Son, Ltd., Bulbs, Tulips, Hyacinths, Narciss Anemones, Lilies, Ixias, bulbs fo garden.

G. Hayward and Co., Brockl Greenhouses, greenhouse heating forcing frames, rustic work, sports garages, and bathing huts.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

533—Vol. XLIX. SEPTEMBER 24, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 15/-

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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rooms and Rock Brooms, Cytisuses and Genistas

Cytisuses and Genistas comprise a family of plants ranging from es only a few inches high up to -like forms. Their degree of hardi- les them to be grown, with very few s, in any part of the British Isles.

isefulness cannot be over-estimated. not at all particular as to soil con- nd as regards positions, one can wrong; there being such a host of it becomes only a matter of selec- the dry bank, sunny or shady moist borders, woodland, upland, lake-side, or, in fact, any position ed.

e days it is more than ever neces- ow those subjects which require but ntion for their

Brooms, once require very ing to. They need much they require pruning, and trouble with eaves; in fact, altogether very orderly sub-

re of moderate nd therefore suitable for rdens, while gardens where ses of colour red they cer- d in the front where many re planted the season is a g one. To deners who illiant colour, n and tidy strongly re- a few varie- ooms.

new hybrids us wonderful s. In the old s yellow and very little Now it is far and no one t what the variety may to add to the olouring ained.

s scoparius is a beauti- of the common "Greenbroom," and a vast improvement on the type, and old plants will easily reach 6 feet to 8 feet in height. There is also a prostrate form of the common Broom which is an excellent rockery plant in hot and dry positions, but it is to the hybrids of C. scoparius we must turn for diversity of colour. The first (and still one of the best) to make its appearance was C. s. Andreana, with its sheets of gold and velvety brownish-purple. A plant of C. s. Andreana prostrata some 10 feet across was, last summer, the most brilliant and conspicuous object in a large border, and was generally admired by all who saw it. Unfortunately, the true variety, prostrata, is somewhat scarce in gardens. The other hybrids of C. scoparius are all equally bright. Their names, generally well-known, include Mayfly and Firefly (both red and yellow), Daisy Hill (a distinct variety, pale yellow and rose, extra good), Butterfly (yellow and bronzy-red), and Dragonfly (yellow with very dark blotch). The newer varieties contain further breaks in colour. C. Dallimorei is most beautiful, unique in colouring, and said to be a hybrid between the white Portugal Broom and Andreana; its colour is rosy-mauve shaded ruby, passing to paler colouring with age. The plant being quite covered with bloom makes a perfect picture and one not easily forgotten, but even this lovely child has a younger sister in the new variety Dorothy Walpole, which will be a serious rival, for its wonderful colours are somewhat more enhanced, being a rich velvety crimson with rose standards. While on the subject of new Brooms there is one other, Cytisus fulgens, a lovely dark crimson, a good doer, but not yet plentiful.

The Moonlight Broom (Cytisus scoparius pallidus), clothed with long sprays of pale sulphur flowers

Another delightful and most graceful Broom is C. s. pallidus, or the "Moonlight Broom," which covers itself with long sprays of pale sulphur flowers. It forms a low, spreading bush, seldom reaching more than 4 feet in height, but will spread to a much greater width and is suitable for planting in many positions, either in sun or shade. C. purpureus is a good thing for rockery work as it makes a large patch of purple in summer lasting several weeks. It rarely exceeds 2 feet in height. C. p. incarnatus is quite distinct from purpurea, being almost prostrate in growth, while its flowers are pinkish-mauve and white. C. p. incarnatus makes one of the finest standard Brooms in existence, it being in this respect a fit companion for the lovely creamy-white variety C. Kewensis.

The variety albus (the Portugal Broom) gives us our finest show of pure white, and large masses of this give a fine effect.

Among the Genistas we get some taller growers, notably G. ætnensis (the Etna Broom), which will rival the Laburnum for size and which covers itself with small yellow flowers on pendulous branches during two months or so in summer. Another tall grower is G. virgata, which often reaches 8 feet to 9 feet and flowers in June and July, being then a blaze of yellow. This variety does not do well in wet soils. A lovely Genista for those with sheltered gardens is G. monosperma, with sweetly-scented pure white blooms. It well repays a little trouble. It does well under pot culture for cold houses. Among the dwarf Genistas are many beautiful varieties suitable for the rock garden and dry banks, and most of them are of the easiest culture, as once planted they practically take care of themselves. JOHN HILL.

Paignton.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Aldenham House Gardens

ON Saturday, October 1st, 1927, by the kind permission of the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, the Aldenham House Gardens, Elstree, will be open to the public on behalf of the National Council of Girls' Clubs, an organisation which affiliates National Societies and Federations of Girls' Clubs in an effort to promote the whole Club Movement and avoid overlapping. These gardens contain one of the largest tree and shrub collections in the world. In addition the special feature on October 1st will be the collection of nearly 200 varieties of Michaelmas Daisies. A charge of 1s. is made for admission. Further particulars can be obtained from The Lady Eleanor Keane, National Council of Girls' Clubs, The Mary Ward Settlement, Tavistock Place, London, W.C. 1.

Holland Park Show

The great autumn show of the Royal Horticultural Society will be held at Holland Park Hall on September 28th, 29th, and 30th. Readers should note that the show opens on Wednesday at 12 noon (not Tuesday as stated in the R.H.S. Diary).

Salvia uliginosa

A tall, graceful plant reaching from 4 feet to 5 feet in height, with wiry growths of sufficient strength to carry themselves erect without the assistance of stakes, and each growth possessing many spikes of the most beautiful clear blue flowers, such is Salvia uliginosa, which has been the aristocrat of the hardy flower border for several weeks past. I am not yet quite satisfied about its hardiness, for although it has come safely through the past three winters with me in Sussex it strikes me as being on the borderline of tenderness. Its flowers are of such a lovely blue and come at such a welcome time that I hope it will eventually prove to be perfectly hardy. It may be propagated from cuttings, inserting them in sandy soil and placing them in a cool closed frame.

G. M. S.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Asclepias tuberosa

IN bloom at the present time this beautiful orange-coloured flower is very acceptable at a time when most gardens are losing their beauty. It is a splendid plant for any dry, sunny situation, either in a border or on the rock garden. It grows to 2 feet in height and has a pleasing spreading habit. Asclepias tuberosa should be carefully planted with plenty of drainage and sand in the soil. We find it thrives best if the tubers are placed on quite 2 inches of sand when planting. It is easily propagated from seed or by root division in the late spring. It is a native plant of parts of Canada, and is known as the "Butterfly plant" there. R. MOORE.

Asclepias tuberosa
A beautiful orange-coloured flower from Canada.

Lifting and replanting Daffo

I have read the article by "
Grower," in your issue of Septemb
with mixed feelings. With some of
in agreement, but I am fundament
posed to his concluding sentence, in
states, uncompromisingly, that "T
growers always lift and replant ever
It is a pity he should spoil quite
written article by such a pedantic
grounded statement. If what he
true, then I certainly do not rank a
grower, and yet I think that my flow
stood pretty well in severe compe
both the London and Birmingham
Shows for a good many years past n
go into detail, I may say that I
practice of lifting my Daffodils onc
years. There are certain exceptions
stance, there are some varieties that
rampant growers that if left for t
the offsets grow so rapidly that the
cally crush the central parent bulb
These are in quite a minority, but
noted, and the few that there are
are lifted annually, but the great
give better flowers the second year
and they also give better increase
planting, I use a mixture of coarse
bone manure; the fine is utilised
bulbs in their first season of growth
coarse becomes sufficiently disinte
the second year to be of continued
them and to their increase.

The older I get the less do I
hard-and-fast rules. The procedur
born of experience is best. And I
that the wary reader of the presen
come to regard downright, sweepi
sure statements with suspicion.

I have been growing Daffodils fo
years and breeding them for 24 y
trust that my views may, at any r
some small weight with your c
"Daffodil Grower." O

Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles in

In your number of the 10th inst.
tion is asked whether Ceanothus
Versailles can be grown in a shelter
of East Yorkshire. I have gr
Ceanothus as a bush for many ye
open and have four or five larg
flowering now (September 14th).
just as freely as it does on a wa
much more picturesque when allowe
at will. I prune in the month of
danger of frost has passed.

C. H. M.

St. Andrews, Scotland.

Perennial Sunflowers

Your correspondent, H. Greav
note on perennial Sunflowers (
makes no reference to H. sparsifo
is, I think, one of the best, little
inferior to Monarch, which it
sembles in flower.

It seems rather less of a root-r
the H. rigidus type. This year it
with me nearly 8 feet high; us
between 6 feet and 7 feet.

Is the hardiness of H. Mon
established? I have been told
doubtful.

I should like to put in a word f
plant which, although not a
makes a brave show in the garde
—Rudbeckia Herbstsonne. It i
paler yellow than Helianthus an
one row of petals, but it lasts long
than any flower I know. This, a
8 feet with me this year. Both t
sparsifolius seem to do better
annually.

S. Farnborough.

vskya magnifica at Holly Mount Inkpen

D LAMBOURNE, who was staying h his brother at Inkpen, brought me enclosed photograph a few days ago. nvited to go over and see the plant in but could not manage it, very greatly egret. I had seen the plant in 1925, er before had I beheld its like. The d seven flower-stems last month, and ers must have been about 1,000 or so er. The plant is growing in the gar- Holly Mount, Inkpen, near Newbury, by Mr. Robert Lockwood. It must years old as Mr. Lockwood found it hen he bought the place about three ice. W. A. B.

ury.

A remarkably well flowered plant of Ostrowskya magnifica at Holly Mount, Inkpen

Beans for early crops next year

ge 550 in the issue dated September ears an article under the above head- which the writer considers November to sow Broad Beans for an early the south. With this I do not agree e garden is very warm and sheltered plants can be protected against rms and severe frosts. In early the soil is still warm, the seeds te quickly, and the plants make too owth before winter sets in, with the at they are injured by the first sharp nd even if they survive this they are down by the first snowstorm, and become upright again, and in many ve to be cut off and the roots given break fresh shoots.

end that the second week in Novem- uite soon enough to sow the first Broad Beans, as the young plants sturdy from the commencement and ore likely to stand the ravages of One of the best crops of early Broad have ever seen were grown in an t in a bleak, open position in the s. The seeds were dibbled in with a in on Boxing Day, and the pods to pick a very few days after ours ere sown in a walled-in garden early nber. I might say both crops were Longpod, one of the very best for sowing, although a very reliable little n is Mazagan. W. E. WRIGHT.

th Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Spray fluids and paint

ose trees growing up the front of the ere badly attacked by grey mildew ner. Cutting out the diseased parts, with liver of sulphur, and dusting ers of sulphur got rid of the trouble. s have since put out vigorous new nd a second bloom, but the liver of so disfigured the woodwork of the and the flowers of sulphur is so that even with closed windows the ets into the house and blackens all cles it comes into contact with. Do of any remedy equally efficacious he drawbacks mentioned above?

S. R. C.

ost effective spray fluid for all the are those containing sulphur in n or the other, but it should be re- l that sulphides and all solutions sulphur have a discolouring effect t. A spray fluid that is sometimes which does not contain sulphur is al copper carbonate solution. This as follows:—Copper carbonate, rong ammonia, 3 pints; water, 40 The copper carbonate is made up te with a little water; the ammonia is diluted to 1 gallon and then added to the paste slowly and stirring all the while. When the two are thoroughly mixed the mixture should be made up to 40 gallons with cold soft water. You should commence spraying for Rose mildew early in the season so that you have not to deal so drastically with your trees as you appear to have done this season. We have never used the solution mentioned above, so you should test it on the paint for yourself before applying it in quantity.]

Self-sown seedlings

Re GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, September 17th. Here in a small garden on the west coast of Argyll Nicotiana affinis seeds itself annually, though not in any quantity, as the bed in which they are planted out is dug up and planted with Wallflower each winter, but every year an occasional seedling comes up and flowers. Suckers from pieces of roots left in the ground when the old plants are taken out also produce occasional plants. Of course, the beds in which they grow are sheltered, and here we do not get heavy frosts in winter, but neither, on the other hand, do we get much hot weather in spring and summer. M. B. C.

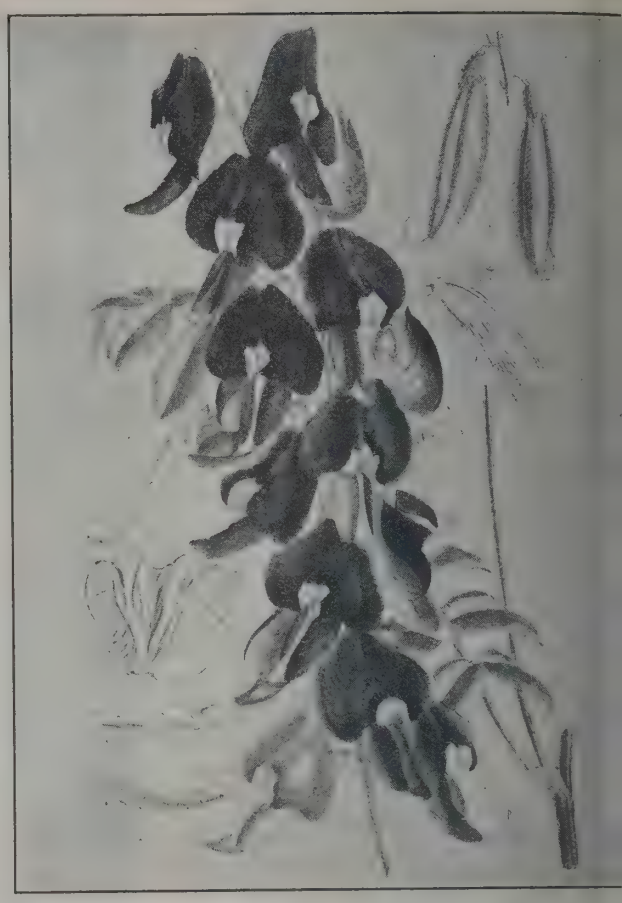
Argyll.

—— I send under separate cover a few specimens of Lobelias from self-sown seeds. The facts are these. I have a considerable number of standard Roses, each of which is planted in the centre of a bed 3 feet in diameter. Yearly these beds were, until last season, filled with hardy or half-hardy annuals—Nemesia, Asters, Nasturtiums, and the like. Last year Lobelia was used over the entire surface of each bed. Having in spring a considerable number of young plants of Lavender I decided to fill the Rose-beds with these instead of with annuals as usual. This week—to be exact, on the 17th—I happened to be looking round these Roses, and in one bed my attention was drawn to a plant of Lobelia just beginning to bloom—a small plant, certainly, but Lobelia. Inspecting the other beds I found that in almost every one there were plants of Lobelia all at, practically, the same stage. As you will see, there is no possibility of these plants being other than self-sown, and the fact ought to be of interest to Messrs. Wright and Blair. I do not intend to return to the subject of self-sown seeds. A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

—— I have been much interested in the correspondence under the above heading and feel I would like to say a word in support of "A Scottish Gardener" after reading Mr. Wright's article. I have had at different times self-sown seedlings of Aster sinensis (Galore), Ageratum, Alonsoa, Linaria, and a few Verbena. The beds containing these summer occupants were always deeply dug in autumn for Wallflowers and Polyanthus.

A SHEFFIELD GARDENER.

Cuphea Jorullensis, the finest of all known Cupheas
Flowers vivid scarlet and gold
From "The Botanical Magazine," Tab. 5,232.



Swainsona Maccullochiana, native of N.W. Australia
Flowers deep maroon, of greater size than any other specie
From "The Botanical Magazine," Tab. 7,995.

SIT DOWN AND TRAVEL—II.

By T. Hay, M.V.O., V.M.H., Superintendent, Hyde Park

The previous article under this heading appeared in our issue dated September 11th, 1926. The article in question created world-wi interest among those who cherish rare plants, and we are indebted to the writer for this further instalment. We now hope to ma an annual feature of this interesting subject.—Ed.

(Continued from page 579)

And now to Mexico, for there, according to the Botanical Magazine, tab. 5,232, grows Cuphea Jorullensis, the finest of all known species. This plate ought to stir us to special efforts, for it depicts a noble plant in one long, stout spike showing 20 expanded, large, tubular flowers of vivid scarlet and gold. Mention of this plant is made here by special request, so if any who have set out on this tour ever reach Mount Jorullo they must search diligently for this handsome Cuphea. It will be gratefully received at Kew, and I need hardly say also at Hyde Park.

There are those who say that hardy and perennial plants only are worth troubling about in these hard times, but there is still much truth in the saying that "he who loves a garden loves a greenhouse too," and for the rafters of the greenhouse there is no more lovely plant than Swainsona Maccullochiana. A glance at the Botanical Magazine, figure tab. 7,995, will be sufficient to convince anyone that this is a superb plant with its long spikes of deep maroon flowers of much greater size than that of any other species. It was shown as recently as 1901, but was lost during the war years. It is only found in N.W. Australia.

If it is true that only hardy plants are at the moment desired we must leave Australia and get to more temperate quarters—to U.S.A., for in that vast continent there are fine plants in abundance that we have had and lost, and many more we have never yet seen.

American horticulturists are now full of enthusiasm. For years there was a good trade in plants sent from these Islands to the States, but now the beauty of their own flora is being realised, and in every State there are to be found those interested in the native plants. There is still, however, great difficulty and delay in getting seeds of many treasures that we long to see here and that is the reason why, on our visit, we intend to help ourselves.

Consider the wonderful Pentstemon species, 150 in number, not half of which are known to British gardens. A few of the most lovely have been here and are now lost, many others we know nothing of. The plate of P. speciosum, in Vol. XV. of the Botanical Register, tab. 1,270, is one of the most lovely plant pictures in the whole of the Botanical Register, which is a work of 33 volumes of coloured plates. We have had something called P. speciosum in cultivation at times, but never anything so beautiful as the plant here figured. Let those who are in possession of the Botanical Register, or who have access to it, look at this picture. I am certain they will agree that this plate is a work of art. It was first collected by David Douglas on the banks of the Spokan River, N.W. America, one of the most desirable species well worth some trouble to secure. Lindley says it is quite hardy and grows in common soil.

Pentstemon Wrightii (Botanical M tab. 4,601) is another species, w carmine flowers that would be we finding again. It does not seem to h heard of since 1851, yet we are told t easily increased by seeds, which freely. There are those who say th Pentstemons are a great trouble as th to be raised annually from seeds moment's reflection will suffice to reasonably-minded people that ther host of far less lovely plants that raise annually from seeds. Look energy put into Sweet Peas and rhinums, to mention only two. E staff of life is an annual, and a famous Scottish product is the outco plant that must be raised annually fr I have no patience with this object those who wish their gardens full perennials that there will never be th est danger of losing I recommend Senecio tanguticus, Campanula loides, and Polygonum sachalinense three are abiding plants, not here to gone to-morrow. Planted in quan produce a feeling of great satisfact ticularly if you have been for long a heads with your landlord and have d move.

Pentstemon baccharifolius (I

Pentstemon speciosum
One of the most lovely pictures of "The Botanical Register" (Tab. 1,270)

Wyethia mollis
Immense white woolly leaves and large orange flowers
From "The Botanical Magazine," Tab. 7,772.

ne, tab. 4,627) is another attractive hat ought to be here again. It hails exas, and we are told by Hooker that distinct that it is unlikely to be con- l with any other species. I have men- only a few of the more desirable sorts. erican friend says P. Parryi is one of st, but we can easily find accommoda- them all.

rmstrong's "Field Book of Western lowers" there is a figure of Circium cus, a handsome Thistle with rich flowers. In this part of the continent re several ornamental species which ail to attract tourists. C. Arizonicus Coulteri have both scarlet flowers and aves—an entrancing combination in a ely plant 4 feet to 6 feet in height.

e same book there is an uncoloured of Wyethia mollis. This fine com- s also figured in Botanical Magazine, 72, where it is given a quarto plate. ant was grown in the late Canon be's garden at Bitton. I am not sure ll grows there; in any case it has een common. It has immense white leaves and large orange flowers—an g plant for the border.

aker's "Florida Wild Flowers," a cently published and a most interest- there are described many species of . S. campestris, an annual, has een introduced, and has been given rd of Merit by the Royal Horticul- ociety. This species has its good but it is a poor thing compared to the s we look for, some of which have e flowers 4 inches across. Others are hite, and all are plentiful in the swamps, and although a swamp ey are quite at home in ordinary soil.

ave now covered considerable territory, but any who think that the trip has been too short ought to hold straight on to Kandahar, as I am informed by a past President of the Iris Society that in the ditches on the outskirts of that city grows Iris Bartoni, one of the finest and most beautiful of Iris species and one having a delightful scent. The re-introduction of this Iris would add greatly to the pleasure of the ever-increasing number who are coming to admire this genus.

Perpetual Carnations

In autumn it is a source of satisfaction to feel that we are commencing a new era of blossom.

IF autumn flowers are fresher and brighter than those of the summer they are not larger at first and may be flecked with the marks of thrips. Where these well-known marks appear it is a good plan to fumigate the plants or spray with a nicotine preparation. Where thrips are known to appear annually it is quite a good plan to use this as a preventative. These flecks are usually white or whitish; the darker pink flecks sometimes seen in a pink variety are just an autumn characteristic.

The top-dressing of Carnation fertiliser should not be given after the present month, as root-action becomes less vigorous now. Up to the time of writing the early autumn days have been abnormally damp, yet it is not desirable to commence fire-heat even if a few flowers do damp off.

Some amateurs are inclined to cut the stems of Carnations too short at this date. The plants are naturally dwarf just now, but a stem cut short is the cause of a leggy plant in spring as the next growth commences to come at the point of the last cut.

During October and November some of our finest blooms are produced, as these come on sturdy growths made in the summer and the shorter days of December have not begun to tell on our plants. These flowers come from shoots stopped before the middle of July. These early blooms are very useful, as from each stem cut we get another flower in spring, whereas where we cut our Christmas blooms we get nothing until early summer. The summer flowers of the Perpetual Carnation are, however, not to be despised, and at the Southport Show in August, when amateurs competed in the classes of the British Carnation Society, wonderful blooms quite equal to those of the professional grower were seen.

No further potting is desirable at this season, such work should be completed while roots are active in the summer. A plant will do better in the 5-inch pot if unpotted until this date. If a further shift is required the best results will be obtained by deferring the work until the end of February, when renewed activity in March will make the most of the new soil. I once knew an amateur who held that he obtained better flowers in a 5-inch pot during winter than in a larger one. I did not agree with him, but there was much in his argument, for a plant is more easily controlled in the smaller pot during the short winter days. The reverse is the case when sharp, warm March days create a sudden demand on the roots of the plant. If fresh soil is then available for the roots to enter, the plants quickly improve in consequence and grow away to produce more flower.

LAURENCE J. COOK.

Hippeastrums

Those which have completed their growth may now be stored away in a cool frost-proof shed. The soil should be permitted to become tolerably dry previous to storing in order to winter them successfully.

A GREAT DAHLIA EXHIBITION

The exhibition of the National Dahlia Society, held on September 14th, was probably the biggest and best display of Dahlias ever held in this country, and marked the highest tide of prosperity the National Dahlia Society has ever reached.

NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY SHOW AT HORTICULTURAL HALL, SEPTEMBER 14th

Group of Judges

Standing, left to right: A. E. Amos, H. Stredwick, W. G. Cramp, H. J. Jones, V.M.H., W. Cuthbertson, J.P., V.M.H., W. J. Chittenden *(Secretary)*, A. E. Vasey, T. Hay, M.V.O., V.M.H., R. Findlay, A. F. Tofield.
Sitting, left to right: R. H. Holton, J. T. West, J.P., Joseph Cheal, V.M.H. *(Chairman of Committee)*, J. Woolman, J. B. Riding, J. Emberson, D. B. Crane *(Treasurer)*.

THE Dahlia is supreme as a September flower for garden display and for cutting for decorative purposes. From a garden point of view the modern Dahlia is a great improvement on the exhibition Dahlia of comparatively few years ago. This improvement is largely due to the change of policy of the National Dahlia Society. Modern Dahlias have long-stemmed blooms which rise well above the foliage. We have no room in gardens of to-day for weak-necked varieties that hide their heads in a mass of greenery. It is in this respect that modern Dahlias are far superior to those of a few years ago.

Dahlia experts have not yet produced a blue variety, but that may come in time through the handsome mauve variety named Porthos, which was conspicuous in the exhibits. One of the chief favourites with visitors was the pink and white Cactus Dahlia named Andreas Hofer. The scarlet and orange-coloured Mignon Dahlias, so useful for filling small flower-beds, were also much admired.

Shinfield Star, a true star-shaped flower of intense orange-scarlet

Shown by Mr. A. G. Cobb, Reading

"Owing largely to the experience gained as a result of the trials held by the Royal Horticultural and the National Dahlia Societies," said Mr. George Monro, when opening the Dahlia Show, "up-to-date varieties of Dahlias are splendid flowers for amateurs' gardens, though florists do not yet appear to realise their value." The wonderful displays in the London parks and public gardens had also helped, he added, to a just realisation of their value.

It may come as a pleasant surprise to many to learn that the membership of the National Dahlia Society has been doubled within the past three years, and already this year the Society has enrolled 50 new members, thanks, chiefly, to the energy displayed by Mr. W. J. Chittenden, the Hon. Secretary.

It was estimated that there were between 50,000 and 100,000 blooms at the show, and they served to fill practically the whole of the Hall. Since the shows of the N.D.S. were held in the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, and the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, the type of flower exhibited has changed considerably, for whereas in the old times Show, Fancy, Cactus, and Pompon Dahlias were the principal types displayed, the modern Pæony-flowered, Decorative, and even the Star and Collarette types are now the most numerous. The Show and Fancy sorts have almost dropped out of cultivation, and we doubt if any grower nowadays would be able to show 36 distinct varieties, or even 24, as in the old days when such growers as Turner, of Slough; Seale, of Sevenoaks; Mortimer, of Farnham; and Smellie, of Busby, were pre-eminent with this type of flower. One reason of the decline of the Cactus Dahlia in favour was its inferiority for garden purposes compared with the others. Some of these modern garden varieties have flowers of exceptionally large size, such as the orange-buff Berengaria, the light red Mabel Lawrence, the rosy-mauve Susan G. Tevis, and the pink Kitty Dunlop.

Each year raisers submit large numb new varieties for award, and at the show no fewer than 86 new varieti considered by the joint R.H.S. and Committees, and 18 of them were selec trial at Wisley. The show attracted e from Holland and Belgium, and alt the entries numbered 300.

The group by Mr. H. Woolman, of S Birmingham, consisted chiefly of the flowered varieties, the central feature a splendid stand containing 16 blooms deep crimson Mabel Lawrence. This has flowers about 9 inches in di Other outstanding varieties in the were Jack Hobbs (white), Jersey (salmon-pink), Yellow Bird, and Ul

Porthos, probably the nearest app to a blue Dahlia

Arranged in basket with Thalictru dipterocarpum

v suffused with rose and pink). Large-ed varieties also predominated in the t staged by Mr. J. B. Riding, of Ching-the outstanding varieties being Jersey y, Berengaria, Mabel Lawrence, Jersey n, and El Granada.

comprehensive collection shown by Mr. Jones, of Lewisham, was well dis-. Two varieties were arranged in each or stand, thereby producing some most ing colour combinations. Some of the pleasing examples were Purple King he mauve Emma Groot, the scarlet lia-flowered Cardinal with the crimson, lowered, decorative variety Moorcop, rs. Carl Salbach, which is rosy-pink, he rosy-mauve Turquoise. Other out-g varieties were Andreas Hofer, which on-pink with cream at the base of the the rich crimson Reginald Godfrey, rthos (violet-mauve). Mr. J. T. West collection representative of all sections. y-coloured varieties predominated, but en the brilliant orange-scarlet Blanche stood out because of its striking Other good varieties were Dawn, is bronzy-yellow with a scarlet base, he crimson-flowered bronzy-foliaged Baskets of Mignon varieties were a of the group shown by Messrs. J. and Sons. In addition to standard s like Peter Pan, they had several ent introduction, notably Rosebud, s salmon-pink suffused with rose, and ileen, which has pink ray florets with ring in the centre. Messrs. Waterer, nd Crisp had a large group contain-ong other attractive varieties, the rich yellow Mrs. Wheeler Bennet and the scarlet Cactus-flowered F. W. s. J. Stredwick and Son had an ex-seedlings, five of which were selected l.

arter Page's group we were particu-tracted to the varieties Andreas Hofer, Cactus-flowered Dahlia with creamy-centre, and Canary, a pure yellow flowered variety.

COMPETITIVE CLASSES

s. J. Cheal and Sons, Crawley, were st successful exhibitors in the open winning no fewer than six first prizes. W. Treseder, Cardiff, and Mr. H. Woolman, Birmingham, were also prominent prize-winners. Messrs. Treseder won the Monro Challenge Cup for the third year for the best floral designs with Dahlias.

In the amateur classes Earl Beatty was a successful exhibitor, being first in the classes for garden Cactus, Single, and Star Dahlias.

There were 57 competitive classes. The most popular classes were those for the smaller-flowered types which are so good both for garden decoration and for cutting. The type known as the "show" Dahlia is quite out of fashion, and there were very few competitors in the classes provided for it. On the other hand, the Pompon varieties, which, though smaller, resemble the "show" varieties in the regularity of their flowers, appear to maintain their popularity.

There were two classes for table decoration, one being confined to "star" varieties and the other open to any other type. The first prize in both cases was won by Mrs. C. A. Tisdall, of Woodford Green, who used Salmon Star and Lady Mackintosh. The Monro Challenge Cup, which is offered for award annually for the best floral designs to illustrate the decorative capabilities of the Dahlia, was won by W. Treseder, Ltd., of Cardiff, whose exhibit clearly demonstrated that the Dahlia is well adapted for every branch of the florist's art. Mr. J. Emberson won the first prize for the best bowl of any

The new Charm Dahlia Ella, single flowers, light pink with golden disc
Shown by J. Burrell and Co., Cambridge, and selected for trial at Wisley

ı, a new Cactus-flowered variety from Holland, mauve with cream-white centre
Shown by Bruidegom, of Hillegom. Selected for trial at Wisley

variety of Dahlia, and also the first prize for the best three bowls or vases arranged for sideboard decoration. In both cases he used the charming Cactus-flowered Andreas Hofer. Indeed, as already noted, this was one of the most beautiful varieties in the show.

New Dahlias selected for trial at Wisley

At the meeting of the Joint Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Dahlia Society held on August 30th quite a large number of new Dahlias were submitted for adjudication. The varieties that found favour, *i.e.*, those that were selected for trial in the Wisley Gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society next year, were the following:—

SAXON.—A beautiful Cactus Dahlia, some 7 inches in diameter, having fairly long, well-formed florets, building a flower of good form; colour, yellow, shaded buff. The flowers are borne on stiff, erect flower-stalks.

GOLDEN ROD.—Another attractive Cactus Dahlia, having long, slightly twisted florets, building a flower of good form from 7 inches to 8 inches in diameter; colour, sulphur-yellow. The flowers are carried on erect stems.

STEDFAST.—Still another Cactus Dahlia of good form, borne on erect stems. The florets are long and grooved, and build a bloom about 7 inches across; colour, beautiful crimson self.

NANETTE.—This is a large Decorative Dahlia, having broad florets, building a bloom of recurving form some 6 inches to 7 inches in diameter; colour, lower florets pink with white centre.

MARMOT.—A welcome addition to the miniature-flowered Pæony section, the blooms being from 4 inches to 5 inches in diameter; colour, deep rich rose slightly flushed yellow. This new sort will be valued for its colour.

MRS. C. HANCOCK.—A large Cactus Dahlia of somewhat unique character. The florets are of good width, very long and twisted, building a flower about 8 inches in diameter; colour, flame-like with yellow centre.

The foregoing six varieties were shown by Messrs. J. Stredwick and Son, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

MERMAID.—This variety was first submitted under the name of Princess Elizabeth, but as there is another variety bearing the same name, the name was changed to that at the head of this note. The flower belongs to the miniature-flowered Pæony section. It is rather more than 4 inches in diameter and the colour is rich sulphur-yellow, a colour badly needed in this section.

RED ROVER.—A welcome addition to the miniature Decorative section. It may be described as a vastly improved Crimson Flag, the colour being described as a glowing velvety crimson.

LOWFIELD MAROON. — This is another beautiful addition to the miniature-flowered Decorative section, the flowers being not more than 3 inches in diameter. The colour is a deep rich velvety maroon and the flowers are borne on stiff, wiry stems.

The three last-mentioned varieties were shown by Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons, Ltd., Crawley, Sussex. D. B. CRANE.

Cactus-flowered Dahlia Princess Louise, red, lighter at the tips
Shown by Mr. W. Dudley Ward (Gardener, Mr. G. Kirby), Sunbury

Dahlia Clematis
Large single, bright mauve and golden disc

Dahlia Epsom Star

This newest addition to the Star Dahlias will, I think, come to be regarded as one of the most beautiful additions to the type. I believe I have grown all, or most, of the Star Dahlias to test their worth in the garden and for cut flowers, and none of them has given me more satisfaction than the variety named. I am writing this note under artificial light, and the light reflected down on a vase of flowers of this variety, which shows a number of dainty blossoms less than 4 inches across, the pretty grooved florets slightly twisted and making a real star-like flower of much beauty. The colour is a brilliant scarlet and the golden centre enhances the charm of the flowers. It is a plant about 3 feet in height and it is also bushy. To Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons much credit is due for this novelty. D. B. CRANE.

Herbaceous Phloxes

These beautiful hardy border plants are amongst the most effective things in the garden during the summer and autumn, and are not grown so freely as they deserve. Whilst for years only the tall ones existe have been quite displaced by newe varieties much superior in regard to not only in size and form of pip, but ness of colouring.

Many of the varieties are intermed of beautiful colour variation, and one time only a few colours were se there are clear whites, pinks, carmin scarlets, and crimsons. To get the b from the plants it is best to have separate beds, where they can watered and mulched as needed. for them should be deeply worked, have incorporated into it wel manure. Where the soil is light an a good dressing of cow manure is for them. The work of planting done any time through the winte plants are strong, but if on the sma may be best to defer planting them the spring. Ordinarily the plants s from 18 inches to 20 inches apart.

The Blue Thistle

One of the most showy plants for of the border is Echinops Ritro (the b Thistle), a hardy perennial of most ture, but not always seen at its b normal height of the flower-stems plant ranges somewhere in the n hood of 3 feet up to 4 feet, but w grown the Blue Thistle will attain a 6 feet to 8 feet, and will produce a of handsome foliage and many la of flowers, whereas a poor speci hardly reach the normal height, wi few small-sized heads of flowers.

The best way of securing the size is to give the plant a good sta may be sown at any time up to t June to secure fair-sized plants flower next season in the open gr some should be sown in a pot or germinated under glass without t heat, and the young plants potte placed in a frame, receiving a shift t size later on. The plants may be p permanent stations in the border a

able opportunity when the root-ball is ormed.

easy plan of making large plants can ried out, where space can be spared, by anting seedlings from seed-beds or n rows across the kitchen garden, having the advantage of rich, well-soil, the young plants grow rapidly, , and form a large mass of roots. rther apart the plants are, and the e hoe is used between them, the larger y become. Thus built up the plants splendid start in life, and will make rogress in the border, to which they transferred in the autumn or early

ay be of interest to beekeepers to note hinops Ritro is an excellent bee plant.

H. A. Day.

Lilium auratum

RE are several varieties of this well-wn Lily which are distinct and more orous growers than the type. L. ittatum is a strong grower with foliage, a distinct bulb, and is more rown than the true auratum.

platyphyllum is considered by many st of the auratum group, and is a esirable variety to grow, forming vigorous clumps when established, eliciously fragrant. The white form known as virginale, is a chaste it is pure white with golden bands.

must be a tremendous wastage from of this handsome Lily as the yearly tions are very large. A mistake we liable to make when planting this in ent places is the choosing of the bulbs, which often die before flower-he better way when attempts are be-le to establish this Lily in the open plant the smaller bulbs and have for a year or two. It grows freely my soil with the addition of sand and , but no fresh manure should be hen planting. Where the soil is of a avelly nature holes to the depth of hould be taken out and filled with a l compost, which should consist of m, leaf-soil, and sharp sand.

tricts where the rainfall is heavy it able to set the bulbs on a layer of nd and then covering them with the aterial before finally filling up the h the growing compost. When once ed they delight in an annual mulch ecayed cow manure and wood-ashes, hould be applied before the rain has the potash salts out of them. A position should be chosen where screened from the midday sun and from winds.

examples can be seen if planted in hrubs where the young growth gets ssary protection from late spring d shade during summer from the

mply illustrates what small bulbs disease will accomplish if patience ed. To establish such it is advisable e the flower-buds the first year to e whole strength of the plant into for future flowering. For many clumps of this noble Lily used to re of the shrubberies known as her corner, surrounding the flower at Lockinch Castle, and were ell grown in many gardens on the eaboard.

te Mr. Young, when gardener at in Wigtonshire, used to show nt vases of this Lilium at the h shows cut from the open border, re the admiration and envy of many less fortunately situated. R. F.

INDOOR PLANTS

Cyphomandra betacea (The Tree Tomato)

I SHOULD be grateful for any notes on the cultivation of Cyphomandra betacea, particularly dealing with the treatment of plants during the winter. They are now about 3 feet high in a warm border protected in all directions except south. The climate is mild.

G. E. B.

[Among easily-grown ornamental plants of large size which are employed for forming groups the above is valuable and of unusual interest. It is a native of Brazil and forms a handsome bushy shrub 16 feet or more in height and as much in circumference. The leaves are of a deep green and the flowers of a pale blue. In September the plant is covered with a multitude of scarlet fruit as large as a hen's egg, and presents all through the winter a magnificent appearance in well-grown specimens. It requires the heat of a temperate-house to ripen the fruit. The plant is easily raised from seed, which should be sown in pans on a hotbed, and as they germinate very rapidly the seedlings should be potted off singly in about eight days and removed into the open air for the summer about the beginning of May. The fine foliage and blue flowers of the plants add greatly to the attraction of the garden in summer. With the approach of winter and before the arrival of serious frosts the plants should be lifted and repotted into suitable-sized pots which admit of free root-action and removed to a house possessing an intermediate temperature, a fairly coarse but good soil mixture being suitable. Water sparingly during the winter months. This interesting plant appears to be very little known in this country, but it is well worthy of cultivation either for summer or winter ornament. Plants have been known to attain 16 feet and more in height, carrying 1,200 brilliant scarlet fruits, each as large as a hen's egg. We advise you to get your plants under cover without delay.]

Swainsona Veitchii

Swainsona Veitchii is an old-fashioned semi-climbing greenhouse plant which is not seen so much as it used to be, or as it deserves. It is useful for winter and spring flowering in a house which is kept moderately warm in cold weather, and produces quantities of Pea-like flowers that are useful both for cutting or for the coat; moreover, they flower over a long time, and are not difficult to deal with. They are never better served than when grown in large pots—8 inches or 10 inches—in a compost of loam and peat, and given a position on the greenhouse stage where the shoots may reach the rafters easily and climb under the roof. Pot culture, I find, is to be preferred to planting out in a bed in the house, as then one may move them out of doors for a few weeks in the summer and plunge them in the soil, which is very beneficial for them. Swainsonas are easily propagated from cuttings in the autumn from half-ripened shoots. These should be planted round the sides of a pot in a compost as suggested, to which has been added silver sand, placing the pots under a handlight within the house or on a shelf near the glass. They are plants which amateurs would do well to cultivate more.

Woodbastwick.

Lilium auratum, backed by shrubs and sheltered from spring frosts

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Herbaceous flowers

Many of these have finished blooming for the season, and in order to preserve the attraction of the later-flowering subjects, such as Michaelmas Daisies, Pentstemons, Snapdragons, Lilies, etc., it is advisable to reduce the growth of Goat's Rue, Phloxes, Eupatoriums, and the earlier Lilies to half their height, in which condition they may remain throughout the winter, providing in this way some protection to the crowns of the plants. All dead foliage should be removed at intervals and the soil stirred between the plants. Groups of Perouskia atriplicifolia and Cardinal Lobelias must be steadied by a few extra Hazel boughs as they reach greater heights. These two subjects are remarkably effective this season and taller than usual.

Cleaning among flowering shrubs

With the return of more seasonable weather a final hoeing and clearing should be made, as this will scarcely be possible later, owing to the pasty condition of the soil. Large weeds should be picked up and transferred to the rubbish-heap after this date.

Autumn sown annuals

As the seedlings appear a sprinkling of soot and lime should be given early in the morning whilst the dew is upon them to check their being consumed by slugs.

Cuttings of Violas

These and cuttings of all summer-flowering plants of doubtful hardiness should be taken in quantity without delay, as frosts may appear at any time from this date, which would destroy many of them. If any of these are attacked by green fly plunge them into a mixture of quassia extract or Abol before inserting them in their pots.

Seeds

Gather ripe seeds of Thalictrum dipterocarpum, Gentiana lagodechiana, G. septemfida, and other late-flowering kinds as these become available, also seeds of Lilies, Cardinal Lobelias, Œnotheras, Wand Flowers, Cynoglossums, Convolvulus mauritanicus, Border Carnations, Cistus, Viburnum rhitidophyllum, Helianthemum Tuberaria, Clematises, Roses, Alpine Pansies, Donezetti and Old Rose Pinks, Magnolias, and such other subjects which it has been found desirable to increase, and sow the Gentians, including the Willow Gentian (G. asclepiadea) without delay, germination being more satisfactory than from seed which has been stored during the winter.

Hardy fruit

Where the planting of Peaches and Nectarines is anticipated there should be no time lost in preparing the borders or stations. All stone fruits enjoy lime and good loamy soil, also sharp drainage. I would, however, warn intending planters against the foolish practice of mixing manure with the soil for these trees; not only is it unnecessary, but it fosters a superabundance of rank and useless wood, the greater portion of which must be repeatedly cut away, entailing considerable time and inviting gumming. Steady, clean, hard growth should be the object in view, and this will be realised without a lot of rank manure being added if the soil is what it should be. Whether whole borders or only stations for individual trees are treated all should be trenched to a depth of 3 feet, and on heavy land at least 6 inches of drainage material put in the bottom.

Selecting Pears for the table

These are now coming in in large quantities and considerable variety, and in order that such should be served at their very best it is necessary to examine the fruits very carefully each day, choosing those which are good in colour, melting, and sweet, but neither under nor over ripe. The breaking of the skin when slightly rubbed is often an indication of a fruit having passed its best, and any suspicion of springiness in a fruit when gently pressed suggests decay in the centre, a condition very common to some varieties of early Pears.

Apples

Examine the trees daily, gathering those varieties which part readily from the trees when slightly tilted, but on no account force the fruits off before they are ripe, otherwise shrivelling will take place and with it toughness of the flesh. Store in a cool, airy, and, if possible, dark room containing a stone floor for preference, and although many fear to do so, no harm will arise from storing sound fruit several layers deep; indeed, I have often found fruit so treated keep crisp and fresh much longer than when spread out thinly on shelves. Avoid cold draughts when admitting air, just a gentle circulation being all that is required.

Potatoes

All late kinds must now be lifted and stored, and if room is not available under cover pitting must be resorted to in the open. Examine early kinds frequently and remove diseased tubers, which are all too plentiful this year.

Tomatoes in the open

Gather the fruits as they commence to colour and finish them on sunny shelves. Green fruits may also be gathered and used for making chutney. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Amaryllis

These are now, for the most part, going to rest, so the supply of water should be restricted, but not altogether stopped, it being unwise to kill the roots. Just enough, therefore, to keep them fresh is all that is necessary. To economise space the pots may be set under a stage, but away from hot-water pipes and safe from drip. Here they will do nicely until they begin to throw up their flower spikes.

Bedding stock

Newly-rooted cuttings of the various bedding plants (of the tender kinds) must now be all housed in heated pits or greenhouses, so that they may be safe from frost and from the effects of damp. It is the latter that is most to be dreaded at this season, so a dry, buoyant atmosphere must be aimed at, and not a high temperature.

Begonia Gloire de Lorraine

Continue to pick off all flower buds as they appear, and neatly tie the shoots to the supports as often as it becomes necessary. Encourage healthy growth by providing a rather moist and genial atmosphere, besides feeding regularly with weak liquid manure, clear soot water, and Ichthemic guano (a dessertspoonful in a gallon of rain water) on alternate weeks. If used in a weak state, any of these may be given two or three times a week.

Housing Chrysanthemums

Sharp frosts may occur at any tim so it is well to be prepared to rush plants of late varieties at short not possible scrub the pots before taking and remove any dead foliage and wee may be present. Allow as much r possible and syringe the plants overhe evening for the first fortnight. K doors and ventilators wide open for three weeks, unless when vaporisi house, to keep down vermin.

Grapes

As the days shorten, the difficulty o ing ripe Grapes in good condition in considerably. A little warmth in th and judicious airing is the best known for maintaining that buoyant atmosp necessary for the purpose. In the houses a little extra heat will greatly "finishing" of the berries.

Melons

These are mostly over for the seas as this plant usually leaves a leg vermin, in the shape of thrip and red it is essential that the house be tho cleansed in every corner before the occupants are introduced. Wash tho all glass and woodwork, and limewas work, only thoroughness making it the new-comers.

Peaches

Even the latest varieties are now g and the only care now is the preve the spread of spider and thrip. Con syringe vigorously daily with clean adding an approved insecticide shoul necessary. Guard against dryness roots. Throw all doors and ventilat and keep so day and night until th fall, unless during stormy weather o frost.

Tomatoes

Not infrequently the house occupie crop is required for Chrysanthemu one is often disinclined to lose som late trusses of fruit. To hasten the process withhold water. This does course, improve the quality, but hastens the maturing of the fruits.

Bedding Calceolarias

Cuttings of this still useful beddi should now be secured and inserted frame, keeping close shut and shad all sunshine for several weeks. Wh a small number of plants are requ cuttings may be inserted in ordinary boxes, and these set in a cold frame

Dahlias

Should frost hold off, these plants may be depended on to give a display for some few weeks yet. T damage by gales a sharp look-out s kept to see that ties and supports ar order and fit to withstand the stress be met with.

Late Carrots

Not infrequently the heavy autu induce splitting of the roots, so to a have the crop garnered at an ea Store in a cool, dry place.

Cauliflowers

The little plants obtained by sow last month are now ready to be pri a bed of sandy soil under a cold fram close and shaded for a few days, wards air freely. C.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithg

ROSES

ew Rambler Rose Atalanta

IS is one of the most beautiful of all oses to gain the Award of Merit from e Royal Horticultural Society this year. articularly free-flowering, the flower-re crimson and yellow, and the open s are flushed with pink on a yellow . It was raised and exhibited by Dr. Williams, of Horsham, who also the charming Wichuraiana Emily with rich golden-yellow flowers and Berberis-like foliage. We are in-to Dr. Williams for the following lars :—

alanta was the result of crossing Paul (seed parent) with Wm. Allen dson (pollen parent). Paul Ploton was Barbier's Wichuraianas, a little lighter our than Excelsa and with smaller . It is not, I think, much grown now. a makes a beautiful weeping stan-It is very free-flowering, and this r (?) it has never yet quite stopped ng."

Climbing Roses

e are developing extraordinary growth ason, and it is necessary to attend to ining of these strong growths at fre-ntervals. Honeysuckles, too, require rable attention in this respect, for have I seen such prolific growth on the me Lonicera tragophylla and L. var. gigantea. E. M.

RUIT GARDEN

ruit growing for profit

to be hoped that last year's controversy not deter the would-be planter from g the question due consideration, g the pros and cons, such as site, arket, cost of trees, preparation of staking, mulching, spraying, and lly pruning. Each of these details re-ell thinking out before embarking on ect. If you have been for a few years in the district you think of giving rial you will have had the opportunity ving the behaviour of Apples, Pears, and Damsons, varieties that appear liable, and sometimes one is able to n somewhere near the price obtained ected fruit. Naturally such varies me to time according to the season. crop frequently pays better than a oviding the same is of good quality. solute folly to market any fruit as from the tree and expect tip-top They must be graded, discarding all d or maggoty fruit, and as carefully and delivered to the salesman if the tioned is practicable. This done, y well expect a good return for the sent. Competition in most things is en to-day, yet a bit doubtful whether ruit can be classed as one of them as home-grown produce is concerned onial friends as well as the foreigner to this, which would be well for us t more than we do. Further, the must study the market when there y crops; hold them for a few weeks ich varieties as Apple or Pear are remain good if you find the supply . This one cannot do with Plums as et some varieties of these if gathered ery ripe and thinly spread out under ep sound for quite a nice time, and g grower should provide for this cy.

great mistake to overdo the planting early Apple or Pear, as few of them are really worth much after they become fully ripe; neither will they keep for any length of time, and this is where mid-season and late fruits are usually the best-paying concern, especially when they can be stored for a time out of the reach of frost.

Most market growers adopt inter-planting between permanent standard or bush trees with rows of Currants or Gooseberries, a sound proposition as it ensures a quick return in part payment of the initial cost, Black Currants probably being the best-paying crop. A good holding loam is the best for all fruits, renovating it with old mortar or lime-rubble, especially for stone fruit. Dug in a couple of spits deep one can always add more if considered necessary, and as regards situation it should be open to the full sun, and for preference somewhat sheltered from north-east winds, avoiding banks where the rainfall is light or the soil on the porous side, the two sometimes going together. Neither must a swampy soil be chosen, such never grew a fruitful specimen yet, while a heavy, stubborn soil unless it has a natural fall is the best for draining. This, also the digging, should be done some weeks previous to planting towards the end of October or early November.

As regards form of tree, those of bush shape are easier to attend to than standards, a pair of steps generally sufficing for pruning and the gathering of fruit, whereas standards require a ladder, and these are liable to break the branches, one being ever so careful, to say nothing of knocking down of bruising the fruit. The one advantage of standard trees, they afford more space for small fruits growing between. The barrow is not so much in use as of yore to convey farmyard manure; it cannot be got for love or money in many districts, and artificial manures are far easier applied at stated periods to assist the crop.

In addition to studying any adjoining fruit gardens as to varieties that are found to succeed, consult a nurseryman's catalogue, wherein is generally stated the time of ripening, cropping, and keeping qualities. Because one does not find certain sorts in a locality it does not always imply that such have been tried and found wanting, while some varieties of recent introduction are quite worthy of a trial; but, as previously mentioned, do not invest in more than two or three of each. Wait until you can prove their suitability. Soil and situation, setting aside inclement weather while in blossom, have much to do with a given variety as to whether it is remunerative or not.

Fruit-growing for profit must be in the hands of a practical man from the start. It is waste of time and money for a novice to think of attempting it, and is sure to end in utter failure.

J. Mayne.

New Rose Atalanta
A free-flowering variety raised by Dr. A. H. Williams. Award of Merit

Harrogate Show

September 14th, 15th, and 16th

THE North of England Horticultural Society have made Harrogate their headquarters. As with all horticultural societies, since the war the struggle for existence and advancement has been severe. So much so that the entire conduct of affairs was entrusted to a few individuals under whose most able management debt and adverse fortunes were not only wiped out, but the Society put in a strong, healthy position, able to compete with any other like Society and show results far superior to most. These few individuals have worked on lines somewhat different to any other horticultural society. As connoisseurs in horticulture their aims have been to make their flower shows select exchanges in which the trade only exhibit the finest and highest quality produce, so that their Society members have before them only the best to be found anywhere. Not that amateurs are excluded, but, rather, strongly encouraged. Again, however, only the finest cultural skill is most suitably rewarded. A prominent show official does not hesitate to tell an exhibitor, whether trade or amateur, that unless his exhibits are up to competition standard and excellence he need not trouble to apply again for space. Under such conditions it is not astonishing that the Harrogate Autumn Flower Show, which was held, as usual, in the Winter Gardens, excelled and surpassed in quality any show held in the kingdom, not excluding the world's record shows at Chelsea in May and Southport in August; of course, excluding size. So ably and admirably have these few most capable individuals managed the affairs of the Society that it has long been handed back to the full authorities of the Society, who now conduct their affairs under the lines laid down with perfect organisation, the most cordial and happy relations between the Society officials and exhibitors, and there is that most pleasant feeling with all concerned that they are longing and looking forward with delightfully keen anticipation to the next show.

Taken as a whole, nowhere could a better flower show be found anywhere. The quality was the very highest, and some exhibits really surpassed anything seen elsewhere. Every section of horticulture was represented, just as would be found at the world's most famous shows. The premier prize went to an exhibit of Dahlias, which certainly tops all Dahlia records both in size, quality, and exquisite arrangements. Berengaria, La France, Princess Louise, and Yellow Perfection were a few outstanding features. The Roses were the crowning glory of the show. Six or seven splendid trade exhibits, three or four of which surpassed in excellence those even exhibited at the National Rose Society's Autumn Show, which itself was a world's record. The premier prize-winning exhibit for quality, excellence of form, beauty of arrangement and general presentation eclipses any single Rose exhibit ever staged. There was one slight mistake. The exhibitor does not realise that the orange shades must never be prominent, but take positions in the background. Julia Countess of Dartrey (carmine-crimson) was the outstanding Rose, not only of the show, but of the whole year. The grace of form and beauty of outline, such glorious colour, and sweetly fragrant scent stamp this Rose as the coming star in the Rose world. Mrs. A. R. Barraclough, Margaret McGredy, Shot Silk, and Sir David Davies helped to give this exhibit such prominence. The next glorious Rose exhibit showed Dame Edith Helen reigning supreme, supported by Lady Mary Elizabeth, Lord Castlereagh, Lady Worthington Evans, and a host of others. Another exhibit showed Geo. Dickson as it has never before been seen, such perfect colouring and form. Another had such excellence in quality all round that it would take too long to mention them all, but K. of K. was grand.

The exhibit of Gladiolus was splendid; one in particular was nearly, if not quite, equal to one at Chester, which certainly in quality has never been excelled. Fruits were grandly shown, some Apples and Plums wonderfully coloured. A bunch of Grapes, Muscat of Alexandria, deserved full points for symmetry of outline and size of berries, and Montbretia His Majesty, occupying the whole of the background of the splendid fruit in which these Grapes figured, made a great impression. Orchids, for the time of year, were most wonderful. Asters splendid and so well arranged. It would be impossible, without filling many pages, to do full justice to this show, where even an allotment holder gained a silver medal. However, m must be made of the Gloxinias staged amateur, which so much impresse judges and Committee that a coveted was awarded the amateur with cultura mendation added. The refinement, colouring, and beauty of these flowe shown, could hardly be surpassed. Li freshments were available, but lun had to be taken at the hotels with Harrogate, as the Queen of English S richly endowed, and where every comf the visitors, who come from all ov world, is assured. The aims and the tional work ably conducted by the N Society has not only made its members cultural epicureans, but has instille Harrogate's many visitors the love beautiful in flowers, trees, fruits, and tables, and most ably maintained th standard of excellence and prestige of horticulture.

C.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their pl be named should send fair examples of ea stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of and points of shoots are useless.) Not mo four plants should be sent in any one week same correspondent. Where more than o is sent they should be numbered. Of coni cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in d stages of colour and size of the same kind assist in its determination. We have from several correspondents single specin fruits for naming, these in many cases be ripe and otherwise poor. We undertake t not more than four varieties at a time.*

VEGETABLES

Tomatoes not colouring

What is the cause of my Tomatoes not colouring properly, and give me a remedy?

W. GIBSON.

[If you will send us a sample of your Tomatoes we will examine them for you and report in due course. There are several things which might cause your Tomatoes to be colouring badly, so that without actually seeing the fruits we do not care to give an opinion.]

Waxy top in Tomatoes

I would be much obliged if you could tell me what is wrong with this Tomato—ours are nearly all so affected—and what is the cure?

A. E. P.

[This trouble is very common this year (see reply, September 10th, page 571). It may be due to too much moisture either at the roots or in the atmosphere. It has been noticed that the trouble can be very much reduced by watering Tomato plants when dry with a solution containing sulphate of potash, and you should try this another season. The solution should be made by adding 4 ozs. of sulphate of potash to 25 gallons of water, stirring well. At least three good soakings should be given at intervals of, say, three weeks, and the first should be given when the plants are well established. Do not save any seed from affected plants, and keep the house as airy as possible. We do not think the sulphate of potash solution would have any effect this season, but there would be no harm in trying it.]

Cucumbers

(A Regular Reader).—While your Cucumber is a pretty large one, we have seen others quite as large, and there is no great demand for these huge specimens, something finer and of moderate size being usually in demand. However, if your fruit is of fine shape and good quality you should off some of the seed merchants advertis our columns and they will be able to as to whether it is worth preserving.

Diseased Tomato

(C. Y. K., Cork).—The specimen sent in for examination arrived in such condition that it is impossible for us what the original trouble was. If you send us in some more specimens we s pleased to examine them for you. Ins sending in badly-affected specimens send one or two slightly affected fru disease will develop on the journ should be in a good condition for ex tion on arrival. A tin box would be the specimens.

FRUIT

Advice regarding a fruit cage

(Fruit Cage).—The idea is a very go and we should much prefer the panti ing for training the trees to, providi well braced. The lathing should no the ground, but stand at least 9 inche the reason for which is obvious. T lowing are excellent:—Plums: d'Althan's Gage, Bryanstone Gage, Je Denniston's Superb, Early Tran Gage, Green Gage, Late Transparen Reine Claude d'Bavay, Oullin's Gage, Utility. Cherries: Trad Heart, Ronald's late Duke, N Bigarreau, Waterloo, Knight's early Florence, May Duke, Noir d Windsor.

Figs decaying before ripening

I have two Fig trees out-of-doors had a small crop and they have all like the specimens enclosed. The t old and have never fruited till this The wall is due south and 10 feet hig predecessor last year concreted the about 2 feet 6 inches from the wall.

t the back of the wall stands a very Chestnut tree. Could you kindly give reason as to the condition of fruit?
A. BILLINGS.

h of your trouble is due to the dull, d sunless weather. The face of the g fruits being constantly wet causes We advise you to expose the fruits hine should the weather change, by ack some of the leaves. We also your borders as being too dry, and ou to examine same, and, if necesve the trees a good soaking of water. sence of the Chestnut is detrimental igs.]

ailing to ripen

xford).—This defect is by no means on among early Pears, many of must be gathered and stored before ts part readily from the trees, otherey rapidly decay. The delicious lle is a case in point. In your case ngly suspect an absence of moisture oots, and we advise you to apply a aking to the trees periodically from the fruit is half developed. An east not an ideal aspect for Pear-growing, ill be generally admitted that the soil e base of such walls becomes drier t of any other position, being absoeltered from the westerly rains, thus becomes inevitable from time to n examination as to the condition orders should also be made, and, if t, refreshed with fresh loam, leafbone-meal.

TREES AND SHRUBS

dark flowered Buddleia, showing vering shrubs, and a good dark nson Carnation

Longfield).—(1) Buddleia variabilis agnifica, rich dark purple. (2) Rhododendrons: Ascot Brilliant, Doncaster, Pink Pearl, B. d'Bruin, a Langleyensis, Rosa Moyesii, Darwinii, B. stenophylla, B. sub- Magnolia stellata, M. rustica rubra, nei, Sorbaria arborea, Viburnum Plagianthus Lyallii, Forsythia s, Exochorda Giraldi, Halesia a, Spiræa discolor, Rhus cotinus var. urea, Leptospermum Nichollii, Eva Rathke, Hamamelis mollis, dron trichotomum, Berberis vulgaris opurpurea, Pyrus japonica var. s, Senecio Grayii, Ribes atroa. Lilacs: Charles X., Mme. Souv. L. Spathe, Spiræa sis, Philadelphus monster, Grevillea ifolia, Hydrangea paniculata var. ra, Crinodendron Hookeri, and urpureus. Either of the following en would supply you:—Messrs. Sons, and Crisp, Twyford, Berks, V. N. Gauntlett, Ltd., Japanese , Chiddingfold, Surrey, or Messrs. nd Sons, The Nurseries, Win- (3) A very fine and deliciously deep crimson Carnation is Bookve, offered by J. Hayward, Chace Purbrook, Cosham, Hants.

ed Ivy unsatisfactory and cut-back a Sumach

S.).—Was the soil prepared before he Ivy? If not, we advise you to nts now and enrich the soil by add- leaf-mould or well-decayed manure When replanting peg all the long o the soil and place a stone over the event movement and retain moisver water over the leaves of the hot, sunny weather, otherwise the l disappear. All the space which the Ivy is intended to cover must be treated, and not merely the holes for the plants' roots.

Italian Sumach.—You may prune this back at any time from now, and cutting rather severely will do no harm if the shrub is healthy.

ROSES

Rose Emily Gray

(Emily Gray).—We referred your inquiry to Dr. A. H. Williams, the raiser of this well-known variety, who replies:—"With regard to the shoots of Emily Gray that you send me, you have me beaten. It looks as though it were some fungoid trouble, but what it is I know not. I have had some curious failures of shoots in budded or grafted Almonds and Apples this year. The trouble usually appeared after thunderstorms. The shoots would appear to be scorched as if some strong irritant had been applied. Some of them were quite killed and a few recovered. I noticed the same trouble on some of the older Apple and Pear trees. But it has been a mysterious season." With regard to the Wistaria, this should be replanted in autumn. The growths may be shortened to about two-thirds of their length.

GREENHOUSE

White fly in greenhouses

(E. F. Burdett-Coutts).—This pest has been most troublesome in houses confined to Tomatoes, and for a long time was found difficult to destroy. White Fly Fume, offered by Messrs. Bentley and Co., Barrow-on-Humber, Hull, has, however, proved most destructive to this pest, stamping it out entirely with a few successional doses. No apparatus is required, as it distributes itself evenly throughout the glasshouses by natural evaporation after being sprinkled on the pathway. Try it first in your Tomato-house, where it will be found safe and effective, but for use in houses containing mixed plants, Vines, etc., experiments should be made by using the White Fly Fume at a little weaker strength. It must not be used on Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, Azaleas, Begonias, Cinerarias, Fuchsias, or Salvias, although we know of instances where no ill-effect has arisen among such plants following its use. Two and sometimes three doses at intervals of a few days are usually necessary to stamp out this pest. The price is 3s. per pint, sufficient to fumigate 5,000 cubic feet of space. Directions for its use are sent by the vendors.

Orchids

I have long wanted to attempt the cultivation of Orchids. (1) Is there a simple book on the subject? (2) Can they be grown in a glasshouse without heat? H. M. SPEIRS.

[(1) No books have been published on Orchids for about 20 years, but simple instructions will be forwarded by any growers if conditions, etc., are explained. (2) The cool house section requires a temperature of over 45 degs. This includes Odontoglossums, Odontiodas, Cymbidiums, and a large selection of Cypripediums. The intermediate section (over 55 degs.) includes Cattleyas, Lælias and their hybrids, various Dendrobiums, and Cypripediums. We recommend you to write to Sutton Bros., Orchid Specialists, Woodside, Hassocks, Sussex.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Plants for Pennsylvania

Will you kindly send me some information as to where we can obtain the following flowers about which articles were published in your 1927 issues of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED:—Cortea Hookeri (August 6th); Sanguisorba canadensis (August 13th); Libertia formosa (August 20th); Omphalodes linifolia (August 20th). Also all the forms of Galanthus spoken of in the article "Where Snowdrops Thrive"? A. V. B.

[All the plants you quote are grown by Messrs. W. E. Th. Ingwersen, Ltd., Birch Farm Nurseries, Sharpthorne, East Grinstead, Sussex, England. As, however, the importation of plants into America has been made so very difficult few of our nurserymen find it worth while to comply with the many vexatious and costly regulations and prefer to sell their plants to countries which do not hedge themselves around with such difficulties. It might be best to ask for seeds which enter America without any difficulties at present. It is getting late for Snowdrop bulbs, which suffer greatly through being kept out of the ground for any length of time, and the same difficulties govern the import of bulbs as of plants. In the case of these bulbs it would be best for you to obtain from your Government a permit for the importation of these and send this with your order for forwarding at the most suitable season, say, during August-September next year. By the time this reply reaches you and you could get your order back to England the bulbs would reach you too late to do much good.]

Madonna Lily (Lilium candidum)

(N. W.).—Plant the bulbs from 6 inches to 8 inches deep. When planted in groups they make a fine show. Do not divide the Lilies too often, but when doing so divide them in August and place a little soot at the bottom of each bulb. When the Lilies are over allow them to die down, then cut them right down.

MISCELLANEOUS

Garden soil

(J. N. Philpott).—We have examined the soil sample and can only find some little white creatures which are Springtails. These, we take it, are the "maggots" of your letter. The Springtails we found are always to be found feeding upon decaying organic matter, and do not do any damage to living plants. They are very common in leaf-soil and also in the roots and tubers of many plants which have been killed by some other organism. The two roots sent have been killed by something entirely different. The Gladiolus has been attacked by the fungus Heterosporium (please see reply to "Gladi" on page 588 of our issue for September 17th). The second root, which we could not recognise, has been killed by eelworm. Adopt control measures as suggested to "Gladi" for the first disease, and you should burn the eelworm plants. If it is possible you should sterilise the soil with formalin or give a complete change of crop for a season, otherwise the eelworm will continue to worry you another season. A good soil fumigant would kill the Springtails if you object to their presence.

Chrysanthemum leaf miner

(M. Connell).—We have examined your specimens and agree that your leaf miner is not the common one which is found attacking Chrysanthemums and allied plants. Another sample of what appears to be the same maggot was received here a week or so ago, and you will find our reply on page 588 of our issue for September 17th. It may be some time before we can get the flies to emerge, but we will do our best and report in due course. If you also can send us more specimens we should be obliged. The larvæ and pupæ cases resemble those of the Celery leaf-mining maggot. Theobald* records that he has obtained good results in killing the Celery fly maggots within the leaf by spraying with a very strong solution of nicotine.

* Theobald. Journal South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, Kent. 1913, pp. 296, 297.

The formula used works out at about 2 ozs. of nicotine to 2½ gallons of water. This, of course, is an expensive spray, but in a case like this might be worth trying. You would, of course, only try the solution on one plant first, because such a strong spray may burn the foliage and the cure may be worse than the pest. We will let you know the name and life-history of the fly in due course.

Garden staff

Would you kindly inform me what staff I would need to keep the following:—Two-and a-half acres of garden, including fruit, flowers, and vegetables, one vinery 42 feet by 18 feet, conservatory 48 feet by 18 feet, Peach-house 42 feet by 18 feet, and Peach-house 60 feet by 16 feet? The walks are 1,009 yards in length and about 3 yards to 4 yards in width. The garden has been neglected for a number of years and is full of Tussilago, Bishop Weed, Couch Grass, Shepherd's Purse, and Groundsel. Then there is a Rose garden of ½ acre, consisting of 222 yards of walks about 6 feet wide, Rose beds, and grass. Between the gardens and mansion house there are 709 yards of walks about 8 feet wide; all grass verges to be kept, also tennis court 252 square yards and a 5-foot walk around two sides of it. The approach of mansion is 2,448 square yards. At the side of the house there is a good acre of flower garden, mostly small beds (takes about 1,400 annuals to bed it out), two long borders of flowers, and about 658 yards of walks about 8 feet broad. We have some more walks and rough ground to keep tidy. I have two apprentices and myself to keep all this. I say it is impossible. My employer says it has to be all in good order for June and July. We also market fruit and vegetables. I grow about 1,000 annuals every year for sale. J. E. F.

Aberdeenshire.

[While much depends on the labour-saving appliances supplied, we consider that this garden is very much under-staffed. Not even with the help of a motor-mower and other mechanically-driven tools could a man and two boys ever hope to keep the place in anything like a tidy condition, not to mention the marketing of surplus produce. It is usually understood that 1 acre is sufficient for a man to cultivate properly, so that the main garden and the glasshouses are ample for the present staff to do justice to. Even another two men would find ample work.]

Garden troubles

For three or four years most of my Pansies (always grown in the same spot) commence about May to die, apparently eaten off just below the surface. I was told the trouble is fungus and not the tiny thread-like worms at the root. This year one or two Wallflowers died, and most of the Sweet Williams dwindled, and one or two Canterbury Bells died, and now some of my creeping Androsace is fading. The roots of Lupins seem to rot and the plants never grow into vigorous clumps. I have been advised to fallow the border and plant Potatoes. If you reply with particulars for sterilisation, when is the best time for it, to what depth, and must the Box edging be removed as well as herbaceous plants? Some of my Phlox spikes, after starting well, become like enclosed specimen. My Rosalie Wrinch Rose, on a south wall, blooms well in May, then the leaves have dark spots, grow yellow and fall, many of the smaller twigs dying from the ends. Thanking you for replies to above diseases. Are these soils sent deficient in plant food? An Achillea replanted last autumn in the east border has scarcely grown at all, also a yellow Foxglove in the west border not at all, and other things do not thrive well. I dug in leaf-mould last autumn and farmyard manure the previous one. It has been suggested I over-manure this herbaceous border. TROUBLED.

[The Phlox you have sent in for us to look at is affected with Septoria Leaf Spot, which is caused by the fungus Septoria divaricatæ. This fungus thrives in the axils of the leaves and penetrates the stems and stops the water supply to the tips of the shoots. You should cut off the diseased plants close to the ground-level and burn all the material. Make sure that you remove all the stems and leaves right down to the level of the soil. When the plants begin to break into growth next season they should be sprayed with a weak solution of liver of sulphur. From your letter we judge that the Pansies you mention are affected with a foot rot, and you should try and obtain good cuttings for stock and destroy the others. Try them in a new situation if possible. We cannot say what the trouble has been with the rest of the plants you mention. If you had sent us the specimens as they occurred we could have told you what the trouble was, now we can only guess. It may be fungoid trouble throughout, it may be eelworm, or again that Box edging may be full of slugs or some other plant pest that is worrying your border. Your soil samples seem to us quite good. They all have a good lime content and should produce good plants. Small slugs were present in all the samples, and we cannot resist the idea that they may be the cause of most of your troubles. If you find that this is so, put down plenty of traps. A little bran scattered on the top of the soil and covered with a piece of board makes a good trap. From your description of the Rose it appears to be affected with Black Spot, a disease which is caused by a fungus and one which can be controlled if the proper treatment is afforded. Write us again if we can help you further.]

Book on preparing flowers for exhibition

In GARDENING ILLUSTRATED for September 10th, page 572, "A. W." asks for a book on "Preparing Plants and Flowers for Exhibition." Would not "The Horticultural Exhibitor," by A. J. Macself, published by Thornton Butterworth, Ltd., price 3s., supply his needs? G. EDWARD DEACON.

Cleaning a pond

(O. S.).—The Water Lilies, Rushes, etc., would in no way be injured by the use of copper sulphate if applied according to the directions given on page 572. The ducks would disfigure the Lilies, and we do not advise their use on small ponds, but on larger areas they do very little harm. Sulphate of copper is recommended for the destruction of Duck Weed and Flannel Weed only, and will not destroy the strong Canadian Pond Weed, although it will check its growth. Three weeks should elapse before cattle are permitted to use the water, for although we know of no instance where injury has occurred to animals after drinking water treated with copper sulphate, it is a poison, and, as such, must be respected.

Weeds on Lawns

(H. T. A.).—The most satisfactory results follow hand-weeding. It is a long and tedious job, but pays in the end. Your only other course is to obtain a fresh supply of Daisy and Plaintain killer from a reliable firm and apply it according to the directions given. The present is quite a good time to apply such, providing the weather could be depended upon to remain fine for three or four days following its application. We think that the lawn sand previously used by you may not have been applied thick enough, or that it was of inferior quality. firms are Messrs. Bentley and Co., H tural Chemists, Barrow-on-Humber, and Joseph Fison and Co., Ltd., We have had no experience of the you refer to.

Home-made lawn sand

(J. R., Birmingham).—The follow be found satisfactory:—Twenty-fo sand, 4 lbs. sulphate of ammonia mercial), 1½ lbs. sulphate of iron mercial). Mix thoroughly and use at of 1 lb. to every 3 square yards on a either in autumn or spring.

SHORT REPLY

J. E. Hall.—"Thompson's Ga Assistant" (revised edition) would suit you, and could be obtained thro bookseller.

NAMES OF PLANTS

J. E. M.—Pyrus salicifolia (Willo Pear), native of S.E. Europe and Asia

F. C. P.—Rudbeckia speciosa sy manii.

"*Plants.*"—1, Fittonia Pearcei; mannia regalis; 3, Pellionia pulc Selaginella Emiliana; 5, Maranta viana; 6, Ruellia devosiana.

A. E. P.—1, Roscœa humeana flowers, purplish-mauve); 2, Th dipterocarpum (violet-rose flower yellow stamens), native of China.

D. B.—Jasminum gracillimum, Northern Borneo. This tropical sp probably, the sweetest-scented of Jasmines.

NAMES OF FRUITS

Hugh Aldersey, Chester.—Apple Imperial, a local variety not in com far as we know. We suggest Jame as a better variety at this season.

G. E. R.—Pear, Catillac; Appl Grosvenor.

OBITUARY

ALFRED EDWARD PRINC

The sad news of the death of M Edward Prince, of Longworth, near don, alluded to in the report of the Rose Show in last week's issue, shadow of gloom over that great of rosarians, for Mr. Prince was mos in the Rose trade and a regular exh many years. Moreover, he was a m grower and raiser of Roses.

Mr. Prince had been in failing h some time past, and recently unde operation in a nursing home at from which he never recovered.

He was the head of the famous Rose growers, George Prince, of O

Always cheerful at Rose shows, e defeated, he attributed his good h the advice given him when a lad by who said, "If you are placed seco you ought to be first don't grumble will often be placed first when you be second."

Mr. Prince was a most lovable he will be greatly missed at the mee exhibitions of the National Rose So

CATALOGUES RECEIV

James Carter and Co., Rayn S.W. 20.—"The Practical Greenke Reginald Beale, F.L.S., manager and sports department. Sent free o tion.

W. J. Unwin, Histon, Camb Peas, bulbs—Anemones, Crocuses, Hyacinths, Irises, Narcissi, Gladiol bulb fibre, Roses.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Daffodils in Pots

For embellishing the stages of the cool greenhouse or room during the early spring, no flowers are more welcome than Daffodils.

OST flower-lovers who have grown Daffodils in pots already know the merits of such varieties as Cervantes earliest of all in our opinion), Sir in, Golden Spur, Emperor, and Henry g, and the white Polyanthus Narcissus, as Paper White, Early Snowflake, Cenis, and Grand Moragne, most of can be had in bloom at Christmas little or no difficulty.

Daffodils we have in mind are varie- of more recent date than the fore- oned old favourites. With these excel- esults may be obtained during the latter of January and early February without ndue forcing. We give pride of place ng Alfred. We know of no variety, er grown in pots or outdoors, that can ss this for size and quality of flower. large bowl arranged with 50 s was admired by everyone saw them. These were trans- from pots with their roots and planted in soil in the This giant may be termed a golden self, very deep in colour, its trumpet well turned back, g it very conspicuous. The are long and stiff; the same said of the foliage.

Francis Drake follows very the lines of King Alfred, and be termed a giant Emperor, all its sterling qualities as a dil suitable for pots. Spring is another splendid variety s not widely known; a large, lower. The perianth is prim- shading to white, and trumpet yellow. A place should also und for the fragrant Jonquil illustrated. These four are the very best for early work.

TIVATION. — Perhaps a few may be useful to readers who ot acquainted with growing lils in pots. The chief point rder good bulbs from a reliable ant. Secondly, if the flowers nted in January the bulbs, if ready potted, must be potted it delay; the earlier the better. inches in diameter will take lbs of ordinary size, and the ust not be new. Many bulbs ined through attempting to hem in recently-procured new If there is no help for it they be stood in a tub or tank of for at least 24 hours. Good drainage is essential, and the best compost consists of three parts fibrous loam, one each of leaf-mould and coarse sand. To every bushel of soil may be added a 4-inch potful of bone-meal and crushed charcoal well mixed together and allowed to remain in a heap for several days before using. Partly fill the pots with the compost and place the bulbs so that the tips will be above the soil when finished, leave sufficient room to water inside the rim, and give a soak with a rosed can that will carry them through for the next six or eight weeks. The pots should be stood on a hard floor or bed of ashes and covered with about 4 inches of coal-ashes which has been screened. These should be old and not direct from a furnace.

In six weeks' time examine the bulbs, and when they have made an inch or so of growth it indicates that the pots are becoming full of roots, and the pots may be taken to a cold, shaded frame, gradually inuring them to the light. They may be taken into a cool greenhouse as required and grown on as near the glass as possible, and watered as necessary, as the bulbs must never be allowed to become dry or most of the buds will be blind. If wanted early they may be given a little more heat when once the flower-buds appear. But on no account attempt to force any kind of bulbs until growth is well advanced and the pots are full of roots. Weak liquid-manure will improve the flowers as the buds develop.

There is a tendency to force Daffodils and other bulbs in order to get them in flower by Christmas. This sometimes leads to disastrous results, and readers should not fail to read the warning on this subject in the correspondence pages of this week's issue.

A fragrant Jonquil—Narcissus odorus regulosus

Uniform rich bright yellow and of very telling effect. Suitable for pots, bowls, or borders. The foliage is deep green and Rush-like

Notes of the Week

The Blue Poppies

ON page 608 Capt. F. Kingdon Ward, the intrepid plant hunter who will shortly be making another trip to Tibet, contributes an interesting article on Meconopsis, or Blue Poppies. These remarkable and beautiful plants have attracted great interest in recent years. Readers are reminded that seeds sown in the autumn germinate readily, and may be planted out in frames in the following year. In the second spring they are ready to be put out, and will flower freely, usually setting good seed.

Gentiana Sturmiana

For the past three weeks this distinct and very interesting Gentian has been flowering. The plant is 1 foot in height and of a free-branching character, leaves bronzy-purple, flowers hairy inside and of a clear rose-purple shade. These are borne in loose, extended clusters, there being 45 of them upon one plant. The seed was sown in March, 1926, and the plant would appear to be of biennial duration. It is quite unlike any other Gentian known to me, and it would be interesting to hear of any other reader's experience with it. E. MARKHAM.

Sweet Pea Essay Competition

The general committee of the National Sweet Pea Society has arranged a competition amongst members, and offers three prizes —1st, £2 10s.; 2nd, £1 10s.; 3rd, £1—for the three best essays on "My Sweet Pea Problems and Pleasures." The three prize essays will be published in the Sweet Pea Annual for 1928, and the committee reserves the right to publish any of the others, wholly or in part, in future issues of the annual. Essays must reach the Secretary, from whom particulars may be obtained, at 19, Bedford Chambers, Covent Garden, London, W.C. 2, not later than Wednesday, October 19th.

National Sweet Pea Society

The annual general meeting of the National Sweet Pea Society will be held in the R.H.S. Hall, Vincent Square, London, S.W., on Wednesday, October 19th, 1927, commencing at 3 o'clock.

Valuable Orchids

The gems of the collection of Orchids grown at "Rosslyn," Stamford Hill, London, owned by the late Mr. H. T. Pitt, were sold by auction on September 14th. The three plants of Odontoglossum Purple Emperor were sold for, respectively, 340 guineas, 310 guineas, and 250 guineas. This is stated to be the finest Odontoglossum ever produced, and was awarded the Lindley Medal in May, 1927, having previously obtained a First-class Certificate, R.H.S. The flowers of this wonderful Orchid are a fine crimson-maroon slightly margined white, with white and yellow marking on the lip.

ARTHUR T. SUTTON.

Inspection and certification of Strawberry plants

During the past summer the Ministry has arranged, on application, for the inspection of Strawberry plants from which runners are intended to be taken for sale, with a view to their certification as true to type. The certificates which have been issued relate solely to the purity of the stocks certified and not to their freedom from disease, but in carrying out the inspections a careful watch has been kept for obviously unhealthy stocks, and where these have been found no certificates have been issued. A list giving the names and addresses of growers whose stocks have been certified has now been prepared, and copies can be obtained free of charge on application to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10, Whitehall Place, S.W. 1.

recovered Shelley's body from the sea in and saw it burned on the seashore at Reggio. The exceptionally fine specime ferred to above is 20 feet high by 5 fe girth, and bears two large branches 2 feet in girth. The main branches are zontal and support dense masses of Jun like foliage. Twenty years ago its rec height was 12 feet, with a spread of 24 It is probably the one mentioned in a MS. list of Coldrenick trees as h been planted in 1857. Its growth has been exceedingly slow. Very few plan the Huon Pine are known in this cou There used to be a tree at Longleat w according to a note in the "Journ Forestry," Vol. I., p. 666, was 31 feet at the date of writing (1877-8), but I di see it when I visited the place in 1913, have since heard that it died many years

The Huon Pine is one of the best-k timber trees in Tasmania. Its headqu are on the southern and western coa Tasmania, where it was first noted b well-known explorer, Alan Cunningha 1818. It yields one of the best-known woods, examples of which may be se Kew and the Imperial Institute.

A. B. JACKS

Colour grouping in the flower ga

The notes and accompanying illustr as to the pleasing effects of a combinat grey shades in various parts of the garden reminds one that the scheme be extended to various other shades severally appeal to different tastes. A in yellow, for instance, or rather in the different shades, from pale primro orange, that are to be had in that col very interesting. Tropæolum canarien bushy stakes of varying heights, ma capital background. Groups of Antirrh in different shades, occasional plan Œnothera Fraseri, Nasturtiums, Beg and Violas like Ardwell Gem and I would complete the arrangement. A grouping built up of rose and pink sh always pleasing, and fortunately the many things available. The be Lavatera Loveliness and Phloxes like and Elizabeth Campbell will form a background, and the remainder of the can be finished with Antirrhinums, stemons, and Begonias in varying s with Rosy Morn Petunia and William Viola in the foreground. It might b to give the reminder that nothing sho crowded and a small intervening allowed between the respective fa There is not quite so much material av in the scarlet and blue, but I remem very rich combination in scarlet whi Tropæolum speciosum as a backg This plant for once in a way was revelling in its surroundings, coveri top and sides of an old arbour and als big Fir branches. This had been face groups of Antirrhinums in varying h of a somewhat similar shade t Tropæolum, and a broad belt of grandiflorum completed the arrangeme whole certainly making a glowing m colour.

E. I

Early-flowering bulbs: A word warning

We find there is an increasing num people who are terribly anxious to get bulbs in flower by Christmas. No there is some delight in having bu flower by then, but to our mind, decent blooms result, it is far better to bulbs come on more naturally, an really good flowers later on.

We have tried many experime forcing bulbs, and have come to th

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Broad Beans for early crops next year

WHEN I penned the note on this subject I did so, mainly, to tell readers of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED about some self-sown seeds and the result. This was a long time ago, and I copied Nature afterwards with much success, too, as regards these plants. All good horticulturists know the importance of autumn-raised plants possessing plenty of roots before cold weather comes. Such plants go ahead in the early spring, badly-rooted ones do not. At the end of November autumn-raised Broad Beans should be earthed-up as a protection against any severe weather.

One of the largest seed firms in this country says: "Broad Beans may be sown in November in a sheltered position and in well-drained soil. On cold, damp soils, and on clay lands everywhere it is a waste of labour to sow, and of seeds, too."

I heartily agree. If the seeds cannot be sown in good time in the autumn it is better to wait until suitable conditions arise in January, February, and March. There are many hundreds of acres of allotments in this and the neighbouring county, and the "plotters" like to get their Broad Bean seeds sown in October. GEORGE GARNER.

Christchurch, Hants.

Lupins turning yellow

Re (Lady) Doris Vyner's inquiry (issue September 17th, page 588) as to why Lupin plants are turning yellow and your reply. If the Lupins are the same as mine it is not the ripening of the foliage, as you surmise. I have had hundreds turn yellow this year; in fact, most of them came yellow direct from the seed, and, strange to say, there would be two seedlings 3 inches apart, one a sickly yellow and the other perfectly green. I put in about 6,000 on gravel and about the same quantity on a heavier soil. The heavy soil was the worst. I may say I followed your advice about liming the land. I am afraid that has something to do with it, F. Hadfield Farthing says they will not stand lime. I know they will not stand manure, and many nurserymen and seedsmen say they will grow in almost any soil or situation. I find that is not so. Further information on the subject would be very acceptable.

G. R.

Yuccas

The charming pictures of flowering Yuccas, in the number of September 3rd, page 549, show so clearly and delightfully the difference between the two Yuccas, Recurva and Gloriosa that I would draw attention to them. The Rollesby Yucca is *Recurva*, and mention is made of its free-blooming habit. The other, stiffer in growth, with spiky leaves and much more massive heads of flower, is Yucca *Gloriosa*, in my opinion much the finer thing of the two, but a much shier bloomer in England. Yucca recurva, so named because its leaves fall gracefully over, has less pure white flowers and a much laxer spike of flowers that have a brownish line on the outside of the petal.

Yucca gloriosa, on the other hand, has bells without any stain of colour and many more flowers in the spike. In a fine autumn there is no more striking object than a fine flowering group of them in grass and plenty of Tritomas and evergreens for a background. It is not generally known that the Yucca is a night-flowering plant, but anyone who has seen a fine Yucca spike on a warm moonlight night will not forget the massive charm and purity of the widely-expanded flowers. The pity is that the necessary warmth and the moonlight do not often coincide.

E. H. WOODALL.

The Huon Pine

The note by "E. M." (issue August 13th, page 505) on the Huon Pine (Dacryduim Franklini) would have been more interesting had he told us the whereabouts of the tree he describes. I recently saw a very fine old specimen of this beautiful Tasmanian conifer in the Rev. F. E. Trelawney's garden at Coldrenick, 4 miles south of Liskeard, Cornwall, where there are many conifers of interest. These were nearly all planted about the middle of the last century by the present owner's great-uncle, "Greek" Trelawney, an intimate friend of Shelley and Byron, who

on that Freesias, Roman Hyacinths, Paper White Narcissus are the only sub- which may readily be had in bloom by stmas. Prepared Dutch Miniature cinths may be flowered by then, but only he application of bottom heat. For the ary amateur, with perhaps only one house containing a varied assortment plants, to try to get Hyacinths and odils in bloom in December is simply ing failure—either total or partial. Of se, many bulbs are forced for Christmas- but the bulk of them are very sorry mens, looking more like ghosts of rs than the real thing. In the case of culture of bulbs in the dwelling-house, a mistake to aim at very early flowers at the results cannot be satisfactory, for ing plants must have plenty of light, everyone knows that in most parts of and there is often very little real day- for days together in December and ry. Therefore bulbs potted early will the very worst weather of the whole in which to make their growth, and the will be leggy, drawn-up plants with flowers. Our opinion is that October vember is the best time to pot any but rliest-flowering bulbs, which are put in and are to be grown entirely in a dwell- use. These will, with proper care, their blooms long before outside-grown the plants will be dwarf and sturdy blooms almost as fine as outdoor ones e in their season. Our advice, then, is f the Spaniard "festina lente" (hurry), and if readers will accept that advice xercise a little patience we feel sure ill reap their reward and many failures e avoided.

J. R. Pearson and Sons, Ltd.

Speirantha convallarioides

HEN exhibited at Vincent Square in the early part of this year this plant attracted an unusual amount of atten- many regarding it a somewhat strange- g Lily of the Valley, as its growth, of flowering, scent, and general habit seem to suggest.

ough it has been known to cultivators number of years, having been intro- from China about 1854, it is seldom n gardens to-day. This should not be it is attractive, interesting, and of easy .

ay not be quite hardy, perhaps, for rn gardens, but in the south and west, d in a well-drained, half-shady position composed of loam and leaf-soil, it ourish and well repay any little extra estowed upon it.

Colesborne, on the Cotswolds Hills, it od the test of several winters.

W. H. Walters.

rden planning in a small way

correspondent, L. D. Digby, states it is rather strange to see wavy out- dvocated now for garden design," and es "the vogue for curves" as Vic- and expresses the hope that "no owner, large or small, will be per- to exchange simple and dignified t lines for wavy ones," and adds, would put a beautiful picture into a rame?" In his anxiety to exalt the line and condemn the curve he com- mself to a false analogy. In planning nting a garden one is making a pic- ot making a frame. Because the pic- ay be framed in straight lines it does d to be painted without curved ones! are *not* "learning now that the rectangular and geometrical forms words) display the beauty of flowers an vaguely meandering ones." What some of us have learned, largely through the labours of Miss Jekyll and Mr. William Robinson, is that "the true way to happiest design is not to have any stereotyped style for all flower gardens, but that the best kind of garden grows out of the situation."

And again he writes, "Why should the cottage garden be a picture when the gentle- man's garden is not? It is that the plants, beds, and walks are not set out in geometrical ways." There is a wide tolerance in styles, and the strange thing in your correspondent's letter is that he has not recognised this. The straight line and the curved one may both be right in "their proper place," and both may be wrong when used inartistically. Have we not seen a straight, heavy pergola running like an overhead railway across the fair ex- panse of a once restful lawn! As Mr. Robin- son remarks, "What are we to think of those who needlessly carry the dead lines of the builder into the garden, which, above every other artificial creation, should give us the sweetest fellowship with Nature!" No one but a vandal would dare to make any altera- tion in such an exquisite little Tudor or Dutch garden as the historic survival at Hampton Court which, by the way, owes much of its present beauty to the informal method of planting and the breaking up of the straight lines by great tubs of Agapanthus. On the other hand, it would be just as idiotic to scrap the rock garden at Wisley because of its bulges and curves, and reconstruct it in straight lines or in terrace form. Speaking generally, one would prefer the winding course of a brook to a straight ditch, the meandering river to a navigation cut; but who would wish to alter the beauti- ful vista of the Long Water at Hampton Court and the stately avenues on each side of it? Yet such avenues were cut down by the intolerant.

Now just to mention garden-planning in quite a small way. I had to deal with a piece of ground, on one occasion, which was surrounded by an ugly fence on three sides and an unpleasing house on the other. It was not a beautiful frame, and was, there- fore, planted out. There were two good fruit trees, one on each side of the garden, and as flowering plants could not be expected to give much colour beneath them, the border was there narrowed and the space devoted to lawn. In the sunniest places extra width was given to the borders. The result was a garden with wavy lines, but one on which a great variety of plants could be grown to advantage. The back fence was concealed by variegated Maples, purple-leaved Prunus, scarlet-flowered Hawthorn, Laburnum, and Crab Apples, in front of which were Bamboos and Ferns. No boundary was visible be- tween this little garden and the stately trees which grew in a large one beyond it. I am sure no Japanese horticultural artist would have condemned it because there were no straight lines to be seen in the whole of it. It contained many surprises, and no one could judge as to its size.

Attached to an old Kentish Rectory the garden still exists which was planned and planted by "the learned and judicious Hooker." It is set in a circle of steeply un- dulating hills, but the garden itself is planted in horizontal lines. Steps on each side of a wide lawn lead to a low terraced walk, at the back of which a flower border runs and the old herbaceous flowers and groups of Lilies are seen against the background of an ancient Yew hedge planted in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Nothing could be so restful as the long straight lines of this garden in rest- less setting of broken hilly outlines outside it.

Another garden that I know has a long straight border backed by Rhododendrons and a broad path along the north aspect, but on the other side of a spacious lawn the flower beds are raised about 2 feet above it and are planned in three graceful curves, each projecting beyond the other. This en- ables one to see the flowers and colour masses with far greater advantage from the house, and as curved lines are longer than straight ones when running from point to point there is more room for the plants. The curving of the border adds much to the ap- parent size, particularly as the whole of it can- not be seen at a glance.

Brighton. F.R.H.S.

Speirantha convallarioides

A little-known plant from China, allied to Convallaria or Lily of the Valley

"Sit down and travel"

At such a proposal one's thoughts go back a few years to Cook's poster of the Magic Carpet on which a number of tourists were depicted seated and being borne thereon to lands afar. The method shown was alluring, but the kind of travel and "outfit" described by Mr. Hay in the last two issues should gain him tourists at once.

Nor would they, I think, be disappointed in their guide. His mission is to reclaim the lost plant or convert a new one to his purpose. Afric's golden sands call to him no less than the coral strands of India. He has inspirations, and would go to considerable lengths to make them successes. To gain his ends he would break laws and suffer imprisonment gladly; more doubtful still, he would incite others to do the same and glory in it. Did we not know Mr. Hay for the good fellow he is we might consider him dangerous!

Anyway, his enthusiasm is most infectious and his sympathies are wide. As long as the plant is beautiful it matters not whether it is an annual, biennial, bulb, or shrub, nothing comes amiss to him. His library is his gold mine, and some of the nuggets discovered in it appear most fascinating. Indeed, their worth has been proved, certain of them having been tested and "hall"-marked.

Not long ago a well-known horticulturist questioned (in the columns of a contemporary) the wisdom of giving "Awards of Merit" to plants with a "past," but as our forefathers in many cases treated them wrongly or acted in ignorance of what they were capable of doing is it not just that we should give them another trial?

Having occasion recently to look up a well-known *hardy* plant in the "Botanical Magazine" I found a drawing of an anæmic-looking plant, and from its appearance was not surprised to learn that it had been "most successfully cultivated in the *stove*"!

Who would recognise in the splendid examples of Abutilon vexillarium and Mitraria coccinea, now grown on outside walls in favoured parts of Britain, the miserable plants too often seen cooped up in pots and greenhouses? These are only two examples, there are others.

Many a good plant has been condemned because the seed-sowing has been badly timed. Those who have experienced the joys and difficulties of raising seeds sent home from foreign climes will join with me in saying that, although a good germination is usually best secured by sowing at once, it by no means follows that the subsequent season is the most suitable to develop the characteristic beauty of the plant.

To many annuals and biennials it makes all the difference whether they are sown at the right season. In the case of the first to make a sturdy, floriferous growth, not too early or late to produce its flowers under the best conditions; in the latter to form a reserve of strength to carry it through the winter.

Other plants, although perennial in character, succeed much better if young stock is occasionally raised from seed. The parent plants appear short-lived, notably some choice Liliums and Primulas. To anyone ignorant of this these plants might seem difficult and not worth the trouble of growing.

I therefore maintain that Mr. Hay is doing good work in once again bringing to our notice these many beautiful plants, and I wish him every success.

J. COMBER.

Nymans, Sussex.

THE BLUE POPPIES

By F. KINGDON WARD.

IT is only within recent years that the Himalayan, or Blue Poppies as they are called (Meconopsis), have come into prominence as garden plants, and few of those who stand entranced before their azure blooms at our flower shows realise either the skill and patience on the part of growers which these successes represent or the immense mortality of which they are the chosen survivors.

As a race the Poppyworts are, in fact, what gardeners call difficult, and few of them are in general cultivation yet. On the other hand, nearly 40 species have been flowered in this country, and, thanks to the accumulated experience of some 50 years since the first species were introduced, we are beginning to understand their minimum requirements. Indeed, it may safely be said that the next decade will see more species firmly established, not only in the gardens of the elect, but amongst the general public. Already we know a good deal about their culture, and realise their limitations—and ours; already we know which species we are most likely to succeed with and those which it is not worth while to persevere with, failure being almost a foregone conclusion.

Meconopsis paniculata
Flowers sulphur yellow

The Poppyworts are all alpines or sub-alpines, many hailing from extreme altitudes. Nearly all are natives of those vast elevated regions which stretch from Kashmir in the west to Szechwan in the east, and from Kansu in the north to Burma in the south. The majority prefer the drier Tibetan plateau conditions under the lee of the great rain screen, though a few have crossed the passes to reappear on the southern flanks of the Himalaya or in the mountains of far Upper Burma.

The most familiar species are, undoubtedly, the prickly blue Poppies, such as the v known Kashmir Poppy (M. latifolia) and Himalayan M. aculeata, and it is not ge ally recognised that the sulphur-ye "Lampshade" Poppy of China (M. int folia) belongs to the same genus, as does own yellow Welsh Poppy (M. cambrica). colour, in fact, though commonly blue, i no means always so, but ranges from sky-blue of M. latifolia, through the blue of M. Henrici, the violet of M. gra purple of M. napaulensis, to the deep re M. punicea, and finally the brilliant ye of M. integrifolia.

Their requirements are few, but they quite firm about them. They will gro any light soil provided it is of sufficient d with good underground drainage. A gravelly loam or coarse sand with an a ance of at least 3 feet for the root to des is what they like. Sunshine has no te for them so long as the soil is not dried for they are thirsty creatures and a underground drought. On the other h they cannot get too much rain, except d the winter, when the clogging soil and dampness of England are apt to be too r for them. The stems die down in w and it is a good plan to cover the crown a foot of dead leaves (not leaf-mould), v takes the place of their native snow, th the ground is well drained they will pro survive. A high north-east bank or a si situation on a slope of the rock garden i best position. Some of them at least to be indifferent to lime, but it is not re mended.

It has been established by trial and that the highest alpine species are usele this country. In Tibet some flourish as as 17,000 feet, where the conditions are described as sub-arctic, and we can no expect such plants to thrive here than w expect sub-tropical species to do so. In it is easier to grow the latter since we under glass, reproduce very nearly the conditions of heat and dampness met in the tropics, whereas not even under can we reproduce the atmospheric cond of 17,000 feet altitude!

This fact rules out about half the k species as garden plants. Of the rema the following do quite well:—Meco latifolia, which sends up a single tall column of sky-blue flowers; M. Pra smaller plant of the same type, from C M. Wallichii, also with sky-blue fl borne on a central stem, but the flowe in small cymes in the axils of the leave single as in the above species; M. panic like the last-named in appearance, bu sulphur flowers; M. integrifolia, w central stem, but the flowers, which ar large and few, of a bright sulphur-y are borne on long axillary stalks seve one level; M. simplicifolia, in which th no central stem, the leaf rosette sendin sheaf of stems each of which ends in tary, nodding, fragrant, sky-blue flowe M. quintuplinervia, which is like the habit, but has smaller violet-blue flow

But the finest species of all, and one may soon be easily obtainable, is th M. Baileyi, a superb species from a co tively low elevation in Tibet. The n flowers, 4 inches across, borne singly o pedicels in the axils of large claspin leaves, are a dazzling Cambridge blue shock of golden stamens in the centre. a shade-loving plant. Another good is M. violacea, recently introduced fr Burma frontier, which promises to acquisition.

Most of the Poppyworts are bienni M. quintuplinervia at least is perenni several of the others seed themselve assuring a continuation of the species. flower from May to July.

BLUE POPPIES IN THEIR WILD HAUNTS

econopsis betonicifolia in Upper Burmah ; flowers sky blue.
. Baileyi ; flowers sky blue with golden-coloured anthers.
2. M. violacea, a violet Poppy discovered in Upper Burmah (Kingdon Ward).
4. M. simplicifolia form, an ivory white Poppy (Kingdon Ward).

CANADA IN ESSEX

By VISCOUNTESS BYNG OF VIMY

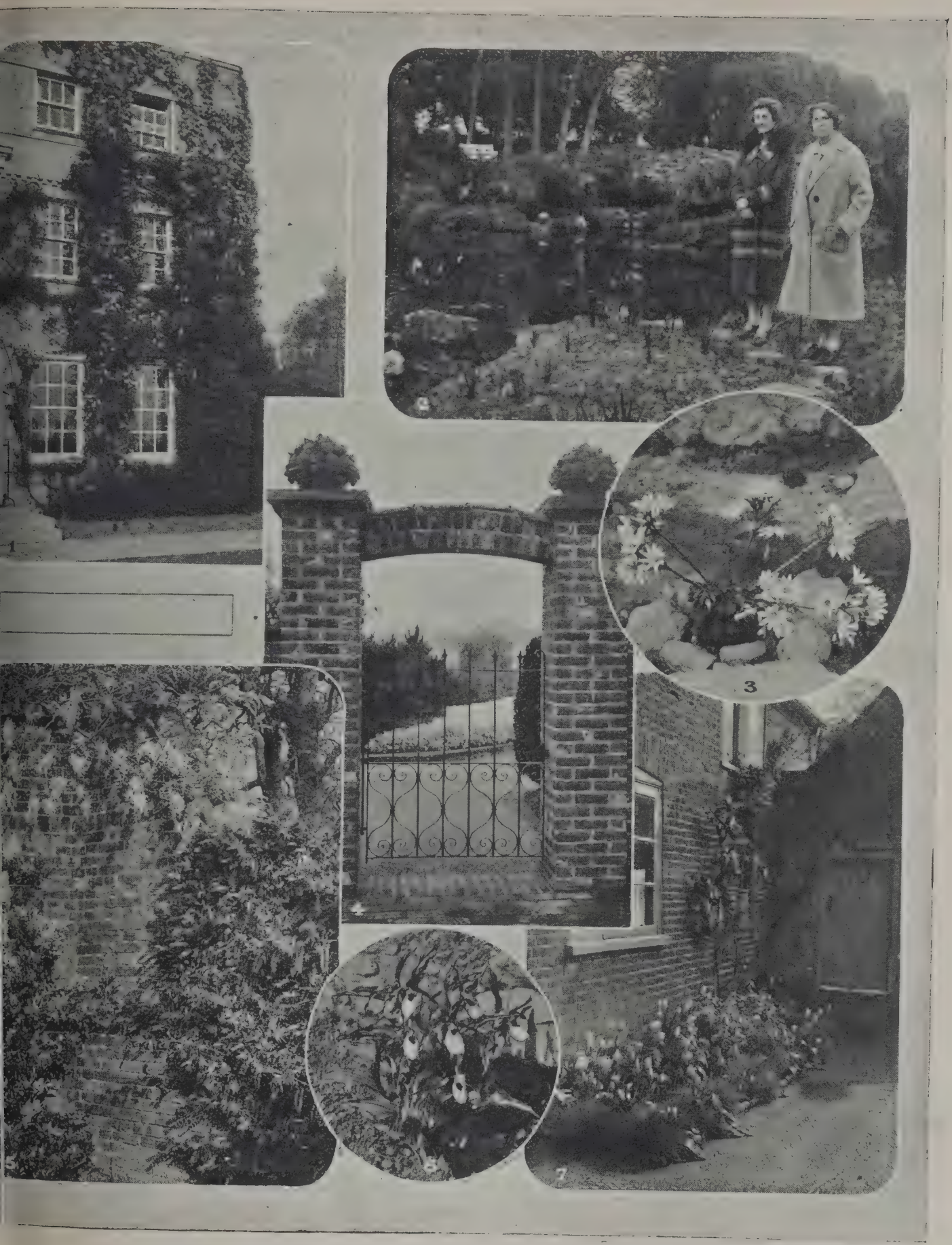
THE editor, when visiting our garden last spring, asked me to send him a few notes on the Canadian plants growing there, and I will now try to tell my fellow readers of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED about my collection, methods of collecting, successes and failures. However, before starting I wish to explain that I am not in the least a botanist. In my youth I had, unfortunately, no training in this science, and since then my life has been too busy for me to take up the study of so big a subject. Therefore these notes are merely those of an interested amateur who has had the good luck to spend five years in Canada. Another explanation is nomenclature. I have perforce used handbooks published in the U.S.A., as, I regret to say, there are only two Canadian publications on the native flora, both dealing only with Western plants, therefore the names given are not always the same as those used in this country, and I have frequently added the local names because they are either attractive or illuminating. No doubt many of my readers, among whom I know are possessors of big gardens with rare collections, will find fault with me for mentioning ordinary plants, but I am only trying to tell of my personal experiences with them here and in Canada.

Collecting out there was fraught with difficulties for me owing to the exigencies of being the Governor-General's wife, subject to the ties and restrictions of officialdom, the undertaking of prolonged tours—sometimes of three and four months duration in our train—and the fact that these tours, though fruitful in their results of collecting, were generally made in midsummer, which is scarcely the most propitious time for lifting plants. My methods, therefore, were scandalously unorthodox, but the result has exceeded my expectations. One great drawback to the amateur collector in Canada is the fact that all nurserymen out there, as in South Africa, concentrate on providing their customers with English plants and none touch the native flora, which has been neglected, so that some plants remain unclassified and unknown. There is only one professional nurseryman—Mr. J. C. Bennett, of Victoria, British Columbia, who has so far handled native plants—chiefly the Western ones—and to his ever-ready help and ability I owe a debt of gratitude. Unfortunately he was singlehanded, also we lived three thousand miles apart, and only met once in the year—facts which made for a heavy handicap. The main work of collecting therefore devolved on myself, and I seized every opportunity, even though plants were in full bloom, of lifting them. I enrolled every available helper—friend or stranger—in my search. Many an engine driver was begged to keep a look-out for certain plants when I knew we were approaching their habitat; many a guard was handed a pick or spade and sent clambering up a railway bank, if I was "all dolled up," as Canadians say, for a function and therefore unable to go myself. Many a ganger on the line was pressed into the service when there was not sufficient time to allow of the back platform being let down for me to go myself in pursuit of something I had spied from the window. One and all responded gallantly to my ap though I think at times they considere "a bit mad" for wanting what to seemed "trash" from the railway b Of course, whenever possible I did my digging up, and, having secured the p plunged them into big boxes of soil for the purpose in the baggage wago our train. Quite a few plants were enough to set and ripen seed there! In boxes the plants remained, either t end of the tour, or till I thought it w sonably safe to pack them in damp num Moss, grease-proof paper, and t cuit boxes well ventilated with hol despatch them to Thorpe.

Rock and water garden at Thorpe Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, where countess Byng of Vimy is growing n interesting plants collected in Ca

Another method of collecting was to any unfamiliar seed-pod, and I was —even on official occasions, when a bag was very handy—without a pa seed envelopes! Out walking I kept a look-out for strange seed-pods, and were ripe away they went to Thorpe, ripe they were hung in the railway c window in muslin bags made for th pose. In the course of the seed sn stunt I sometimes landed on real but surprisingly few on the whole, a were easily scrapped at home. One luckiest chances in this line was sec pinch of Phacelia sericea from a bank, where only the seed-head was in the rank grass. Now I have a goo of this lovely and effective blue flowe

In 1925, however, I did things i having our gardener from here—Mr. —out for the Western trip, in order might see plant requirements and als the best year's collecting which ca way owing to my husband's trip Arctic Ocean, in which I was not i This gave me four weeks of holid such an orgy of botanising as I ne pected to have in Canada. For those



THE GARDENS AT THORPE HALL, ESSEX

matis montana rubens on a corner of Thorpe Hall.

e lower lake. Viscountess Byng of Vimy on the right.

visia Cotyledon. Lewisias are choice Alpines from the Rocky is, and do well at Thorpe Hall in a well-drained sunny

4. Iron gate and brick arch designed by Viscountess Byng of Vimy. A mass of white-flowered Anthemis is seen through the archway.

5. Wistaria sinensis, Clianthus puniceus, and Olearia myrsinites growing on a sunny wall.

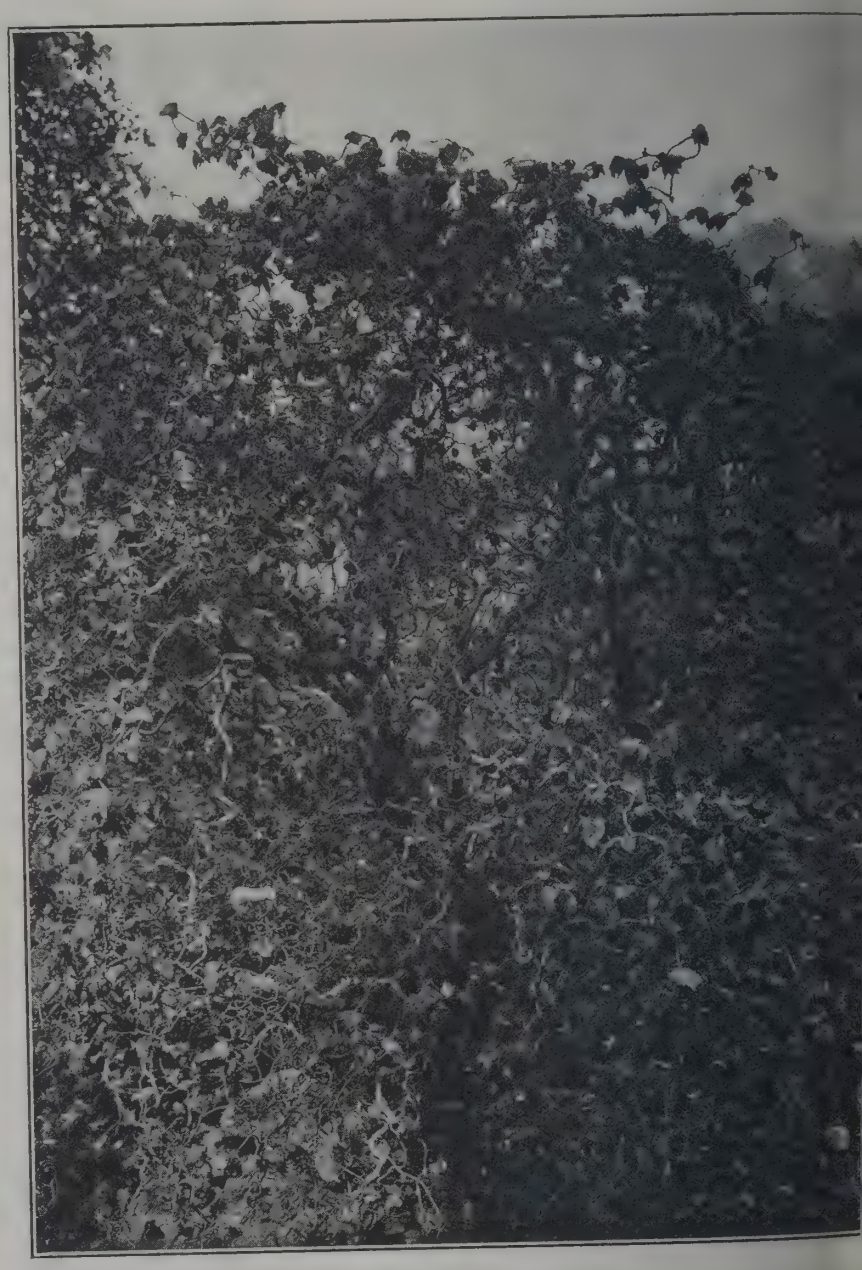
6. Cypripedium parviflorum from Canada in full bloom.

7. Tulip Panorama, terra-cotta and bronze, by the east lodge.

I was my own master in Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and Western Alberta, happy hunting grounds for the plant lover, and during that time we secured many interesting things. Among them were various Arnicas from near Paradise Mine, heavenly name of a heavenly spot 7,000 feet up in the heart of the Rockies, where there were no neighbours but mountain gophers and whistling marmots. Besides the Arnicas we found several Erigerons, best of them being aureus, with its wonderfully vivid orange blooms. Epilobium anagallidifolium above timber line painted the gulleys a rich rose, and so far has not proved too rank a grower here, though one touches Epilobiums with considerable caution. Eriogonum ochroleucum also came from Paradise Mine, where it grew in vast mats. The unripened seed-pods of Erythroniums grandiflora and Montanum —"Avalanche Lily" as it is more prettily called out there—stood up on all sides, while the feathery achenes of the "Chalicecup"—Anemone Occidentalis—waved in the breeze; but alas the gophers tear them to pieces for bedding in their burrows long before they ripen seed, so that they are hard to get. We also found an attractive, but unknown, Draba, and Saxifrage rifidula, while Kalmia polyfolia fringed the most perfect natural water garden I ever set eyes on. From Qualicum Beach, in the northern part of Vancouver Island, comes Valerian congesta, an attractive dwarf that carpeted the beach as Thrift carpets our Essex marshes, and the dainty Lithophragma parviflora abounded in some of the damper Qualicum meadows.

From higher altitudes in the Rockies came Valerian sitchensis—"Mountain Heliotrope" —which Mr. Farrer condemns in his explosive fashion, but which, in a wild garden, has its place, though apt to seed too freely when as happy as it is here. Spiræa Pectinata, most engaging and unspiræalike of plants, came from the Selkirks. I believe it does not inhabit the Rockies at all, but of this I can only speak from hearsay.

From Jasper Park came Dodecatheons, meadia, pauciflorum, and Jeffreyii, delightful things, that shared with Lilium Philadelphicum the flats along the rushing waters of the Athabasca River. Calypso borealis first caught my eye and won my heart at Jasper. Small wonder, for it is a gem, but such a pernickety one, alas. At Jasper there were patches of it in the moss beside and around big boulders, its quaintly pouting face peeping out as if curious to see what was happening in the world beyond the shelter of the rocks. This summer it has bloomed here, but I know Farrer claims that it won't survive, so I wait the result of next winter with trepidation. Meanwhile I have given it two different aspects—one on the lake side among the shelter of Kalmia angustifolia, the other up a bank from the lake and under the shade of an old Mulberry tree, which, some hundred years ago, blew down, and now, overhanging the water, has anchored itself securely by rooting from every limb that rests on the soil. Another doubtful plant is the Calochortus luteus—"Mariposa Tulip"—from Windermere, in the Columbia River Valley, B.C. If it survives more than the two winters which so far it has weathered, I shall become optimistic. But why the little wretch should not prefer our sunny aspect and good soil to the awful spot where I found it seems to me rank ingratitude. At Windermere it was thriving on a practically undiggable clay bank, baked hard in summer, frozen hard in winter, with a below zero temperature, and it seemed inconceivable how so frail-looking a loveliness should choose so unpropitious a habitat. Oddly enough the bulbs of other species sent me from California seem the hardier, Citrinus having done well, also Nuttalli; and I intend to attempt another lot from Carl Purdy, who supplied those I already have. Serapias gigantea—"Chatterbox orchis"—came from near Windermere, at Fairmount Hotsprings, which was the only place where I ever saw these engaging little people, with their funny-faced flowers, nodding on long, strong stems. Here they have thrust their way possessively right through every plant which blocked their advance, and they have accepted both a southern and northern aspect, though in both cases by the lake side. By the lake side, also, are the Orchids—beloved of my soul. I have succeeded so far with Cypripediums—spectabile, with its fat, rosy pouch; parviflorum (see illustration page 611), looking like a Dundreary beau as its long twisted brown whiskers float in the breeze; montanum, beautiful, slender, the lip faintly veined with purple, a rare plant nowadays in the West. Passerinum, also scarce, as is candidum in the East, a little treasure not more than 10 inches in height and with the neatest possible habit of growth. Acaule or "Sabot de la Vierge," as the Habitant of Quebec Province calls it, is a difficult one t with, but here it flowered well th son, and last I believe, so I am for the best. The "Ram's Head Slipper"—Criosanthes arietinum—I alas, completely, and shall have to tr again from the cold northern bogs w grows, though none too plentifully. "Showy Orchis"—Galeorchis spect did not bloom this summer, but then only lifted last season and does not, I like these upheavals. Habenaria fi has made a brave show, with a spi and a-half feet high, in a shelter of the water garden; but Calopogo sum, which I waded for in a peculia New Brunswick swamp, nearly dep life without flowering, and I am no what Pogonia ophioglossoides con doing. All these last-named are we to be difficult, so I shall be fortu pull them through. Another trial t are the two Lithospermums—cane angustifolium—yellow like all Lithospermums. The latter never the journey home, the former thre follow suit in the early part of th



Twisted Hazel at Thorpe Hall

This is the original plant found by the late Earl of Ducie in a hedgerow near Tortworth, Gloucestershire

ving bloomed well, it proceeded to every insect pest that was passing ing carefully handpicked it the the grace to pick up, and now iced long growths and a second Remains to be seen how it stands lamp English winter. Close to the ner where this little trial lives is hly satisfactory and hardy pair of plants in the shape of a dwarf dark blue and white Lupin (name unknown to me) from Mount Cheam, and Aquilegia Candensis from the East. They bloomed at the same time, and a prettier combination and contrast it would have been hard to find. Gaura coccinea was the outcome of one of the seed-snatching stunts, as that was all I could manage to do, when I saw the Gaura in the dry belt round Kamloops. The plants of it failed, it being tiresome to shift, but the seeds germinated, and very pretty it looks in a pocket of the rock garden beside the overflow from the lake. Next to it is Potentilla tridenta, rejoicing, I think, at its rescue from the strangling rank grass of a field in Quebec Province, where I collected it a year ago. *(To be continued.)*

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

hern and Midland

eries

r for serious consideration at this the year is finding room for the ety of subjects which must be nder cover where they are secure and although it is inadvisable to is often compelled to make use of s for sheltering many tender and plants. This, of course, is detri- the keeping of overhanging fruit uires a clear, buoyant, and dry if the berries are to be kept from herefore discretion should be used sing the subjects which are to be these houses, using only those require the least possible water- as boxes filled with newly-struck bedding plants, Indian Azaleas, ants which are completing their nd Agaves. All watering should lished during the early morning entilation given during fine days, circulation of warmth turned on er pipes through the night during eather.

ures

emperature of 55 degs. is desirable containing flowering plants, Cyclamen, Begonias, Carnations, Zonal Pelargoniums, and the other plants which are now com- bloom. The air should be kept than of late, but an occasional mongst the pots and damping of will prove beneficial and maintain in a fresh condition. Air freely s and leave a slight opening in ors during the night.

t will be necessary for these from and if fine bracts are to be ob- plants must not only be liberally ot close up to the glass. It is not give a few of the best specimens a rger pots from which very large ld result.

shoots well thinned in order that ng light and sunshine may pene- rts of the plants and fruits, and e atmosphere must not be per- ecome very dry at any time less an formerly must be the rule from ls.

e fruits when partially coloured on sunny shelves or in a warm y only sufficient water to prevent agging, and withhold all feeding ate.

mums

nding in the shelter of high walls where some protection can be them during the night the latest es will no longer be safe, and oused without delay. If this is impossible the plants may be r sides and covered over for a period.

Fruit store

Maintain a temperature of from 50 degs. to 55 degs. for rooms confined exclusively to Pears, as these require more warmth than Apples to bring them to perfection. Air should, however, be admitted for a few hours each day. Light should be excluded.

Apples

These can scarcely be kept too cool at this season; indeed, the difficulty is to prevent sweating, and, to counteract this, air must be freely admitted night and day, always avoiding cold draughts. An occasional damping of the floors will maintain the fruit in a fresh and plump condition, very different to that of fruit which has been kept for any length of time on dry stages.

New Rose beds

Proceed with the preparation of these when opportunity affords, as by so doing the plants may be got in early in November or even late October whilst the soil is still warm. In such cases root-action commences straight away and the plants invariably winter well. Good drainage is essential, and unless the soil is good it should be removed and fresh brought in. Trench to a depth of 3 feet and incorporate a generous quantity of farmyard manure and lime-rubble with the soil where the latter does not exist, as such beds should last 12 years without further interference.

Mushrooms

Collect horse-droppings for successional beds, placing them in heaps in dry, open sheds where they may be frequently turned to prevent sourness. Examine beds spawned a month ago, and if the surface is dry moisten with tepid water, also damp walls and floors. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Lifting Potatoes

Disease is appearing among crops of Potatoes, and so the sooner the tubers can be got out of the ground the better. Pick over with particular care, for when stored the disease, if present at all, spreads at an alarming rate. Sometimes an otherwise sound tuber shows a small spot of the trouble at the one end only. Such should be laid aside for immediate use, for if the bad patch is cut off before cooking, the Potato is quite wholesome. The tubers for "seed" purposes must also be chosen with every care.

Treatment of young crops

Beds of Onions sown in August should have the soil stirred between the rows occasionally, providing the ground is not too wet. Any weeds growing among the plants should also be removed, for the sturdier the seedlings can be kept the better will they pass through the winter. Spinach should have the same attention, and, if too thick, should be slightly thinned. Young Cabbages are also greatly benefited by having the soil well stirred with the Dutch hoe as often as the state of the soil will permit. A final small planting of Cabbage should be made at once to form a succession to the earlier batches.

Planting Fruit Trees

While it is still too early to attempt this, it is well to have the ground prepared so that it may have time to settle down a bit before the actual planting has to be tackled. Many failures with Plums, Cherries, Pears, and Apples can be traced to improper soil preparation. To add generous dressings of manure to the soil in which these are to be planted spells trouble for years to come, as the trees are certain to produce soft, gross, and badly-ripened wood that will never produce a fruit. It is only necessary to give manure for these fruits if the soil is very poor, and even then it must be used sparingly. All the "stone" fruits are greatly assisted by the use of lime in the soil, and a good form in which to apply this material is by the free use of mortar-rubbish from an old building.

Fruit bushes

These too should be planted at the end of this month or during November, and the site for new plantations should be got ready now. As with most of the larger fruits, several of these "soft" kinds succeed best when no manure is added to the soil before planting. Indeed, Gooseberries and Red and White Currants will all run to gross, unfruitful wood if the soil is made rich. Black Currants and Raspberries, however, should be generously treated in the way of well-rotted farmyard manure, a liberal supply being given while the ground is being double-dug or trenched.

Roses from cuttings

While many varieties of the Rose make but a poor show when growing on their own roots there are a few that succeed admirably when so grown. Among climbers, American Pillar, Dorothy Perkins, Gloire de Dijon, and a few others do splendidly, while the well-tried old varieties for growing in a cool greenhouse, Catherine Mermet and Niphetos, succeed no end. Some of the H.T.'s, like Caroline Testout, La France, General Macarthur, and a few other free growers, may be grown well on their own roots.

New Rose beds

Where it is intended to lay down new beds of Roses it is advisable to have these prepared some weeks in advance of planting time. Thorough preparation pays in the end. Double-digging or trenching is almost a necessity, with a liberal dressing of rich old farmyard manure mixed with the soil while the work proceeds. When the ground is got ready now the first favourable chance can be seized for getting the actual planting carried out. The last week in October and the first half of November is, probably, the best time for planting.

House winter-flowering plants

If still in frames such plants as Cyclamens, Cinerarias, and Primulas will now be much safer in a glasshouse where a little artificial warmth may be given when necessary to drive out damp and keep out frost. Have all pots clean and any weeds or dying foliage removed.

C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

VEGETABLES

The Potato crop

ALTHOUGH constant reminders are annually given as to the strong advisability of early spraying to ward off the dread Potato disease, especially in those seasons when it is likely to be prevalent, it is to be feared that in the majority of villages little notice is taken of the warning (there is a sort of "they must take their chance" feeling), with the result that in many places in 1927 growers are faced with a serious loss by a large proportion of diseased tubers. In some seasons one is able to lift crops of earliest varieties before the appearance of disease, but it was not so this year; the wet time came on early, and in many places the tubers were not set before disease made its appearance, especially on non-immune varieties. Sharp's Favourite is still grown largely in the village as a first early, and this is badly hit. One grower was trying a big break of that one-time favourite, Early Puritan, and in the early stages it was very promising, the haulm of great length and substance, and the crop very heavy, but when the crop was lifted nearly one-fourth of the tubers were found to be affected. Personally, of some half-a-dozen sorts grown my best this year is Ally, an excellent crop of sound tubers and quite free from disease. The greater part of the soil in the village is a heavy loam overlying clay; not an ideal soil for Potatoes, especially in a season like that of 1927, and there is also hardly any woodland, rendering it impossible to obtain supplies of leaf-soil to lighten the heavy land. Again, in the winter of 1926-27 we had comparatively little frost—not sufficient, at any rate, to thoroughly pulverise the heavy lumpy land turned up in the autumn. The above remarks apply to allotments in cottage gardens of more limited area. Ground can be gradually improved by the addition of ashes from the heap of burned trimmings of all kinds, old stems, and other things where the main crop of Potatoes is pitted, and this is generally the case if shed accommodation is limited. It may be well to give the reminder that all tubers should be carefully examined before storing. Just a tiny speck of disease at the end of a tuber quickly spreads and contaminates its neighbours.

Hardwick. E. B. S.

Leeks: The worth of special culture

Leeks are amongst the most serviceable and easy-to-grow vegetables anyone can take in hand, yet, notwithstanding this, it is surprising how many there are who appear content with only moderate results. One notices repeatedly that they are not always given a good place in the garden; not infrequently it is some out-of-the-way corner assigned to them as if their inclusion had been an afterthought, and planted in badly-prepared ground the crop turns out an indifferent one. Leeks merit a position open and sunny, where the soil is deep and has been made rich by previous culture and preparation. To have the best that this vegetable is capable of, trenches should be got out in winter or early spring, from 2 feet to 3 feet of the soil being lifted and good stable or farmyard manure worked in the bottom spit. If it is not possible to obtain much manure, then use decayed vegetable refuse or Wakeley's Hop manure. If the trenches are got out in winter it gives one an opportunity of adding manure to them from time to time and working in soot and dressings of bone-meal. If the grower is not in a position to raise plants from seed sown in heat in January or February he should at least procure plants from such a sowing, and after they have been hardened plant them out in April. It will pay him to do this, in that he will be able to have a number with long blanched stems instead of those of only moderate size. It is the long period of growth in richly-prepared ground which produces the finest Leeks. When the trench has been filled up to within about 6 inches of the surface holes should be dibbled early in April 9 inches apart into which the young plants are dropped up to the extremities of the leaves.

The beginner may be dubious about sinking them down a hole almost out of sight, but he need have no fear about them as they will not be long before they assert themselves. Pinch the leaves once or twice during the season, give copious supplies of water should the weather be dry, and feed with liquid-manure. If super-Leeks are wanted fix a board on either side a row and draw soil up to the plants as they grow, taking care to keep soil out of the collars. This will blanch them. Or one may use coils of stiff brown-paper, but not tied tightly. If supported with a stick on both sides it is an easy matter to slip another coil of paper, the object being to blanch them. Considering that Leeks are extremely hardy, can remain in the ground until they are wanted, and have few enemies in the way of insects are reasons why they are worth extra trouble.

OLD GROWER.

Reviving old Cucumbers

Thin out the growth of Cucumbers where these are over-running one another, also cut away all useless shoots, and train in young ones as near as possible to the centre of the plant. If neglected the plants soon become played out, whereas, if old shoots are exchanged for young ones the life of the plant is lengthened very considerably, especially if the fruits are cut before they are fully grown and the roots are top-dressed with a compost of soil, leaves, grit, and manure.

Autumn treatment of Asparagus

Asparagus shoots which have been developing throughout the summer must be cut off close to the ground as soon as the foliage has turned completely brown and the stems are seen to have decayed. Clear away all rubbish and weeds from the beds, taking care not to injure the crowns of the plants, which are mostly very near the surface, and spread a coat of well-decayed farmyard manure on the top of the bed. Other fertilisers needed for Asparagus are best applied in the spring, about the period when growth commences.

G. W. B.

Ripening late Tomatoes

Tomatoes will ripen in the dark. Pack them in flannel in a box and put them in a warm place. Sawdust can be used instead of flannel, just as foreign Tomatoes are packed in a half-ripened condition in barrels with sawdust and ripened on the journey. The fruit should be looked at fair constantly, so that if a Tomato goes bad, either on account of it having been bruised or from being diseased, it can be removed before the other fruit is contaminated.

After frost

Beans, Tomatoes, and Marrows ruined by the first early frosts should be removed to the rubbish heap, and the supports tied into bundles until required next year. The clearance should be followed by a thorough digging, it being unwise to postpone this important task until mid-winter or spring, when incessant rains or prolonged frosts may render digging impossible. G. W. B.

Early October Leave

Plant Cabbages for spring.

* * *

Put out Red Cabbages for pickli

* * *

Keep Shallots in a cool, dry pla

* * *

Frost will not injure Onions in kept dry.

* * *

Earth up Celery.

* * *

Continue to sow hardy Lettuces.

* * *

Expose Tomato fruits to the sun ing overhanging leaves.

* * *

Plant out Strawberry runners.

* * *

Loosen the ties on newly-budded

* * *

Sow Turnips for "tops."

* * *

Radishes may still be sown in t

* * *

Remove tender plants under cover pation of early frost.

* * *

Apples are ready for the store pips are brown.

* * *

Sow Cauliflowers where the plan framed during the winter.

* * *

Overhaul and clean Violets, an the soil between the plants.

* * *

Cease watering established pl doors.

* * *

Keep Geranium cuttings a little side.

* * *

Hoe vigorously.

* * *

Dig early, well, and deeply.

* * *

Apply liquid manure twice Tomato plants bearing fruits.

* * *

Thin out Turnips sown last m dust the seedlings with soot or we

* * *

Finish lifting Potatoes.

* * *

Lift Beet for storing before the month.

* * *

Apply liquid manure to Leeks an as needed.

* * *

Continue to lay in a stock of h

* * *

Store maincrop Carrots betwee sand, ashes, or dry earth.

* * *

Plant out rooted Pink cuttings.

* * *

Remove suckers from climbing

* * *

Plant out rooted Carnation laye

* * *

Put out plants of Polyanthus flowers raised from seed this year

* * *

Continue to plant bulbs in pots

* * *

Overhaul Potatoes recently put

G

Crinums

October presents a favourable unity to plant Crinums, and removal or renovation of old is contemplated, this is a most itable time for the work.

highly decorative bulbous plants a rich soil, such as good, mellow enriched with humus and well drained. The maximum sunlight is desirable, and nowhere s more successfully grown than in der at the base of a wall or in the ders that are so often made at the enhouse walls. In the latter posi- lbs derive a little benefit in winter terior warmth of the house.

bs should be planted deeply—6 w the surface—and, except in calities it is advisable to afford on of straw or Bracken during the ths. Frequent disturbance is in- ked by these beautiful plants, and lonies of several years' duration rovide a wealth of bloom.

t species for outdoor culture are C. Powelli, C. P. alba, and C. Well-established colonies of these provide a distinctive note to any l will ever reap well-merited in- admiration. The noble Lily-like very chaste, are excellent for vork, and fine for exhibition pur- foliage is not the least of the ualities of the Crinum.

ral Order Amaryllideæ possesses

Flowering bulbs in narrow borders at the base of greenhouse walls

Above: Crinum Powelli. *Below:* Belladonna Lilies (Amaryllis Belladonna).

raphical range, thus C. amabile, e species, hails from Sumatra, C. om India, C. cruentum from lst our much-cherished garden or the most part, indigenous to

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Antirrhinums: plants a second year

arrangement is justifiable

nts which have made wood at of flowers during the past sum- ts abnormal amount of rain, stand out prominently. I have re are many like myself who the habit of raising plants every d and treating them as annuals, dering whether it is not policy to ants to remain where they are for the winter and see what they will do another year. That is precisely what I have decided to do on this occasion, and I venture to say that one is justified in keeping them. Said a friend to me one day in September, when looking at a bed of them in my garden, "There is a lot more work in those plants, and it seems a shame to pull them up." If ever there was a season when one could depart from the general practice and grow on the old plants it is surely the present. Some old plants which were left over last winter commenced to bloom in May, and have been blooming ever since, but the spring-raised plants were a long time before they showed bloom, and quite a number have scarcely bloomed at all. The Antirrhinum, as it is known, will continue from year to year in a garden, and therefore a second season from plants that have not done proper duty because of bad weather should prove better next summer. It is well to point out that the old worn-out stems should not be cut from plants until next spring, as they will be some protection should a bad winter ensue. March will be time enough to cut old material away.

W. F.

Bulbs in out of the way corners

There are places in most gardens—out-of-the-way corners—where plants are seldom disturbed. It is there where one should contrive to have a few bulbs to greet one in the spring year by year. Such well-known and always welcome bulbs as Snowdrops, Chionodoxas, Scillas, Crocuses, and the early-blooming Winter Aconites should be considered in the time when bulb lists are being perused. Most of these bulbs, if not indeed all, can be regarded as "fixtures" when once they have been planted, and will seldom need disturbing. I write these lines of reminder within a few yards of one such corner in my garden where for the 'teens of years Snowdrops have appeared every spring and nothing has been done to them beyond giving them a surface dressing of leaf-mould and loam now and again. Muscari (Grape Hyacinths) are delightful grown in clusters, and may be left to themselves for years. I would bespeak a word for the brightening of out-of-the-way corners with bulbs.

LEAHURST.

Eryngiums (the Sea Hollies)

Wherever interest is taken in flowering plants of an "everlasting" character the Eryngiums, or Sea Hollies, are worth considering. Very hardy, and requiring no special culture, they will grow in most gardens where moderately good soil is to be found. Clumps can be planted in late autumn, at which time, also, old-established ones may be divided. Some of the Eryngiums, both on account of their bracts and stems, are very charming, and they are worthy of a place in the back rows of hardy borders. The following are amongst the best varieties:—E. Oliverianum superbum, 4 feet to 5 feet, amethyst-blue; E. hybridum, 2 feet to 3 feet, deep blue; E. giganteum, 3 feet to 4 feet, ivory-white; E. bourgati, 2 feet, steely-blue; and E. amethystinum, 1 foot to 2 feet, amethyst-blue.

MIDLANDER.

Where caterpillars go in the winter

The white butterflies, whose progeny infest the green crops in summer, practically disappear in September, and the caterpillars will seek their winter quarters to await in ambush until the spring. Armies of these caterpillars may sometimes be observed at this season heading for the seclusion of sheds, fences, &c., and the more they are destroyed the less damage will be done to the food crops next year. The tiny yellow cocoons which may be observed clinging to the caterpillars should be preserved, as these will later hatch out ichnuemon flies which are the deadly enemies of the caterpillars.

G. W. B.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

ALPINES

Seeds of Alpines

I have some seeds sent from the mountains in Austria or Switzerland of the following:—Dryas, Anemone, Daphne Mezereum, Aquilegia, Red Berried Elder. Is it best to place seed-pans in a cold frame or would some of them germinate better in heat? Should Rock Dianthus seed be given heat as in the case of Perpetual Carnations? I find some of the Rock Dianthus difficult to strike as they are naturally small. What time and method do you advise? E. L.

[The seeds from Switzerland are all of hardy plants and are much better sown at once in pots or pans of prepared soil. Equal parts of loam and leaf-mould sifted fine and a liberal sprinkling of sharp sand would suit very well. Put an ample layer of clean crocks in the bottom of the receptacles, over this about an inch of the rough material left over from sifting the leaf-mould, and on top of this the prepared soil. This would be all the better if sterilised by a thorough heating through in an oven to destroy seeds of weeds and any small insects or worms which may be present. Sterilising could also be effected by watering the prepared soil with boiling water through a fine-rosed can, but it would have to be dried after this before it would be suitable for filling your pots, unless you were to water the ready-filled pots with the boiling water. When thoroughly drained you could sow your seeds on top and cover very thinly with the same mixture. Personally we prefer the dry sterilising. An old baking-tin filled with the soil placed in a smart oven for a quarter of an hour would result in a fairly perfect sterilisation. The soil, when cooled off, should be firmly and levelly pressed into the pots or pans, leaving a free margin of about ½ inch. When the pots are thus prepared they should be placed into a shallow basin of water reaching about half-way up the pots, and there they should be left until the moisture soaks evenly up to the surface. After that the pots should be allowed to drain for an hour, when you could sow your seeds and thinly cover and press down. Of course, you would label each pot with the name of the seed and the date of sowing to keep some sort of record. We prefer after this to plunge the pots up to the rim into old cinder-ashes in a cold frame, facing north by preference, and drawing a shaded framelight over them. This present time is an excellent time for sowing; in fact, it is Nature's own way to drop the seeds as soon as ripe and leave them to wind and weather. There is no point in trying to hurry the seeds in an attempt to make them germinate this season. They are all the better for lying quietly in the soil until the spring. During snowy weather we advocate that the sheltering light be drawn off and the snow be allowed to accumulate upon the sown pots. But during heavy rains the frames are best closed to keep the small seeds from being washed out. About March or April the seedlings should appear and when large enough to handle should be pricked out and grown on until large enough for their permanent quarters. The seeds of the scarlet Elder and the Daphne Mezereum could be sown in drills in the open ground, especially if you have a quantity of them, but if only a few we should sow in pots like the other seeds. The Rock Dianthus should be treated in the same way as recommended above. There is no point whatever in coddling the seeds of hardy subjects, they are far better and stronger if raised in the Spartan way indicated. There is little difficulty to a skilled propagator in striking cuttings of the hardy Dianthus. Of course, they are mostly much smaller than those of most garden Pinks, but with a little care they can generally be detached with a small heel of the older wood, and if inserted in very sandy soil in pots or pans and placed into a closed cold frame we find that 95 per cent. strike in about three to four weeks, less in some kinds, and quickly grow into useful plants.]

FLOWER GARDEN

A selection of Dahlias

Will you kindly let me know the best six varieties of Cactus Dahlias (all colours) suitable alike for exhibition, but with strong stems for garden decoration; also the six best Decorative Dahlias (mixed colours)? C. C.

[Few of the exhibition Cactus Dahlias are of value for garden embellishment. Although a few of the more recently-introduced novelties have fairly stiff and erect stems, the flowers are more often hidden away amongst the foliage, consequently their usefulness in the garden is lost. A useful selection would be:—Edgar Jackson (salmon-coral, large flowers), Mary Purrier (bright scarlet), Covenanter (crimson-scarlet, very large), Doris Tisdale (yellow at base, gradually suffusing to chestnut-bronze), Pearl (clear cerise), and Flora Treseder (sulphur-yellow). *Re* six large-flowered Decorative Dahlias, the following are excellent:—Jersey Beauty (rich clear pink), Reginald Godfrey (bright crimson), Berengaria (orange-gold), Salmonea (pure salmon), Border King (apricot-yellow, shaded salmon), and President Wilson (brilliant scarlet).]

Planting Tulips and summer flowers

(E. A. M., Beckenham).—So much depends on individual taste in the way of colours that there is difficulty in recommending varieties of Tulips. A rich colour-bed would be a centre of the rich red Gesneriana major banded with Gesneriana lutea pallida and edged with Clara Butt. An alternative combination would be White Queen banded with Salmon King and edged with Margaret. Note that Scilla siberica flowers earlier than the Tulips, so would be over before they opened. You could, however, edge with a good blue Myosotis or Viola. Polyanthuses would be pretty well over by the time the Tulips bloomed. You could carpet with Myosotis should you care to do so. A northern aspect does not lend itself to the use of ordinary annual bedding. Tuberous-rooted Begonias would t right, as would the dwarf Dahlia Coltness Gem type, and even som dwarfer decorative Dahlias would and look charming in a large bed.

Colchicums not flowering

(Convent Garden).—The bulbs l bably been planted in too shady a pl would lead to the over-abundance at the expense of flowers. We heard other complaints about them son; in fact, they are now flowerin St. James's Park and at Kew, but all the sun they can get, especially mer such as we have had this year.

The Wandflower

(A. La T.).—The Latin name of you have in mind is Sparaxis pu It is a very remarkable South Afr which always attracts much attenti summer. From a tuft of narro leaves this handsome subject puts flowering stems some 5 feet or length which, bending over in a lov bear towards their extremities fro eight drooping clusters of large blossoms. These vary in colour fr pink to purple, and there is a whi Though so elegant and finely-d flower-stems are as tough as standing any amount of rough wea out the slightest injury.

Planning a small garden

(James R. Mills).—Your front very small and you do not say w wish it to be enclosed by a live fence so we will presume that you a wooden fence. You can scarcely than form a border 2 feet wide o except that adjoining the house down the remainder in turf. If ble a border 2 feet wide may be n foot of the house wall, enabling y various climbing Roses and You may also want a hard path front of the house between the la and the piece which is to be gra This should be at least 3 feet wid boundary fence you could grow climbing plants either of a perma character or annuals. In the bor Carnations, and Violas.

BACK GARDEN.—We presume 30 feet wide and having a depth and enclosed by a fence which adapted to the support of climb and fruit trees. A path 3 feet w be made to lead from the dwe door down the centre of the garde 4 feet of the furthest fence, finish bower of Roses supported on a arch with a seat beneath. The re the fence should be utilised espalier fruit trees or cordons Pears, Plums, etc. This lea border on each side of 13½ feet part of which could be used for such as Raspberries, Gooseber and Red Currants, Strawberries, kitchen garden crops after setting of 18 feet directly adjoining th means of a low trellis which n according to choice, be arched ov This we propose should be 5 fee the ground-line and furnished w of climbing plants. A border should be made at the front of t side fences and all planted with flowers and bulbs, and edged w alpine flowers, such as Harebe bills, Helichrysums, Saxifrages, the remaining space on each side being grassed down or paved w York stone, with tiny plants put

small border may be necessary along of the house on this side also, which e devoted to summer flowers of a der nature, such as Begonias, Pelar-, or annuals. Wherever the ground red for a fruit tree or climber it e trenched and enriched to a depth and all the other borders, whether for bush fruit, vegetables, or should be trenched and enriched to f at least 2 feet, lime being liberally he process. It is a little difficult to u without having seen the ground , or having a rough sketch, but if this carefully it should prove help-tting your garden into shape.

nting Delphiniums, Dahlias, Border Carnations

. C.).—You can transplant the ms either in October or February Border Carnations in October or ut the Dahlias must be lifted as rost damages them, the stems being to 7 inches from the ground, the roots dug up, dried, and stored in a but frost-proof place until end of en they may be planted where they om, or the roots may be planted in leaf-mould early in March and the hen 4 inches long, used as cuttings, hen rooted, are grown on under il early in May, when they are set frame, gradually hardened off, and ut early in June.

n trouble

K., Claverdon).—The leaves of the s sent are affected with a disease Bacteriosis, and is caused, in the e, by aphides, thrip, or other in-cturing the leaves and leaving a the cells. This will be noted by the gs within the diseased portion. In ances these small punctures do not disease, but through unfavourable such as the present season, the ceive a check and the disease be-ablished. This may also arise from vers from old, worn-out stock, and oils that are wet and heavy, and t contain an insufficient supply of althy plants that are thriving well ke this disease, which is quite dis-Leaf Spot, Fairy Ring Spot, and your stock is good and you cut worst-affected leaves and spray the early spring with Bordeaux Mix-is every chance of them growing is disease. Plant the layers on a and add old lime-rubble and burnt no manure or leaf-soil. Elaine is e very best whites for garden and llow is one of the best yellows.

REES AND SHRUBS

for a west wall and the time ant them

u name, please, one or two hat flower that would do well on all facing west, and what time of best for planting? The Virginian at I have is a strong and quick t, alas! produces no flowers.

"CREEPER."

n scarcely better the following:—Veitchianus, Escallonia Langley-ninum nudiflorum, Clematis Nellie se Climbing Lady Hillingdon, and erin Drouhin.]

on concerning rare Shrubs, etc.

. B.).—(1) Solanum Pseudo-is the Jerusalem Cherry, a small ally grown as specimens in small do not know S. Pseudo-Spino-sum. We suggest you give greenhouse treatment during winter. (2) Fuchsia alpestris is a mountain plant from Brazil and requires greenhouse treatment; flowers crimson. (3) Acacia trinervata is a green-house species from New Holland; flowers yellow, appearing in April. A. Melanoxylon is also a greenhouse shrub from Australia, in which country its bark is used for tanning leather. (4) Rhus brazilensis is a stove species.

FRUIT

An Apple caterpillar

(Harrogate).—Your specimen had changed from the caterpillar stage to a chrysalis when it arrived here. This renders identification rather more difficult, but we think that it is the chrysalis of the Pepper and Salt Moth (Amphidasys betularia). The larva of this moth is one of the so-called "Stick Caterpillars," because when at rest they resemble small twigs remarkably well. The caterpillars, when fully fed, are nearly 2 inches in length, but are very variable in colour. Green, yellow, and brown are some of the colours adopted. The caterpillars are not uncommon, and feed on a number of plants. Apple, Cherry, Rose, Birch, Hawthorn, Poplar, Elm, and Oak are all used as host plants.

Raspberry failing

(Scottish Gardener).—We have examined your specimen Raspberry plant and also incubated the material, and cannot find any trace of disease. The roots, what little was present, appear to be quite sound, as also was the stem. We are inclined to think that the variety is to blame, the name of which you did not mention. We find that varieties of Raspberries have their likes and dislikes with regard to soil and situation, and that because a certain variety does well in one place it does not always follow that the same variety does equally well in another garden. Did you obtain a new variety when you bought in your stock three years ago? In any case we think that you have got hold of either a variety unsuitable to your conditions or a poor strain of a good variety. Your description of the soil and situation does not seem particularly promising for Raspberry cultivation. A good top-dressing with leaf-soil or some other decaying organic matter would no doubt help the plants.

Raspberry cane sample

(W. H. Cartwright).—From the material you have sent it is impossible for us to say what is the matter with your Raspberry canes. The wood of the cane you send appears to us quite healthy except that embedded in the bark here and there are a few black bodies which resemble the resting stage of a fungus. If you will send us in a complete cane and root, together with the foliage, we should be pleased to examine it for you. The material should be sent in a tin box, but it might be cut up into suitable lengths so that the material would fit the box. The root can be washed free from soil to lighten the parcel.

VEGETABLES

Disfigured Tomato leaves

(R. S. T.).—Your Tomato plants are affected by Yellow Spot, a fungus known as Cladosporium dentriticum, which first attacks the lower leaves and reveals itself by causing yellow spots to appear on their surface. The disease soon spreads, and should be dealt with immediately it is observed. Removing and destroying the lower leaves is a good plan if done early, but useless when the disease has got a hold on the leaves high up the stem. Dusting the plants with black sulphur and spraying with Bordeaux Mixture are sometimes successful in checking the disease in its early stages, but badly-affected plants should be burned. The disease finds its ideal fructifying conditions in a close atmosphere, especially during dull, sunless weather, therefore a well-ventilated house with a buoyant, moving atmosphere is the least likely to favour it.

MISCELLANEOUS

Slugs

(H. W. D.).—You can obtain a very efficient slug trap from Mr. J. J. Leaver, ironmonger, Weston-super-Mare, for 2s. 6d. This has been on the market a good many years and was highly commended at an R.H.S. trial some time ago.

Chrysanthemum leaf-miner

(J. C. T. and M. Connell).—We have received your additional specimens of the leaf miner and are feeding them up, and we see no reason why we should not be able to rear them through until they reach the fly stage. We will let you know in due course the name of the pest and details of its life-history if they are available. It is possible that the flies will not emerge until the spring, so you must both be patient. It appears to us that pupation takes place in the soil. If so, the old stocks should be burned up out of the way as soon as you have finished cutting-taking.

NAMES OF PLANTS

(Miss) E. H. D., Salisbury.—Gentiana Pneumonanthe (Marsh Gentian), one of the most beautiful of our native plants.

Regular Reader.—1, Escallonia macrantha; 2, Spiræa Anthony Waterer; 3, Polygonum cuspidatum; 4, probably Spiræa Aitchisoni, but must have a flower to be certain.

R. S. T.—1, Lysimachia vulgaris; 2, Senecio Doronicum.

H. F.—1, Eupatorium Weinmannianum; 2, Abelia chinensis; 3, Escallonia floribunda; 4, Spiræa Anthony Waterer.

W. C. Brockham.—1, Rose G. C. Waud; 2, Veronica Andersoni variegata; 3, Euphorbia Wulfeni.

Pakheha.—Lycium barbarum.

J. L. F.—Agathæa cœlestis, so named from its heavenly blue flowers. It is a native of the Cape of Good Hope, and was introduced to this country as far back as 1759. It is interesting to learn that the seed was picked up last year in the South of Spain.

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the importance of sending only good typical specimens for naming, and not less than two or three fruits of each variety.

A. C., Devon.—1, The Queen; 2, Gascoigne's Scarlet; 3, Allington Pippin (small sample); 4, Sturmer Pippin.

W. G. F., Woking.—1, Crawley Beauty; 2, Norfolk Beauty.

A. H. M.—Pears too small for identification. It is not possible to name poor fruits from old trees.

C. I. M., Berwickshire.—So far as we can ascertain this fine Apple is unnamed. Probably a seedling from Ecklinville, of which there are a fair number.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

J. R. Pearson and Sons, Ltd., Lowdham, Notts.—Bulbs.

Barr and Sons, 11, 12, and 13, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C. 2.—Bulbs, including Anemones, Hyacinths, Lilies, and Tulips.

George Bunyard and Co., Ltd., Maidstone.—Fruit trees.

T. Smith, Daisy Hill Nursery, Newry.—Hardy bulbs—Tulips, Hyacinths, Narcissus, Lilies, Gladioli, and Freesias.

Burpee's New SWEET PEAS

for 1928

ADORABLE

A delightful shade of clear salmon-cerise on a cream ground. There is just a suspicion of bronze around the edge of the standard which, together with the bronzy suffused reverse, adds a glistening sheen to a bunch of Adorable.

Strong and sturdy, the many four-flowered sprays are borne on long stems in the greatest profusion.

HAPPINESS

A lovely shade of coral-pink on cream. The wings are slightly deeper and shade to rose-pink. A tone of light salmon overlies the standard and wings, and the lemon blotch at the base of the standard gives the finishing touch to a flower of wonderful beauty When bunched the colour effect is a bright rosine-pink with a rose suffusion.

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Award of Merit. 1926, The Scottish National Sweet Pea, Rose, and Carnation Society. Brilliant Rose is a marvellous new shade—glowing bright Tyrian rose with a scintillating suffusion of bronzy rose. Clear and sparkling Distinct from all others and more desirable than any in its colour class. Brilliant Rose is of such pure and glistening colour that other rose varieties appear dull by comparison.

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A great, big flower, vigorous and free blooming—the first of the Ruffled Sweet Peas. A new type, duplexed and frilled, with long-stemmed, well proportioned sprays of four almost globular flowers.

A lovely rich rose-pink, a gleam of soft salmon, and a bright creamy undertone blend into a harmonious cream-pink shade that must be seen to be appreciated.

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No matter how small the orchard, or whether you have only one or two fruit trees in the garden, it will pay you to use Stictite Tree Banding Compound. It traps the crawling Insects—Winter, March, and Mottled Umber Moths—and so prevents the laying of thousands of eggs which would otherwise hatch out in the Spring.

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Tulips in 6 best early flowering dbl. var., 1st size,	12/-	,,
Tulips in 6 best Darwin var., 1st size	6/-	,,
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Tulips in 10 best Breeder var., 1st size	16/-	,,
Narcissus Poetaz Elvira	1/4	doz.
Narcissus Poetaz Laurens Koster	1/6	,,
Narcissus Poetaz Aspasia	1/6	,,
Narcissus Poetaz Admiration	2/3	,,
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Iris, Spanish, best var.	3/-	,,
Anemones, St. Brigid	8/6	,,
Anemones, De Caen	6/-	,,
Polyanthus Narcissus in 5 var.	12/-	,,
Ranunculus in 10 var.	6/-	,,

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BLACKMORE & LANGD BATH

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GREAT AUTUMN SHOW

great Autumn Show, held at the nd Park Hall from September 28th th inclusive, will long be remem- the brilliant and extensive displays as, Michaelmas Daisies, Roses, Carnations, Gladioli, and Orchids. great extent it was a Dahlia and as Daisy Show.

ROSES

ses are not as good as we have seen there are more of them. The com- r the Wigan Challenge Cup for the bit brought forth all the leading f the country, and the exhibits ex- the entire length of the spacious ark Hall. Passing down this long utumn Roses we were impressed by y of such well-known and beautiful Ophelia, Mme. Butterfly, Shot Silk, nry Morse, Los Angeles, Lady and Betty Uprichard. Of the oses, Mabel Morse and Golden are both well shown, despite the nplaints, both in the trade and mateurs, about modern yellow he beautiful single Rose, Mermaid, nted in many stands, and some le-flowered Roses that are particu- are Col. Oswald Fitzgerald (dark Lady Helen Maglona (dark red), ith Helen (the best of the new l Bedford Crimson, which has been y well shown this year. The com- r the Wigan Cup was keener than was won by S. McGredy and Son cond year in succession—another r Irish Roses.

BEGONIAS

e point of view of finish and quality ever seen anything to equal Black- Langdon's Begonias, and there sitation in awarding the Corona- o this exhibit, of the highest cul- dard. Every plant is a perfect and some of the blooms, of fault- are over 9 inches across. Perhaps riety ever shown is the outstand- a, with large, full, double flowers, or red. This exhibit included the arieties:—Hilda Langdon (pink), ngdon (orange-red), Mrs. E. red), Queen of Belgians (pink), man (golden-yellow), and Mona full and double-flowered.

Sutton and Sons have a large and exhibit of their well-known double Begonias, displayed in a ar bed 22 feet in diameter, all the ng been raised from seed sown in t. Amongst the principal varie- are Double Yellow, Double uble Crimson, Double White, y Queen, Double Salmon Pink, nk, Double Orange, Double ble Picotee, Double Blush, and ton's Duplex, Dame Primrose, 's Duplex (mixed colours). It surprise to many to learn that ias come true from seed and will me year.

CARNATIONS

Mr. G. Engelmann, Saffron Walden, has a beautiful table-group of perpetual-flowering Carnations at the north-western corner of the hall. Here he displays these flowers at their best, set up in bronzed receptacles, using large and small vases most effectively. The more noteworthy varieties are: Dorcas (crimson), Snow White, Saffron (pale yellow), Orange Sunstar (bizarre), Rouge (brilliant scarlet), Laddie (salmon pink), Mrs. Hamilton Fell-wes (beautiful purple), Maine Sunshine (sulphur yellow), Red Laddie (reddish scarlet), Blanche (new white), Janet (cerise pink), Jazz (bizarre), Nero (crushed strawberry, flaked crimson), Topsy (crimson), and Evelyn (soft cerise pink, edged white). The group is finished off with Asparagus Sphrengheri and Smilax.

At the south-west corner of the huge hall, Messrs. Allwood Bros., Haywards Heath, Sussex, have made another of their very striking displays of their perpetual flowering Carnations, perpetual border Carnations, and Allwoodii, the whole exhibit making a noteworthy display. Among the perpetual varieties are: Edward Allwood (scarlet), Topsy (crimson), Eldorn (scarlet, flaked on white ground), Master M. Stoop (cerise pink, very fine), Triumph (crimson), Laddie (salmon pink), Red Laddie (red scarlet), and White Pearl. The representation perpetual flowering border Carnations and Allwoodii pinks are both quite interesting. The hanging baskets in this group are very effective.

A charming exhibit on the southern side of the building is put up by Messrs. Stuart Low Co., Bush Hill Park, Enfield, all tastefully arranged. Receptacles in pleasing variation are utilised to display such per-

The lovely deep pink Begonia Corienta

The pick of the double-flowered Begonias shown by Blackmore and Langdon in their group which gained the Coronation Cup for the most meritorious exhibit at the Holland Park Hall Show

petual-flowering Carnations as Topsy (crimson), Happidais (salmon buff, a novelty for 1928), Ruby Glow (crimson), Queen Mary (another novelty for 1928, dark plum colour), and other sorts such as White Enchantress, Fragrant Rose, Eileen Low, White Pearl, and Melchet Beauty, a mauve flushed scarlet novelty for 1928.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

The early-flowering border sorts and those especially suited for market are freely shown. A really magnificent table group of cut blooms is shown by Messrs. Keith Luxford and Co., Sawbridgeworth, Essex. Beautiful clean flowers of the following that are especially noteworthy are Perle Chatillonaise and its bronzy-yellow sport, J. Bannister, Framfield Early White, Golden Cranfordia, Mary Mason (deep rose pink), September White Armorel (bronze), and Cranford Pink. The better undisbudded varieties are Mrs. Jack Pearson (bronze), Phœnix (bright scarlet crimson), Mrs. Phil Page, Horace Martin (yellow), Vernon (bronze), Cranford Cream, Miss Mattie (yellow), and the beautiful rich yellow Cranford.

Mr. H. Woolman, Shirley, near Birmingham, with his miscellaneous table group, has good disbudded examples of Jack Robbins, the new bronzy-apricot, Red Ensign (crimson and gold), and Radio (bronzy yellow).

Mr. J. W. Forsyth, Putteridge, Luton, Beds., has a grand bank of these flowers in the pink of condition, using stands of various character arranged on mossy banks. The better disbudded varieties are Perle Chatillonaise, September Glory (apricot), Mrs. Phil Page (bronzy-chestnut), Salmon Profusion (salmon-buff), Pink Favourite (pink, white centre), Charlotte Harley (crimson, gold reverse), Bedford Beauty (not unlike Pink Delight), September White, Minstrel (deep crimson), Shirley Bronze (deep bronzy-apricot), Bronze Early Buttercup (bronzy-yellow, incurving), Hollicot Yellow, Wembley (deep crimson), and many others.

A glorious group of disbudded and undisbudded varieties of Chrysanthemums is put up by Mr. William Yandell, Maidenhead, the flowers being beautifully fresh and well coloured. Of the undisbudded sort we had a preference for a few sorts of merit, but the great strength of this exhibit lay in its fine representation of the disbudded varieties. The better varieties were September Glory (yellow), Crimson Circle (a lovely rich crimson), Harvester (bright bronzy-yellow), Golden Almirante, Almirante, Sanctity (white), Bronze Buttercup (a lovely bronze), Mrs. Phil Page (bronze-chestnut), Red Almirante (brilliant crimson-chestnut), and Minstrel (deep reddish-crimson).

In the gallery is a group of Chrysanthemums and Dahlias shown by the King's Acre Nurseries, Ltd., Hereford. Here are to be seen both disbudded and undisbudded sorts. Of the former the better kinds are September White, Mme. Marie Massé, Goldfinder (rich yellow), Mrs. Phil Page, Martin Reed (yellow), Betty Spark, and Berengaria. The undisbudded sorts are well represented by Harvester, Phœnix, Horace Martin, Mayford White, Goldfinder, and Marie Massé.

DAHLIAS

One of the finest displays of Dahlias ever seen at this great autumn show is put up by Messrs. Dobbie and Co., Ltd., Edinburgh. It is in the form of a huge circular group and the arrangement of the many and various stands and receptacles leaves nothing to be desired. All types of the Dahlia are represented, although the small-flowered, such as the Miniature-flowered Pæony, Collarette, Pompons, and Mignons, are in the ascendant. The group is surmounted by a graceful Palm and edged with Pterises. The more noteworthy small-flowered sorts of the Pæony type are Joyce Hardy, Rosie Supreme, Moorkop, Dazzle, Irma (rose-pink), Our Annie, and Lucisa. The better Collarettes are Glen Devon, Glengarry, Gloriosa, Trossachs (white), Holyrood, Pitlochry, and Glencoe. Good Mignons are Pink Coltness, Dinkie (yellow), Peter Pan (crimson), and Paisley Gem (orange-terra-cotta). The large Decoratives and the Pompons are also most noteworthy.

The group of Mr. H. J. Jones, Ryecroft Nursery, Lewisham, S.E., is a picture of neatness and beauty. The arrangement made by this well-known floral artist is, indeed, most charming. He has stands of consistent size, and, we think, rather detracted from the richness of the colouring by using Gypsophila for embellishment. His most striking sorts are Jersey Beauty, Cavalier, Reginald Godfrey (the best crimson), Robert Treat, The Clown, Acclamation, and Macdonald. His colour arrangement is superb.

A grand group is also arranged by Mr. J. B. Riding, Chingford, Essex. The group contains many novelties and is especially noteworthy for this reason. We feel attention should be called to the following large-flowered Decorative sorts:—Purple King (purple), Mabel Lawrence (scarlet), Sheba (cerise-pink), Berengaria (light bronzy-yellow), Jack Hobbs (cream), Shudaw's Lavender, Mme. E. Ludwig (velvety-crimson), Canary (yellow), Rosa Nell (rich rosy-carmine), and Susan G. Lewis (deep mauve). Miniature-flowered Pæonies, Pompons, and small Decoratives are also shown advantageously.

Messrs. James Stredwick and Son, St. Leonards-on-Sea, have a table group of Dahlias showing high culture. These comprise mainly large-flowered Decoratives and Cactus varieties, and for both types of the Dahlia this firm is famous. Of the Cactus sorts we prefer F. W. Fellows, Essex Mammoth, Doreen Woolman, Stedfast, Nanette, Buccaneer, Rev. H. C. Weaver, and Elsie Prior. Of the large-flowered Decorative sorts we liked Mrs. S. Sandeman (cerise pink), Leviathan (amber yellow), Thos. Hay, V.M.A. (mauve-lavender), W. D. Cartwright (bronzy-yellow), Canberra (scarlet), and Mrs. A. W. Piper (cream and flesh).

Mr. Chas. Turner, Slough, set up a table group which includes several types of the Dahlia, including many very pretty sorts. The pretty Cactus-like Decorative Joyce Goddard (scarlet and yellow), Emma Groot (mauve), and Sulphuren (pale yellow) are all good large-flowered sorts. Winter Sun, Our Annie, Nora Bell, and Dazzle are the more noteworthy miniature-flowered Pæony varieties.

As usual, Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons, Ltd., Crawley, Sussex, exhibit Dahlias in a very pretty group, the display representing a mass of the brightest colours. Large and small-flowered Decoratives are well shown, and the miniature-flowered Pæony sorts are most attractive. The dainty Star Dahlias are superbly shown, a few of the better sorts being Epsom Star (scarlet), Horsham Star, Gatton Star (salmon-cerise), Burford Star (rich terra cotta), Primrose Star, and Milton Star (rose-pink). The Mignons are most interesting, convincing us of their beauty for the border.

Mr. G. W. Miller, Wisbech, has a number of Dahlias in varying forms, in his interesting miscellaneous group.

Messrs. Hewitt, of Solihull, set up a number of good Dahlias in their miscellaneous table group. Decorative, Cactus, and other types are represented in this display.

Mr. H. Clarke, Taunton, puts up a striking little table group, in which he makes the most of his space. Unfortunately he had not labelled his varieties when we were making our notes of his display, but the varieties he showed were quite new and choice, a prised several types of this showy su

[Owing to pressure of space, the re of the report will appear in our nex

LIST OF AWARDS

THE CORONATION CUP

For the most meritorious group.—To Messrs. and Langdon, for a Group of Begonias.

THE WIGAN CUP

For the best exhibit of Roses.—To Messrs. S and Son.

GOLD MEDALS

C. Engelmann, Ltd., for Carnations; Blac Langdon, for Begonias; Dobbie and Co., fo G. Bunyard and Co., Ltd., for Fruit; S. McGre for Roses.

SILVER CUPS

Allwood Bros., for Carnations; John Peed a Greenhouse Plants; Dickson and Robinson, f J. B. Riding, for Dahlias; W. Treseder, Ltd., fo J. C. Allgrove, for Fruit; Barnham Nurseries Fruit; J. Cheal and Sons, Ltd., for Shrubs; Hillie for Trees and Shrubs; George Prince, for Roses son, for Roses.

SILVER GILT FLORA MEDALS

Austin and McAslan, for Gladioli; Stuart a for Orchids and Carnations; James Carter a Greenhouse Flowering Plants; Sutton and Begonias; Jarman and Co., for Dahlias; H J Dahlias; G. Reuthe, for Trees and Shrub Bros., Ltd., for Roses; Alex. Dickson and Son Roses; G. Jackman and Son, for Mixed Group and Herbaceous Plants; L. R. Russell, Ltd Group of Clematis, Hardy Climbers, and Mi Plants; R. Wallace and Co., Ltd., for Mixe Shrubs and Bulbous and Herbaceous Plants.

SILVER GILT BANKSIAN MEDA

S. Smith, for Cacti, Succulents, and Miniatu Carter Page and Co., for Dahlias; J. Stredwic for Dahlias; J. T. West, for Dahlias; H. W Dahlias; A. Charlton and Sons, for Trees a Maxwell and Beale, for Heather Garden; R. for Shrubs; J. Waterer, Sons, and Crisp, Ltd., Conifers, and Roses; B. R. Cant and Sons Roses; Elisha J. Hicks, for Roses; J. H. Pem Roses; D. Prior and Sons, Ltd., for Roses; Junr., for Michaelmas Daisies and other Plants; King's Acre Nurseries, for Dahlias a themums; Amos Perry, for Herbaceous Plan Ltd., for Herbaceous Plants; M. Prichard a Herbaceous Plants.

SILVER FLORA MEDALS

Ernest Ballard, for Michaelmas Daisies; J. for Chrysanthemums; K. Luxford and Co., f themums; Wm. Yandell, for Chrysanthemums Reg. Winder, Ltd., for Dahlias; J. Cheal and for Dahlias; Robt. Green, Ltd., for Bay Tre kert, for Topiary; W. Easlea and Sons, for R Mattock, for Roses; A. Warner and Son, for Outbush and Son, for Mixed Group of Dahlia stemons; Isaac House and Son, for Mixed Scabious, Kniphofias, and Herbaceous Plants and Sons, for Herbaceous Plants; B. Ladham Lobelias and other Herbaceous Plants; J. W and Crisp, Ltd., for Herbaceous Plants; W. E. sen, for Rock Garden Plants and Dwarf C Shrubs; James MacDonald, for "Lawn Garde

SILVER BANKSIAN MEDALS

R. H. Bath, Ltd., for Gladioli; R. and G. Cu for Streptocarpus and Crassula; Stuart L Greenhouse Plants; Charles Turner, for Dahlia Bros., Ltd., for Shrubs and Conifers; Holl series, for Trees and Shrubs; D. Stewart an for Shrubs; Frank Cant and Co., for Shrubs; for Aquatic Plants; Orpington Nurseries Co Group of Gladioli and Michaelmas Daisies; for Michaelmas Daisies and Helianthuses Elliott, Ltd., for Rock Garden.

FLORA MEDALS

T. Bones, for Michaelmas Daisies; W. Sy Michaelmas Daisies; H. Clarke, for Dahlias; for Trees and Shrubs; Dowty's Rosery, for R and Ingram, for Roses; Chalk Hill Nurseri baceous Plants; W. H. Rogers and Son, Ltd Group of Alpine Plants, Dwarf Shrubs, and Plants; E. F. Fairbairn and Sons, for Phloxes

BANKSIAN MEDALS

Orpington Nurseries Co., Ltd., for Dwarf Shrubs; Backhouse Nurseries (York), Ltd. Group of Dwarf Shrubs and Alpine Plants; for Rock Garden; W. F. Gullick, for Her Bulbous Plants; Hewitt and Co., Ltd., for Mi Delphiniums, Dahlias, and Herbaceous Pla and Agar, for Mixed Group of Dahlias, Gladi themums, and Herbaceous Plants; Wm. Wo Ltd., for Mixed Group of Michaelmas Daisies ceous Plants; F. Rich, for Mixed Group of Daisies and other Herbaceous Plants; H. W Mixed Group of Chrysanthemums and Dahlias Skarratt, for Mixed Group of Herbaceous P Plants, and Dwarf Shrubs; G. Gibson and Co ceous Plants; Gavin Jones, for Herbaceous P

SILVER HOGG MEDALS

A. P. Brandt, Esq. (Gardener, J. W. Barks) E. J. Parsons, for Fruit.

SILVER KNIGHTIAN MEDAL

Thyne and Son, for Potatoes.

HOGG MEDALS

Stuart Low Co., for Figs; W. M. Seabro Ltd., for Fruit.

ARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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The Best Time to Plant Clematis

tober is the best month for planting this the most beautiful of all climbing shrubs. Useful hints on planting Clematis will be found on this page

NG the hardy climbing flowering s of the garden the Clematises hold nique position. They are unrivalled , in freedom of flowering, while hardy standpoint these plants hold with any others blooming at the . Are there any climbers to com- Clematis for the filling up of odd nd for climbing rustic poles or the both these ways they are highly l, and once established give but le from year to year. Equally well these things for clambering over Conifers and other trees that have d their prime, and then given an edom usually make a really fine There is yet another way in which ts should be more frequently seen, s as trailing plants. In this way rockeries or high mounds or may be beautified in a way such as but little idea of now, while the nass of colour ow them to As cover- alls and build- nes, pergolas, places the s always em- re frequently, an any other d it certainly this.

egard to its but little id beyond the he plants de- deep, rich prefer a cool holding soil. these plants hen planted wall in the d how often either wholly or if not this, e or less decline in vigour when inst a house- e by cellars ound rooms rendered far is more or knowledge. with roots in shaded or ots and the full light s are a per- s. Of late, not a few complaints have been heard respecting the sudden collapse of the plants, the failing usually occurring at the base near where the plant is worked. How far the present method of grafting may be responsible for this cannot be determined; possibly it is not to be blamed at all, or it may have much to do with it, and in this way: By the remnants of an aperture where fungoid spores may rest till the conditions for its attack are present. It is highly probable the attack is of a fungoid nature. Whatever the cause it should tempt those who would have a show of these things in their gardens to raise plants by layering, and by the still easier method of seedlings. Indeed, this latter appears the better way of overcoming the difficulty, or rather of avoiding it, and by raising the plants quite hardily and generally in the open to avoid the feebleness of growth that is sure to accompany in some degree the plants raised under glass. The varieties of these are endless. The variety Mrs. George Jackman is the finest of satin white sorts. Other excellent forms include the several varieties of Jackmani and Viticella, all very free and profuse, while Miss Bateman, Fairy Queen, Nellie Moser, Lady Londesborough, Lady Caroline Neville, Standishi, Henryi, Othello, Gipsy Queen, Stella, and Star of India would make a choice assortment of the plants for anyone wishing to start with a few distinct kinds.

October blooms of Clematis Mrs. George Jackman
Large satin-white flowers of the Azure type

Clematis: The importance of firm planting

Having noticed in a recent number of Gardening Illustrated a correspondent's letter on their difficulty in Clematis growing, and the expert explanation of many such failures, may I, as an amateur who in the past has suffered the same disappointments, tell how the fault in my case lay in my method of planting? My plants were in each case procured from a firm the excellence of whose plants was undoubted; and it was only after many disappointments that I learnt that my planting, though correct with mortar-rubble and soil mixed, was *much* too loose—a fault that I am afraid we amateurs do not sufficiently realise, but which with Clematis appears to be fatal. Now, having once received a lesson from a skilled old friend, I no longer fear to plant Clematis. Following his example, into an 18-inch deep hole I put in some 6 inches of rubble and good soil, mixed and well beaten down for a firm foundation. A pot-bound plant in my case, I was not allowed to loosen its roots, but just as it was it was surrounded by more soil and rubble, taking care to jam down each layer with the butt end of the spade or one's foot until 2 inches of earth com-

pleted the job on top. The five plants I have since had treated in this way have all done well from the beginning. K. A. F. T.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Ostrowskia magnifica

SEVERAL readers have questioned the name of the plant figured in our Correspondence pages as Ostrowskia magnifica (issue September 24th), and on making inquiries we are of the opinion that our correspondent has been misinformed, and that the plant in question is a Campanula, probably Campanula lactiflora. Ostrowskia magnifica, which belongs to the Campanula family, is a difficult plant to grow in England. There are a few places, notably on deep, sandy loam, where it is well grown, and the late Sir Michael Foster grew it successfully at Shelford, but, generally speaking, it is disappointing. It is a very remarkable and handsome hardy plant with flowers like a huge Platycodon. Known as the Great Oriental Bellflower, it is a native of the mountains of Central Asia. The flowers, about 5 inches across, are white or delicate purple, and veined as shown in the accompanying illustration. Ostrowskia sends down a brittle, Carrot-like root to a depth of 2 feet. Needless to add, it dislikes disturbance at the root.

Figs and Vines in the open

The promise of fruit, both on Figs and Vines, was good, but, alas! owing to the wet and sunless summer it is very doubtful if either perfected their fruit save in warm and sheltered positions. Tomatoes are in a similar case, but, of course, these are short-lived plants compared with Figs or Vines. I have noticed that Fig trees are often planted in exposed positions, owing, perhaps, to the comparatively little liking in which the fruit is held. Figs in a colder quarter are useless, and it is folly to plant a heat-loving subject in an unfavourable quarter when the position would, perhaps, be ideal for choice Plums and Pears. Unless Vines are planted in a sunny position and warm soil the fruit does not ripen until October in a most favourable year, but in a season like the present there is little chance of their ripening. For outdoor work good hardy varieties must be

Ostrowskia magnifica, the Great Oriental Bellflower

planted. I have seen delicate indoor varieties beautifully trained by amateurs on outdoor walls, and year after year have been disappointed because the fruit fails to ripen. A few reliable Vines for a warm soil or fence in an average season are Miller's Burgundy, Sweet Water, and Black Cluster. F. H.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Gentiana Sturmiana?

I READ with considerable interest Mr. Markham's notes on the above-named plant. The more so as a few days ago I had the pleasure of seeing the plant growing and flowering profusely in the raised border at Gravetye.

The light was beginning to fail when I saw the plant, and I cannot be certain of the colour, but incline to think it lilac with a considerable touch of rose in it. What I did notice was that the corolla consisted of four segments only, and that the throat of the flowers was densely fringed with long hairs of the same colour as the segments of the flower. I have no doubt in pronouncing the plant an annual, but in any case it is a most acceptable plant for the autumn border or the rock garden.

Being so interested in the plant I made a most exhaustive search in every good handbook I could lay my hands on, and also searched through untold trade lists of hardy plants and seeds without, however, finding a mentioning of the name G. Sturmiana.

My impression was that it might be a vigorous form of G. campestris, but I did not ask for a specimen flower, and cannot recollect whether the calyx consisted of four unequal or five equal lobes, which would have settled my doubt on this point; but hunting through books has given me a line which may lead to the identification of this handsome plant.

At first sight, seeing the large fringed flowers, I thought it might be the sub-form of G. Amarella, known as G. germanica (Willd), but the corolla divided into four segments ruled that form out. In carefully reading up G. Amarella in Bentham and Hooker's "British Flora" I came across a further variety of the Autumn Gentian (G. Amarella) = G. uliginosa (Willd), and read that this form divided its corolla into four segments, too, and thus seemed to unite G. Amarella to G. campestris.

I cannot recollect ever having seen G. uliginosa, but there remains little doubt in my mind that Gentiana Sturmiana as grown at Gravetye is in all probability this plant, and shall be glad if Mr. Markham wo material for identification to some co botanist to disprove or confirm my s

W. E. TH. INGW

Gold medals for bad Rose

Hearing of gold medals and man given to a Rose, I planted a large Souv. de Claudius Pernet in deep two positions. The result was that they never opened a flower.

The Golden Emblem, a much Rose, was given one of our best good, deep soil, and has turned ou grower.

I have made a rule not to plant a Roses in my flower garden until I h them elsewhere.

Gravetye, Sussex.

Easy method of propagating amateurs

May I add a few suggestions to y clear and informative answer to "I your issue of October 1st? Having b successful in raising plants from cutt seeds over a long period I have f best results from either fine Moss Cocoanut-fibre, with a liberal adm fairly coarse sand or grit—even fine tiles or bricks—is a very successful All sorts of cuttings root quickly in method is a large box (well coa creosote or solignum to keep down raised on bricks or what not, half-fi the fibre mixture, and the cutting pushed into it (without pressure) roo —Fuchsias and Hydrangeas in ab weeks or so. Hard-wood plants tak but there are few failures in the lon

In another box have coal-cinders, to sink the seed-pots (filled with medium), and it is advisable to hav light to put on in wet weather, othe seeds seem to germinate better in air. A fine wire-netting over the c good, as it keeps off cats, birds, and

Wilmot's (of Bristol) "Covent iron frame is good, as it has three panes of glass and is both fungus proof. C

Isle of Wight.

Maintaining putting gree

An article in a recent issue of porary deals illuminatingly with that is exciting much interest at th time, and that is the best means taining a suitable growth of gras courses, particularly on putting gre golfer, and the same remark is to the bowler, demands a very high of excellence, such as a complete a weeds, a thick carpet of fine grass killing, or driving away, of worms destructive larvæ as leather-jacke problem appears to be much mo in America than here. This is wondered at; Britain is *par exc* grass-growing country. There is turf to be found in the world tha be found on the west of Englanc land. The golfer who has not Machrihanish or Machrie, for exa not seen the finest golfing turf in try; and every bowler recognises lative value of Cumberland turf. ist can analyse these turfs. "Red is the predominating species no what about the particular strain, the seedsman supply it?

We learn from the article to wh ence has been made that the Amer been employing the best of scien to investigate the golf green prob far their solution is twofold. First leaved grasses, such as the Fescue best when the soil gives an acid

nd, that repeated and heavy dress-
ulphate of ammonia not only result
id soil, they also, when combined
uitable organic compost, improve
eyond all expectation, killing weeds
ng away worms. We learn that
e auspices of Nitram, Ltd., the
plan is being tried on a number
ourses up and down the country.
toke Poges course striking success
dy followed the venture. An in-
point is that for many years past
een taught to believe by the Cockle
ool of thought that nitrogenous
are harmful to grassland. There
le doubt, however, that the North-
l dogma does not apply to grass
kept continuously short, either by
ng or mowing. How far American
in relation to the maintenance of
from ours is a proper subject for
nd no doubt the matter will be
a result of the experiments now
At any rate, every green-keeper
periment for himself. If we are
our pre-eminence as golfers to
as some may say, we should still
teach our cousins how best to
s. B.

Monks' Rhubarb

X ALPINUS, a near relation of the
on Dock, may well be used as a
of good foliage for such places as
between shrubs. The rather large
deep green with reddish stalks.
ot appear to be damaged by any
ssibly because of the acidity of
s. It also has the old name of
nce. The name Monk's Rhubarb
s former use as a medicinal plant.
, from the account in Gerard's
that the leaves at least were so
gives an amusing instance of the
t of Herb Patience as a medicine.
"A notable experiment I learned
ohn Bennet, a Chirurgeon, of
in Kent, a man as slenderly
myself." It appears that Dr.
not know what was the proper
apply to a butcher's boy suffering
gue, "as he himselfe confessed to
e gave him a strong decoction of
leaves of Monk's Rhubarb. The
more drastic than had been in-
it "wrought extremely" for a
Fortunately, the boy was strong
withstand the treatment. It is
to have a tuft or two of Patience
en yard, for the use of a leaf for
few seedlings that may be de-
passing friend, for the whole leaf
and yet lissom that it can be
p into a ball like a handkerchief
ng torn or broken. G. J.

erpillars and leaf-miners

t occasions I have noticed in
ILLUSTRATED inquiries made re-
es for caterpillars and leaf-min-
The two insecticides mentioned
been on the market for some
and my experiences with them
to me that they are genuine if
y. That is, the user must make
l parts of the plants and bushes,
operly covered with the spray.
llar, Katakilla; for leaf-mining
chards' XL All Leaf-Miner In-

experience with the Leaf-Miner
was made about a month ago
s. I had a frame of Cinerarias,
the young leaves getting dis-
hose maggots. I happened to
e above insecticide, so procured
ew days later. After one spray-
ing the leaf-miners' marks grew less. After a fortnight's interval I sprayed again. Now there is only an odd mark or two. On some few leaves also I noticed a distinct improvement on the growth of the Cineraria leaves. I have used this insecticide for over two years now on anything troubled with this pest. I have no doubt as regards results if users will follow the instructions given on the bottle, and do the work thoroughly.

Re Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles in Scotland, issue September 24th, page 592. My experience of East Yorks. is that there are some very exposed and bleak parts, which I have found colder than some parts of Scotland that I know. C. F.

East Yorks.

Monks' Rhubarb, formerly used as a medicinal plant

Self-sown seedlings

May I add my testimony to the accuracy of the statement of "A Scottish Gardener"? In these gardens at the present time can be seen the following plants, all of which are from self-sown seed of the previous summer: Lobelia (sapphire var.), good plants in full flower; Cosmos, plants in full flower 3½ feet high; Nicotiana affinis, full flower; Ageratum, coming into flower; Asters (single), good, strong plants in flower; Clarkia, strong plants in flower; Pyrethrum aureum, in flower and good plants; Alyssum (Little Dorrit), in full flower; and hundreds of Antirrhinums have been in flower for weeks. I have planted no Ageratum on the place for two years, and am not mistaken with regard to the others. The gardens here have no protection and it is very bleak. The anomaly of half-hardy annuals withstanding severe frosts can, in my opinion, be accounted for by the fact that during digging operations for planting spring bedding the seeds are dug in at a depth that protects them from frosts, and that they are only brought to the surface again when the soil is returned for the following summer bedding in June, when all frosts are gone. But in the case of these self-sown Lobelias of mine, which are growing on the edge of a rockery, these were certainly not turned in to any depth. H. W. FRENCH.

Bentley Park, Doncaster.

—— It may be of interest to your readers, anent the correspondence on "Self-Sown Seedlings," to hear that in the interstices of a stone-paved terrace in front of my home lovely little plants of self-sown Lobelia appear annually and flower until cut off by frost. The only plants of this species anywhere near are grown in window boxes on the house above, and this year none were

used, which proves conclusively that the plants now blooming so profusely must have grown from seed wafted thither about a year ago.

It is wonderful how they withstand the severe cold of our northern winters, with the stone flags often thickly covered with ice and snow, whilst 10 degs. and 20 degs. of frost are frequently registered on the house.

M. F. REYNARD.

Bedale, Yorks.

Eustoma (Lisianthus) Russellianus

I was much interested in the article by Mr. Hay, of Hyde Park, in the issue of September 10th, and which dealt with Lisianthus Russellianus. At one time I used it in considerable numbers—not, however, for bedding purposes, but as a greenhouse plant. My method was to raise plants from seed (although, occasionally, I propagated L. Russellianus by means of cuttings) and to grow the seedlings steadily on in a partly-spent hotbed until they were in 8-inch pots. So treated, good specimens might attain to a stature of 30 inches or thereby, and with their glaucous foliage and their beautiful purplish-blue, funnel-shaped flowers, produced at the axils they were striking subjects in the conservatory, and always arrested the attention of visitors. I rather fear L. Russellianus would not be an entire success as a bedding plant in Scotland, save, perhaps, in the more favoured places near the coast—Monreith or Logan, for example. I had, at times, a certain amount of trouble, and more especially during dull weather, with mildew among the plants, but the fungus readily yielded to treatment. It would be interesting to learn if mildew affected the plants in Hyde Park during this fickle summer. I wonder, too, if Mr. Hay knows whether L. princeps is still in cultivation. It is, I think, one of the most exquisite plants which I ever grew, and it is altogether different from L. Russellianus. The blooms are tubular, almost 6 inches in length, rather swollen in the middle, with a spreading five-lobed limb. The colour is a rich crimson shading off into golden-orange at either end, the segments of the limb being of a vivid green. It was truly a striking plant, but I have lost sight of it for over a quarter of a century.

W. McG.

Mabie.

The Gladiolus

"That grand flower the Gladiolus was well represented at the last Crystal Palace Flower Show, Mr. Kelway alone sending in one batch 600 cut blooms. I suppose no one person has ever exhibited so many of any other flower at once, Roses not excepted, and what to me made the beautiful 600 more interesting was the fact that they were all seedlings. It is not long ago I read in 'Our Journal' that no seedlings were likely to be raised here that could compete with those from France. Well, here is proof to the contrary, Mr. Kelway taking the first prize for the best 36, 33 of which were his own seedlings. Hurrah for 'Merry England.' The 33 were very fine, but I should have liked to have had the chance of picking a dozen bulbs from the 600, putting the out of the question. I was glad to se some very good seedlings shown Douglas's stand. Both he and th H. H. Dombrain did well, but Lord F for finish were perfectly wonderful. people will believe that so lovely a fl the Gladiolus can be hardy, and y simple it is to grow fairly well. Dig mix well with the soil some leaf-mo well-decomposed cow manure, wit sand if the ground is stiff and clay the reward is worthy of the trouble."

How does history repeat itself above account was not written of an tion of this season, noted for the re tion of the Gladiolus, but as far 1872, the writer being the late F Weir, the well-known painter of nat tory subjects. It is an extract f article published in the "Journal o culture" of October 17th of that years ago!

Apples in 1927

I UNDERSTAND that, generally speaking, Apples are a good crop this year, and certainly in my own small orchard I do not remember a year in which the trees carried a better quantity of fruit, though some of it is rather on the small side. Of "worth eating" Apples the first one to please my palate is Irish Peach, a very delicately-flavoured and juicy little fruit whose season is August. No market grower would favour it, as it is a poor cropper, carrying its fruits at the end of the shoots, but for flavour, the (to me) great desideratum, it is unapproachable in its season. As an Apple to follow it in September there is nothing I enjoy more than St. Everard, which, in flavour, gives us a foretaste of Cox's Orange; indeed, it is, I think, the only one of the earlier Apples, that I have tasted, that does really give the suspicion of the real Cox taste, though I see it is claimed for one or two others.

St. Everard is a good-looking fruit, too, well coloured, and nicely juicy. I conclude these compliments with the warning must not be kept too long or it is wo

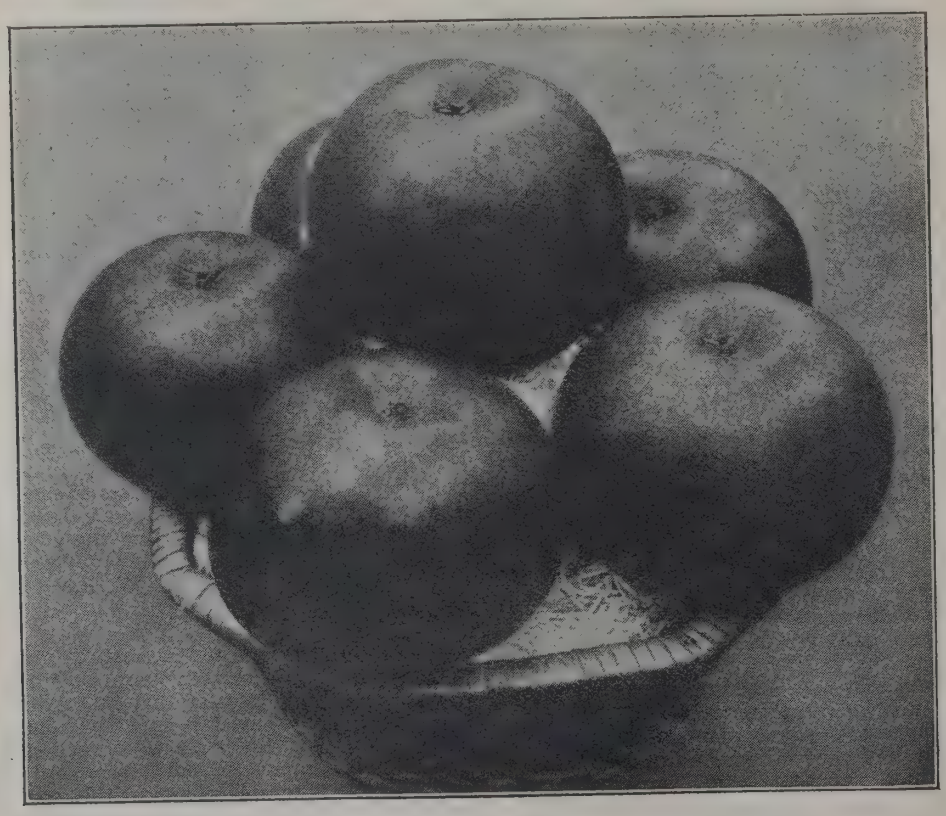
The same warning attaches to dessert Apple (one of the newer introd that follows it, viz., The Houblon, a which I am very fond and one of th not, perhaps, *the* best, for flavour of Ross's introductions. The Houblon p a full, vinous, satisfying flavour wh not think is carried by any other just The Houblon's season.

Just after The Houblon, Cox's Or American Mother begin to come in, a a glorious pair they are!

I recall a phrase used by my ol Robert Sydenham, when, writing Engleheart's Daffodils, he wrote: worth living a life to be able to proc lovely and exquisite flowers." And claim here that it is worth being taste Cox's Orange and American M their best. Of course, the latter ha short season, while Cox carries Christmas, but when I taste Mothe Cox I am generally a little in doub maximum points for flavour were ter give the ten to Cox, and certainly as nine to Mother. For really fine fla less we count in our old friend Ril had nothing much to follow these Laxton's gave us their fine variety and I do not think its name is too claim for the Apple. After several experience of it I am inclined to pu in the front rank, and it is an ou fruit from all points of view, for appearance, and cropping. In named respect it is astonishing, an should think, be planted by al growers of discrimination and Even last year, when the cry Apples," we had a full crop from it

Ten years ago, in an idle moment some pips of Cox's Orange, and th long row of the resulting trees is and to me, of course, they are of co interest, the diversity of type being markable, no two being alike in ei foliage, or habit of growth. There ing Apples, dessert Apples, Crabs, descripts. We are assured by th authorities that Cox is self-sterile, is pretty good proof of it here.

At Christmas time there comes in very nice dessert variety to whic given the name Saltcote Pippin, Fruit Committee of the R.H.S. li I placed it before them two years which is now being tried at Wi espalier tree of it here is now a p fruits being of remarkably attracti



Cox's Orange Pippin, the finest of all dessert Apples

l the crop A1. The credit of raising s to my old friend, Mr. James Hoad, If gathered too soon it is apt to fore becoming ripe, but as I am at the R.H.S. Fruit Show on 11th I think I shall have to r" a few of the fruits in order to ish of it up to exhibit at the show, venture to think, few of the pples shown will excel it for beauty rance. Mr. Hoad believes that he from Ribston, and, although much brighter in colour than that variety, my mind, a suspicion of its flavour its best round about Christmas.

F. Herbert Chapman.

The Apple crop

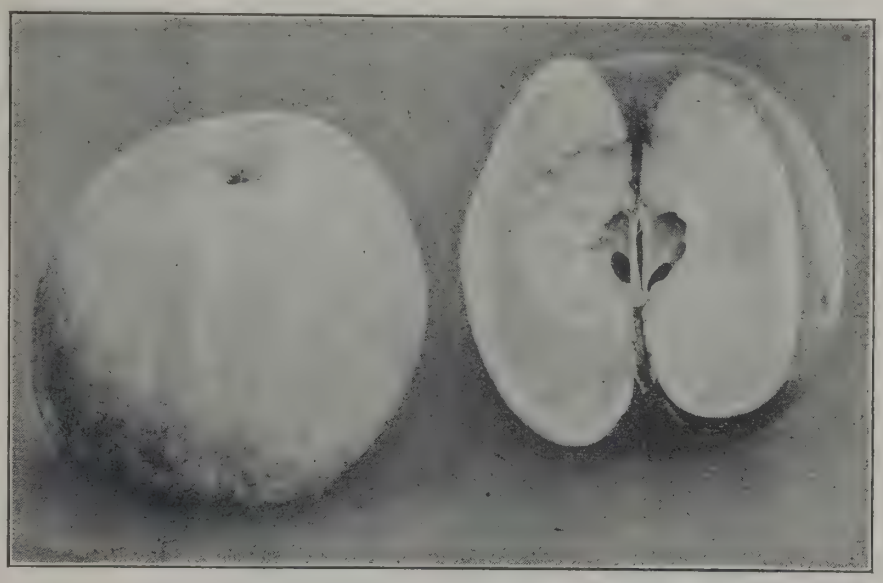
w of the widely-advertised advice Eat More Fruit" and the campaign courage the buying of home pro- ore than usual interest will be paid nual report on the Apple crop issued Henry Whiteway, of Whimple, re.

ems fated," writes Mr. Whiteway, England we are never to have a per crop of Apples again, as once am sorry to have that the quantity sh fruit available elow the average. Devonshire we n very fortunate, have our neigh- n Somersetshire, practically all the Apple-producing the bearing is ively light. I however, that crop in England rom 10 to 20 per re than last year. rease is largely l for, at any rate s Devonshire is l, by the enor- of the fruit; in- do not think I r known Apples large as they are This applies to ieties — dessert, and cyder. Some larger varieties, Bramley's Seed- ton Wonder, and Charles Ross, are and where the trees are laden with as even been necessary to prop up hes to prevent breaking down.

gards the quality, I am very agree- rised to find that Apples are quite nced in ripening. It would natur- been expected that on account of ptionally cold and wet summer have experienced that they would backward. This is not so. The ssert Apples are beautifully coloured, varieties as Worcester Pearmain Maid of Devon are a perfect pic- he trees, and are remarkably clean lavoured. Even some of the later keeping sorts, such as Blenheim nd Cox's Orange Pippin, already stinct blush.

ring briefly to the English Apple- ndustry in general, I firmly believe ver in such a healthy state as it is ere is, undoubtedly, a patriotic favour of home-grown produce n any question of quality. If only who are interested in this most im- ranch of agriculture would realise must carefully study all modern f packing and marketing, and put our fruit before the public, uniform in size, free from spot, and attractive in appearance, I am sure that there would always be a profitable demand. I deprecate very much the present practice of offering for sale the immature and undersized rubbish with which our markets are so frequently flooded. Not only are the prices for this inferior stuff so low that they are hardly sufficient to pay the carriage and packing, but the display of this in the shops as 'British Fruit' does incalculable harm to the Apple growers as a whole. My experience shows me more than ever that it is the good quality that pays.

"I should just like to add a brief paragraph about the cyder Apple industry in which I am so interested. The importance of this is now being realised by the Devonshire and Herefordshire farmers, and as there are at present a large number of Apple trees available for planting I expect to see a big increase in acreage in the near future. In Devonshire there will be a very large crop of cyder fruit this year, and prices are ruling high. The yield from a well-established cyder Apple orchard is enormous. As an instance of this, the following figures may be of interest. Amongst my orchards I happen to have one little orchard of just under 3 acres planted with nearly all Sweet Alfred, a famous old Whimple cyder Apple. I planted this in 1902—25 years ago—and last year I gathered over 30 tons of cyder Apples, which at the then market price of five guineas per ton brought in over £150, in addition to which I had the crop of grass. In these days of general agricultural depression figures such as these show the possibilities of the fruit industry."



Apple Charles Eyre, which created much interest at the Holland Park Show

Notes on Apple stocks

I think that too much faith is being put upon the merits of the Paradise stocks for Apples. That these are precocious stocks for the majority of varieties I must admit, and also that some sorts do admirably upon them, but I cannot see what benefit can arise from working varieties upon Paradise stocks that fruit equally as well on the Crab, and on which they remain much healthier. This question of stocks should be fully considered by intending planters, as there is the danger of treating all varieties alike. The Ecklinville Pippin is a case in point. To grow this variety on other than the Crab stock would be to court failure, or rather to treat it otherwise would not be doing it justice, as on this stock it is most prolific. Although this variety may be termed a strong grower in its earlier stages, yet after two or three years' growth, on account of producing fruit-buds so freely, it does not form a large tree, so people with little space at their disposal need not fear that by planting the Ecklinville worked on the Crab stock it will outgrow its bounds. Another variety which it is unwise to work on the Paradise is Stirling Castle. No variety is more free and early bearing than is this on the Crab. The difficulty I generally find with Stirling Castle on the Crab is its comparatively spare growth. Worcester Pearmain is yet another notable exception, and the Crab is its ideal stock. The fruits grow to a good size and are of brilliant colour, and in addition to being borne freely, they are of better quality. Lane's Prince Albert, Frogmore Prolific, Bramley's Seedling, Duchess of Oldenburg, and Cox's Pomona are also well-known prolific varieties on the Crab. N. S.

Storing Apples

However plentiful fruit may be when in season it invariably commands high prices in winter. Apples, for instance, can now be purchased comparatively cheaply for storage. Care should be taken to store only varieties which will keep, and that the fruits are sound and not bruised. For both Apples and Pears the storage must be cool, dry, and dark, the fruits being laid out in single layers, if possible, without touching one another; in any case do not place them in deep boxes or in large heaps.

G. W. B.

Apple Charles Eyre

THIS variety was remarkably well shown by The Barnham Nurseries, Ltd., at the recent Holland Park Show. It is a big green and golden Apple of the Pott's Seedling or Royal Jubilee type. It was raised about 1911 by the late Charles Ross, who has given us so many fine varieties. Its season is from October through November. It is of huge size and of a roundish-oval, even shape, the flesh soft and of a pale green shade. The growth is vigorous and short-jointed.

Soot and wood ashes: Save them in winter

Both soot and wood-ashes are valuable adjuncts to a gardener, and they are easily acquired by most people. In the late autumn when gardens are being cleared of crops and fires are made to dispose of the rubbish the ashes resulting from such fires should be gathered and kept in reserve in a dry place until spring. Clippings of hedges and odds and ends of the garden are best burnt and the ashes turned to good account in spring when sowing and planting time comes round.

Soot from kitchen flues likewise ought to be saved under cover from time to time as it may be had and retained for the same purpose. To buy it is somewhat expensive, but this may be avoided to some extent by taking steps to save that which is collected week by week along with flue dust.

The grower of Onions knows the value of soot, and there are other crops in a garden that benefit, too, by incorporating it with the soil.

Townsman.

1.
Where rock and border plants flourish

The low plant forming a group in the immediate foreground is Valeriana sitchensis or "Mountain Heliotrope," from the higher altitudes in the Rockies

2.
Remarkable trees of Eucalyptus globulus at Thorpe Hall

3.
Ribes speciosum from California, with crimson Fuchsia-like flowers

4.
Anemone nemorosa and varieties with Alpine Phlox and Cowslips; Primula Sieboldii on pond bank

5.
A flourishing colony of the purple-flowered Pentstemon Scouleri, native of North-Western America, is here seen in the foreground

INTERESTING PLANTS AT THORPE HALL, ESSEX

CANADA IN ESSEX

By Viscountess Byng of Vimy

(Continued from page 613)

e hottest, sunniest place to be found ve built up a miniature desert for the it of the Cacti from the vicinity of e Hat, Alberta. Brickbats, stones, bound together with a little loam, is ium for these queerly unexpected Cana- nd in it they appear to thrive. Opun- ictus Grahami, with its lovely pink followed by scarlet berries that the eat, and two other species—odd, haped things, with flowers ranging imrose to orange—and whose names ascertained. There they are, out Prairie, withstanding a winter tem- of frequently 30 degs. to 40 degs. ero and without a great depth of vering. Why do they do it? That the many conundrums of the Cana- a, which leaves the uninformed plant my calibre wondering and per- Why do so many things in the out there succeed infinitely better e? Take for instance Pæonies, Iris, ea paniculata, and Gladiolus, to men- first things that come to my mind. onies cannot compare with those in en at Government House, Ottawa; for annuals, they walk away from we attempt in England. This, I is because of the brilliancy of the sun; but the perennials certainly are ry. Camassias, another wildling, well known to be dwelt on here. bells," or Fritillaria atropurpurea, rom Cowichan Lake, an adorable Vancouver Island, where I spent ppy days plant hunting along the cky shore, where the Fritillaries, Columbinianum, Sedum Douglassii, accuminatum, and bispectrum waved reeze, and Brodieas had, earlier in formed a most wonderful purple- pet. Phlox Douglassii filled rock and on the sandy shore all kinds Roses luxuriated. There are a riety of these Roses scattered over but the two most distinctive, to , are the "Fairy Rose"—whose ame I never met—a delightful tiny h bright pink blooms not half an inch ter, and with an impregnable in- ce of thorns all up its slender stems, ound on the Malahat Pass amongst es; and the other is a double, ab- centless, pink Rose from the Mari- hich I brought home more as a than a thing of beauty. Godetia s an enchanting little annual, far my mind, of the showy, overblown the English garden. Viminea is , so graceful in its habit, and the delightfully coloured that it should aged. This also was the result my seed-snatching attempts, as key Peas"—Orogenia linearifolia d than pretty. A plant which I nted to get and always failed with eralcea pedata, a most engaging fallow which grows far and wide 'rairies, but, for some reason, re- y to live when collected. Time I tried it, but nothing happened. rprise this spring it suddenly ap- its own, among the Cacti, a lthy plant, with its lovely silver- e and vivid orange-scarlet flowers. plant I always missed was an patiens biflorus, or "Touch me the fact that the least touch sends seeds flying in all directions. I I get them to germinate, because they have to be sown at once in boggy soil, and that I could not supply on the train. I had resigned myself to this failure rather sorrowfully, because it is a lovely thing, with its glaucous stem, bronzy foliage, and spotted orange Mimulus-like flowers. Now, to my amazement, a sturdy plant has appeared among the Kalmias on the lake-side, a fertile seed having evidently come along in the Canadian soil. It certainly is not often that plants are as obliging as this, and I am duly grateful to these two treasures, devoutly hoping they will survive.

Of lovely spring flowers there are of course all the Trilliums—grandiflorum, sessile, erectum, &c.—all from Eastern Canadian woods. Hepaticas, mauve-pink, white, and blue; Tiarella cordifolia; Claytonia Virginica, "Spring Beauty," as this frail-looking loveliness of the early spring is aptly named; Uvularias—"Trailing Arbutus"—(Epigea repens) most trying of plants, but which so far seems happy under the old Mulberry tree and amply top dressed with Fir needles, in the hope of deluding it into fancying itself still in its native Pine woods. Cornus Canadense, Maianthemum Canadense, Smilacinas—racemosa, trifolia, and stellata. Quite a big family of Asclepias, beloved of bees, tuberosa, a light orange, and syriaca, the most plentiful, makes a fine patch when matured in a wild garden, and as their roots run for yards underground they require plenty of room.

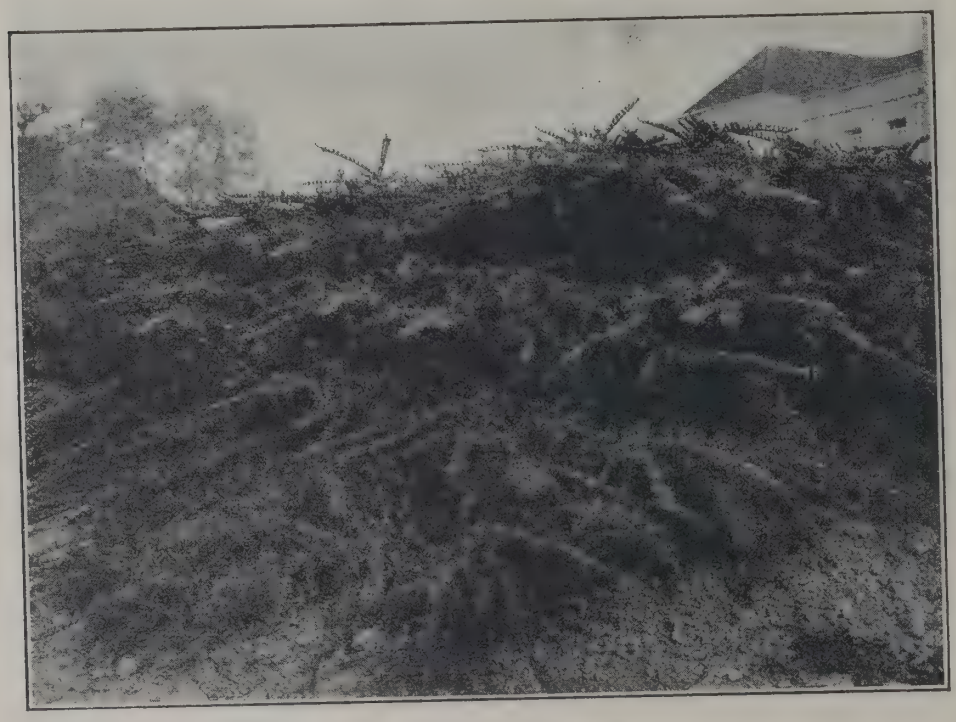
But perhaps best of the spring flowers are the Violets, which deserve ample space, both on paper—if I dared take it—and in a garden. For sheer beauty of colour they are unsurpassed, I think, in Eastern Canada, and well do I call to mind damp ditches beside the woodland road from Ottawa to Meach Lake as blue with them, as if a piece of the sky had fallen to earth to gladden humanity. Their variety is unending, from palest blue to white and golden yellow. To name only the best that I have here I will quote striata, with its magnificent foliage, green and lush right through the summer—a rare quality in Violets. Blanda, delightful because of its minuteness. Canadensis, so floriferous that last November I picked a big handful for a vase. Papilionacea, a glorious blue; pubescens, downy yellow; rotundifolia, a neat and compact yellow; pedata, which would be the gem of the collection were it not put into the shade by its sister pedata bicolor. That, indeed, is a thing to enthuse over, with its two upper petals a deep rich purple, its three lower ones the most wonderful pale mauve striped with purple. But oh, such a tender thing! Also, it won't so far set any seed, and I tremble when I look at the fragility of its crowns carefully planted in a sheltered pocket of the rock garden, and I hope devoutly that it won't go and "die on me," because it knows how precious it is, and how hard to come by.

Viola pedata bicolor in a sheltered pocket of the rock garden at Thorpe Hall
"A thing to enthuse over, with its two upper petals a deep rich purple, its three lower ones a most wonderful pale mauve"

Of the "Bloodroot," Sanguinaria Canadensis, I have, what is I believe unique, a double-flowered sport given me by a friend in Ottawa; but lovely though it is I prefer the single one, with its beautiful Anemone-like blooms of an unbelievable whiteness. Both forms are thriving here, and I am glad to see the foliage is of the same large size that I knew in Canada, but so far have not seen in England. "Dutchman's Breeches"—Dicentra cucullaria—is a delightful thing for the clefts of rocks, so are D. Canadensis and D. exima, a Western species with pink flowers. Their first cousin, Corydalis sempervirens, is a thing to be encouraged, because it blooms with extraordinary pertinacity from spring till autumn, and though seeding itself freely is never a nuisance. Of Sedums

I have the following, procured for me by Mr. Bennett: S. divaricatum, Oreganum, obtusatum, divergens, which, if not all of them Canadian, are all North American, while the following are definitely Canadian:—S. stenopetalum, ternatum, purpureum, bryrichianum, and Douglassii. These are happy on a hot, sun-flooded rock edging at the end of the lake; and with them are Lewisias Howellii, rediviva — Vancouver — which gained a Dutch grower an A.M. at Chelsea; Columbinianum, which flung its slender branches of flower across a patch of New Zealand Celmisia as if in an attempt at floral imperialism. Further along this same bank are the following plants: Sieviersia cathilifolia; Geranium erianthemum, with lovely pale mauve blooms; Euthamia occidentalis; the two Dryas, Octopetala, which grows by the mile along the Fraser and Thompson as well as other Western rivers in Canada, and D. Drummondii, which is less plentiful. Vancouveria hexandra and Geum triflorum, whose feathery fruits, tinted a rich rosy-red, always attract considerable attention from visitors. Of Gentians I have puberula, procera, and Andrewsii. Mimulus luteus has formed a bright patch on the edge of the lake, and among other waterside plants which seem happy are the "Labrador Tea"—Ledum Groenlandicum—with its leathery leaves and attractive white bloom that in Canada one sees for endless miles covering the swampy ground together with Kalmia angustifolia. The local name of Labrador Tea was given it because in the early days Hudson Bay factors made of its leaves a concoction faintly resembling tea when the usual supply failed, as it did not infrequently in the wilds. Besides the Kalmia and Ledum I have at last succeeded in establishing Sarracenias, purpurea and flava, in a sheltered spot close to the Orchid bay. Both were hard plants to settle in, and the only thing to satisfy them is pure Sphagnum Moss, waterside, full sun, and protection from cold winds. Given these requirements they seem happy, but I lost a good few plants till I adopted these methods. As for Irises, versicolor and cristata are the flowers of Eastern Canada's watersides, and they are too well known to need description; but never can one appreciate versicolor to the full until one has seen great rivers of it in a variety of shades of blue and purple, stretching along the edges of streams from the Maritimes to the Prairie Provinces, but west of Winnipeg I have never seen it. Like a quantity of other plants it seems to be choked off by the windswept spaciousness of the wheat-growing prairies, where a hundred other flowers take the place of the eastern ones, and glow like jewels on the edges of the wheat fields. Of these the most showy are Gaillardias, Rudbeckias, Liatris, Sunflowers, Coreopsis, and in spring a perfect groundwork of Pasque flowers called "Crocus" out there, though heaven knows why. I suppose that Asters and Solidagos are the most universal of plants and have the greatest number of varieties. There are 60 named Asters and 24 Solidagos, far more than I ever attempted to cope with, though I brought home samples of a good few to try out. Of Asters the most unusual are paniculatus, tall, creamy, and attractive to bees; and the small, ragged acuminatus, dweller in thin woodlands, and with a queer charm of its own. On the Solidagos I will not dwell, they are all too familiar over here. But in planting Asters and Solidagos I learnt a lesson in Canada, and never again will I confine either to the primness of herbaceous borders. They are essentially wide rangers, purpling and gilding field after field in Canada, but at their best in damp spots, where, with Chelone glabra—"Joe Pie Weed"—Eupatorium purpureum, Lobelia cardinalis, and Impatients biflorus, they form an herbaceous garden of their own that not the most accomplished gardener could hope to better, and which in a humble way I am seeking to imitate alongside the lake here.

(To be continued.)



Thorpe Hall: A remarkable specimen of Cotoneaster horizontalis spreading far and wide over rocky boulders

Late Chrysanthemums

It is hardly safe longer to leave these outside, so room must be found for them at once. Abundance of air day and night is necessary, as is syringing overhead each evening for the first two or three weeks.

Day Lilies

There can be but one opinion as to merits of the various forms of the Hem callis family, they thrive in almost any of soil and position. They increase f are very floriferous, and are capable of ing their own with all but the stro vegetation, which renders them very val for mixed herbaceous borders, espe those of large dimensions, where they remain with no need for transplantin division for some years. I have plan Dumortieri which have not been dist for 10 years, and every year they produ abundance of flowers, and I see no di tion in quality of bloom. Hardy flow this description are precious, they give a lavish display for the small expense maintaining them in good condition inv

I can see no reason why these Day should be a failure in woodland garden conditions which there prevail would, sure, promote longevity and vigour, have no means of knowing if they are proof. Those who are happy in the poss of a bit of woodland where there a rabbits can safely undertake the natu tion of the Day Lilies, otherwise it visable to go slow. In the course of a of seasons it would be seen if there danger of injury. The strong-rooting of these Day Lilies renders them use dotting about among low-growing s and in places where the soil become dry in periods of heat and drought their to produce an abundance of good f under adverse conditions constitutes their greatest charms. Even in very soils that part with moisture freel where the majority of hardy flowers a happy the Day Lilies can be relied on and thrive, and are therefore of great for soils that tax the resources of the to embellish satisfactorily.

There are about a dozen variet Hemerocallis, with one exception, f growth. This is Kwanso variegata, is, however, the handsomest member family, the variegation being very pu well worthy of good pot culture. open ground it must have a good posi crowded among strong-growing thi becomes weak and fails to show i worth, and it prefers a rather ligh Flava (pure clear yellow) is much pri cutting, and Dumortieri is equally Aurantiaca is one of the finest hardy in cultivation, and disticha fl.-pl. in th of good-sized clumps is certainly impr

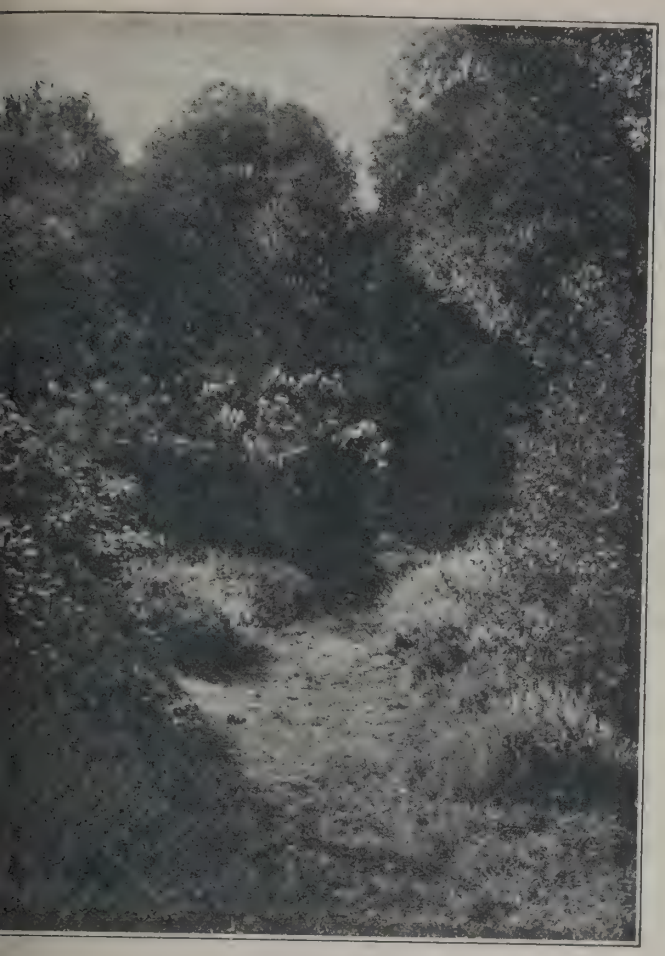
J. Corn

Weeds and their abnormal g

The past summer, with its lack of s its more than usual rainfall, is resp for the abnormal growth of weeds i gardens. Those who are only able t part of their time in their gardens— the greatest numbers—have been pr from doing what they intended many owing to the wet and unsatisfactory tions. All the while weeds have bee ing apace, and in some quarters the is serious. The best thing that can now, supposing that dry weather c follow, is to use the hoe as freely as afterwards making a heap of the we treating them to quicklime with a destroying them.

It should not be forgotten that wee in winter, and, to prevent this, should be made to uproot them. It i waiting for dry weather to fire them advantage of any dry spell, if it co make a fire, but in the meantime hoe going and prevent the growth many pests which are coming on and bounds.

Midla



The Heath garden

Where Heaths meet Azaleas

EES AND SHRUBS

The Heath garden

Heath garden is at the end of a ring for Azaleas in a bit of natural odland. The soil is peaty sand, and no preparation except digging up and noval of the natural growths of and Whortleberry. Some of the berry, locally known as Hurts, is rather wedge-shaped patches, the connect the planted Heaths with the vild. The paths are merely cleared be easy to get along. After 20 years' the big tree Heaths are over 10 feet Next to them are groups of the lovely alis, its pink bloom showing almost May.

lace was photographed in August on vhen the light caught on the young noots of the taller kinds, and when as full bloom on the white Irish (Dabœcia), the Cornish Heath (E. and the varieties of Calluna. There l a good deal of flower on that good . Maweana, a native of Portugal, ay be considered as a major form of ve C. ciliaris, for it has exactly the aracters, only enlarged, and with of a deeper pink that stand up rather nly.

a is natural to the ground, though years much overgrown by the berry, but it is a curious thing that ground is broken up in the wood by a growth of Calluna, some of ts have pure white flowers, whereas xtensive heaths to the westward, the l wandering grounds of my earlier here there are thousands of acres of mon Heath, I have never seen any ite. The only other plants admitted to the Heath garden are the native Teucrium scorodonia and the pretty little Sheep's-bit Scabious (Jasione).

The second picture shows the last patch of the Cornish Heath where the path leads into the Azaleas. G. J.

Roadside tree planting

A selection of suitable trees

Roadside tree planting is the subject of a report issued by a sub-committee of the Joint Regional Planning Committees for North-West and South-West Kent. The sub-committee, of which Sir William Geary is Chairman, deal with the planting of trees on arterial and through county roads which have, or it is hoped will have, adequate margins.

The sub-committee consider certain specified roads too narrow between the boundary fences to permit of trees being planted. Further, they say that many sections of these roads are of such alinement that trees would obscure the view of traffic and be a source of danger. The new arterial roads, which are 60 feet to 100 feet wide, and the London and Folkestone road so far as it has been widened, where the margins vary from 15 feet to 30 feet each side, are suitable for tree-planting. In Kent there is room for only one row of trees on each side of the carriageway. Should two rows be planted, the sub-committee consider that inconvenience might be caused to neighbouring houses, and in time, unless periodically lopped, the trees would be an obstruction to traffic.

Dealing with measures to be taken for the removal of obstacles to traffic the sub-committee point to the powers possessed by local authorities under the Highways Act and the Public Health Act to lop overhanging branches, and express the view that in the case of roads that are not perfectly straight and of even gradient, if there is a clear view of 100 yards at each junction and turn the public safety will be well secured.

Dealing with schemes for the planting of one row of trees on each side of new roads 100 feet in width, with 30 feet margins, the sub-committee suggest that the minimum distance apart of the trees should be 15 yards, and they consider that deciduous trees are generally to be preferred to evergreens, as the latter tend to obscure the roads in the long, dark winter nights. For roadside planting, trees are recommended that would attain ultimately a height of 25 feet, and a list of suitable trees includes the Jersey or Wheatley Elm and the Cornish Elm, a fastigiate Hornbeam (Carpinus Betulus pyramidalis), certain species of the Horse Chestnut and Limes, the White Ash, the "Tree of Heaven" (Ailanthus glandulosa), a Black Walnut, the Norway and Sugar Maples, the Oak, the Maidenhair Tree, Sweet Gum, and Prunus and Pyrus. Plane trees are not recommended, as being too large and already exceedingly over-represented in London and other cities. The Lombardy Poplar is described as having no attractions or merits, and the ordinary Walnuts and Spanish Chestnuts are deprecated because of the litter they drop and the attraction they are to boys.

Whether valuable fruit trees, such as Apples, Cherries, and Damsons, should be planted on the roadside and the crop sold as in France, the price paid going into the public purse, is a question of general policy on which the sub-committee refrain from offering an opinion. Some of the old trees now included in the new roads the committee consider should be conserved and embodied in the new planting scheme, as, apart from their size, interest, and beauty, they occasionally indicate old boundaries or commemorate local events or are landmarks, such as "One

Tree Hill," "Mark Beech," "Hangman's Beech," "Gospel Oak," and "Glastonbury Thorn."

Ribes (the Flowering Currant), an old-fashioned shrub

One frequently meets with bushes of the Flowering Currant in country gardens, and, once established, they seldom, if ever, fail to bloom. It is a shrub which needs little attention after planting beyond a slight pruning now and again. Moreover, it is easy of propagation from cuttings of ripened wood taken at or near a joint after the blooming season and planted in the borders in a little sandy soil. Ribes sanguineum is the one most commonly met with. In April it unfolds its pinky-red flowers, and an established bush will grow anything up to 6 feet or 7 feet and be smothered in bloom. Others of the family which ought not to be overlooked, superior to the type named above, are atro-rubens and atro-sanguineum, having much deeper shades of red. There is a white form, too, but the pink and red shades are most popular.

The Ribes will thrive in ordinary garden soil and make capital shrubs for town and suburban gardens. It is not very often one finds them trained out on walls, but plants obtained young are amenable to training and are very showy so grown. Late autumn is a suitable time to remove and plant.

W. F.

Desmodium penduliflorum

When autumn is here one wishes there were more really late-flowering shrubs. Desmodium penduliflorum is a shrub never at its best even in a sheltered position before October. It is unique in every way, having such a graceful arching habit. The flowers, which are Pea-shaped and purple in colour, are borne in panicles on the ends of the arching shoots.

It is quite hardy, as I have seen this shrub in Mr. Morgan's beautiful garden at Senneville, near Montreal. There it was associated with a late-flowering white Spiræa.

Desmodium penduliflorum likes a rich soil with peat or leaf-soil in the compost, and is best planted in early spring. It should be pruned hard to within 6 inches of the ground in February. It can be propagated by cuttings or seed, and, like most Pea-shaped flowering plants, is best planted out from pots.

R. Moore.

Dahlias at Crawley

FEW nurseries within the British Isles can compare with the wonderful display of Dahlias to be seen at Lowfield Nurseries, Crawley, Sussex, where Messrs. Cheal and Sons, Ltd., annually plant almost every type of Dahlia in large quantities. Their display is a very familiar sight to motorists and others who pass and re-pass this well-known nursery on their way to Brighton or London. The Dahlias, in the flowering season, are always worth travelling a long way to see, and, notwithstanding the exceptionally wet weather of the present season, the plants were looking in excellent form on the occasion of a recent visit.

Especially noteworthy is the method in which the Mignon type of Dahlia is displayed. A very long grass path with long beds on either side planted with these beautiful bedding type of the Dahlia is a picture; some describe these as the Coltness Gem type, but Messrs. Cheal's Mignons were in cultivation long before the variety Coltness Gem was raised. Masses of the following and others were grouped most effectively:—Emerald (a new pink), Hedley (orange, also new), also the following new varieties:—Josephine (primrose), Edith (rosy-mauve), Empress (rosy-purple), and Zulu (deep crimson). Of the older varieties worthy of mention were:—Peter Pan (cardinal-red), Canary Bird (canary-yellow), Lady Aileen (self pink), Etna (crimson-scarlet), Dazzle (bright orange-scarlet), Ada (pure yellow), Ethel (crimson-maroon), Kathleen (deep apricot), Julius (rosy-scarlet), Harold (rich crimson), Albion (pure white), Louise (primrose), and Major van Sweiten (mauve-pink). There were others, but the foregoing appeared to be the best. All were about 18 inches in height, the colours pleasingly diverse, and there are none others better for bedding purposes. Long rows on either side of White Star and Crimson Flag made a striking framework for the Mignon.

Star Dahlias are the especial care of Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons. They raised the original variety named Crawley Star and they have gone on to improve them ever since. Those selected are worthy of the notoriety here given, as they are of pleasing colour, beautiful form, and the flowers are borne on stiff, erect stems, and for cut flowers for indoor decorations they are ideal. A note should be made of Rye Star (rosy-cerise, flushed bronze, new), Leigh Star (salmon-pink, shaded primrose), Hove Star (scarlet, very free), Epsom Star (rich scarlet), Preston Star (silvery-pink, pale centre), Hyde Star (rosy-cerise, flushed crimson), Purple Star (rich purple), Charlwood Star (fiery orange), Horsham Star (coppery-rose, maroon zone), Yellow Star (bright yellow), Petworth Star (coppery-red shading to rose), Surrey Star (copper and rose, fine quality), Rusper Star (rich crimson, tipped scarlet, very striking), and White Star.

The Charm or Miniature-flowered, Pæony-flowered Dahlias were well grown and freely represented. These are good for the garden and for cut flowers. A few of the better varieties are:—Our Annie (pink with yellow base), Leonie Cobb (lovely pink), Clara Hart (crimson-scarlet), Irma (satin-rose, brightly flamed orange-chestnut), Mermaid (a beautiful new yellow), Cora (rose-pink), Mrs. H. C. Scrimgeour (deep orange), Nutfield Priory (coppery-orange), Yellow Queen (rich sulphur-yellow), Dazzle (brilliant scarlet), and Lady Mackintosh (coppery-yellow, suffused rose).

Collarette Dahlias were doing well, especially Mabel Mary (new rich dark maroon, collar lighter maroon, tipped white), Dulcie (deep orange-scarlet with yellow collar), Glen Devon (rosy-crimson with pure white collar), Mrs. O. M. Courage (deep carmine, pure white collar), Commander (rose with white collar), and Mrs. Neal Christey (scarlet with yellow collar, a beautiful new variety).

It is most gratifying to note how well this firm study the interests of the Pompon Dahlias. They have a wonderful collection in many colours, all flowering in the greatest profusion on plants possessing a bushy habit of growth. Especially noteworthy were Glow (coral), Bacchus (crimson-scarlet), Little Beeswing (yellow, heavily edged red), Electra (deep orange), Girlie (mauve), Ideal (light yellow), Tommy Keith (red, tipped white), Mavis (glowing red, new), Adelaide (blush, edged lavender), Nerissa (soft rose), Douglas (deep maroon), Clarissa (pale primrose), Phyllis (yellow, shaded red), Princess (shell-pink), and Murren (bronze, suffused rose).

Single-flowered Dahlias for exhibition are the especial study of the Crawley firm, hence it is that they are seen in superb form in such varieties as Columbine (a suffusion of rose colour), Beta (crimson, tipped salm rose), Marcel (velvety-orange, scarlet-mar centre), Omar (crimson-maroon shading rose), Ariel (coppery-orange), Pink Be (bright rose-pink), Marion (buff and r Lady Bountiful (deep pink), Owen Tho (crimson-scarlet, tipped yellow), Wi (deep maroon), and Conrad (orange, new

There are some wonderful novelties large-flowered Decoratives. The Ca type of the Dahlia is also largely grown, for exhibition they are ideal. We still a long way to go before the Cactus D generally can be regarded as a useful ga plant. A large area is devoted to see Dahlias at Crawley, and after spending s considerable time in looking through t we are fully satisfied that there are n fine things amongst them which will be at the various shows throughout the cou in the near future, seedlings that will a to make our gardens bright and attract

Awards to Dahlias

Wisley Trials, 1927

The following awards have been mad Dahlias by the Council of the Royal H cultural Society after trial at Wisley:—

Award of Merit.

Small-flowered Pæony.—Elma D. C sent by A. J. Cobb; Irma, sent by Me I. Burrell; Mrs. J. Goddard, sent by Me J. Cheal and Sons.

Decorative.—Josephine Adair, W. D. C wright, J. L. Crowther, and Rev. M. He Lee, sent by Messrs. J. Stredwick; Cl sent by Messrs. van der Kloot; Free sent by Messrs. Kroon; Mrs. D. Hep sent by Messrs. J. Cheal; Fred Rans sent by Messrs. Stredwick; Nego, se Messrs. Ballego.

Cactus-flowered.—Giant Kriemhilde, by Messrs. Ballego.

Highly commended.

Single (bedding).—Thomas Moore, se Messrs. J. B. Riding.

Single Mignon.—Coltness Yellow, se Messrs. C. A. Johns; Powerscourt Ye sent by Messrs. Treseder; Northern sent by Messrs. Dickson and Robi Coltness Salmon, sent by Messrs. J Harold, sent by Messrs. J. Cheal; Kab sent by Messrs. van Tubergen.

Small-flowered Pæony.—Cora, sen Messrs. C. Turner; Ruth and Zillah, se Messrs. Burrell; Florrie, sent by M W. J. Unwin; Aida, sent by Messr Turner; Wanda, sent by Messrs. J. B

Decorative.—Rose Tendre, sent by M Hornsveld.

Star.—Burford Star, sent by Mess Cheal.

Cactus.—Pink Favourite and La F sent by Messrs. Bruidegom.

Rose cuttings

Cuttings taken now will flower quite tively from mid-July to the end of the making quite nice plants for transferr beds in the autumn. The cuttings sho of well-ripened wood, taken from the with a heel attached, and reduced to 1 foot in length. Growths which already flowered are generally the mos able for this purpose. For the recept the cuttings a sloping trench should be out on a sheltered border to a de 6 inches and an inch of sand placed the bottom into which the heel of the should be firmly pressed, the remain the trench being filled up with soil a cuttings made very firm, especially their base.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

outhern and Midland

Alpine garden

s is a very suitable time for carrying terations in this department, and unless are of an extensive nature such work sually be completed before the advent of rains, which render the work of orting and erecting large blocks of a very laborious task. The majority nts may be lifted and divided at this and quickly re-establish themselves in ll warm earth. Old colonies of plants have ceased to be effective owing to overcrowded condition should be dealt and possibly transferred to a fresh site garden has been extended. Homes also be found for freshly-acquired and care used in choosing the correct n for them. Some of the Gentians row practically in any position, others stly superior when grown under con- circumstances. Homes must be found ice new seedling plants, and to provide om older and less interesting subjects e dispensed with altogether. A light ssing of leafy soil will help estab- groups considerably if applied now.

bedding

clearing of the beds of tender subjects be completed without delay, for it is ant that the spring flowers should be- well established before really cold, weather is upon us, even in the case of and Narcissus. These are stronger er when planted early. Aubrietias, , Myosotis, Alyssums, and Violas are dy to form carpets and broad edgings beds, and the sooner they are planted ter the result will be.

r or half hardy climbing Shrubs

form of protection must be provided se; at least, it must be in readiness in emergency. A few Spruce branches in between the trellis or other sup- vill often prove sufficient to protect a but rather tender rare shrub from . Wattles, too, are very useful for rpose and also for bushes in the open as they are made in a variety of for this purpose.

for forcing

ine those plunged in ashes (as ad- a former Calendar) from time to nd as soon as the shoots are an inch he soil remove them to cool frames, them lightly for a few days.

Violets

are now established in their winter , and so long as the plants retain althy condition the lights are best , but should frosty nights arrive, then ts must be placed over them, but not se down.

s

runing and cleaning of those intended forcing will now be well in hand, r pruning, and before cleaning and the rods, the house must be ly washed down. Insects gather in evice, and for this reason no part neglected, and to make doubly sure pests a little insecticide should be ith the water used for washing. For e Vines, Gishurst Compound can be ecommended, being preferable to nsecticides and mixtures containing ch are dangerous in any but skilled After cleansing, the rods should be osely to the wires and the walls washed over with hot limewash. The surface of the border must then be lightly skimmed over and replaced by a light top-dressing of good loam, wood-ash, and bone-meal.

Gathering fruit

Most Apples and Pears must be brought into store, as severe storms may be expected which would sweep the fruits from the trees; also frosts, which may have an injurious effect upon most varieties. Examine fruit in store frequently and use every means possible to prevent sweating.

Perpetual fruiting Raspberries

The time has now arrived when fresh plantations of these most valuable fruits may be made, and where the ground has not already been prepared no time should be lost in getting it done. The plants, even though all their leaves have not fallen, may be put out in lines 5 feet apart and 16 inches apart in the lines at once. With me great quantities of handsome and delicious fruits are being gathered, and this usually continues into November.

Trenching

Trench and enrich plots intended for bush fruits, and if the soil is of a tenacious character a dressing of chalk or lime will improve it.

Celery

Give the earliest lines their final earthing, ramming the soil tightly to the sticks and finishing off the work in a sharp, clean slope in order that the least possible water may lie upon the surface ridges. Place more soil to later rows and apply a dusting of soot frequently as a deterrent to slugs.

Salads in frames

Admit plenty of air to these and do all possible to encourage a strong root-action before commencing to hurry the crop, as very good salads are still obtainable from the open.

E. Markham.

Gravetye Manor Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Own-root Roses

Some of the stronger-growing varieties and, curiously enough, several of the pure Teas flourish quite well on their own roots and are not very difficult to strike, as a rule. About now is a favourable time for inserting the cuttings, selecting shoots of moderate strength and always, if possible, with a "heel." Shoots that have flowered during the current season are best. Cuttings should be from 7 inches to 9 inches in length when ready for insertion. Choose a sheltered border, and with a clean spade make a rut about 4 inches to 5 inches deep, and in the event of the soil being of a stiff, retentive nature scatter a liberal layer of clean, coarse sand in the bottom of the rut and rest the bases of the cuttings on this. Fill in the soil and make very firm by treading. This last is important.

Making new Rose beds

Although too early to think about doing this just yet, it is none too early to have the ground prepared, by either double-digging or trenching, and in any case working in plenty of well-rotted farmyard manure, but taking care to prevent any of this material being nearer the surface than 9 inches, the roots at planting time being kept from contact with this. When got ready a few weeks in advance of planting time the earth has a chance to settle somewhat in the interval, and, anyway, is ready whenever a favourable opportunity occurs.

Begonias in winter

Both those used for bedding and those grown in pots will now be going to rest. As a rule, frost kills down those in the open, while the indoor plants have water gradually withheld and the stems drop away. The storing of these must soon have attention. The outdoor tubers should be dug up, placed in shallow boxes, and set where they will dry, after which it is desirable to rub off most of the soil and the dead roots. This saves both space when stored and time in spring when the bulbs are being potted or boxed.

Storing tubers

Select a stout box of handy size, place a layer of perfectly dry sand or finely-sifted dry soil in the bottom. Place a single layer of bulbs on this, hollow side down, add more soil, then another layer of bulbs, and so on until all are used up, finishing off with a good layer of the sand or soil on the top. Set in a dry place quite safe from damp or frost, but not very warm. See that mice and rats cannot get at the bulbs, or much harm may result.

Regal Pelargoniums

Even the latest batch of these handsome subjects are now pretty well ripened off, so may be cut hard back and all suitable points used as cuttings. Insert the cuttings firmly round the edges of 4-inch or 5-inch pots filled with very sandy, fresh compost. Give a good watering and set in a fairly warm house, shading from all sunshine. Give no water to the old plants until they burst into growth. Best grown in a house or pit from which frost is merely excluded.

Airing the greenhouse

As a rule, the novice is afraid of admitting fresh air into his greenhouse, especially in winter. This is a great mistake, for plants, like animals, must have fresh air if they are to do well. Cold draughts, of course, must be avoided. From now on till February the air must, almost without fail, be changed by means of the top ventilators. Unless during hard frost and strong winds the top ventilators should be open every day for an hour or two about the middle of the day. The milder the day the bigger a chink of air should be given.

Watering pot plants in winter

The giving of water to pot plants is one of the most difficult of all gardening operations for the amateur to grasp intelligently. By far the greater number err in giving too often, which "sours" and clogs the soil, and eventually kills the plants. At all times pot plants should only be given water when the soil is approaching dryness, but this is of far greater concern during the period from mid-October till the end of February. It is impossible to set down exactly the time that should elapse between waterings. In many cases this may be less than once a week, while there are plenty of plants at the dead season which can stand from two to four weeks and be all the better for it. Few really die from dryness, but thousands are killed every season by over-watering. As far as possible give what water is required in the morning, so that all spilled or that runs through the pots will be dried up before night.

C. Blair.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

The dotted lines indicate the original outline of the pond

Improvement of Neglected Ponds

By George Dillistone.

There are lying, scattered up and down the country, derelict pools and ponds that in their present condition offer nothing in the way of attraction to the senses. Because their potentialities have not been realised they have been neglected until overgrown with rubbish; filled with the muddy deposit of generations of fallen leaves, they have become stagnant, dismal, and unwholesome. The writer of this article shows what delightful possibilities such places afford for indulgence in one of the most enchanting aspects of garden life.

To the garden lover the most valuable asset that any site can possess is the presence of water, either as stream, pond, or lake. Water as a necessary adjunct to the garden has been recognised throughout the ages, and there is no period of gardening of which any authentic account remains in which it has not played its part. It has provided inspiration for the artist, an outlet for the ingenuity of the architect, problems for the engineer, and unbounded joy to the gardener. Its presence has brought into the garden many things in the way of decorative effort which are not gardening, but have, through long association, come to be regarded as within its field of operations. Because the desire to have water in the garden has been so great it has in some instances led to gigantic undertakings at enormous expenditure of labour and money, sometimes with very beautiful and sometimes merely magnificent results. I am afraid it must be said also that sometimes the efforts made in using the water have been so extravagant and so much out of proportion to the results obtained that neither beauty nor magnificence have been achieved.

But it is not of the use of water in the *grand* sense that I would write, but in the simplest, and, because it is the simplest, the most charming method. This is the treatment of and beautifying by natural planting pond, lake, or stream.

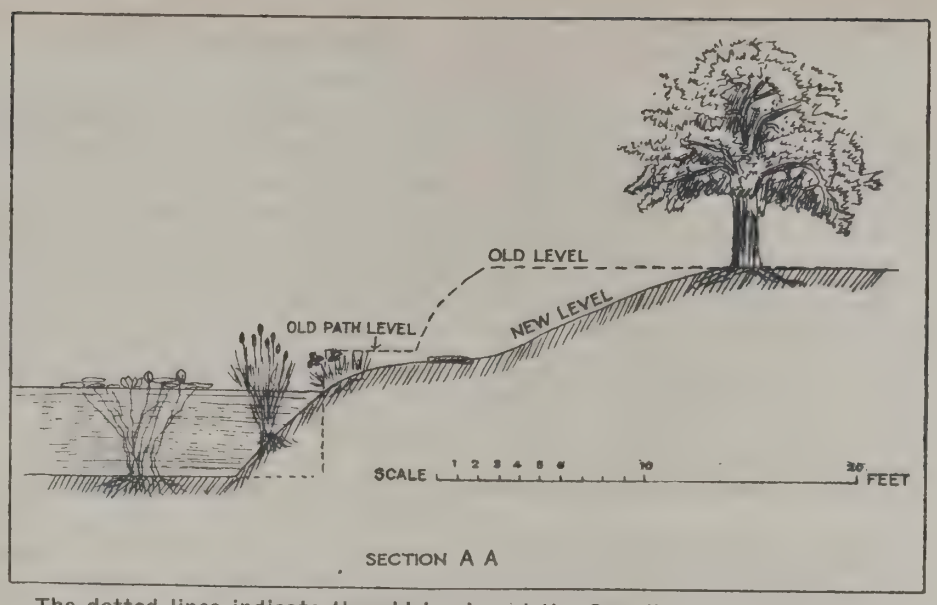
The first point one usually has to consider in undertaking the improvement of neglected ponds is the fact that the water is a long way below the level of the surrounding banks, and the initial mistake that most people make is in concluding that because the banks are near the water they are necessarily moist. Many good moisture-loving plants have lost their reputation by being planted in such positions. Astilbes, Spiræas, Iris sibirica, or other waterside plants perched on the top of a miniature cliff with the water 2 feet or 3 feet below them have little chance of success. The first consideration must therefore be to so slope the banks that the actual planting area is brought down as nearly as possible to the water-level. Another condition that frequently prevails is that the po overhung with trees which keep both water and the banks in a state of perp shade. It is a hard-dying fallacy that ce plants, because they love moisture, thrive in semi-darkness. There are mois loving plants and shrubs which succe partial shade; none that will survive stygian darkness which obtains all th the summer in some of the waterside where I have seen attempts being ma grow them. In such cases it is the imperative to consider carefully what can be removed to admit sunlight and such portions of the pond as it is desi convert. If the trees are good I always leave some, whether they are sary from any other point of view or n the variation of light and shade o water's surface is as valuable as the of flower or foliage.

The two accompanying photographs

The pond before remodelling

ellent illustration of what can be done very unpromising conditions. Acting n behalf of Messrs. Wallace and Co. I member the forlorn and dismal appear- f the pond as I saw it during my first o Hallingbury Place. It was really than the smaller photograph conveys, addition to the plain, straight outline ugh gravel path surrounding it, it was ly enclosed by posts and wire netting l with Ivy, which obscured all view of ater from the principal approaches. , then, a rectangular pond with a path following its outline about 2 feet the water-level, and at an elevation of feet or 4 feet above this some majestic ome 20 feet removed from the water's No marginal or waterside planting ssible, and although there are some who admire straight lines—and, in- here are places in the garden where t lines are imperative—this, of all was the last in which they should have und. In this case it was unnecessary ove any good trees; and, indeed, little ne but alter the shape of the pond and ntours of the banks. This was done by pushing down the soil at various into the water, partly by the removal h at others, and making the whole of rounding land slope gradually to the edge. Not a line but was carefully in relation to the neighbouring land standing trees. In particular was each ven its place for reflection of light and and the utmost care was taken in the ment not to seriously disturb its roots ntly to do it any injury.

nately the bright, open, sunny places repared and planted with moisture- vegetation, Spiræas, Astilbes, the fibrous-rooted Irises, such as Kæmpferi, sibirica, aurea, pseudo-acorus fol. var., and others, Senecios, Marsh Musk, Rheums, Water Forget-me-nots. Choice sheltered and partly-shaded corners were chosen for Primulas, whilst true aquatics margined the shallower water or floated on the surface of its depths. Where, owing to the shade or other objections, it was considered inadvisable to plant, grass was allowed to sweep right down to the water's edge. Anything in the nature of a formal path being undesirable, broad grassy ways were left open for walking, but in case of damp weather the most elementary form of stepping-stone was introduced so that on occasion it should be possible to walk with comfort. Nor do such stones detract anything from the beauty of the scene, but, rather, by creating a sort of indefinite track give something of a sense of design which unconsciously appeals to the senses as a note of pleasant homeliness and suggestion of gardening. Moreover, such lines can be made to lead the visitor unconsciously towards the points from which the most enchanting views are obtained.



The dotted lines indicate the old level, and the firm lines the new contour of the banks

The same pond a few months later

The R.H.S. Great Autumn Show

(Concluded from page 620)

Messrs. Wm. Cutbush and Son, Ltd., Barnet, in their large and effective display of miscellaneous plants, used the Dahlia most advantageously. Of the large Decoratives, Jersey Beauty, Emma Groot, Bordeaux, and Clothilde were noteworthy. Other types of this flower were also well shown.

As might be expected, Messrs. W. Treseder, Ltd., Cardiff, made a most effective exhibit on the floor in the middle of the hall. Large stands as a background filled with such large-flowered Decorative sorts as Jersey Beauty, Berengaria, The Prince, Lewis Loucher (yellow), Aristocrat, Emblem, and Andrea Hofer made a most effective display. Smaller stands and vases effectively grouped on the floor made a delightful finish to a beautiful group.

A pretty little table group was put up by Mr. H. Woolman, Shirley, near Birmingham, comprising chiefly Dahlias of several different types. Princess Louise (Decorative) and Cactus sorts were well shown. There were also small-flowered sorts and Pompons, all making an interesting exhibit.

Messrs. Reginald Winder, Ltd., Linwood Lodge, near Norwich, had a group of wonderfully well-grown Dahlias, embracing novelties and seedling sorts, all showing the great advance that has been made with this subject. A few of the more striking novelties were Mephistopheles (red), Lady Phyllis Sandeman (apricot), Roi des Jaunes (yellow), De Schelde (velvety-crimson), Flamboyant (scarlet, tipped gold), Signoor (deep reddish-crimson), Ellinor Vanderveer (cerise-pink), and a host of other good things.

Mr. H. Woolman, Shirley, near Birmingham, set up a wonderful group of well-grown Dahlias, a subject which he invariably does exceedingly well. This group was in addition to a smaller group near by, but the group now under notice contained flowers showing the highest culture. Of the large-flowered Decorative sorts we must mention M. Lawrence (scarlet), Trentonian (bronze), E. Vanderveer (cerise-pink), Noble (orange, tipped white), and Joyce Goddard. Cactus sorts were well represented by Doreen Woolman (pink and white), Exhibitor (brick-red), Ballet Girl (scarlet and white), Harry Strutt (reddish-crimson), Essex (yellow), and Mammoth (purple). There were other types of the flower well done.

Another superb group of Dahlias was staged by Messrs. Dickson and Robinson, Manchester. Large stands and baskets (suspended) and numerous other smaller stands exhibited most effectively made a display well worthy of the fame of this well-known firm. The group was pleasingly finished with foliage and foliaged plants. We cannot omit to mention the following large Decorative sorts:—President Wilson (scarlet), Nancy (pink), Andrea Hofer, Macdonald, Adler (white), Augustinus (bronze), Millionaire (pink and white), and Sheila Ward (primrose). Cactus-flowered varieties worthy of note were Edgar S. Jackson, Mary Purrier, Harry Strutt, Christine Prior, and Eclipse. Pompons and Miniature-flowered Pæony sorts were also charmingly displayed.

A show of Dahlias without a group from Mr. J. T. West, Brentwood, would be incomplete. He had a grand assortment of Dahlias in his handsome group. A background of large-flowered Decorative and Cactus varieties made a splendid display, and in the form of a bank were grouped Miniature-flowered Pæony and small-flowered Decorative sorts, as well as dainty little Pompons, all very pretty and most interesting.

Opposite this group was another table group, arranged by Messrs. D. Prior and Son, Ltd., Colchester. Several types of the Dahlia were displayed attractively by this firm, although we did not care for the edging to the group of individual flowers in tubes.

As usual, Messrs. Jarmán and Co., Chard, had a large and comprehensive display of Dahlias of all types, and the flowers were set up in a most attractive manner in stands of one variety in each. Good quality was shown in the flowers staged, and they were mostly new and choice varieties. The edging of Pompons was distinctly novel and pretty. Space does not permit us to mention the names of the many good things in this very fine exhibit.

In the gallery the King's Acre Nurseries, Ltd., Hereford, staged a very large and comprehensive group of Dahlias, embracing many types of this showy subject. Their position did not permit them to make as much of their flowers as they deserved. Still, they put up a very fine exhibit, in which the newer and better sorts were well in evidence. Had this group been arranged on the floor we think the effect would have been much better.

Messrs. J. G. Ballego and Zonen, Leiden, Holland, had a small group of beautiful novelties. These were represented by the pretty small-flowered Pæony Apoldro (crimson), Miniature (a pretty little pink Cactus flower), and Lilac Glory (a lilac-coloured Cactus sort).

Messrs. Rish and Cooling, Ltd., Bath, had a small collection of Dahlias, in which no attempt at arrangement was made.

Messrs. H. Langridge and Co., Westerham, Kent, showed a number of good Dahlias in their miscellaneous group. They were all very pretty, and deserved a better position than in the gallery. Decoratives, Show and Fancy, Pompons, and other types of the Dahlia, were represented.

Messrs. Carter Page and Co., London Wall, E.C., had a grand group of the very best Dahlias for the garden. Their area was circumscribed through no fault of their own. Beautiful examples of the following were very noticeable:—Cactus: Andreas Hofer, Mrs. E. Lowes (sulphur-yellow), Edgar Jackson (rich salmon), R. Frobsinn (rose and white). Decoratives: My Lady (flesh-pink), Jersey Beauty (salmon-pink), Porthos (mauve), Secretary Voors (flesh), Rose Elegance (pink), and good examples of other types of the Dahlia. It was a great pity that this fine exhibit was broken up by a gangway.

New Chrysanthemums

THE National Chrysanthemum Society's Floral Committee have already held two meetings during the current season, and have been very discriminating in the awards they have made. Mr. D. B. Crane has been re-elected Chairman of the Floral Committee for about the twenty-fourth year. The novelties that have been recognised are the following:—

MAYFORD BRONZE.—A refined Japanese bloom about 5 inches in diameter, having florets of medium width, evenly reflexing, and building a flower of good form. Colour, bright orange. First-class Certificate to Mr. H. Shoesmith, Junr., Mayford, Woking, September 12th, 1927.

GLORIA.—A charming bloom about 4 inches in diameter having florets of medium breadth, slightly drooping, building a useful flower of a rich yellow colour. This new sort is said to be a sport from September Glory. F.C.C. also to Mr. H. Shoesmith, Junr., September 12th, 1927.

GLOW.—A superb flower and a welcome addition to the disbudded sorts. It i garded as a vastly improved Almirante ing fuller and brighter in colour than variety. The colour was defined as b chestnut, tipped gold. F.C.C. to Mr Shoesmith, Junr., September 26th.

JACK ROBBINS.—This addition to the flowering disbudded sorts is a flower be 5 inches and 6 inches in diameter h medium florets of good length, pleasing curving. Colour, apricot-bronze. F.C. Mr. H. Woolman, Shirley, Birming September 26th.

PEARLA.—An ideal flower for the m grower, being between 6 inches and 7 i in diameter. The florets are of good bre slightly twisted, building a somewhat sh though beautiful bloom. Colour, pear (some say silvery-pink). F.C.C. to M Cragg, Harrison, and Cragg, H Hounslow, Middlesex, September 26th. R.H.S. have also granted an Award of to this variety.

The Floral Committee wished to see Henry Woolman, a promising yellow 4 inches across with a fairly broad, stiff and nicely foliaged; also Bedding Yell good yellow for the hardy border. D. B

Report on condition of horticul crops on the 29th September,

VEGETABLES

Beet.—Good crop generally, but roots and inclined to be coarse.

Broccoli.—Promising, but making a deal of soft growth.

Brussels Sprouts.—Making good pro but growth sappy; average pickings made off early plants.

Cabbage (spring-sown).—Good hea ing cut.

Cabbage (autumn-sown).—Planting progress.

Carrots.—Crop good generally.

Cauliflower.—Variable; later va show good promise.

Celery.—Growth healthy and vigoro

Kale.—Making good progress.

Leeks.—Plants healthy and vigorous

Onions.—Ripened badly; harvestin peded by adverse weather conditions.

Parsnips.—Growth healthy and vig good crop generally.

Savoys.—Hearting well; promise o crop.

Seakale.—Crowns good, but requi for ripening.

Tomatoes (outdoor).—Slow to ripen, to lack of sun; crop poor.

Turnips.—Average crop; late s growing well.

FRUIT

Apples.—Size of fruit is good, but has been affected by lack of sun; high have caused considerable dropping. Prince Albert, Newton Wonder, an Derby fair to good. Bramley's ge poor. Among dessert varieties James Allington Pippin, and Ellison's Oran fair to good. Cox's Orange Pippi fair. Cider varieties are variable, bu fair average crops generally.

Pears.—Rather light crops ge Hessle and Fertility fair.

The care of garden too

Before putting away tools for the examine them carefully to see if any are needed. The time for this to be while they are idle, and not at the mo the spring when they are urgently In addition to cleaning and oiling th parts, tools which are to be put away length of time should be scrubbed ar all over, including the wooden parts. G. V

Answers to Queries

ons—Queries and answers are inserted in G ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre- s follow these rules: All communications e clearly written on one side of the paper d addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. on business should be sent to the* PUB- *The name and address of the sender are in addition to any designation he may be used in the paper. When more than y is sent each should be on a separate paper, the name and address being added As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent some days in advance of date, queries lways be replied to in the issue immedi- lowing their receipt. We do not reply to y post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

er for market

e nearly an acre of ground which I ious to cultivate in some way with of it paying a man's wages for three week. A friend tells me to grow r as a paying concern. Can you, dvise me as to this? Is it a paying grow? We have light, sandy soil. tell me of any books on Lavender- ? Is it advisable to communicate e large firm, such as Yardley's, and if they would purchase Lavender, nly a special kind? I have often y helpful replies to readers' queries ll be grateful for your help. Then rbs, Mint, Thyme, Parsley, etc. Is ale for these now? During the war, e, centres for the collection of these various parts of the country. Do ll exist, and can you tell me how chase them? Can you tell me of a r farm in Suffolk? E. S. RANDS.

o not think it possible to grow "on n acre of ground" sufficient pro- pay the wages of one man for three week. That is not in accordance general rule of market garden prac- ere some 5 acres per man of the ment are considered fair, bearing of course, that most of the work of market garden is carried out with of horses and modern machinery. days of economic stress it is not to grow vegetables and flowers for th hand labour only. With regard der this is quite a profitable crop to ere the soil and situation are suit- likes a light, calcareous, or sandy well-drained situation. The more rop gets the better. The Lavender planted out in rows 3 feet apart it 2 feet to 2½ feet between the This permits of horse-hoeing. The rown commercially in this country t exclusively the Mitcham type la vera), and is obtainable from the large nurseries who go in for of thing. There is a serious disease prospective grower must be on his ainst introducing. It is not ad- plant the whole of the available once, but to plant half, or, say, a ch year. This ensures that the never without a supply, as when s are about five or six years old t be taken up and destroyed, and d brought back into good condition ting. There is a ready market in ry for fresh Lavender flowers, and extent for the dried flowers. The ender growers, however, use most op for the extraction of oil, which r making the perfume known as water. Lavender-water is a solu- l of Lavender in a 98 per cent. ith other ingredients added which , as a rule, only to the professional As a rule, the distillers of Lavender oil are quite prepared to purchase crops of Lavender flowers from outside growers, provided they are acquainted with such proposals beforehand. There is a firm of Lavender growers and distillers at Long Melford, Suffolk. There is not much of a market now for herbs of the Mint, Thyme, and Parsley order. These have been rather overdone since the war. There is no book on Lavender-growing, and the only publication available dealing with this crop is the leaflet by the Ministry of Agriculture, No. 316, obtainable from the Ministry's office, 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1.]

Wall shrubs

Please tell me what shrubs you would recommend to fill in an ugly corner. The position is sheltered, but faces north-east. I want something that will grow quickly from 5 feet to 9 feet high and must be pretty. I should like a Cotoneaster. DONEGAL.

[For your wall we recommend Forsythia suspensa trained, when grown, to the upper part of the wall, from which it will fling down its flowering streamers in April. Cotoneaster buxifolia would do well to cover the middle part with the shorter Cotoneaster microphylla trained a little way up and clothing the wall foot. A Clematis Flammula guided through and across the Forsythia not far from the top will give graceful growth and bloom in September.]

Moving Berberis, treatment of Agapanthus, and propagating Heaths

(A. A. H.).—(1) The early part of October is quite a good time for transplanting the Berberis. Try and lift the plants with as much soil attached to the roots as possible, and make thoroughly firm after planting. (2) Your Agapanthus are suffering from lack of nourishment. Turn the plants out of their tubs, shaking most of the soil from their roots, and if the same receptacles are to be used again the plants should be divided. This is easily done by pressing two digging-forks down through the centre of the plants, back to back, and levering outwards. Before repotting, place a single layer of large crocks over the drainage holes of the tubs, and over these sprinkle a thin layer of broken crocks, which should give you 1¼ inches of drainage. This is the correct method of drainage for pot and tub grown plants. Over this place a thin layer (about ¾ inch) of leaf-mould and then add the soil, which should be composed of good turfy loam broken up to the size of hens' eggs, making up the one remaining part with chopped leaf-mould, wood-ash, and sharp sand. When potting is completed the surface roots should be 1 inch beneath the soil and the surface of the soil 1 inch below the top of the tub to allow of proper watering. The reason your roots are pushing above the surface is due to the lifting of the cramped mass beneath, which has become so tight that water poured on cannot penetrate, but runs down the outside of the ball of roots and out at the bottom. (3) Your best method of increasing your Heaths is by division, as most of the growths of the kinds you mention are now covered with flower-buds. Lift your plants and tear them to pieces, taking care to secure a few roots to each separate piece torn off, and you should in this way secure quite a number of young plants from each tuft. Do not allow these to lie in the sun with their roots exposed for any length of time, and place a little sand and leaf-soil about the base of each little plant as it is put in, and make the soil tolerably firm. When you desire to increase such Heaths to their fullest extent open out the tufts and fill in among the base of the growths to a depth of 3 inches with sharp gritty soil immediately the plants have ceased to bloom; numbers of nice young rooted pieces are then available for extension purposes the following year.

Garden screen and Rambler Rose for north wall

Wanted, a screen to protect a garden being overlooked by neighbours and at the same time be a pleasure for the owner to look out upon. The position is an open one and stands high; soil good. Six feet would be high enough. Can you give the name of a rambler that would do well on a wall facing north? "ICONOCLAST."

Lancaster.

[We suggest Cupressus Lawsoniana as the most desirable subject for your purpose, as this tree can be obtained up to 5 feet in height, stands cutting well, and if attended to in this respect while still young retains a clean, dense, and fresh appearance for many years. For your north wall we suggest that beautiful Rose, Bouquet d'Or, a superior Rose which blooms throughout the season. Rose sinica anemone is also a success on a north wall. It bears single pink flowers 6 inches across and is one of the choicest Roses in cultivation.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Plants for north border

Will you, please, tell me what plants are the best to grow in a border 10 feet by 3 feet facing north? I have some plants of Jennie and Gladys Mawson Poppies growing there which do quite well, but Hollyhocks and Gladioli have given me very disappointing results. MRS. E. C. ATKINSON.

[Any of the following would do well in your northward-facing border:—Aquilegia, Campanula persicifolia and C. macrantha (the white variety of the latter is best), Doronicum plantaginium, Epimedium, Funkia, Gentiana asclepiadea, Geranium ibericum, Lent Hellebores, Iris siberica and I. orientalis (but not the flag-leaved kinds), Phloxes of the decussata varieties (these are specially suitable), Meconopsis cambrica, Mimulus, Polygonum campanulatum, Primroses, and Solomon's Seal. Of short-growing plants for the front edge the best would be London Pride and any of the Mossy Saxifrages, Asarum europæum (for the neat, glossy foliage only), Myosotis dissitiflora, Tiarella, Polygonum affine, and Omphalodes verna.]

Lilium Auratum after flowering

(A. Fleet).—You do not say whether your Liliums are growing in the open border or in pots. If the former, no interference of any kind is necessary during the first four years from planting; after this they should be lifted, cleaned, and replanted singly on fresh and well-prepared ground in January. If the bulbs are confined to pots or tubs the flower-stems should be shortened back after flowering to within 2 feet of their base, the pots stored in a cool greenhouse, and kept on the

dry side. In January shake out and repot in fresh loamy soil in well-drained pots or tubs.

Diseased Sweet William

I am greatly troubled with a pest on Sweet Williams which reduces them to the appearance of specimen shoot enclosed. Will you be so kind as to tell me what the disease is and what steps I can take to overcome it?

L. M. P.

[Your Sweet William is very badly affected with Pink Rust, which is caused by the fungus Puccinia arenariæ. If all the plants are as badly affected as the one sent, you can do nothing but to take up and burn them. Any plants which are not affected should be sprayed with a weak solution of liver of sulphur as a preventive. Your Sweet Williams must have become infected from some source, and you should try and ascertain from where infection came so that you can guard against it another year. This fungus attacks cultivated Pinks and Carnations, and is also common on many caryophyllaceous weeds, such as Chickweed, Stitchwort and Lychnis. You should examine all such plants growing near. You may be able to trace the source of infection. If you bought in the plants they may have been infected when you got them. All diseased material should be burnt. Please see reply to P. E. Bullock under "Diseased Violas."]

Diseased Violas

(P. E. Bullock).—Your Violas are affected with Violet Rust, which is caused by the fungus Puccinia violæ. The roots of the plants appear to be quite healthy. If all your plants are as badly infected as the specimens sent, your best plan would be to take up the plants and burn them, taking care that the site is not used again for Violas, Pansies, or Violets for at least a year. If only some of the plants are affected you could destroy those badly affected and go over the rest and cut away the diseased foliage. After this has been done you should spray the plants with a dilute solution of liver of sulphur. Repeat the cutting out and spraying at intervals of 10 days until you have got the disease under control. Rust diseases are difficult to control, and fire is about the only effective way of destroying the spores. Do not put healthy Violas anywhere near the infected bed if you can help it. We should like to congratulate you upon sending in such good specimens for examination.

Delphinium mildew

(L. M. P.).—Your specimens are affected with mildew, which is caused in this case by Erysiphe polygoni, a fungus which attacks Delphinium and many other kinds of plants. The fungus produces two kinds of spores. Throughout the summer simple spores are produced, and these are usually termed "summer spores." These spores, which are produced in large numbers, serve the purpose of spreading the disease over a wide area. Towards the end of the summer resting spores are produced which carry the fungus over the winter. These resting spores have a hard outer covering which is capable of resisting bad weather conditions and also most fungicides. We should advise you to cut down the affected plants as low as is practical and burn all the material you cut away. As soon as next year's growths appear they should be dusted with flowers of sulphur. If the growth is kept dusted with this material you should find that the disease is kept under control. If, on the other hand, the disease should show signs of gaining the upper hand, spraying with a solution of liver of sulphur would help you to keep it in check. This disease also attacks Alyssum, Anemone, Aquilegia, Calendula, Clematis, Dahlia, Carrot, Diervilla, Lupins, Peas, Pæonia, Verbena, Scabiosa, and also many wild plants. You should make every effort to keep the disease in check before the resting spores are formed, because these are the means of carrying the disease over, and are, at the same time, so difficult to kill.

ROSES

Rose buds turning brown

M. E. M.—(1) The buds were so dried up when they reached us that they gave but small guidance in deciding what was the cause of the trouble. We would say, however, that a very bad attack of greenfly or thrip would cause the buds to behave in this unsatisfactory manner. It will be well, therefore, another season to see that the bushes are kept free from insect pests. (2) We presume your Orange trees are growing in pots, so all you have to do to induce them to bloom is to starve them at the root. Do not repot nor feed with anything, only clear water being given. In time the bushes will respond to this treatment.

GREENHOUSE

Sulphate of ammonia and Chrysanthemums

Can you, please, tell me if sulphate of ammonia is good for finishing blooms of Japanese Chrysanthemums, also what quantity to give?

"A Regular Reader."

[Sulphate of ammonia is a very powerful stimulant, so must be used with caution. It certainly helps the colouring of flowers, Chrysanthemums included. It varies considerably in strength, so that it is hardly safe to name a suitable quantity. However, ½ oz. to 2 gallons of soft water should be safe, and may be given twice weekly until the buds just show colour.]

FRUIT

Raspberry crown gall

I am sending you a portion of a Raspberry cane, and will thank you to let me know what is the cause of the knots at nearly every joint. The canes have been planted three years and have given me an excellent crop of fruit this year, and I have finished cutting out the old wood a week ago and just pricked over the surface of the ground between the rows. I showed a dish of Raspberries from these canes at our local show on August 27th and got second prize. I have asked several gardeners if they could tell me what it was, but they could not, and they, like myself, have never seen anything like it.

A. B. C.

[Your specimen Raspberry canes appear to be affected with Crown Gall, a disease which attacks many kinds of plants and which is due to bacteria. If your canes are producing good crops of fruits we see no reason why you should not let them remain. When thinning out the young canes you should make a point of cutting away the affected canes if you can spare them. All diseased material should be burnt. We should like the opportunity of examining some of these galls next year when they first appear on the young canes. If the plants had not cropped well we should have advised you to take up and burn, but there seems no reason to destroy fruitful canes.]

Diseased Pears

(C. S. B.).—Your Pears are affected with Bitter Rot, which is caused by the fungus Glomerella cingulata. This fungus attacks Apples and Pears, forming cankers in the wood and causing the fruit to decay. It is thought that, in a well-managed garden, infection of the fruit is caused by spores w are produced from the cankered wood badly-managed gardens infection takes from diseased fruits on or lying unde trees. If either Apples or Pears are att early in the season the fruits affected f swell up, but shrink, and finally be mummified and hang on to the wood. the attack comes later in the season the drop off and, if allowed, rot on the gr but they, too, finally become mumm All mummified fruits should be collected Apples and Pears and burned. Att fruits which have fallen off the trees s also be collected and burned. Trees have borne diseased fruits should b amined carefully at pruning time and all wood and cankered spurs cut away. S ing the trees with lime-sulphur will hel to keep the fruit free from disease nex son. A month after the petals have dr from the flowers is the best time to mence spraying. Several sprayings s be given at intervals of from 14 to 21 Bitter Rot is sometimes confused with B Rot, another disease of Apples and P Both diseases are difficult to control, bu lecting and burning affected wood and will do much to reduce attack.

Pear scab

I should be much obliged if you wou me what has caused the enclosed Pe spot and crack as they have done. Th a good crop this year, but though th some perfect fruit, most of it is spott cracked, or both. The tree is growi the east wall of a shed.

Alice Cl

[Your Pears are affected with Pear which is caused by the fungus Ve pirina. This disease attacks the l fruit, and wood of the Pear and causes loss than all other Pear diseases put tog You should endeavour to become fa with the appearance of the disease on and leaves. When the leaves of the tre fallen they should be raked up and b All dead wood should be cut out and a burnt. You can prevent most of the from being spotted and cracked by sp another year. Lime-sulphur is the fungicide for you to use, and three tions are necessary. The first sp should be given when the tree is beg to break into growth, but before any flowers open. The second spraying be given when all the petals have d from the flowers. The third spraying be given three weeks later. It is imp that the second spraying be given as s the petals have dropped; if delayed a many of the fruits will be marked. Scab attacks the underside of the f and efforts should be made to direct th sulphur under the foliage.]

VEGETABLES

Hard Tomatoes

(E. P.).—Your specimen Tomato arrived in such a bad condition that only guess at the cause of the troub your Tomatoes are hard, as we mal from your letter, the specimen you s altered somewhat on the journey, bec was so soft and decayed and had ru your letter so badly that only a wor and there is still left in the letter. toes not finishing properly is a very spread trouble this season, and we thi in the main the cause of the trou weather. Lack of sun and cool con have caused Tomato fruits to ripe slowly, with the result that they coloured badly, and in many cases ternal portions of the fruits have de imperfectly. Fire-heat would no dou matters, but at best this is a poor sub

-heat. We do not think that you will y to be troubled with this problem in al season unless you are growing a erior variety.

o diseases

wall).—Your Tomatoes are affected vo distinct diseases, each of which e liable to cause you considerable loss . (1) The foliage sent in has been l by Tomato Rust, which is caused fungus Cladosporium fulvum. Rust w can appear at any time of the year, a house where the disease has been t commences its attack early in the The best control measures you can ill be to spray the plants with a weak of liver of sulphur as soon as you ect the disease next season. After e sprayed the plants cut off and burn diseased patches. Repeat the spray- cutting out until the disease has been r control. You cannot do anything season of the year to reduce the to this year's crop, but it will help our fight against the disease another if you fumigate the house with of sulphur before the Chrysanthe- come in. As soon as the crop is but before any of the diseased is removed from the house, a heavy on with flowers of sulphur should be The plant refuse should then be ut and burned. (2) The fruits are with a bacterial rot caused by carotovorus. Carefully pick off and ected fruits and keep the house on side if possible. This disease is ainly by insects, but moisture on the iits is essential for the spread of the

MISCELLANEOUS

le plant manure

Jevons).—Clay's Fertiliser (32s. per l Bentley's "Vitaliser" (26s. 6d. per two valuable manures for general such as you require, and they are to use. Both may be used to con- advantage among plants, fruits, etables. Of course, you may use manure in small quantities when up your potting compost for all the you mention, providing it has been a dry shed for a time. It is also put into a sack and dropped in a tt, providing you dilute the resulting ore applying it to your plants. Soot reated in the same way and is valu- change of food for plants.

queries

ave some lawn mowings and other len leaves of plants, etc., which is nearly decayed. Can I use this g up leaf-mould? If so, how shall ?

es planted in April (bush, standard, ers). How late can I leave these t elsewhere, and must they all be

I take cuttings or slips of Golden d how shall I proceed?

I take cuttings of Calceolarias? If ot them and keep same in a shed ouse?

ish to take slips of Carnations. ant to pot up. Can I do so, and is ? I already have some that have ed. Shall I pot these also?

ve got a white Marguerite that has ry large, and it seems a pity to ith. Can I replant this in another and keep in the open garden t the winter?

ish to train two Fuchsias up to only planted this year. Can I do ts and how, and keep inside for transplanting in the spring to permanent position?

(8) I have about 30 Begonias in centre bed. When is the correct time for lifting and storing? They are at present still flowering.

(9) I have 12 Hollyhock roots which I have just taken up as they are done flowering. Can I keep these by replanting in open garden or is it worth while?

(10) I have some Pæonies which have turned out very poor, showing very little growth and no flower. Would you advise me to transplant? If so, how late can I leave it?

Trusting the above will meet your kind attention through the medium of your paper.

N. G. Fosh.

[(1) Build these into a stack and at every 9 inches apply a light sprinkling of either sulphate of ammonia or Adco. In six months' time this will form a very good substitute for farmyard manure. Woody matter, such as prunings, etc., must not be used. These should be burned. Such material would not take the place of leaf-mould.

(2) These can be safely transplanted up to the first week in April, and, if not moved before the beginning of March, should be pruned. The best time to transplant Roses is the end of October, when the growths should be shortened back only.

(3) Yes, tear the past season's shoots from the bushes with a heel attached, shorten to 8 inches in length, and plant firmly in rows along the base of which a little sharp sand has been placed on a cool and partially-shaded border. Make the soil very firm about the base of the cutting, and water well to settle the soil about them. The cuttings should be inserted to a depth of 4 inches.

(4) Cuttings of Calceolarias may be taken at the present time and inserted either in pots or in a cool closed frame in sharp sandy soil. A cool closed frame is better than a greenhouse for these, and they will winter safely if the frame is protected from frosts.

(5) The most satisfactory method of striking Border Carnation cuttings is by inserting them in sandy soil beneath a bell-glass inside a frame, but you may also strike them in pots by keeping the latter in an air-tight frame. August would have been better, but there is yet time for this. Yes, pot the layers up singly in 3-inch pots and winter in a cold frame.

(6) The winter would most probably kill the Marguerite.

(7) Grow these steadily on in a cool, frost-proof greenhouse in pots, keeping the leading shoot trained to a stake and removing all others until the desired height has been reached, when the tip must be pinched out, and also those of succeeding shoots in order to form a shapely head. Shift the plants to larger pots if necessary.

(8) As soon as the frost checks their flowering, or before the middle of October, dry the corms off gradually.

(9) If the Hollyhocks are healthy it is certainly worth while, as such plants will throw up several spikes of bloom next year.

(10) Pæonies do not make much growth, as a rule, the first year after planting, but if you desire to move them, the present is the best time, but in any case they ought to be moved by the end of November. Why not try a good mulch of farmyard manure.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

Scot.—1, Actæa spicata, Baneberry (Herb Christopher). As the name Baneberry suggests, and you surmise, the fruit of this plant is very poisonous. The plant is sometimes cultivated in borders and is known to gardeners as Actæa spicata fructo nigra to distinguish from a more attractive bright red-fruited form. Herb Christopher is truly wild only in the north of Great Britain, especially in north-west Yorkshire, and here and there, locally, in Scotland. 2, Saponaria officinalis flore-pleno (Soapwort), and known by old-fashioned folks as "Bouncing Bet." The root of the single-flowered common form was used formerly sliced and steeped in water to produce a lather for washing. It is rather apt to ramble by means of creeping rhizomes, and is best suited for a semi-wild corner where it may be allowed to colonise. There is a deeper-coloured form and a pure white form, both of them better for the garden than the rather poor-coloured form you sent. 3, Acanthus mollis var. latifolia (the Bear's Breach). This, too, is best kept for a semi-wild corner where it may colonise; a fairly warm corner suits it best. When firmly established it is of considerable interest when in flower, and the practically evergreen foliage is attractive even in winter.

G. T., Guildford.—Spiranthes autumnalis (the Autumnal Ladies' Tresses), a very charming little Almond-scented Orchid which flowers in September on the chalk downs.

A. Rowley.—1, Alchemilla alpina; 2, Helianthemum Mrs. Earle.

E. A. H.—The variegated form of the round-leaved Mint, known generally as Apple Mint or Pineapple Mint. It is an old-fashioned garden favourite and its botanical name is Mentha rotundifolia variegata.

A. M. D.—1, Veronica buxifolia; 2, V. Blue Gem; 3, V. angustifolia; 4, Fuchsia Frau Emma Topper; 5, F. Mrs. H. Roberts.

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the importance of sending only good typical specimens for naming, and not less than two or three fruits of each variety.

P. B. H.—1, Warner's King; 2, Wadhurst Pippin; 3, Lane's Prince Albert; 4, Beauty of Kent.

A. H. M.—1, Grenadier; 2, Northern Greening; 3, probably Grenadier; 4, Cellini.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

J. E. Sleightholme, Ingham Street, S. Shields. — Great autumn sale—Bulbs, Anemones, Crocus, Daffodils, Snowdrops, Tulips, etc. All kinds of rustic work, iron frame folding chairs.

C. P. van Tubergen, Jr., Haarlem, Holland. — Bulbs, Hyacinths, Tulips, Anemones, Begonias, Crocus, Cyclamen, Dahlias, Delphiniums, Freesias, Gladiolus, Irises, Ixias, Lilium, Lupins, Narcissus, Pæonia, Primula, Phlox, and Ranunculus.

Boulton and Paul, Ltd., Norwich.—Bungalows, garages, greenhouses, frames, glass-houses.

J. W. Barr, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne.—Daffodils, Crocuses, Gladioli, Hyacinths, Irises, Tulips.

Benjamin R. Cant and Sons, Ltd., Colchester.—Roses.

Barr and Sons, King Street, Covent Garden.—Gold medal Daffodils.

Newport (Mon.) Society

This Horticultural Society has had an extremely successful year and there has been a good attendance at meetings and lectures throughout. As a result of the Rose Show this year a cheque for £100 was handed to the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport. Preparations for a particularly good Chrysanthemum Show on November 17th are well in hand. The new session of the Society commences on October 5th, when a lecture on "Suitable Plants for Suitable Places" will be given by Mr. J. House. This will be followed by a series of lecures every fortnight, particulars of which can be obtained from Mr. F. W. Cadely, 97, Stow Hill, Newport, Mon.

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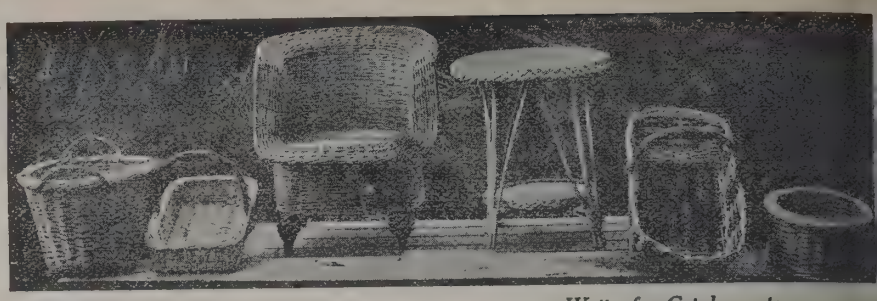

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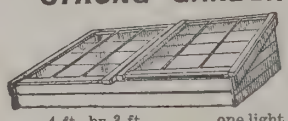

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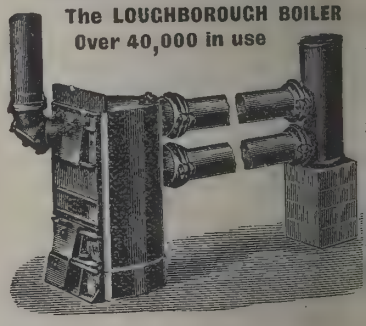

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GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

2536—Vol. XLIX. OCTOBER 15, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 13 -

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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The Fruit Store

Where crops are reasonably heavy the gathering and storing of the late Apples and Pears is the source of considerable anxiety in many gardens at this season. A costly fruit room is not necessary, but a well fitted room with perfect ventilation is a pleasing addition to every garden

any gardens the want of a suitable for storing fruit is often overlooked, he gardener has to put up with many ifts and use places that are far from r the purpose. Of late years much n done to rectify this. In small gar- uit-rooms are non-existent, and the r is expected to keep his fruit as long more fortunate neighbour who has nvenience.

ly fruit-room is not necessary, but a d room with perfect ventilation is a addition to any garden. Those who n the score of expense should pro- plan of the fruit-room in Bunyard's nursery at ne, as it is easily and constructed and perfect, the fruit, as is well known amples that are exhibited and May, in fine condi- his fruit-room is con- of match-boarding and hatched. The cool, even ure maintained by the st suits the fruit. We have sused ice-house, and here much better than in a g temperature, and the often been in big heaps little has been lost. A perature and perfectly dry, without straw or ny kind, goes far to the eping of the fruit.

est fruit-room we have as a lean-to on a wall rth. The floor was be- evel of the surrounding here being three steps t. The floor was the natural soil, d the room were the shelves on fruit was laid. In the middle of was a wide shelf on which typical of each kind found a place. These ged across the shelf with the labels e. When fruits were sent in for as very easy to go along and find of the Apple that was sent in for eated thus the fruits kept in fine ill very late in the season.

NG.—Careful handling is very Gather into baskets or trays with Moss at the bottom, as much often done to fruit by piling it up et or tray, thus bruising it in its s and causing premature decay. l showing signs of decay, as one it very quickly affects all its neighbours. Care is also necessary in the harvesting of the different varieties, as if gathered too soon the fruit shrivels and loses much of its flavour, and if left too late on the trees frost often cracks the outside skin and causes mould to be formed. Apples should be stored apart from Pears. The gathering of fruit that it is purposed to keep as long as possible should not be undertaken in the careless way one often sees, much of it often being spoiled through rough treatment before it reaches the fruit-room, going rotten soon afterwards. It cannot be too deeply impressed on those gathering fruit the necessity of handling it as carefully as if it were eggs.

The interior of a well-filled fruit room

Where a large quantity is grown for market it is seldom stored by the person who grows it, but is sold either on the trees or as soon as gathered. In private gardens the case is different, as here the grower has to make his fruit last as long as possible. As all the fruit on a tree is not fit to gather at one time it is well to go over the trees two or three times, only removing those that part readily therefrom. These should be gathered very carefully and at once removed to the fruit-room. Many people have an idea that as the fruit is hard at the time of gathering no harm follows rough treatment, but such may satisfy themselves by examining the fruits a few days after they have been gathered. They will see small dents on the skin. Here decay starts, this soon spreading, and by the time the fruit is ripe it will have quite decayed.

A neighbour stores all his fruit in the following way. He first procures some boxes or other receptacles, takes these to the trees, and when he has gathered the Apples envelops each one in a sheet of paper and at once places it in the box. The boxes when filled are then conveyed to an underground cellar, where, being cool and dark, the fruit keeps in fine condition till very late in the season. We have had Sturmer Pippin stored in this way as fresh in May as when removed from the tree, while that grand old cooker, Annie Elizabeth, has kept till July in the same store. Last May Mr. Thackeray Turner, of Godalming, sent us perfect specimen fruits of Wellington that had been stored in like manner. Incidentally, Wellington is a good dessert Apple at that season.

Storing Apples

Three years ago, in Devonshire, a man told me a story. He said that he had been present when a big fruit-grower had been testing the result of an experiment in storing Apples.

1. The fruit had been laid singly on shelves.
2. It had been wrapped in ordinary tissue-paper.
3. It had been wrapped in oiled paper.

The result was as follows:—No. 3 came out in perfect condition, as good as the day on which it was gathered. No. 2 was better than No. 1, but not to be compared to No. 3; while No. 1 was, by comparison, a total failure.

Last autumn I remembered the story and made up my mind to try the last-named method. The oiled wraps were obtained from Messrs. W. Wood, of Taplow, Bucks (4s. 6d. per 1000). I had something over 100 lbs. of Bramley Seedling and Annie Elizabeth sent me from Devonshire. These were wrapped and (mark this) packed in boxes and kept in the cellar. The result far exceeded our expectations. The fruit came out of the wraps in perfect condition, and right up to April we were eating Annie Elizabeths that for flavour and juiciness could not have been improved upon.

The point which I wish to emphasise is this: There are many people who have not

any facilities for storing fruit on open shelves, but most people would have room for two or three sugar-boxes packed full. They can buy cheaply in the picking season and store with the certainty of perfect fruit whenever they like to use it.

One more point by no means negligible. Of course, only sound fruit without blemish should be stored, but if by any chance an Apple does decay, the trouble cannot spread, as each Apple is entirely separated from its fellow. Believe one who has made it, that the experiment is worth a trial. P. B. H.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

The Jones-Bateman Cup for Research in Fruit Growing

THE Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society desires to remind those who intend to compete for the Jones-Bateman Cup that accounts of their researches should reach him at the offices of the Society, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W. 1, by October 31st. This cup, which was presented to the Royal Horticultural Society in 1920 by Miss L. Jones-Bateman, is a valuable silver-gilt replica of the Warwick Vase. It is offered triennially for researches in the growing of hardy fruits, Figs, Grapes, and Peaches, in the open and under glass. Any account of research submitted by a competitor must deal with work carried out by himself in Great Britain or Ireland, mainly during the last five years. The cup will be held for three years by the successful competitor, who must give a bond for its safe return. A successful competitor is eligible to compete on the next or any subsequent occasion when the cup is offered for award. When the cup is relinquished the holder will receive a Hogg Medal specially struck in gold. The accounts of the competitor's work will be submitted to three assessors (two appointed by the Royal Horticultural Society and one by the National Farmers' Union), who will report to the Council of the Society upon the originality and comparative potential value to the fruit-growing industry of the work of the competitors.

Chrysanthemum September Glory

This early-flowering Japanese Chrysanthemum was particularly well shown by Mr. W. F. Gullick, of Salisbury, at the recent Holland Park Show. With disbudding this variety produces large, well-formed flower-heads on long stems. It is splendid for cutting, and it is one of the best in the open. The colour is a brilliant orange-bronze.

burgh Botanic Gardens, late in June, r
This was in my early gardening days, w
as is usual with beginners, desirable pl
were noted down. Among these was
labelled Pentstemon cœruleus, with
loveliest opalescent azure-blue flowers n
finer even than P. heterophyllus. They
not appear to have it now, and I am a
it is lost. My experience in trying to ol
it up to now has only resulted in disapp
ment. Reginald Farrer evidently knew i
it appears in his "Rock Garden" a
angustifolius (the recognised botanical r
for this plant), which he says "is als
cœruleus, and another queen in the rac
leafy thing of 8 inches or so, formin
almost bushy mass of lovely blue-grey sl
from which later summer elicits spike
ample blossom such as only the high
pillowed on the Empyreum, could
imagined—beginning gently in char
tones of lavender and rose, from which
sunlight of maturity stiffens the d
softness into clear cœrulean tones that h
day, yet never arrives with its hard
shadowless certainties. Not even in Ar
lodes is there any matching the tende
assured magnificence of the pale azure
played in time by P. angustifolium."

On a visit this year to the Edinburgh
dens they had a little of the lovely Pentst
humile, a dwarfer plant with similarly
blue flowers about 6 inches high, a pla
the Rocky Mountains—a Pentstemon
desirable for the alpine garden.

Looking through a small collecti
dried plants from Spitzbergen recen
noticed a lovely Polemonium which ren
me of a plant I had on my moraine fo
or three years under the name of P. con
mellitum. It was probably P. confutera
dwarfer plant with pretty grey, hairy,
pact clumps of leaves quite small from
in due season came up the loveliest pa
clusters of flowers on 4-inch to
stems. Unfortunately, the plant damp
in a particularly trying winter, and
never been able to replace it. No
received under this name as yet hav
anything like it, nor have I seen it
collection.

The true Polemonium confidum fro
highest Alps of the Rockies and the
fornian Nevada, and the Arctic P. lan
which the fine P. lavatera humile is
in the Botanical Magazine, T. 2,800,
Richardsonii (according to Farrer), a
plants that many would like to have,
any reader has the opportunity of co
seed I suggest that he sends some
author of "Sit Down and Travel."

We all hope that these articles wil
in many more interesting and b
plants being introduced. I am su
Hay, although one of the busiest c
will gladly give hints as to likely plan
looked for by travellers visiting ou
way parts of the world.

T. ASHTON LOFTI

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

The Apple crop

A COMPARISON of the data given in the two articles in the issue of October 8th, dealing with the Apple crop, reveals the difficulty in the way of arriving at a correct estimate. In Sussex, Mr. Herbert Chapman tells us, he cannot remember a year in which his own trees carried a better quantity of fruit. On the other hand, Mr. Henry Whiteway writes, rather gloomily, that it seems fated that there is never again to be a bumper crop of Apples in England, because, excepting in Devonshire and in Somersetshire, the yield in other Apple-producing counties is comparatively light. In Scotland reports are equally variable. Some districts will produce quite an average crop, while in others—and it may be feared they are in the majority—the crop is a dismal and unredeemed failure. It is difficult to explain why, within a narrow radius, we find extremes. In these gardens I have some hundreds of Apple trees—on walls, in borders, and in two orchards. The wall trees, which are cordons 20 years of age and on the Crab, have the merest sprinkling of fruit; those in the borders may be similarly described; while the orchard trees are absolutely devoid of fruit. Under precisely the same climatic conditions and in similar soil another garden only 3 miles away has a splendid crop—so much so that support has had to be given to many of the trees. Neither my neighbour nor myself can account for the very marked difference—my own trees, admittedly by both, receive more attention than those of my friend, and they are clean, thrifty, and in robust health. I adduce this personal instance in support of what I have above said, that it is very difficult, indeed, to arrive at a correct estimate in respect of the Apple yield all over. While upon the subject I may say that I am at one with "N. S." in what he says concerning the indiscriminate use of the Paradise stock for Apples. That stock is very useful for many varieties, and especially in gardens of limited size. For enduring trees in orchards and in large private establishments, however, it is always preferable to plant trees worked on the Crab. I have often observed that, in years of scarcity, very old specimens on the free stock seldom fail entirely, whereas those upon the Paradise, in such years, are barren. In my opinion we are over-obsessed with the Paradise stock for Apples and with the Quince stock in the case of very many Pears—Thompson's, Fertility, Jargonelle, and Louise Bonne de Jersey, for example.

Dumfries. A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

"Sit down and travel"

It is a pleasure to have from Mr. Hay the results of further excursions into his valuable and interesting library. It is also satisfactory to know that the interest aroused by his previous contribution has resulted in many of the plants being obtained and that some of them flowered within the 12 months.

One of the most interesting, Lord Anson's Pea, Lathyrus nervosus, has been successfully wintered and flowered outside even in the east of Scotland.

The principal object of his excursion is to add beautiful plants to our gardens, either plants that have at one time been successfully grown outside in Britain and lost through neglect or possibly not having a constitution suited to our trying climate, or plants figured in floras of various parts of the world that seem desirable for the garden, but so far as is known have not been grown in them as yet.

One thing is certain, any good plants that come into his hands, if raised and found up to expectation, will be used to add to the attractiveness of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, which, under his initiative, are becoming as interesting to many visitors to London as Kew, and have the advantage of being more readily accessible to those interested who have not the time to visit the more important and beautiful Botanic Gardens at Kew.

The inclusion of Pentstemons of interest in his recent article reminds me of my first visit to the Mecca of all enthusiasts, the Edin-

Modern Roses

May I venture to suggest that a di
concerning the value of many of our
Roses would be not only instructi
interesting? I daresay I am hopele
hind the times, yet I have absolut
use" (to use a colloquialism) for
the newer introductions. Some are s
Some, while exquisite in bud, are
deplorable when expanded. Take th
the first which occurs to me as I
Sunstar. This is an example of what
Is the belauded Lady Butterfly worth
praise bestowed upon it? Betty U
and Henrietta are fine buds, but po
expanded state. I have, I think, s

to indicate the lines on which a profit-
liscussion might be originated.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

The Yew cat

IE garden is not one that is suited for
ie display of topiary work, and no such
ork was originally intended. But some
at the end of a clump of shrubs grew
form that suggested some kind of bold
ural treatment, and already offered a
or base for some monumental figure.
the cat, which is best seen from some
ce across the lawn. G. J.

Sweet Peas

e sure of plants that will bloom early next year.

grow Sweet Peas to perfection the
ower must be prepared to commence
rly in autumn, practically before the
t season's flowers are over. Sowing
eds is the first important step to take,

The Yew cat

ɔreparation of the trenches can stand
til November, when other crops have
ared and there is more time on hand
h the work can be done thoroughly.
t time to sow the seeds is either the
k in September or the first fortnight in
, and although seed sown in the open
nd a fair chance in warm soils and
l gardens I do not recommend it as
al rule, as there are many difficult
s to overcome before the plants make
ory headway in spring, which is not
with plants raised now and given
er of a cold frame or other protection
he short, dull days of winter as given
ollowing notes. Good seed from a
source is the very first consideration,
annot expect the best results from an
and cheap class of seed. It is not
select too many varieties, as it is
grow one dozen reliable kinds than
three dozen kinds in anticipation.
rowing for exhibition would do well
nd raise 20 to 25 plants of each kind
ich to choose the required number of
The season's crop of seeds is now
l, so from a reliable raiser one is sure
g new seed which germinates more quickly than seeds from last year's crop. This should be ordered at once, and in the meantime the soil should be prepared for sowing when it arrives. Where there is ample space and small pots on hand some growers sow singly one seed in each pot. These require much more attention than the course I adopt, which is to sow in boxes 4 inches deep. The most convenient size ranges around 18 inches to 30 inches. These should have five or six holes bored in the bottom about 1 inch in size; over these should be placed a large inverted piece of crock or oyster-shell.

The best soil consists of good loam three parts, decayed leaf-mould one part, and a liberal supply of coarse sand. A handful of lime to each bushel of soil helps to keep the soil sweet, and if the latter is liable to contain eelworms or other insect pests it is advisable to scald it before sowing the seeds. This is best done when the pots or boxes are filled ready for sowing, allowing them sufficient time to drain. The ingredients should be thoroughly mixed together and passed through a ½-inch meshed sieve, keeping the roughest portion to place at the bottom of the receptacles. If boxes are used 1½ inches of this may be used and made firm at the bottom, before filling up with the finer portion, which should be to within an inch of the top and pressed down level. Before sowing the seeds it is advisable to place ½ inch of clean sand on top of the soil, and if holes are made with the flat end of a lead-pencil a portion of the sand will go to the bottom of the holes to form a bed on which the seeds will rest, which will do much to prevent them from decaying. Three inches apart and 1 inch deep is a fair distance to place the seeds, and those that appear hard and thick in the skin may have a portion of the side farthest away from the germ chipped with a sharp knife or file; this, though not essential, hastens germination in some cases. When the seeds are in the holes there will be sufficient sand to fill them up, and if the soil has been previously scalded as mentioned beforehand there will be no need for further watering until the plants appear. If not, water with a fine-rosed can. They should then be placed on a bed of ashes in a cold frame, keeping the light closed and a mat placed over the top to keep shaded for 10 days, when the seed should have germinated and the young plants peeping through. When this occurs remove the mat at once and give a little ventilation, and when all the plants show through raise them up as near the glass as possible and give ample air, watering as the soil becomes dry. In a month or six weeks' time they should be about 3 inches high and the tips should then be pinched to cause them to break from the base. This is one of the chief secrets with good Sweet Pea plants. During winter hardiness is the point to aim at, and when they are making headway one need not hesitate to remove the light altogether on fine, sunny days. Towards the end of January the plants may be potted up singly into 3-inch pots if time and space allows, and if they can be given a shelf in a cool greenhouse for two or three weeks it is a great advantage, but they must not be forced. This is only to cause quick root-action, and they must then be returned to the frame and grown steadily on until early in March, when they can be hardened off in preparation for planting out.

VARIETIES.—There are so many sterling varieties now in commerce that it is impossible for any individual to name the best, but the following dozen that have done well with me during the present inclement weather I can honestly recommend to the beginner:—Sybil Henshaw (crimson), Constance Hinton (white), Powerscourt (lavender), Charming (cerise), Youth (picotee), Heavenly Blue (blue), Mary Pickford (soft cream-pink), W. J. Unwin (salmon-cream-pink), Matchless (cream), Warrior (maroon), Hebe (rose-pink), and Mauve Beauty (mauve), while to extend the list the following six are good:—Queen of Rumania, Mrs. C. W. J. Unwin, Mermaid, George Shawyer, Picture, and Wizard. W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Ivy-leaved Pelargoniums

The beginner with a greenhouse is sometimes tempted on the first onset to grow a larger variety of plants than he has room for and the cultural requirements of which he has very little knowledge. There are, however, quite a number of subjects that are "safe" for him to grow as, given ordinary attention, they thrive and yield satisfaction. Among the number one can, with confidence, include Ivy-leaved Pelargoniums, which are useful in many ways and seldom fail to reward with a good show of flowers over a long period.

As pot plants for baskets, as semi-climbers, and for window-boxes in summer they are popular, and their cultivation is so simple that the veriest tyro need have no fear in giving them attention.

Easily struck from cuttings in a greenhouse in spring or autumn, they are best served by being potted in a compost made up of loam, leaf-mould or spent Hops, and sand. If for baskets one or two struck cuttings will usually suffice, and they are not long in covering the receptacle. Anyone having a lean-to greenhouse from which frost is excluded in winter, and desiring something to cover the back wall, need be under no apprehension in planting one or two Ivy-leaved Pelargoniums in the border within, as they will soon cover almost any space required so long as the light can reach them, and for months on end there will be a rich display of flowers. Varieties worth recommending are:—Beauty of Jersey (reddish-purple), Scarlet Mme. Crousse, The Queen (salmon), Abel Carriere (magenta), Joseph Warner (bright rose), Queen of Balkong (crimson-scarlet). LEAHURST.

Crinums with Laurel foliage

White Crinum Powelli

THE white form of this fine flower of late summer is one of the best things of July and August. It may not be so successful in the colder midlands, but in all light soils in the latitude of London and southward it may be trusted to do well. It is a grand thing for large effects on some sunny bank, grouped with Yuccas, Phormium, and the larger Euphorbias. The pink forms in several shades of colour, from a faint blush to a good deep pink, are also lovely flowers, but do not give the same impression of purity and even majesty as the white, whose individual flowers are also largest.

It is also a noble flower for indoor decoration and lasts well in water. It demands the accompaniment of some bold foliage. We find the right thing in small branches of the broad-leaved Laurel, whose stiff stems in the lower part of the jar also serve usefully for the support and right placing of the heavy masses of stalk and bloom. G. J.

Violas

This has been, on the whole, a favourable season for Violas, no very brilliant show at one time that is soon over owing to the absence of sun and heat, but a lasting display of good flowers with fresh green foliage well retained. There are few more acceptable flowers for small gardens, and the fact that there are so many different shades enables one to make quite a brave show with these alone.

When occasional plants are wanted to break the flat surface of the Violas one can obtain them in another hardy plant in the shape of nice little specimens of Fuchsia gracilis, both the type and the variegated form. I have acquired but few only of the newer kinds, and it is doubtful whether for purely bedding purposes, that is, for compact growth and free and long-sustained flowering properties, they are any improvement some of the best of the older varieties white, yellow, mauve, dark purple, crims purple, and rose. All the above colours available in Violas for the supply of mat for small beds and borders. Scarlet is a the only colour not supplied, so one ha rely on dwarf Antirrhinums or the dwa of the Begonias (tuberous or fibrous) for purpose under consideration, or, failing th on Linum grandiflorum. The associatio Roses, dwarf Hybrid Teas, or Polyan with Violas makes very pleasing beds if Roses are at sufficiently wide interval allow for a fair breadth of the dw flowers between. This may be in cont as Richmond surrounded by White S Viola, or in shades nearly approaching other, as Mme. Abel Chatenay and Ard Gem, whilst Snow White and Yv Rabier, two of the Polyanthas, show to vantage on a groundwork of rich purples Archibald Grant and Councillor Wa The peculiar shade of Leonie Lamesch a finds a comparison in Dobbie's bronze V

E. BURRE

Naturalising bulbs

Considering the art now displaye arranging and naturalising bulbs it is not prising to find admirers of spring effect the increase. One has only to get a gl at a nicely-arranged "vista" of bulbs t come an enthusiast. We now deck la grassy banks, and margins of shrubb with gay spring bulbs, relieving overcro beds and borders, and hence lending t selves to greater variety. Many are ab afford the most expensive bulbs procur but I strongly advise the average ma grow both classes. The cheap kinds enh the charm of richer varieties, and in nat ising and massing the cheap varieties splendid results. For example, Crocuses; for embellishing shrubland the decoration of a stretch of grass no can be better than the inexpensive s kinds. But for grouping in border brightening the pathside there is no que as to the superiority of the large n varieties. Then, again, as to Snowd It is quite unnecessary to buy the very bulbs for brightening the turf, but fo work, garden vases, and prominent pos the massive sorts should be planted. F.

Crinum Powelli

labranthus advenum (Hippeastrum advenum)

OR well over two centuries this species nd its allies have been cultivated under host of different names in the gardens rope.

far as Great Britain is concerned none em can be considered as hardy bulbs in general sense,* as they demand well-ed periods of drought and of rain, for requirements our climate does not pro- But most of them are easily grown d out in a cool greenhouse from which is barely excluded and given a summer g period of a month or more.

these bulbs are natives of Chile†, the tine†, and the La Plata basin†, im- l bulbs will flower at all sorts of times, l those belonging to the advenum group become autumn flowerers after a few of cultivation in Great Britain.

ir nomenclature is in a state of con- . Baker, in his Handbook of the llideæ, put together under H. advenum I. bifidum a number of names of bulbs ich dried specimens or figures were then ble. Some of these are certainly varie- f H. advenum, but others can only be nt into accord by some *tour de force,* is clear that there remains much work done before our knowledge of this of plants entitles us to speak with nce as to the correct names of some of

t of them detest pots, but soon grow roups of flowering bulbs if planted out eft undisturbed. A dozen flowering pushed up from one bunch of bulbs a charming display. The figure‡ here contains a group of 16 scapes, those ut bearing generally four flowers each. group, here figured, was raised from ent me by the late H. J. Elwes, of ourne, Glos.

Description

following description is very wide, as been made from many importations arious localities over a long period of and from seedlings raised by myself. ly no single group of bulbs collected ne locality would touch both the mini- nd the maximum measurements here

s.—1 inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter. ous. Neck not generally short.

es.—Three to five, distichous, rather not usually glaucous, reaching 1 foot et in length by $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch maxi- width. Foliage appears a few days e scapes appear and continues grow- the winter. The leaves will with- ome degrees of frost.

s.—Appear in August and September autumn rains following summer . Overall height 6 inches to 16 carrying an irregular umbel of two , generally four flowers.§

e.—In some varieties cleft to the base ne side only, in others the two valves ilar to each other. On expansion of vers the length of the valves exceeds the pedicels, but these latter grow lly become about equal to the valves h.

s.—About three thread-like bracts are or one to each pedicel if more than

els.—Erect, of markedly unequal lengths, and varying from 1 inch to nearly 3 inches.

Flowers.—Sub-erect to horizontal, rose-red to dark blood-red‖ with a whitish or greenish base and a narrow lighter-coloured keel down the lower two-thirds of each segment, which are 2 inches to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in maximum width. Span of flower = limb. Span of umbel $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Each flower lasts about three days expanded. Tube very short.

Stamens.—Contiguous or nearly so, clasped at the base by a minute crenulate collar or fringe. Pollen deep yellow.

Style.—Exceeding stamens, but shorter than limb. Stigma dark ruddy-purple Trifid.

Fruit and seeds.—Typical of sub-genus, freely produced. Bulbs flower in four years from seed. A. Worsley.

Isleworth.

red two bulbs in the open in September, 1899, at

lph Berger, of Isleworth.

ral the Chilean varieties have a spathe which is to the base on one side only, and part-cleft on the The varieties from the east side of the Andes cleft to the base on both sides of the spathe. H. bifidum of Herbert and of Baker.

never seen a 6-flowered umbel, such as is shown s Serres, tab. 900, under Hab. hesperius.

‖ I have not seen the yellow form (var. pallidus of Herbert in Lodd Bot. Cab., t 1760).

Habranthus advenum (syn. Hippeastrum advenum), grown by Mr. A. Worsley, Isleworth

Violets in frames

The culture of Violets in frames is worth the attention of those who can provide such accommodation for them during winter, and though sometimes the one growing them for the first time may encounter difficulties, he should not lose heart about them, as few things recuperate more quickly than these sweetly-scented flowering plants.

It ought never to be lost sight of, however, that Violets are hardy, and need but a slight shelter to bring them into bloom, provided the crowns have been brought to a good size by outdoor culture during the summer. When failures occur it is generally after the plants have been quartered in frames, and in most cases it is due to lack of air and insufficient ventilation. Damp, "muggy," and foggy weather is not helpful to any plants in frames, least of all Violets, and should it happen that mildew begins to show itself, leaves so affected should be picked off at once and flowers of sulphur dusted about the plants so attacked, taking care to treat the sides of the frames also. The despondent one who finds owing to bad weather that his plants are not looking quite so robust as they did before they were removed to the frame may take consolation in the fact, even supposing some of the leaves do die off, others will soon follow, as will flowers. One may help established plants by affording them a slight stimulant once or twice a week, such as a little guano or Clay's fertiliser, taking care at the same time to afford ample ventilation both top and bottom. One must be guided in giving water by weather conditions, as in a damp period it is possible to water too much and so encourage mildew. I have had plants at the back end of the year looking anything but promising, but with lengthening days new growth has appeared, and a show of blossoms weeks before those in open beds have shown colour. Stir the soil of those in frames and never allow dead leaves to remain. W. F.

CANADA IN ESSEX

By Viscountess Byng of Vimy

(Concluded from page 628)

HYPERICUMS really should have a place to themselves, for they are so numerous and lovely; but I will merely name those I have here—so far as I can name them, because several I could never trace. H. adpressum, perforatum, mutilum, anagalloides, and concinnum. I have also a lemon-yellow-flowered one, whose name I don't know, and another of a creeping habit that produces very big golden-yellow flowers compared with its delicate-looking foliage, and there is a tall one, extremely floriferous, which reaches about 3 ft. in height.

Finally I come to a Western gem that is perhaps the showiest of all the plants I have collected, namely, the Pentstemon family. It has many representatives, and it is hard, out of the wealth of rosy-purple, blue-purple, azure, and indigo flowers that these delightful plants offer, to pick out which is loveliest, so I will simply give the names of those I possess—some collected personally in the West, others given to me from the Ottawa Experimental Farm plot of native plants. Confertus, glaber, glaber rosea, alpinus, coeruleus (or angustifolia), cyananthus, Scouleri, Menziesii, ovatus, Richardsonii, and eriantherа. Of Lilies in Canada we have Canadense Philadelphicum, Columbinianum; and in ericaceous plants the Gaultherias, Shallon, ovalifolia, humifusa, and procumbens. Arctostaphyllus Urva-ursi, the "Mountain Rhododendron" (R. albiflorum), which, I regret to say, does not look too happy at present, though its next door neighbour, "Rhodora" (R. Canadense), is perfectly at home, as are "Creeping Snowberry" (Chiogenes hispidula), Empetrum nigrum, Vacciniums, Phyllodoce Breweri, and Cassiope Mertensiana. Pyrola asarifolia bloomed this year for the first time, but "Single Beauty" (Moneses uniflora), its companion, has, alas, departed this life, as I feared it would, for it is a difficult little treasure, and partially parasitic in its habits. However, I mean to try this and all my other failures again just once, and if they "die on me" next time that will be the end of it, as there is nothing so melancholy in a garden as unhappy plants, and there are so many which can be, and are, happy here that I won't turn the place into a hospital. Linnea borealis is growing ahead well, so is Vaccinum Oxycoccus, with its delightful little flowers that resemble a miniature Tiger Lily. "Goldthread" (Coptis trifolia) is settling down, so is Loiseleuria procumbens, which a friend sent me from the Rockies; but it is such a pernickety thing in its habits, requiring that impossible combination of wet in the growing season and dryness in winter, that unless I can see my way to making a skilfully piped moraine I doubt if I shall succeed with it.

Finally come the shrubs, and there are not many that, to my mind, are worth troubling about having or quoting here. The following are the best. Loniceras—Tartarica; involucrata, with its wonderful crimson bracts and black berries; Canadense, which, though not showy, has the merit of turning a good bronze in autumn, also is most obliging in clothing dry ba while of the climbers, of course semperv is well known, and has thriven amaz here, as has its companion, ciliata, runs it close for effect. The bushy R are too well known to be noted, but are two charming trailers in pedatus, bright green foliage, and nivalis, bronze leaves. Another delightful trai the "Partridge Berry" (Mitchella re and a dwarf woodlander that accompar is Dalibarda repens. Of Elders ther two—the Eastern, Sambucus racemosa, red berries, and a beautiful Western whose name I never found out, with b blue scapes of berry and very serrated age. This never grows to any height is a most attractive shrub. Spiræas are many and varied. All through the are lucida, latifolia, and tomentosa, the "Queen of the Prairies" (Filipe rubra) grows both East and West, but cus solely Western, as are pyramidali corymbosa. The worst of them is tha seed too freely here. But the que shrubs is, without doubt, Cornus Nu from the extreme West. All through couver Island it abounds, climbing th sides, filling the valleys, and with the " rone" (Arbutus Menziesii) presenting forgettable picture in the Malahat when, fourteen months ago, I drove t that most wonderful piece of count saw the whole hill side draped in broom, from which rose the cornus bloom, and the Arbutus stems a wo golden-bronze on every bank that fac south and caught the full sun. So cornus is growing well, but not rapidl and the Arbutus seedlings are shooti so that I look forward to seeing them a real show before many years have and thus affording me happy memo those glorious days on the Pacific C that paradise, Vancouver Island.

The gardens at Thorpe Hall, Essex, where Viscountess Byng of Vimy is growi many interesting plants brought home from Canada

FLOWERING SHRUBS AT THORPE HALL, ESSEX

us floribunda (the Japanese Crab) in a spring corner.

mys aromatica (in foreground), a good bushy specimen in the ut 4 feet high.

3. Moonlight Broom and Double-flowering Gorse, with Iberis Snow Queen in foreground on the bank of the south pond.
4. A gay Torch Lily (Kniphofia caulescens).
5. The dark red flowering Crab (Pyrus Aldenhamensis).

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Perpetual flowering Carnations

Houses filled with these popular plants should be maintained at a temperature of 55 degs. at night, rising a few degrees by day, with free ventilation, always using the sheltered side of the house for this purpose unless the weather should prove abnormally sunny and warm, in which case no harm will arise from using the opposite lights also in order to prevent an excessive rise in temperature. Damp the floors occasionally, and a weekly application of soot-water to the plants will impart a healthy appearance. About once each fortnight the plants will benefit from a light top-dressing of a reliable Carnation manure; this, however, must not be overdone.

Malmaisons

As soon as the layers put down in August have filled their pots with roots they should be shifted into a larger size, such as 5-inch or 6-inch according to the progress and vigour of individual plants. Use a coarser compost than formerly, consisting of three parts good, rich, turfy loam which has been stacked for 12 months, a proportion of lime-rubble, well-matured leaf-mould or spent Mushroom-bed, wood-ash, and sharp sand. Pot firmly, and water thoroughly immediately the potting is completed, but after this the greatest care must be used and water applied only when absolutely necessary for the next few months. Stand the newly-potted plants as near to the glass as possible and maintain a temperature not exceeding 55 degs. Should the fungoid disease known as Rust among gardeners put in an appearance the plants must be laid on their sides and sprayed with salt water used at the rate of 1 oz. common salt to 1 gallon of water.

Primulas

P. obconica in its various forms, P. malacoides; the latest batch of P. sinensis, and P. Kewensis may be given a shift into larger pots, as these will not be required for another two months, during which time they may be grown on in cool pits where they may be kept close up to the glass. Cinerarias of the stellate section and also Schizanthus, Mignonettes, Clarkias, etc., will also pay for similar treatment.

Lily of the Valley

A batch of retarded crowns should be introduced to the forcing-house every fortnight, and if removed to a house having a temperature of 55 degs. when the first flowers begin to open the latter will be larger, the spikes taller and stouter, and the leaves will assume their natural green, such plants retaining their beauty over a much longer period than the yellow examples we too often see.

Chrysanthemum houses

These must not be kept closed at any time otherwise damping of the petals is sure to follow. A temperature of 45 degs. to 50 degs. with a steady circulation of air will prove suitable.

Cannas and Begonias

Plants which have been used for the summer beds must now be lifted and stored. The former should be cut down to within 1 foot of the ground and stored in sand in a cool frost-proof shed, and the latter, after the removal of their foliage, may be placed in boxes and stood in a cool frame to dry somewhat before transferring to winter store.

Herbaceous borders

Alterations which have been decided upon during the summer, such as re-grouping, discarding, and adding new subjects, may now be carried out, for plants put out in good time in the autumn quickly take hold of the new soil and prove vastly superior to those put out at the turn of the year. It is important that the soil should be enriched before new plants are put in on spaces previously occupied by old gross-feeding subjects.

Gladioli

Where these are grown in beds and borders now required for other plants they may now be cut off to within 8 inches of the ground, lifted, and stored in a cool frost-proof shed.

Carpeting beneath Roses and shrubs

When this is done with dwarf-growing perennial plants it is essential to transplant these at least every second year, and a start may now be made with the small but free-growing Violas, dwarf Lavender, Campanulas, Cranesbills, Mimulas, and similar subjects, and thus reduce the pressure of work in early spring.

Gathering of fruit

This has been a very heavy business this year, and with its completion attention must be given to the necessary or desirable moving of trees which have not come up to expectations. Trees which are growing too rampantly at the expense of fruit must be lifted and transplanted in order to check their exuberant and fruitless growth.

Bush fruits

Any additions to this department may now be carried out, and since such bushes occupy the same positions for several years it is most essential that these should be thoroughly trenched and enriched before planting is carried out.

Peas

These are now at an end and should be removed in order that the land may be dressed in readiness for winter digging.

Asparagus beds

A clearing of the beds should be made when the growth has become thoroughly ripened, the ground cleared of weeds, and the beds put tidy for winter.

Cauliflowers

Those now turning in must be examined daily, a few leaves being laid over any small heads showing, otherwise even a light frost will spoil their colour. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Tender bedding plants

Any of these that may still be in frames should be at once removed to light, airy quarters in pit or greenhouse, where a little artificial warmth may be afforded them should damp or frost threaten to cause damage. Give plenty of air on all favourable occasions, and water only when really necessary, damp rather than cold being most to be dreaded at this season.

Feed Cyclamens

These are now throwing up their flower-stems, and it is, therefore, advisable to systematically feed the plants, but this must be done cautiously, strong stimulants being certain to do more harm than good. Clear soot-water, weak liquid made from cattle or sheep droppings, and Ichthemic guano, a dessertspoonful to a gallon of clean water, are all good, and can be used week about, a change of food being very beneficial. Be very careful in applying water, etc none lodges in the centre of the pla if any does, many of the flowers will

Young Gloxinias

Any young seedling plants of this subject that may not have bloomed sl kept growing on slowly throughout t ter and shifted into larger pots in F which will be found a much better than the ordinary one of drying off th In this latter case the bulbs, being ve in many cases die off largely, where "keep moving" plan be adopted th trifling.

Planting bulbs

Most of the spring-flowering bu now be planted should time and we favourable. It is wrong, however, t any of these while the soil is sodde late enough for Daffodils, but it is plant even yet rather than to waste may be on hand. In all cases where is of a heavy and retentive nature so sharp sand should be placed under ea

Border Chrysanthemums

As soon as frost kills down these t should be cut away 2 inches from th and the requisite number of the o lifted, potted, or boxed and set frames so as to provide cuttings in Do not coddle, but rather air well all the winter when frost is absent.

Spring bedding

Where beds are to be filled wit flowering plants it is now time to work carried out, weather conditio favourable. It is a rather laborious agreeable job at the best, but much when the soil is wet. It is alway therefore, to defer for a little rathe carry out such planting when the s and sloppy.

Orchard trees

Any dead wood present should be and any overcrowding of the branc lated. It is best in this connectio away with a saw all badly-placed trimming the cut parts neatly wit or sharp knife.

The mulching of fruit trees

Where trees carry good crops annually there is, usually, a ten growths to become stunted, with, a loss of size and quality in the f counteract this give a good mulc rotted manure all over the surface as the roots are likely to extend.

Strawberry beds

I have had excellent results Strawberries by lightly notching ea the rows with a sharp spade, spr tween them a fairly generous dress old manure and then lightly di whole in. This is a speedy and, proved, a quite satisfactory plan.

Fruit trees on walls

Where the walls are properly keeping of the trees properly fas comparatively easy matter, but fastening has to be carried out shreds, and twine it is an uncomfo tedious business, and during win impossible of accomplishment. therefore, to endeavour to get as possible of this work carried out cold weather sets in, as it can be in much less time and in compar fort. C

Preston House Gardens, Linlith

THE QUEST OF THE UNUSUAL IN IRIS

periences of an American enthusiast with the whims and vagaries of fascinating natives and others

(Continued from page 566)

ersicolor is the Iris of our meadows, we see it making blue spots among ld of Buttercups. It likes to have n water, but will grow in ordinary soil, being perhaps an unusual I have no water in my garden, so is in a lower spot with the Sibiricas Forget-me-nots, and seems to be ented, and bloomed with me about Those in authority consider that is not really worthy of a place in r garden, as it is supposed to be a rampant grower. I say supposed, has not yet reached that condition, as able really to enjoy the blossoms my mind, contrary to description, well above the leaves and were a y shade of blue. A number of tints of versicolor are now reported rent localities. There is a pink or riety which is effective in the mass is offered in commerce. I. versi- alled the purple counterpart of I. is, the European Swamp Iris. I. is has a bad reputation for seeding e place, so I have put it in the far e garden hoping that its prolific may respond to restraint.

matica is a dear little native, quite reticulated on white, and growing ossom on the end of a very slender ch sways in the breeze as do the o which group it belongs. I. pris- much lower in growth than the nd the stem is somewhat bent. e is very slender, like grass, and ing one has to look very closely to t he does not pull up the spreading e native place of I. prismatica is p meadows. I have mine planted as the morning sun, and then a r partially shields it for the re- f the day. For some reason or seems to be more or less moisture and both prismatica and its com- va, thrive.

per-coloured Iris fulva is a de- m the long list of blue and purple It comes from the banks of the near New Orleans and also in ds in the south as far west as ere collected forms of different reported even to pink. I. fulva he hexagona section of American section was thought at one time nly three—hexagona, lamancei or l fulva. Dr. Small, of the New ical Garden, has subdivided the urther and given us more species earth. Iris fulva is taller than the American Iris, the stem rom 2 feet to 3 feet. It is rather o see the way in which it spreads, toward the west, 3 inches or 4 a cluster of leaves, 3 inches or re and another cluster of leaves.

o other members of the group I. omes from the South-Eastern r south as Florida. It grows in s and needs much water during season. The true hexagona is ch shade of purple." An Iris that name is securely anchored n, but it has not yet bloomed.

ts of I. hexagona lamancei, or accepting my garden hospitality one from a near-by garden, one sas, and a third "collected in" This Iris is of a lovely shade ming low among the leaves. It moisture.

osses have been made between the divisions of this group. One, between fulva and foliosa, is Dorothea K. Williamson, by Mr. E. B. Williamson, of Indiana, a most beautiful Iris of a "rich, velvety royal purple." A curious result from copper and true blue parents. This Iris blooms later than the Bearded section and before the Japanese, as it were a bridge between the two big shows. It is a wonderfully handsome, striking flower. Mr. Dykes produced a hybrid from the same combination, called I. fulvala, a red-purple. Mrs. Dean, of California, has given us a hybrid of fulva and hexagona, called purpurea. This is not very effective in the garden, but has most artistic colouring. "Dull in the garden, but quite ravishing in a brown jug." Still another hybrid from this group is Cacique, from Mr. Berry, of California. It is described as "prune-purple and blackish-purple on the order of Dorothea K. Williamson." Those who have seen it in Mr. Berry's garden report it "a beauty."

This American group was said by Mr. Dykes to be the nearest relatives of the Spuria sub-section, of which I have several representatives. Some of them are newcomers and some have existed in my garden for a number of years without blooming. They require heavy feeding and moisture and take a long time to become established. The Spurias belong to the Apogon or Beardless section and come from South-eastern Europe and Southern Asia and from the coast of the Mediterranean. Some of the Spurias, as in the case of I. graminea, are dwarf, and some, as I. ochroleuca, attain, under happy conditions, the height of 5 feet. One of the most noticeable peculiarities of these species is the growth of the branches, which rise perpendicularly from the main stem, the flowers appearing one above another, giving the effect of springing directly from the main stem. Mrs. A. W. Tait, a Spuria hybrid, growing 3 feet exactly, delighted me this summer with several beautiful stalks of porcelain-blue flowers which were worth waiting some time to see. The flowers are quite large and look like a glorified Spanish Iris. I am hoping that it is now established.

Iris aurea, a rich golden-yellow, while not blooming, has developed such healthy, strong-looking foliage that it is reasonable to suppose that it also has found a spot to its liking. All the Spurias have stiff tapering leaves narrower than those of the familiar bearded group and growing from 3 feet to 4 feet high. The thick fibrous rhizomes somewhat resemble those of fulva and foliosa, though they have a more leathery substance. They soon lose their vitality if left out of the ground for any length of time. The best time to divide them being in early autumn. The authorities have not yet decided whether it is a species or a hybrid, nor are they even positively convinced as to the country from which it originally sprang, although Kashmir is supposed to have been its native place.

Iris ochroleuca, "the gold-banded Iris," is one of my new acquisitions. It has white flowers with a large yellow blotch on the

(Continued on page 648)

Iris gracilipes, native of Northern Japan

Iris Gracilipes

THE blossoms of this Iris are very beautiful, being about 2 inches in diameter and of a soft heliotrope-blue tint with a broad central band of white veined with narrow lines of red-purple, and with a little spot of bright yellow at the extremity of the band. The leaves are each 9 inches in length and ½ inch in breadth. The falls are small, forked at the top, and of deeper colour than the rest of the flower. The flower-stems are very slender and exceed the leaves in length, so that the flowers show up well. When a dozen or more flowers are expanded at the same time they have an extremely pretty effect. It is a native of Northern Japan, and, therefore, should be quite hardy. It is, presumably, but very little known.

The Quest of the Unusual in Iris

(*Continued from page* 647)

falls. A fine form of this, well grown, is said to be one of the most stately of all Iris. There are several varieties of ochroleuca now advertised, with varying shades of yellow. Shelford Giant, a hybrid from Sir Michael Foster of aurea and ochroleuca, is creamy-white with the yellow blotch, perhaps a glorified ochroleuca. This also is a newcomer to my garden. Iris spuria alba, which is advertised by several growers, is said to be more interesting than beautiful. I do not know whether it is a hybrid or a species, as I cannot find any account of its origin.

Iris Monnieri, included among the Spuria species and also sometimes spoken of as a hybrid, is a lemon-yellow, this crossed with I. spuria (the type), a purple, has given various shades of blue hybrids, called Monspur. Iris monspur Lord Wolseley has been in my border for many years; it is very unresponsive, something is most decidedly wrong with its environment or else it has not a happy disposition. The little Iris graminea, growing only about 9 inches in height and blooming in late May, belongs to this same Spuria sub-section. I have two clumps of it on my rocks. Its violet-blue flowers are topped by the longer leaves and have a fragrance of ripe fruit.

Iris graminea comes from Southern and Central Europe, and its name was given to it on account of its foliage, which is narrow and grasslike. It is said to grow "anywhere," but I have found that although it will survive "anywhere," it will not bloom if the location is too shady or if it is at all crowded or pressed upon.

Having lost I. gracilipes in the sun, the tiny I. Arenaria when acquired was put in a sheltered spot where it languished for several years, fortunately surviving this unsuitable treatment. It requires full sun, also the tiny rootstock must be well covered with sandy soil, which I had neglected to do. With much uncertainty I dug up the mite and put it in the sunniest place in my garden. It began at once to take on new life and is increasing in size in a most encouraging manner. It needs a soil composed of sand and humus, and the slender rhizome always covered with at least an inch of the sand. This little Iris comes from Hungary, and though such a mite, growing only 4 inches in height, has two names. One, Arenaria, referring to its desired habitat (sand), and the other flavissima, on account of its colour, which is bright yellow. This Iris belongs to the Pogoniris section and has an orange beard.

Another new Iris of this year is Iris Hoogiana, which to my great delight I found listed in several catalogues. Descriptions have made me covet it for some time. Mr. Dykes speaks of it as "the most aristocratic of all Iris." It belongs to the Regelia section of the Pogoniris and comes from Turkestan. One peculiarity of this group is the habit of the foliage in dying down after the blooming, the plant remaining in a dormant state through the summer months and until after the beginning of the year. The colour of Hoogiana shows in different plants, varying shades from grey-blue to purple. It has a conspicuous bright golden beard, not only on the falls, but on the inside of the standards. It requires a well-drained position, full sun and lime. It is hardy in the vicinity of New York City with a winter covering of leaves, and does not require to be lifted or protected from showers, as Mr. Dykes recommends for the climate of England.

Iris ruthenica, a Beardless Iris from South-eastern Europe and Asia, is another stranger within my gates. I have it planted on the rocks near graminea. It is said to grow readily in any good garden soil, only requiring a certain amount of moisture during the growing season. This little Iris is not generally offered, and I am hoping that it may prove to be "the blue loveliness" of which I have read.—SUSAN TYNG HOMANS in *Garden Magazine and Home Builder.*

FRUIT GARDEN

Apricots

THE Apricot, being a surface-rooting fruit, gets dry sooner than a tree with roots a greater depth, hence the advantage of liberal supplies of moisture to encourage these fibrous roots, and a liberal mulch in the early summer months. For this purpose I employ decayed cow manure, and I have great faith in it for dry thin soils, as there is no better material to retain moisture and for keeping the roots cool. We have a soil with a gravel bottom, and to keep our trees healthy it is necessary to mulch heavily twice a year, and to apply water with a hose twice weekly during the growing season, and sometimes in June and July the trees are hosed daily, and if this is omitted the leaves droop and the fruit ceases to swell. On such soils it is difficult to apply too much moisture when the trees are in robust health, and even after the fruit is gathered, if the supplies of moisture cease, the branches die and there is a want of vigour about the trees. Given a suitable soil and abundance of feeding or mulching to retain the moisture, the trees give the best results. I think there is less loss of branches if the trees are allowed more freedom of growth, and, of course, they require more moisture and feeding. I have been interested of late seeing the different modes of culture sometimes advised for this fruit, but I think much of the mischief arises when the trees are not liberally supplied with moisture when in dry soils; of course, in heavy soils there is much greater difficulty. I had such a soil once in the west of England, and I could not grow a fruit till I got the roots nearer the surface and mixed a large quantity of mortar-rubble and burnt soil with the natural soil, and even then I only succeeded with one or two varieties. The variety Large Early is inferior to Moorpark and is appreciated where others fail. This variety is an early kind, large and very hardy, rich orange flesh, a good bearer, and a strong grower, making a good tree in a short time. I found it advisable to lift about every three years in preference to severe pruning, and by this means I did not lose many branches. Large Red also did well, but does not need describing, except that the flesh is of a deeper colour, flesh rich and juicy. Where these trees fail I think it advisable to begin with fair-sized trees in preference to maidens, so as to get a good start and to use the knife as little as possible, as when a good-balanced tree is planted, free play may be allowed in the case of these trees, as one is not so fastidious about every inch of wall space being covered if the trees can be kept in a robust state and fruit freely. A.

Apple Braddick's Nonpareil

Really good dessert Apples in season during the winter are none too plentiful, and it is equally certain there are a few varieties not so well known as their merits entitle them to be. Among these latter I would give Braddick's Nonpareil a prominent place, believing it to be one of the best dessert varieties that can be grown in a private garden. The fruit is medium-sized, flattish round in shape, skin pale yellow on the shaded side and brownish-red where exposed, there being patches of russet about the eye and other exposed parts. The flesh is yellow, moderately firm flavoured, and aromatic. It remains table longer than most other Apples, a be had good from November till the April. The habit of growth is so slender, the variety not being well ada growing in a pyramidal form, but suc well either as a half-standard or large in either case on the Crab stock—a also strongly recommended for grow the broad-leaved Paradise stock. For seasons in succession good crops ha gathered. Our soil is a strong loa ing on a very retentive clayey and only Apples with a good c tion will long remain in a health ductive state unless lifted and re occasionally. This has not been don case of Braddick's Nonpareil and other trees owing to their great size, cause I consider tampering with the to do more harm than good. Allowi paratively stunted old trees to form a number of fresh branches to replace t ones will frequently put new life in and is the only renovating measure been adopted in the case of the spec Braddick's Nonpareil. This variety appear to be better appreciated in th western counties than in other part country.

Grease-banding fruit-tre

About this time of the year advic quently given as to the value of grea which should be applied quite October, as the wingless female win begins to be active by crawling up t of fruit trees, seeking a suitable pla its eggs. Their favourite tree appe the Apple. Prevention in this way be a certain cure, but it greatly les attack, the winter and spring sprayi the final remedy. This early autu caution is still very far from being u on the contrary, it is entirely ig many fruit cultivators, who, when t crop is practically a failure, tell you bad season; whereas, had they take steps to annihilate this pest at th time a far different version could be

Several sundriesmen supply thes bands, and they are not very cost within reach of all who value a f Put them on from 2 feet to 3 feet ground-level, making sure the mo squeeze itself in between the same bark of the tree, clearing off all t are trapped at frequent intervals, a sidered necessary re-banding. A on the market is Stictite; yet oth the vendors claim for them.

The value of soot

Household soot is an excellent m all crops. While it cannot be cla it excels sulphate of ammonia or soda as a nitrogenous manure, c an insecticide none better can be suits all crops, and can be applied vantage almost at any season. Go soot contains about 4 per cent. against 20 per cent. contained in s ammonia and about 15 per cent. of soda. Much soot on the marke little value, either as a manure or i A simple and reliable test to app out the quality of soot is to tak the hand, and if on squeezing i between the fingers it may be re up to the standard, if, on the ot it hardens and congeals the quali Fresh soot is somewhat "hot," an therefore be stored for several we using. Keep it in a dry place in b above the floor if at all damp. C

Answers to Queries

ons—Queries and answers are inserted in ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre- follow these rules: All communications clearly written on one side of the paper d addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING *n, Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. n business should be sent to the* PUB- *The name and address of the sender are in addition to any designation he may be used in the paper. When more than y is sent each should be on a separate paper, the name and address being added As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent some days in advance of date, queries ways be replied to in the issue immedi- owing their receipt. We do not reply to y post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

a trouble

nclosed Buddleia was attacked by a cky liquid subject about June and it d to flower. I sprayed with "Abol" as I noticed it, and that appeared to shrub, but they have not flowered. u tell me what the black sticky stuff hether it is worth while keeping the They were attacked the same way , but we had them in a very cold catching all the east winds, so we wn to that. This year we moved to pen position facing south, but still e attacked again. Sorry I cannot any of the black stuff, but perhaps know by the appearance of the d axils. W. H. CARTWRIGHT.

Buddleia shows every sign of suffer- the effects of an attack of aphis the season. The black sticky liquid u mention was also due to the aphis. phids secrete a substance called . This substance is sweet and nd in certain cases is much sought ants. Honeydew is also a good for the growth of certain so-called Moulds," and the black sticky liquid d in your letter was, we think, with one of these black moulds on it. If you prevent the aphis at- will also control the sticky black We should advise you to spray the ly with "Abol" next season. Do until you can find the aphis, but intervals as a prevention. The flower was no doubt due to the ck.]

accata (the Common Yew)

F.).—Yes, it is poisonous to cattle, fects are uncertain. We know of in parks that are nibbled by cattle grazing line as other trees are, and ses of Yew poisoning are heard of. her hand, deaths of horses, sheep, ves, and cattle have so often oc- ere these animals have been turned fields that there is no doubt about ous effects of the Yew. From the ou send it is evident that your tree the Irish Yew (Taxus baccata var. , of columnar habit. It has the onous qualities as the type.

GREENHOUSE

a greenhouse

d.).—The only alternative to cloud- ass is to use blinds, of which there kinds, made of reed, lath, and some kind of canvas). Lath by far the most durable and effi- are expensive. Tiffany or dressed y be used on rollers or fitted with ttach to hooks on the ridge-plate ing is required. Roller blinds are factory, however, and even when heap material will last many years ul use and when stored in a dry veen August and May. When blinds are permanently fixed they should be provided with a board-covered recess over the ridge-plate into which the blinds can be rolled when not in use.

Plumbago and Azalea questions

(E. M.).—Both your plants are badly affected with red spider. These mites flourish in greenhouses, especially when the atmosphere of the house is kept on the dry side. The greatest enemy these mites have is water, and if plants are kept well syringed red spider cannot make much headway. With plants so heavily infested as yours appear to be spraying will have to be carried out. At least three sprayings should be given at an interval of five or six days. Take ½ oz. of potassium sulphide and dissolve it in a little hot water. When dissolved make up to 1 gallon with cold soft water. Then take 8 ozs. good wheaten flour and make it into a smooth paste with a little water. Gradually add some boiling water to make it into a good paste such as is used for bill-posting. This should be thinned down by adding enough cold water to make 4 gallons. When this is ready gradually add the gallon of water containing the potassium sulphide and stir well. Thus 5 gallons of spray fluid contains ½ oz. potassium sulphide and 8 ozs. of flour. This mixture does not keep long, and should be made fresh for each occasion. Potassium sulphide will blacken white-lead paint, and if you cannot spray the plants without wetting the paint-work try the flour paste alone.

FLOWER GARDEN

Flower beds in Southern Norway

For two beds 3 yards by 2 yards in front of a fishing lodge in Southern Norway wanted the names of perennials which would make a good show in June and July. Begonias did well, but have to be removed every year. I wish to try perennials.

H. W. L.

[As the beds are comparatively small it is essential that such plants as you desire must be rather dwarf in habit; the choice is, thereby, limited. The following, however, might suit:—Herbaceous Pæonies, Pyrethrums, Heuchera brizoides, Erigeron Quakeress, Aquilegias, Achillea Ptarmica The Pearl, Campanula carpatica, Linum narbonensis, Lychnis viscaria splendens, Anthemis, and Lupinus polyphyllus.]

WINDOW GARDENING

Bulbs for window boxes

Would you advise me as to the best kind of bulbs for planting in window-boxes (outside) facing south and south-west? Also kindly state composition of soil.

W. H. PRESCOTT.

[If the boxes are of fair depth (7 inches to 9 inches) and are well drained, Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocuses, Scillas, Anemones, Spring Snowflakes, and Daffodils will all succeed. The best soil consists of three parts fresh turfy loam pulled to pieces with the hands, two parts leaf-mould, one part coarse sand. The addition of a 5-inch potful of bone-meal to each barrowload of soil is beneficial. Mix all thoroughly together, and before filling the boxes arrange a layer of rough material in the bottom to ensure perfect drainage.]

FRUIT

Diseased Raspberry

Enclosed please find Raspberry canes. The Raspberries are grown in a very enclosed part of the garden. You will see that the stems are brown in some joints and quite clean in others. The soil is not what you would call a good one, but it is well manured each year, and also dead canes cut out in good time. W. H. CARTWRIGHT.

[The specimens you have sent in for examination are affected with a fungus which agrees with a disease described by Massee and which he calls Raspberry Spot, the fungus being called Glocosporium venetum. We have found plenty of the spores of this fungus present in your specimens, and conclude, therefore, that it is the cause of the trouble. Two methods of treatment are open to you. (1) The easiest way out would be to destroy the plants and to keep Raspberries off the same site for at least one year. (2) Cut down to the ground-level all infected canes and spray the old stumps and soil with lime-sulphur at winter strength. All diseased material should be burned. When the young growth appears next season it should be sprayed several times at intervals of 10 to 14 days with lime-sulphur, this time using 1 gallon of concentrated wash added to 59 gallons of water.]

Strawberries failing

(Payne, Berks).—We have carefully examined the material you sent in and have failed to find any organism which would account for the Strawberries failing. The lower portion of the rootstock was quite dead, but above at about ground-level the plants were healthy, and they were trying to root again. It would appear that some cultural detail is at fault. Have the plants been dressed with anything that has killed the rootstocks? An overdose of artificial manure could cause all the symptoms which we could see of the trouble. If you will send us full particulars of the cultural details we may be able to detect the weak spot. We take it from your letter that the runners were planted in 1925, in 1926 the plants were not allowed to joint or to produce runners, and in 1927 gave a heavy crop of fruit, but have since failed badly. Please write us again if we can help.

VEGETABLES

Potatoes failing

(J. T. Smith).—The specimen Potato sent in for examination is affected with Blackleg, which is caused by the organism Bacillus atrosepticus, van Hall. The whole root-system and also part of the stem was full of this organism; all the tubers, too, are affected. This disease is very widespread, but as far as is known it is not carried over in the soil from season to season, the disease does not contaminate the soil, and can only be propagated by planting infected tubers. This, therefore, does not explain why your Potatoes fail on this particular site. You say that Potatoes are only grown on the site every second year, and if Blackleg is really the cause of the failure it must live on self-sets during the year Potatoes are not grown. A much more likely cause of the trouble is Potato Eelworm, which does contaminate the soil and would infect the Potato crop each time it was planted. This pest would by this time of the year have left the plants and would be in the soil, and it is almost an im-

possible proposition to find the nesting stage of Potato Eelworm in the soil. We have spent much time with your specimen and have failed. If you will send us a self-set Potato plant from this site about the first week in June next year we may be able to throw more light on the failure. Self-set Potatoes should always be removed during the off year.

Mushroom for identification

I herewith enclose specimens of Mushroom for identification. The bed is in a warm greenhouse and was spawned in February last. It has continued bearing periodically about every three weeks or so. The Mushrooms appear in flushes and last about four days. Some are as large as small plates, the gills being white, later turning pale pink when full grown. R. G.

[Your specimens appear to be Agaricus arvensis, Schæff. The description of this fungus is given as Pileus, 5 inches to 10 inches, conico campanulate when expanded; flesh, white stained with yellow; gills when young white or very pale flesh-coloured, turning dark purplish-brown. Distinguished from A. campestris by the almost white gills and yellowish flesh. Agaricus campestris var. hortensis, Cke., is the form usually cultivated, but the variety hortensis has many forms and is, therefore, very variable. The general description given for A. campestris, Linn., is given as Pileus, 2 inches to 5 inches; epidermis easily separating from the flesh, projecting beyond the gills and often curling back. Gills at first a beautiful pink, turning dark later. We believe that A. arvensis is very much appreciated on the Continent because of its fuller flavour.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Tree Tomato (Cyphomandra betacea)

(H. W.).—The fruits of the Tree Tomato referred to (issue September 24th, page 599) have been exhibited within recent years by Messrs. Sutton and Sons, Reading, from whom seed may be obtained. The orange-scarlet fruits, about the size of hen's eggs, are very ornamental and quite distinct from Tomatoes. The plant requires greenhouse treatment.

Wire frames for topiary work

(O. H., Hants).—It is possible that these can be obtained through a firm of horticultural sundriesmen, such as Messrs. William Wood and Son, Taplow, or John Pinches, 3, Crown Buildings, Crown Street, Camberwell, S.E. 5. They are not supplied by nursery firms so far as we have been able to ascertain. The best results, however, with clipped trees are obtained by training and clipping without the use of wire frames. Wire frames save a certain amount of time in training clipped trees, but there is always a tendency for such trees to break apart during a heavy fall of snow.

Grass as manure

Is grass any use as a manure or fertiliser? I have a lot of coarse grass which is cut two or three times a year and generally thrown on the rubbish-heap. Manure is expensive, and I would like, if possible, to make some use of this grass. Mown grass I have dug into the soil, which is chalky, but this scythed grass is too long for that. E. H. L.

[There is very little manurial property in grass, and, of course, a great objection to its use in the garden, unless cut before it goes to seed, owing to the army of seedlings such material brings forth. Short grass may be used when mixed with leaves, strawy litter, breaks, etc., for digging into heavy soil for the purpose of aeration or for mulching fruit trees during summer, but it has no other value. The scythed grass, which may have gone to seed, is also of use as a mulch during summer to orchard trees growing in grass where its seeds do no harm.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

Alpine.—1, Veronica salicifolia; 2, Campanula Portenschlagiana (C. muralis), one of the very best Campanulas for the rock garden, wall garden, edging, and ideal as a ground covering for a bed of orange-yellow Roses. It will grow with the same ease in heavy clayey loam as in prepared soil in the rock garden, and is happy in the narrowest chink in a wall with scarcely any soil, and in mild seasons even flowers a little during the winter; 3, Pavia macrostachys, a North American bush or tree closely allied to the Chestnuts, and known in America as Buckeye. It is a decidedly ornamental subject, but rarely more than a spreading bush in English gardens, and we do not have a record of the nuts being produced in our gardens; 4, Arabis albida variegata.

J. H. E., Tyrone. — 1, Retinispora squarrosa; 2, Crucianella stylosa; 3, Armeria cephalotes; 4, Rhus cotinus.

Mrs. H. B. R.—Rose Mrs. Henry Morse.

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the importance of sending only good typical specimens for naming, and not less than two or three fruits of each variety.

Mrs. Poland, Betchworth.—1, Not recognised; 2, Hereford Crimson Queening; 3, Gascoyne's Scarlet; 4, Betty Geeson; 5, Pear Admiral Gervais.

E. P., Addlestone.—1, Worcester Pearmain; 2, Beauty of Kent; 3, Pear Marguerite Marrilat; 4, Charles Eyre.

H. R. V., Bournemouth.—1, Beauty of Bath; 2, not recognised (poor quality); 3, Cellini.

B. W. Jeffery, S. Devon.—1, Seaton House, 2, Hormead Pearmain; 3, Pear Conference; 4, Pear Beurré Superfin.

T., Oxford.—1, Pitmaston Duchess (a poor specimen); 2, Doyenne du Comice; 3 and 4, both rotten and unrecognisable. It is probable that the trees are cankered. See reply to "C. S. B.," issue October 8th, page 636.

W. Mackay Wood, Cheshire.—1, Northern Greening (culinary till April); 2, Canadian Russet (culinary till January); 3, seedling resembling Blenheim Orange, not quite identical (culinary till January); 4, Barnack Beauty (culinary till February).

H. W. R. G., Teddington.—Fearn's Pippin.

H. C., Huntingdon.—1, Frogmore Prolific; 2, Court Pendu Plat; 3, Pope's Scarlet Costard; 4, Bramley's Seedling.

F. C. Vinall, Farnham.—1, Lord Suffield; 2, Sops in Wine; 3, Coronation; 4, Calville Blanche d'Hiver.

Deepdene.—Crimson Bramley.

Kentia.—1, Beurré d'Amanlis; 2, Bergamotte d'Automme; 3, Baronne de Mello; 4, Fondante de Cuerne. The Beurré d'Amanlis should thrive in your district. It is one of the hardiest of Pears, and succeeds well in Scotland. Failure is probably due to the wet season and an excess of phosphates in the soil.

Fruits to Name see also page 652.

TRADE NOTE

Improved greenhouse heaters

For greenhouse heating and other purposes the Apparata, produced by Rippingilles Albion Lamp Co., Ltd., have long been famous. The Company have recently placed upon the market a new range of heaters fitted with the firm's patent Blue Atmospheric Burners. The burners are simple in construction and are most economical in fuel consumption, giving complete combustion of the oil. Full lists and prices will b free of charge on application to Ripp Albion Lamp Co., Ltd., O Depa Aston Road North, Birmingham.

Royal Horticultural Soci

Wisley Trials, 1927

The following awards have been r the undermentioned vegetables by th cil of the Royal Horticultural Socie trial at Wisley:—

BEET

AWARD OF MERIT

Intermediate varieties.—Feltham mediate, sent by Messrs. Watki Simpson; Intermediate, sent by Webb.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Round varieties.—Detroit (dark selected), sent by Messrs. Zwaan a der Molen; Flat Egyptian, sent by Zwaan and de Wiljes.

Intermediate varieties.—Intermedia by Messrs. Cullen; Nonpareil, s Messrs. Barr; Obelisk, sent by Speed and Nutting; Excelsior, s Messrs. Clucas. The first three are

COMMENDED

Round varieties.—Early Model Glo by Messrs. Zwaan and Van der Egyptian, sent by Messrs. Hurst.

Intermediate varieties.—Intermedia by Messrs. Carter.

New certificated Chrysanthe

An interesting series of new early-fl Chrysanthemums was submitted Floral Committee of the National anthemum Society in Monday, the 1 The following received recognition:—

BONNIE LASS.—A beautiful additio border variety that develops sprays o blossoms about 3 inches in diameter rather narrow florets that build a b reflexing form; so good for outdoor Colour, soft pink, paling with ag chamois centre. Height, 2 feet. F Certificate to Mr. A. W. Thorpe, Li

TORCH.—An excellent disbudded having medium to fairly broad, ra florets that build an attractive Colour, chestnut-bronze with gold The flowers are developed on ere stems with small foliage. This is a from Harry Thorpe. Height, 3 F.C.C. also to Mr. Thorpe.

PURPLE ROBE.—Another useful bor The flowers are about 3½ inches to 4 i diameter having florets of medium w build a full flower of a bright clar colour with silvery reverse. Useful cutting in sprays. This is a seedli Lichfield Purple. Height, 3 feet. F Mr. Thorpe.

DAFFODIL.—A most attractive va disbudded blooms. The florets ar broad and build a full flower of drooping form some 5 inches in d The flowers are borne on stiff, er stalks and the foliage is small. golden-yellow. From Mr. H. Sh Junr., Mayford, near Woking. F.C

SUNGOLD.—A large and handso bloom having fairly broad florets twisted, building a flower about 8 i diameter. This should prove to be did large bloom for market. F. Messrs. Keith Luxford and Co., Essex. D. B. C

CATALOGUES RECEIVE

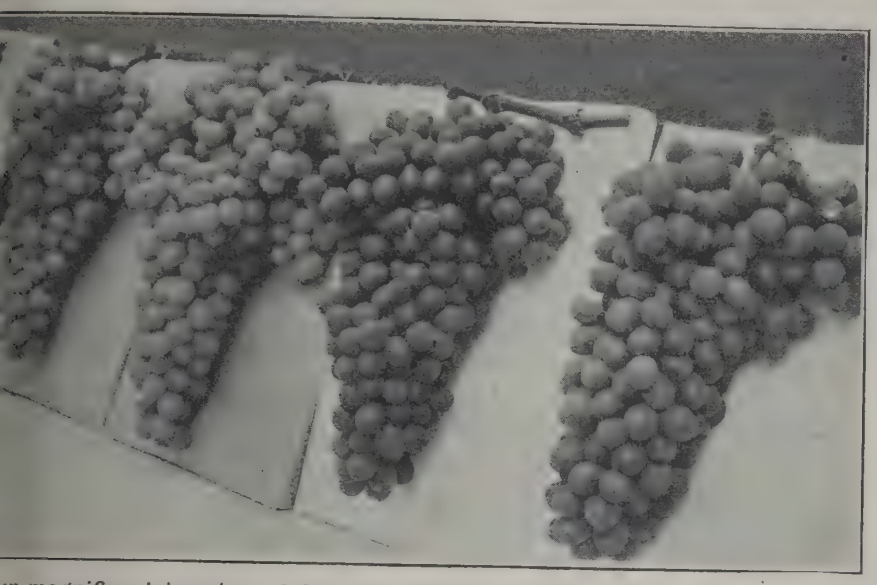
W. J. Unwin, Histon, Cambs.— catalogue of Sweet Peas, bulbs, and

Wm. Cutbush and Son, Ltd., Herts.—Bulbs, forcing plants, speci room spawn.

R.H.S. FRUIT SHOW, October 11th, 1927

Success of Amateur Exhibitors in Competitive Classes

INE display of fruit was seen at the rtnightly meeting of the R.H.S., ld on Tuesday, October 11th, for h the groups of fruit were compara- w and a little disappointing, there was large entry in the competitive classes



ur magnificent bunches of Grapes—Mrs. Pince (2 bunches) and Muscat of Alexandria (2 bunches)—which gained First Prize in Class 4

Shown by Lord Swaythling

h annexes of the hall had to be Apples formed the bulk of the ex- nd in many cases their colouring was bly bright, while owing to the very on the size of numbers of varieties siderably above the average.

of the Apples submitted to the Fruit ee received any award, but a large- nnamed variety from Gordon Castle, ouring similar to that of Hoary , and with a good flavour, will be he Wisley Commercial Fruit Trials. Apples submitted to this Commit- matter of interest were some very ties, such as Fair Maid of Devon, Cove, and Upton Pyne, which have ssed out of cultivation. They were Mr. P. C. M. Veitch.

fruit in this great exhibition was wn, and the Apples in particular ghly coloured. The remarkable ne as a surprise to many who were impression that prolonged sunshine ry for its development. It is highly that wind and cold nights help colour well.

AMATEUR CLASSES

at feature of the show was the suc- ateur exhibitors.

rdon-Lennox Cup for the most s display of fruit staged by an the competitive classes was won in Drummond, Gadland Park, on (gardener, L. A. Smith) for a f 30 dishes of hardy fruit grown in ir (Class 13) (see illustration).

of Apple Laxton's Superb shown 5 by Captain Drummond was one dishes in the whole show. The llustration) were large, heavy, and ed.

Apple that came in for great praise ont Russet. The first prize fruits (Class 54) were shown by Mr. J. Bishop's Teignton, Teignmouth.

In Class 4 for four bunches of Grapes the Rt. Hon. Lord Swaythling, Townhill Park, Bitterne (gardener, Mr. Rose), was awarded first prize for remarkably heavy and well-formed bunches of Mrs. Pince and Muscat of Alexandria. (See illustration.)

The George Munro Memorial Cup for the best exhibit of Grapes by an amateur was awarded to the Duke of Newcastle, Clumber, for a collection of 12 remarkable bunches.

In addition to those already mentioned the following were among the successful amateur exhibitors:—Mrs. Helsham Jones, Newbury; Capt. R. B. Brassey, Cottesbrooke Hall, Northampton; Lady Durning-Lawrence, Ascot; Lady Juliet Duff, Combe Court; Col. F. J. B. Wingfield Digby, Sherborne Castle; Mrs. T. S. Hall, Chard; and Mrs. Hornby Lewis, Marlow, Bucks.

In the competitive classes some very fine Grapes were shown by the Duke of Newcastle, who won first prize in the class for four varieties with splendid bunches of Gros Guillaume and Muscat of Alexandria. The same exhibitor also won first prize for his collection of nine dishes of dessert fruit, which contained, in addition to Grapes, a Melon, and Peaches Golden Eagle and Princess of Wales. Another successful exhibitor of Grapes was the Rt. Hon. Lord Swaythling, whose magnificent bunches of Mrs. Pince bore a beautiful steely bloom.

In classes for fruit grown in the open air, several first prizes were won by Capt. M. Drummond, of Cadland Park, Southampton. His largest exhibit was that of 30 dishes of hardy fruits, which included brilliantly-coloured specimens of Apples such as Wealthy, Herring's Pippin, and Ellison's Orange, as well as Plums and Morello Cherries, all in excellent condition.

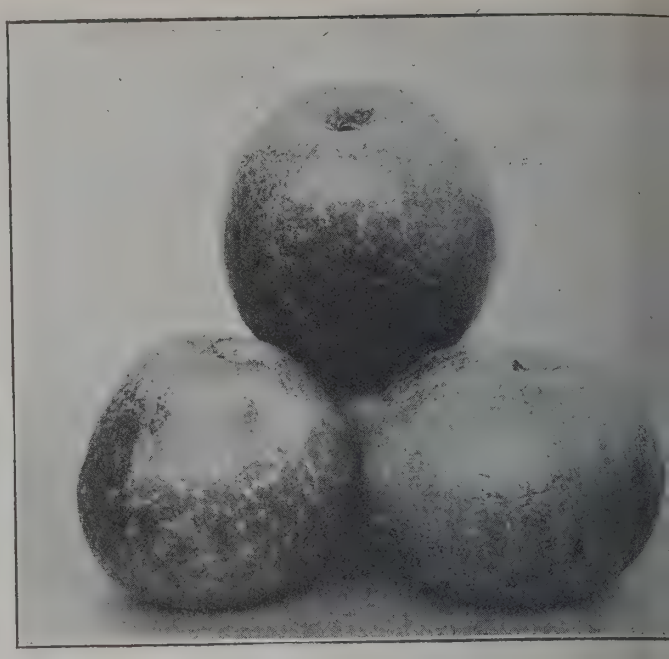
In the classes for single dishes of Apples and Pears, one of the most persistent prize winners was J. A. Stidson, Esq., of Bishop's Teignton, who exhibited excellent specimens of Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Egremont Russet, American Mother, William Crump, and many other choice varieties. The best plate of Cox's Orange was shown by W. Myers, Esq., who also won first prize for plates of Blenheim Orange (large fruits) and The Queen.

TRADE GROUPS.

One of the most attractive groups was that of Messrs. G. Bunyard, of Maidstone, who, in addition to a comprehensive collection of Apples, which included fruits of Ben's Red, Mother, Monarch, and Rival, showed several varieties of Plums, Filberts, and Fontignon Grapes. A decorative feature of their exhibit was the introduction of bright-coloured Crab Apples, such as Dartmouth Crab, Cheal's Crimson, and Purple Crab. Another group of the fruit which, like the former, obtained a Silver Gilt Hogg Medal, was that of Messrs. Rivers and Son, of Sawbridgeworth. It included in the centre some pot trees of the bright-coloured Apple, Gascoyne's Scarlet, which were loaded with large

A portion of the exhibit of 30 dishes of Hardy Fruits (Class 13) which gained for Capt. Drummond the Gordon-Lennox Cup for the most meritorious display of fruit staged by an amateur

In the foreground of this exhibit are Pear Charles Ernest, Apples James Grieve and Peasgood's Nonsuch



TWO OF THE BEST DESSERT APPLES IN THE SHOW

Apple Laxton's Superb, highly coloured and heavy fruits, shown by Capt. M. Drummond—the best dish in Class 25

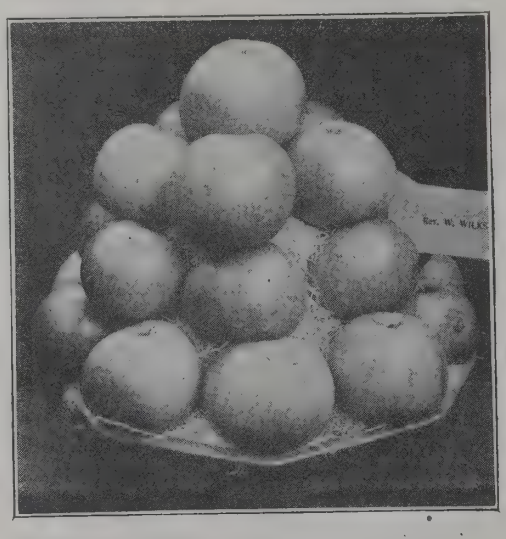
The First Prize fruits of Egremont Russet, shown by Mr. J. A. Stidson, Teignmouth

fruits, and the majority of the surrounding Apples in baskets, such as King of Tomkin's County, Wealthy, and James Grieve, were also remarkable for their fine colour. Similar awards were made to Messrs. J. Allgrove, of Slough, who showed about one hundred sorts of Apples, in additon to Pears and Plums, and whose exhibit was decorated with the scarlet hips of Rosa Moyesii; to the Horticultural Department of the University of Reading, and to Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons, of Crawley. The latter exhibited baskets of Apples, Pears, and Figs in pots, which were embellished with the autumn-tinted foliage of Rhus typhinus, Scarlet Oak, Acers, and Spiræas, as well as the berries of Pernettya mucronata.

The exhibit put up by the Horticultural Department of the University of Reading was most instructive, and showed various methods of packing for market. Boxes and baskets of different sizes and weights were exhibited, including a half-bushel box with the wooden sides replaced by glass in order to show the system of packing. A commendable feature of this group was the clear and detailed labelling of the fruit exhibited. Messrs. Laxtons, of Bedford, showed many good varieties of Apples, such as Ellison's Orange, Lord Lambourne, and the Rev. Wilks, as well as a new Blackberry and a fruit named a Strawberry-Raspberry. The latter, a variety of Rubus palmata (?), is most attractive in appearance, and should be a valuable plant as an ornament in the garden. It has not, however, much edible value. This exhibit gained a Silver Hogg Medal, which was also the award gained by Messrs. W. Seabrook and Sons, of Chelmsford, by the Barnham Nurseries, and by Mr. W. J. H. Whittall, of Haslemere, who showed one each of 135 varieties of Apples grown by him.

The very handsome and attractive display by Messrs. Bunyard, Maidstone, Kent, already referred to, was a continuous source of interest. Apples were superbly fine in this group, notable examples being Worcester Pearmain, Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Lady Sudeley, Lady Castlereagh, Benoni, Mabbott's Pearmain, and Rival, amongst the dessert kinds, all beautifully coloured. Of the culinary sorts Peasgood's Nonsuch, Stirling Castle, Striped Beefing, Warner's King, and Bramley's Seedling, were all good. Pears, Grapes, Plums, Crabs, and Nuts were also shown. Another excellent group was put up by Mr. J. C. Allgrove, Langley, Slough. Here were staged no fewer than 72 dishes of Apples, seven Pears, and four dishes of Plums, the whole combining to make a highly meritorious display. Of the culinary Apples, the more noteworthy sorts were S. T. Wright, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Warner's King, Newton Wonder, Rev. W. Wilks, Bramley's Seedling, Lord Derby, and Bismarck. The dessert Apples were very fine, their size and colouring being especially noteworthy. Especially good were the examples of Ribston Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, Allington Pippin, Hoary Morning, Mabbott's Pearmain, Duchess' Favourite, King of the Pippins, Rival, Chas. Ross, and Ellison's Orange. This group was surmounted by two stands of the common Barberry in beautiful condition.

Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons, Ltd., Crawley, Sussex, also showed well in their handsome lot of fruits, charmingly displayed. Dessert Apples were good, though rather large in



A splendid basket of the early cooking Apple Rev. W. Wilks, shown by Mr. J. C. Allgrove

some cases, such as with Chas. Ross— examples of cultural skill—Ellison's O Allington Pippin, and Rival. More examples of dessert Apples were seen i sorts as Ribston Pippin, Forge, M Mabbott's Pearmain, Egremont R King of Pippins, Cox's Orange P Nanny, and Adam's Pearmain. Cu sorts were splendidly shown, the better being Hambling's Seedling, Royal J Lord Derby, Newton Wonder, Prince Peasgood's Nonsuch, Bramley's Se Rev. W. Wilks, Herring's Pippin Warner's King.

There were a few examples of Pea Figs in this group.

The Barnham Nurseries, Barnham, S had a useful little group of high Apples and Pears, most attractivel played. The apples were beautifully co and were especially noteworthy for thi Dessert Apples were well represented i sorts as Worcester Pearmain, King Pippins, Ard Cairn Russet, Peace Coronation, Ben's Red, Laxton's S Lady Sudeley, Ribston Pippin, Ros Russet, and Christmas Pearmain. better culinary sorts were Gre Warner's King, Charles Eyre, Bra Seedling, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Lane's Albert, Newton Wonder, and Lord D

Messrs. S. Spooner and Sons, Hou Middlesex, also had a small gro Apples in about 30 different dishes a kets of fruits. A few of the better sorts were Ribston Pippin, Allington Christmas Pearmain, Rival, and Ho Wonder. Of the culinary sorts, Bis Newton Wonder, and Lord Stra were the more noteworthy.

NAMES OF FRUITS

(*Continued from page* 650.)

W. Tomlinson.—1, Hollandbury; 2 Geeson.

E. Lewis, Torquay.—1, King of P 2, Wellington; 3, Allington Pippin.

Miss F. Paget.—The Houblon ra Charles Ross, at Newbury. We hav heard of Strawberry Pippin.

W. W., Berks.—1, Cox's Pomona; Henniker.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

537—Vol. XLIX. OCTOBER 22, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 13/-

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Good Reasons for Planting Roses in October

Roses may be planted successfully from now till the end of March providing the weather is open, but we have no hesitation in saying that on well drained soils October is the best month for this operation

RIENCE teaches that it is best to Roses in the latter part of October rly in November on all kindly soils—as light, porous soils, or those that, somewhat stiff, still have good On such soils Roses will com- root at once and so get partly d in their new quarters before the f winter are upon them. In soils naturally wet and heavy, in spite of nount of drainage, spring planting able, say, in February. Should nds set in during March and April nted Roses are helped very much kling overhead once or twice a day. dries the sap of the wood, and as have not got their roots sufficiently l to be able to y of extra mois- the ground the n them is too nsequently the ivels and in es dies alto- An occasional at suitable ild have pre- . Most ama- have noticed soon Roses s after being and relaid in l, more espe- e soil be of a porous nature. speaking, get torn off uch mangled operation of and this is y good reason n planting. THE ROSES autumn will the sap and any sappy or s that do not ripen up well enough to be the winter. , in conjunc- the better of freshly- are all ad- n favour of nting. Roses been planted give better an those planted in spring upon light ground. During some autumns, and when the Rose is in particularly good condition for early transplanting, we occasionally find the soil too dry for the operation. In such cases either water the plants well before lifting and again upon planting, or else wait until rain comes. If the first plan is adopted one is certain to get the plants partly established during the time the ground still retains a little of its summer heat. Not the least advantage of early planting is the fact of being able to secure better plants and of the variety required. It is also an excellent plan, if the ground be wet and stiff, to purchase the plants and then set these in somewhat thickly, choosing a sheltered situation and using nicely-prepared soil. By placing Roses under trees one can secure a dry soil for their roots and at the same time obtain a great deal of natural protection. One can transplant to the permanent quarters at the most suitable time, and the roots also have the advantage of being kept fresh and free from drying winds. A few minutes of the keen drying winds that are often experienced do a vast amount of harm to the roots of newly-lifted Roses.

The best new scented Rose of the year and winner of the Gold Cup
It is to be known as The "Daily Mail" Scented Rose

This variety has the pronounced quality of fragrance of an old-fashioned Hybrid Perpetual, and is a little darker in colour than General Jacqueminot

The "Daily Mail" Scented Rose

THE *Daily Mail* Scented Rose, winner of the £250 Cup, is a great Rose. A cross between K. of K. and Château de Clos Vougeot, it has the best features of both parents. The intense dark velvety appearance of the latter, a glorious Rose in itself, is combined with the intensity of colour from K. of K., particularly at the edges of the petals. The centre of the bloom is inclined to be high with great grace at certain stages of opening. The combination of scent of the two parents is unique. No wonder the judges made the award. Both nurserymen and amateurs are shaking their heads over this Rose and casting doubt as to its constitution, its profusion of blossoming, and its popularity and length of life. Château de Clos Vougeot, like all other Roses, is affected by weather more than any other factor, though manurial treatment may have been faultless. The Roses produced by Château have never been finer, but they could not stand up to the incessant rain and sunless skies. All the petals being open wide were waterlogged, and thus the blooms tumbled to pieces soon after cutting. It is essentially a sun lover, and likes its warming

influence and essential rays to develop its beauty to its maximum. Nor have the basal shoots developed with such freedom and profusion that normal years produce; yet the constitution and growth have been normal. So far the fainthearts have some backing in their favour. Now K. of K. has revelled in the adverse weather. Never have blooms been produced with such freedom, the size 6 inches across, the colour very deep, with a red-black velvety blush, the shape so deep (like a cup), and symmetry of proportion faultless. Now this side of the parentage so reverses the doubts of the other that personally I believe that when correctly treated this Rose is not only going to astonish the Rose public but the raisers, Mr. and Miss Archer, who I do not think fully realise the possibilities of their own creation. Now it lies in the power of every amateur and trade grower of Roses to prove this by growing this Rose with knowledge and cultural skill. It will require to be really well done, both in pruning, which must suit the plant's idiosyncrasy, and continuous generous treatment, not forgetting the essential vitamines which give that form and poise to all organisms, whether animals or plants.

C. A. J.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Roses at Cardiff

THE Cardiff and District Gardeners' Association held the first meeting of the session at the Queen's Hotel, Cardiff, on October 4th. The members enjoyed a "Chat on Roses" by the well-known Cardiff nurseryman and Rose grower and Vice-President of the Association, Mr. R. Treseder. Judging by the numerous vases of beautiful blooms that were ably arranged on the table one would imagine they were at a Rose show during the early part of July rather than at a meeting in October. Roses of particular note were John Henry, Lady Maureen Stuart, Mrs. Tom Smith, Norman Lambert, Dora Neve, Mrs. Atley, Lady Love, Adeline, Sir D. David Davis, Gwyneth Jones, Ivy May, Souvenir d'Claire, Billy Boy, Lady Fairfax, Doris Dickson, F. J. Harrison, Mrs. A. Barraclough, Shot Silk, Lady Dickson, Princess Marie Jose, and numerous others. Mr. Treseder dealt with all these and others that have been exhibited throughout the country during the past season.

Clamping the Potato crop

There is little doubt that, speaking for the country as a whole, the excessively wet weather and the Potato blight have between them further reduced and are still reducing a rather under-average crop of Potatoes. In the circumstances it is advisable to lift the crops as early as possible, to clamp them dry, and to make the clamps small, or long and narrow, so that there will not be so much waste through heating and decay in the clamp. The small or narrow clamps should be covered with plenty of straight straw kept down for the first week or two by a few forkfuls of soil here and there. Later and before the heavier frosts come they should be more completely covered, though ample ventilation must be supplied. This is best done by leaving the apex uncovered by soil. A plank about 1 foot wide should be placed along the top of the clamp and the sides earthed right up to it. The plank can then be taken off, or slid along to the next section, leaving a space clear for ventilation. In addition to all tubers showing any signs of disease, immature and green tubers should also be excluded from the clamp, as they are likely to decay early.

Retirement of Mr. Frank Reader

MR. FRANK READER, after 37 years' service with the Royal Horticultural Society, retires at the end of the year with the heartiest good wishes of all who know him.

Happily he is hale and hearty; indeed, it has been said of him that he does not look a day older than he did 20 years ago. The accompanying portrait was taken at the recent fruit show at Vincent Square. Apparently the work of the Society has agreed with him—he has been the right man in the right place. In response to our request for a few particulars of his work with the Royal Horticultural Society, Mr. Reader very kindly sends the following:—

"I entered the Society's service in March, 1890 (on the recommendation of the Rev. W. Wilks), just after the South Kensington days. For the first few years of my office it

Mr. Frank Reader
who is retiring from the Royal Horticultural Society after 37 years' service

is no secret to say that at times it was a difficult matter to keep the Society going, not altogether because of its financial worries, but on account of the Society having lost its prestige. It was then that Sir Trevor Lawrence, as President, and the Rev. W. Wilks, as Hon. Secretary, faced the situation, and by sticking to horticulture started to b the Society, which is in evidence to-da

"I have been a good deal 'beh scenes,' and my principal work has be nected with the accounts, under the d of the Treasurer for the time.

"From 1890 to 1904 the meeting held in the Scottish Drill Hall, a Society's work was administered fr Victoria Street, where the Society ha sized room (containing the remains Lindley Library), with a small office a and in this 'tank' like 'Bob Crachit my bit until 1904, when the Society into Vincent Square, and now in a lit 20 years since then the Society is co to get larger accommodation.

"The following figures will show Society has grown in my time:—

1889.—Fellows, 1,100 (mostly life f
1926.—Fellows, 25,000.
1889.—Income, £3,500.
1926.—Income, £56,500, with a ca count of £198,000.

"During my length of office I hav under the following Treasurers:—Si Morris, Mr. Philip Crowley, Mr. J. Fowler (for 15 years), Mr. Chas. Harry Veitch, Mr. C. T. Musgrave, William Lawrence, and no Society co had better men to fill that office.

"Of the members of Council whe came, only two are with us now, Si Morris and Mr. C. T. Lucas, but wh and eminent horticulturists have bee Council—fulfilled their term of off then passed on. No one know pleasant memories their names brin mind. I do not think I have muc about the part I have played thes years. I have done my best to keep of the work for the honour of the People have asked me 'What is your I have answered, 'My hobby has be the R.H.S. go from strength to st I have made many, many friends, a this opportunity of thanking them their many kindnesses.

"And now the time has come f retire, and I hope that the younge may see the Society improve in ev more so than I have helped to do."

As we all know, Frank Reader a most valuable man to the Societ courteous, obliging, and good-natu shall miss him in the new hall a shows of the Society. That he m many years of well-earned retirem sincere wish of a very wide circle c including all of the 25,000 Fellov Society.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Eustoma Russellianum

IN reply to "W.McG.," issue October 8th, page 624, *re* Eustoma Russellianum as grown here. It may be said that its cultivation has not been difficult, the chief trouble was during the winter months, due to fog and damp; many plants were lost owing to the leaves rotting and the main stem being affected. As soon as the days began to lengthen, the plants improved, and about 1,000 remained out of the original 1,400. Much loss no doubt could have been averted if heat had been applied, but previous experiment proved that the less heat applied the better. In the country under good climatic conditions this plant should be quite easy to grow, and as it is far hardier than is generally supposed, it might well be tried out of doors, as our bed was p effective for just nine weeks, and October 14th, the plants are full of flower buds, all of which would veloped if the season had been a no

I am most grateful to "W. calling attention to Lisianthus pri I have had much pleasure in turnin ences and coloured illustrations of nificent plant. All these referen that it is a striking subject, and it to as one of the finest plants in Unfortunately, it inhabits a regio is difficult to find anyone who is in plants, but "W. McG." may be a efforts will be made to bring thi plant back to cultivation. Its co is said to be Lagenanthus princep

Hyde Park.

Eucharis amazonica

ending a photograph of our Eucharis nica. In 1919 my sister was given small bulbs, which she planted over pipes in the central bed of our stove. placing some stones to confine them rtain limits, they have not been dis- They flower on and off through the t make one burst in the autumn—38 vith 96 flowers, not counting buds, display this last September.

E. C. F. W.

ld Parsonage,
est Harnham, Salisbury.

hose who desire to have Eucharis a in bloom for Christmas and the r are reminded that the plants ought e moved into a brisk heat. Such f course, will have been kept fairly ill now, and when given an increase erature the bulbs readily respond. owers approve of giving E. ama- ttom heat—in my own experience I to be unnecessary, providing the stove temperature (65 degs. to 70 cording to the outside thermometer) aintained during the night. On ys the heat may be allowed to run to r 90 degs. with safety. It is always to start a good batch, for, at times, nica blooms erratically, and when a ble number is grown a few failures noticeable. The bulb is essentially een and ought never to be dried off s many bulbs are, otherwise failure edly follow.

A Scottish Gardener.

Daffodils

le in your Daffodils,
l is friable and days are fair,
stly Hallow E'en,
am of many blossoms sweet and

any the garden fills
lecks the scene.

1st.

neous" loves a fountain
with his reflection.
rom a Southern mountain
v need protection.

2nd.

inimus" hides under the Thyme
v peat;
hs at sleet,
ly mocks a wintry clime;
npet blows
ne snows.
Ye wireworms have a care,
est Daffodil is rare."

3rd.

ent Lilies" in long green grass,
em closely when March winds

ing sun and splashes of rain
m to gladden the meadow again.

4th.

ears" are shed in the shade,
re their ways as those of a maid
dly weeping when none care a

ey sorrow on granite and grit.

5th.

Hoop Petticoats" in May
he sun to shine,
their furbelow display—
a vastly fine.

bulbs with sprigs of Heather,
e beds with Ling;
he soil from soggy weather,
throstles sing.

D. Kentish Wright.

One burst of bloom in autumn
Eucharis amazonica from three small bulbs

Apples and stocks

The modern tendency is more and more toward grafting Apples upon one of the varieties of Paradise in preference to the older custom of using the Crab as a stock. Modern "hustle" is to some extent at the root of the practice. Speedy returns are demanded from fruit trees of all kinds, and stocks which tend to that end are, perhaps not unnaturally, employed. For many years I was a staunch believer in the hastening process, and in the garden of which I had charge for over a quarter of a century every tree of Apple was upon the Paradise stock, every Pear upon the Quince. I am not so sure that the practice was wise. Quick returns are all very well. Dwarf trees are handy and easily managed. But are these advantages a permanent benefit? It is questionable. For a time useful crops of very superior fruits may —indeed, with ordinary care, will—be produced. But a time comes when the crops are less reliable, and when the individual fruits are not so fine. Over-cropping may be, and sometimes is, responsible for the deterioratino, but, it may be feared, the stock is primarily at fault. Consider the case of the Apple upon the Crab stock. It is less prolific undoubtedly in its early stages, nor are the fruits of such fine quality. As the years pass, however, and as the tree "finds itself," these drawbacks are removed and excellent fruits and heavy crops—and what is more, regular crops—are the rule. Of late years the comparison between Apples on the Paradise and others on the Crab, and both planted at approximately the same date, is in favour of the latter. The past few seasons appear to have been fatal to anything like moderate crops in the case of trees on the Paradise, but those upon the Crab have been borne consistently and regularly. Moreover, the latter do not appear to be so easily affected by blight or to succumb so readily to the many pests which nowadays make the life of the hardy fruit grower a burden. W.

Habranthus pratensis in Scotland

In your issue, October 15th, page 643, I notice an article on Habranthus. The writer states that none is hardy in this country. I have grown H. pratensis for nearly 20 years in the open, and I have never had any trouble. Surely, nearly a quarter of a century is quite sufficient to test the hardiness of anything. I know one or two gardens in Scotland where they have had a similar experience.

Lord Anson's Pea (Lathyrus nervosus), referred to on page 640, stood last winter here. That may interest readers who cherish rare plants.

Geo. M. Taylor.

Portobello, Midlothian.

Modern Roses

Once again it is good to be in agreement with "A Scottish Gardener" and to follow his comments by going a step farther.

I suggest that some of the Roses which are mentioned hereunder and which were exhibited successfully in 1924 take a deal of surpassing. They are Lady F. Stronge (H.T.), pink; John Russell (H.T.), a beautiful dark crimson; Doris Dickson (Pernetiana), very like Gorgeous, but far better in shape, orange-cream in colour and good foliage; Mrs. Barraclough (H.T.), bright pink, a splendidly-scented Rose.

The years 1925 and 1926 did not, in my opinion, distinguish themselves as Rose years, although there were, naturally, several good ones exhibited. Certainly a great deal too much fuss is made over many Roses which, from an expert's point of view, should take a back seat. With regard to the "discussions" referred to by your correspondent, how welcome these would be and how invaluable not alone as to Roses, but in connection with every important garden production.

Bruce Hewitt.

Nerine Bowdeni

Unlike the Belladonna Lily, which has failed to present its flowers this year, this lovely Nerine has been attracting attention to its 2-foot spikes of handsome pink flowers for the past few weeks, and this pleasing result occurs every year, in spite of the dull, wet season.

This very pretty subject appears to be very contented, growing at the foot of a low wall, where it has been for some few years, requiring very little in the way of cultivation, except a little good soil to grow in.

To those who would like an extremely beautiful and uncommon picture during September and October, I would suggest planting a warm, sheltered border with this plant, and carpeting the soil about it with Oxalis lobata, a gem of the very first order, which blooms at the same time, but which grows no more than 3 inches in height even when in bloom; the buttercup yellow flowers are very large and borne in profusion from this delightful little plant.

E. Markham.

Good All-Round Roses for Scottish Gardens

WHILE a few growers desire varieties that are good mainly in summer, and others prefer a good autumn display, the majority of us admire most the varieties that flower well at both periods, and the more continuous they are the better we are pleased. By constantly eliminating unsuitable kinds, and also, annually, adding to our collection, we have now got a fair number of what one might term all-round roses that thrive well in most seasons. The present season has been most trying to everything in the garden, Roses not excepted. It is true that the first crop of bloom was superb, as we happened to be favoured with fairly dry weather during the time these were at their best, but during August and September the constant rain and dull, sunless skies quite spoiled an otherwise promising autumn display. October to date (15th) has been dry, and it is really wonderful the amount of quite good blooms that have opened, while it is seldom at this season that so many likely buds are to be seen; so, with a continuance of mild, dry weather, quite a display should be forthcoming. The following I consider the most reliable for northern gardens. I have not entirely based my opinion on this year's results, as it has been of such an abnormal character, but rather on the behaviour of the various sorts during the last three seasons. I do not write them down in any order of merit, but merely as they come to mind.

MME. MELANIE SOUPERT.—Still one of the very best pale Roses we have. Good all through.

PHARISAER.—This grand old Rose is still hard to beat right through the season, but is specially fine in autumn.

LADY INCHIQUIN.—This gorgeously rich Rose never was finer than it has been all through this season.

LADY PIRRIE.—Always excellent, but in autumn gives the more glowing colour. One of the very best decorative roses in cultivation.

CHRISTINE.—Profuse, brilliant in colour, of ideal shape always. No other yellow Rose can approach this for garden decoration.

MME. BUTTERFLY.—The best, so far, of the Ophelia family. A splendid all-weather Rose.

BETTY UPRICHARD.—This lovely Rose, although not very profuse, is certainly grand both early and late, and never more so than this year.

LOS ANGELES.—This lovely sort would have few superiors if only it would hold its head upright.

MABEL MORSE.—One of the very best pure yellow Roses, both early and late. Its chief rival, so far, is

FLORENCE L. IZZARD, a rather better grower. Both are all-season Roses.

MRS. HENRY BOWLES.—This is a good Rose, both early and late, and in its particular colour stands alone.

MRS. HENRY MORSE.—Only its proneness to mildew prevents this superb Rose from topping the list. Good all season.

COLONEL OSWALD FITZGERALD.—The most lovely of all deep red Roses, early and late.

COVENT GARDEN.—Not so brilliant in shade as the preceding, and also lacking in scent. This is yet a very fine Rose all through the season, but specially fine in autumn.

SHOT SILK.—Not profuse, but still a steady bloomer all through the season.

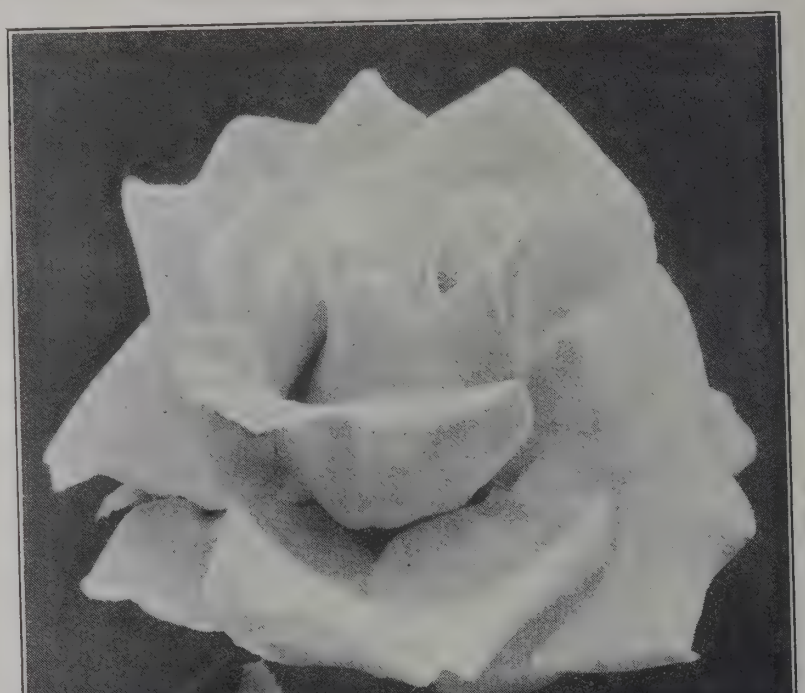
SOVEREIGN.—This is our first year with this superb Rose, and if its conduct this trying season is indicative of its usual behaviour, then it may be classed as a very fine all-round variety.

SCARLET GLORY.—This, too, is new to us, and if it gave its usual display, then it is one come to stay. A pity its "neck" is so weak.

GENERAL MCARTHUR.—This old favourite is still indispensable, being so free, constant, and superbly scented.

ALEXANDER EMSLIE.—This is one of the best red bedding Roses, as it blooms freely and continuously.

FRANCES GAUNT.—This is a lovely fawny-yellow Rose, that seldom gives a bad flower.



Mrs. Henry Morse, a fine Rose that everyone should grow

W. C. GAUNT.—A good deep red, of fine habit. Not too profuse, but an all-season bloomer.

MISS C. E. VAN ROSSEM.—A lovely little bright crimson Rose, very free-flowering, and good all season.

LIEUTENANT CHAURE.—One of the best red Roses for bedding. Blooms all season.

GUSTAV GRUNNERWALD.—Good all season, superb in autumn.

MRS. DAVID MCKEE.—A very beautiful, nearly white Rose that has a long season of beauty.

WILLIAM F. DREER.—An excellent Rose, all season, but autumn brings out its wonderful tints best. A grand decorative Rose.

MRS. EDWARD POWELL.—Similar to Gen. McArthur, but of brighter tint. A really fine decorative Rose.

We do not greatly favour the Dwarf Polyantha type, but the three following are excellent in their way, and bloom freely all season:—

EBLOUISSANTE.—Superior in every way to Jessie. A lovely colour, and flowers over a long period.

PERLE ORLEANAISE.—A very beautif mon-pink variety, of a very free flo character, and continuing to send ou blooms until frost comes.

MRS. CUTBUSH.—Still one of th "bedders." Robust grower and fr continuous bloomer. C. E

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

Planting Briers

No time ought to be lost in plant hedge Briers for standard or half-s Roses. These will strike root well n the earlier they are planted the less g there be among them. Trim the r close, much closer than is generally t and plant about 9 inches deep. A stock has been successfully converte Rose they should be lifted, any suc off, and be replanted in better soil, deeper than 4 inches. Planted deep first case, they will str more freely, but after th deep planting greatly ages suckers, and is suitable for these sto would not plant out nor struck Brier sto These are propagated the same lines as C Gooseberries, etc., a planted deep in the soi ing the past summer of these must necessar become somewhat mor than if it had remain exposed to the air; the would leave the trans of Manetti and cuttin stocks until the spring are much safer where Although very hardy dom killed by frost, th is not so able to resi weather as if it had partially bleached b covered with soil f twelve months. Thi best time of all for s few of these useful st in fact any strong varieties that may be for stocks or as Roses own roots. Where vigorous of the Hyb petuals and Teas are as climbers or as peg Roses, there is no tim in securing the stron from rough winds. In the dwarfs in the open, it is a g to drive in a stout stake a several branches to this. Care taken, however, not to tie them t nor too tightly. If too loose, they about and rub one another, and cha the tying material. On walls or would prefer to nail them in their once, trimming out the older wo work progressed. A few words given to pot plants, as there is m in this department at present. Un favoured with an exceptionally position, I would house all pot Ro as possible. An old frame, pit, c cool house will answer the purpo ably. Let them still have all the ai except those that you intend to f once. The excessive wet from aut at the roots of pot Roses does not so efficient a ripening as is desirabl fore I would from now onwards in such a position that a slight sh by afforded if necessary.

Rose Fimbriata

ONG modern Roses many crosses have en made with R. rugosa, a promising rent because it is so good a seed- One of these is this pretty Rose, amed Fimbriata because of the prettily- what the old gardeners would have "snipt," edges of the petals. The Fimbriata does not pose as a specific al term, but as the popular name of tty Rose, which is shown half size in stration. The colour is white, faintly with blush-pink. It is essentially a Rose, growing into a well-furnished bout 5 feet high. The usual yearly does not suit it, as it tends to stop g; it should only be cut in enough the bush in shape. G. J.

Rose Fimbriata

ng large-flowered Roses on walls

e are waking up to the fact when ing what kind of Roses to plant as verers, that showy as the Ramblers n in bloom, their season is so short ir growth so exuberant, that some- ore is wanted in a garden. To this ch attention is being paid to the forms of Hybrid Teas, that flower ch longer time, and what is equally t, give fragrant blossoms. An inquiry me time ago elicited the reply that in future more of these "ever in season Roses would be grown. We mething more than a huge mass of that when the petals have shed, we force to wait another year for a like nd though among the Hybrid Teas fewer flowers, they are spread over a ime, and the wall is a more attractive s a rule, in a garden of moderate size, not much room for climbers, and for son alone it behoves those about to consider whether it is not better to ose which will give the greatest dis- the longest time.

are some climbers amongst Hybrid t will give every satisfaction planted soil provided for them, a state of ot always found near to walls: J. B.

Clark, Captain Christy, Lieut. Chaure, Mrs. Aaron Ward, Mme. Melanie Soupert, Liberty, Caroline Testout, Paul Lede, and Ophelia. TOWNSMAN.

Rose Flora

THE great numbers of new Roses that are brought forward at the shows and are offered in growers' catalogues tend to a neglect of some of the quite old Roses that are of undoubted merit. But those who truly love their gardens are faithful to the well-tried old friends. Some of these have been in danger of being entirely lost, but it is a good sign that now, among the more far-seeing and enterprising of our growers, there are some who, recognising the existing desire for the old favourites, are collecting and pushing them on to meet the demand that is daily growing. Among the fine old things that have been nearly forgotten is the beautiful old Rose Flora. I know nothing of its origin, but have some idea that it is even older than the Ayrshires, the climbing cluster Roses that, with the Boursaults, were the only ramblers generally known in gardens 60 to 70 years ago, for it has much the character of the Roses that are seen in pictures of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Flora blooms in long-stalked clusters; the flower itself is a good deal larger than that of any of the Ayrshires; it is of a deep cup shape and fully double; the colour is a tender Mushroom-pink deepening to the centre. In habit it tends to droop, and therefore is seen to all the more advantage when it has climbed over an arch or arbour and is seen from below. G. J.

Rose Flora

The flower garden

Towards the middle of October most of the flower-beds cease to be attractive from a floral point, and where it is intended to refill with plants and bulbs for a spring display no time should be lost in clearing away the former and getting the beds or borders prepared for the latter by introducing a moderate supply of half-decayed manure and leaf-soil. Burnt refuse from the smother fire, too, makes an excellent ingredient to mix with same, getting it all well incorporated with the soil and digging the same 18 inches or so in depth. Doing this now will lessen such work in early summer (when every hour is precious in the garden), as most of the plants that are called upon to do duty will thrive in the beds so treated. All that will be needed is to thoroughly dig the soil to the depth previously advocated, when all will be ready for its occupants. In low-lying districts it is well to keep the centre of the beds raised a little; in fact, the majority of beds, whatever their position, show to better advantage when so treated, and if the soil is a bit on the retentive side do not hesitate to add a little lime before raking down; very few plants used for this purpose resent it, and it tends to sweeten the soil.

Some features of the lesser known Roses

OLD Roses are appreciated because of their well-known qualities, and also frequently because of their old associations. New ones are of special interest because of the new developments and pleasant anticipations connected with them, but while they sometimes become quickly known there are quite a number which remain overlooked, and undiscovered, although some of these are superior to others which become popular.

As an instance of a first-class Rose which has been overlooked Rose Marie may be mentioned. For my garden I should place this first among the older varieties in the rose-pink class because it excels in form (both in bud and open condition), scent, and ability to last longer than many others in a cut state. Then its habit is free blooming, and she has the pleasing ability of producing three or more buds on a shoot, each one of which opens to a perfect flower one after the other. Then, too, Rose Marie is a better autumn bloomer than Mrs. Henry Morse, as she does not mildew.

Many people like vivid colours, but we seldom see at a show the remarkable orange-red, almost at times scarlet, of Elvira Aramayo. This Rose is not perfect in form, and has no more petals than Lady Pirrie, but it is a wonderful splash of colour, only approached by Princess Marie José, and I. Zingari, which, although in the same class, have no suggestion of scarlet.

There are vivid splashes of colour found in Cuba, a new Rose which promises well, and has been described as of Lincoln Red and Gwyneth Jones, a variety that has been well-exhibited; her colour is reddish apricot, and the form not being of exhibition standard is less appreciated at a show than when seen growing.

In colour development should also be mentioned Wm. Kordes, a Rose possessing nearly every quality to make it perfect, but colour is not vivid, for it is somewhat variable; in spring salmon-pink suffused with orange, but in the later summer and autumn apricot suffused with pink is the predominant shade. It is one of our sweetest perfumed Roses, with excellently formed flower, and healthy habit of growth. Ruth is an older R the same class, not sufficiently know

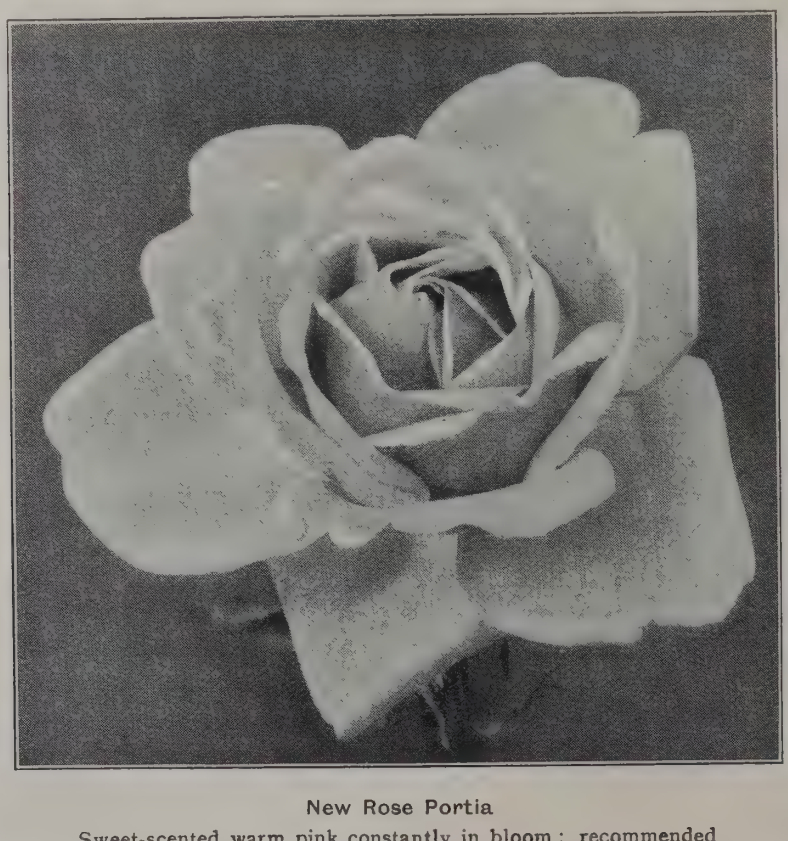
When I look at J. C. Mensing I thi last our old favourite Mme. A. Chat beaten." J. C. Mensing is a s Ophelia, and we have the Ophelia instead of the less desirable Chatenay rather better shaped flowers, which va in shade to Mme. Abel Chatenay w carmine. The two are about equal fume. This newcomer is not suf known. In the same class, better kn cause of possibly superior form, Lady Hartland is a little deeper in colour, a not quite as free blooming.

White Roses have their devotees as people who do not appreciate them they do not like white flowers, but th a sweetness which is hard to beat.

Since the now far-off day when Fr Druschki arrived the Rose world h longing for a similar Rose with a goo Several aspirants have come and go one, Clarice Goodacre, was too mod largely because she is not of exhibiti and described as "biscuit" white, not become as popular as she should sidering her perfect shape, perfum habit of growth. Among other aspi the most popular position among whi H. Stevens, Molly Sharman Crawfo Marcia Stanhope have all come to th but in some detail are not perfect. the newer White Ensign may yet premier place.

With the popularity of the crimson there is little likelihood of one in t being overlooked, yet Etoile de H easily the best garden crimson Ro several seasons before it became well

Columbia, deep self pink of pleasing tone and good form



New Rose Portia
Sweet-scented warm pink constantly in bloom; recommended

e finest crimson pillar Rose is yet un-
ized, although it is no longer new; I
his is because it is neither a good ex-
n Rose, and also because it carries the
cumbersome name of Souvenir de
us Denoyel. Those looking for a
r Rose to cover an arch with a wonder-
de of crimson (which in sunny weather
ered bright red) will find a treasure in
ose, which has a flower as fine as
Dickson and a perfume as sweet as
McArthur. This copy of GARDENING
RATED is worth a guinea to the keen
who is able to appreciate a good thing
covers this here, for although a Rose
other name may smell as sweet, no
g Rose bearing any other name smells
t and yet carries fine flowers fit for a
good enough to be worn.

is a vast difference in the satisfac-
blooming the Rose of our ideal rather
y Rose which one might pick up at a
here things cheap and nasty for 6d.
tiful.

who long for the darkest Rose " that
will find in yet another heavy name
limbing Chateau de Clos Vougeot—
rous realisation of an ideal. Instead
eat of the sun spoiling the colour of
uty it intensifies it! the dark, almost
crimson of the centre to the petals
p to a bright red edge to the petal.
mbing variety is a sport from the
orm, and lifts us from the somewhat
al growth of the original to delight
its wonderful flowers up in the air;
those fond of a dark Rose, nothing
mes up to a bed of Chateau de Clos
, the dwarf variety, planted around
of the climbing form. The Rose
ffers such a bounteous selection of
hat those that seek may find their
desire. LAURENCE J. COOK.

Julia Countess of Dartrey

ED by that noted amateur Irish
arian, Dr. J. Campbell Hall, after a
eration of cross breeding, Julia
of Dartrey stands out conspicu-
one of the best of all the newer
the last two or three years. It is de-
s a pure Tyrian Rose with a yellow
ry intense, brilliant, and distinct
orrect treatment, this Rose is car-
y crimson in colour, with a startling
ntensity of tone, due to its yellow
ork, but no yellow shade is visible
hen fully blown. The form, outline,
nd symmetry of proportion is fault-
he beauty of form, perfection, and
ring are distinct from any other red
its name implies, Julia is a patrician
ribable refinement and charm when
coloured, but some of the blooms
ined to ultra violet tints at the edges
tals. This defect and " blueing,"
omplained of by Rose lovers, is en-
to mismanagement, the use of
ve organic manures, wrong arti-
ilisers, or both. While the popular
that potash gives the colour and
nces it, it is the phosphate which
es the colour. Potash, iron, and
nce the intensity and correct tints.
hile this is right as a statement,
re exact information is required to
ose glorious shades and tints in
ich even artists cannot imitate.
s of these chemicals make all the
Sulphate or hydrate of iron, the
lcium free of injurious substances,
s, as in steamed bone flour, and
of potash, combined with nitrates,
ed to prevent blueing, or ultra-
urations in Roses, and to give them
ect tones. Colouration, however, is influenced by weather conditions to a very great extent, and is intensified or modified by the strength of the sun's rays. Intensified when the sun is low in the heavens, this explains the reason why Roses in June, July, and August never attain the depth of colour that autumn Roses do. In the hands of most Rose growers chemical fertilisers are grossly abused, far too great strength being employed. When employed in correct quantities in proportion to soil conditions, the season and state of growth, and the proportion of foliage of the plant, the maximum of benefit is obtained. The weather too must influence the application of chemical fertilisers. As can be readily realised, so many factors are involved that only experienced horticulturists can hope to succeed and derive the maximum effect, and that novices stand but little chance, yet even the latter must try, though mistakes are sure to result. It is only by mistakes that efficiency can be obtained, particularly in Rose growing. Just as Venus of Milo stands as the height of perfection in the beauty of the female form, so Julia Countess of Dartrey stands out as perfect in beauty of Rose forms, clothed with colouring so charmingly distinct, and distinguished from the other Rose; as vigorous in growth as Hugh Dickson, very free in flower, which last well into late autumn, and most deliciously scented. The high centre in opening, besides having folds of loose petals perfectly arranged, has a trumpet-shaped funnel, revealing intense depth of colour. Apart from other great refinements, it is this that gives Julia Countess of Dartrey such distinction, making the Rose a great acquisition and invaluable for purposes of cross hybridisation. C. A. J.

October Roses

The old favourite Caroline Testout now flowering in Mrs. Hoswell's garden at The Harmony, Rusthall, near Tunbridge Wells

Rose Dame Edith Helen

NOW that the first season of its introduction is over, or nearly so, a good idea can be formed of the merits of this Rose. Dame Edith Helen has made splendid growth as a maiden, and has kept free of disease. The blooms have been excellent, mainly equal to those exhibited by the raisers. Some flowers have even been better—large, with great refinement, beauty of form and symmetry of proportion, most exquisitely coloured. Though some Roses have revelled in the weather, which has been against most Roses doing their best, the blooms of Dame Edith Helen have stood up to the bad weather in a remarkable way. With cold, wet, and wild weather some of the outer petals have been marked, but the Roses opened with all their beauty unimpaired. There is no better lasting Rose extant, some blooms having kept even ten days, perfuming the room all the time. Dame Edith Helen is certainly the finest, *i.e.*, rose or pink variety, yet raised, and in a more normal season is bound to figure as one of the best of all Roses. Some have complained of the large number of petals, but this is of particular charm, as when the outer ones are opened out, cup shape, the inner petals, still partly unopened, guard the centre in a typically symmetrical arrangement, which is sweetly captivating and most charming.

C. A. JARDINE.

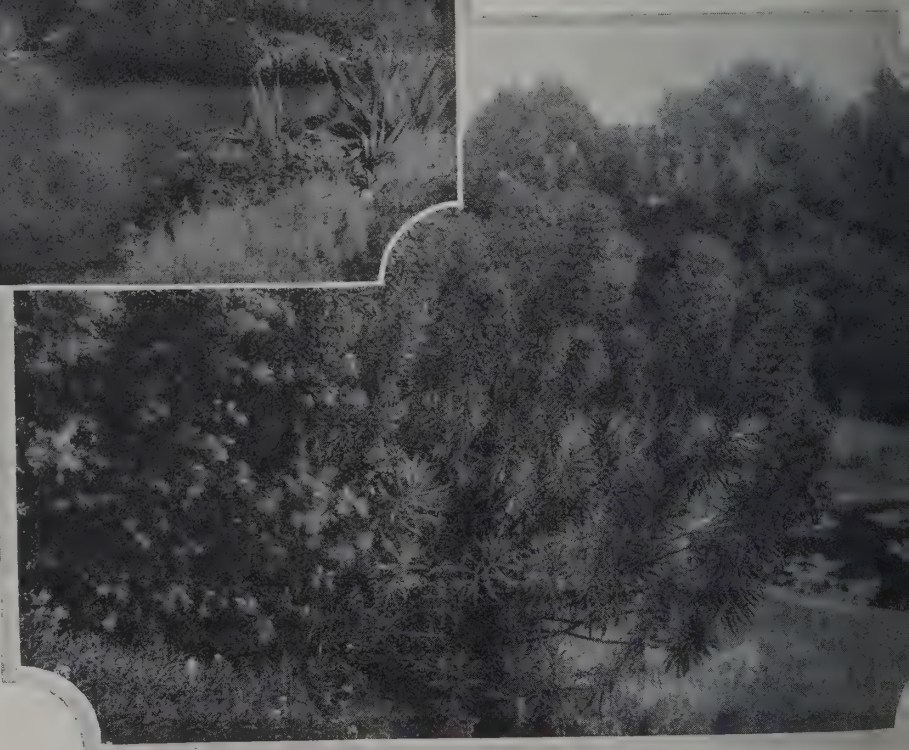
Planting shrubs

Thoroughly prepare the ground by trenching at least two spit deep; also see that unduly wet parts are drained before the actual planting commences.

HIGHMOUNT, GUILDFORD—I.

By Gertrude Jekyll, V.M.H.

THE site of this garden, when it was put into the designer's hands, was the side of a steep chalk hill facing south; the only approximately level space being at the top where the house was already standing. At first it looked hopeless for putting into shape, for beside the very steep gradient there were certain formless humps and hollows that had to be dealt with; also it was obvious that nothing could be made of it without a good deal of excavation in the solid chalk.



Upper picture: Looking down to the Lily pool from the west walk

Lower picture: The great Euphorbia Wulfenii on the wall above the Lily pool

The evident need of the place was some kind of level spaces, whether wide or narrow, such as might be provided for by terracing at successive levels, and by keeping these in one level from end to end, in order to gain some feeling of repose and security. A croquet lawn, tennis lawn, and bowling green were desired. The spaces for croquet and bowling could be provided for on the west, only a little below the house level; the tennis lawn had to find a place lower down.

The site commands an extensive view of a complete half circle, from the church-crowned hill of St. Martha and the nearer Chantry Woods in the east, to Hindhead and the woodlands of Woolmer Forest in the distant west, the middle showing the sandy uplands centring near Godalming, with the line of the South Downs in the extreme southern distance. The view was of great topographical interest, but was too panoramic to be pictorially beautiful.

It was arranged that the descent to the lower levels should be by two main ways of access. The most important of these centres with the axial line of the croquet lawn, and by two flights of steps comes to the first level terrace known as the West Walk. This has a turf path 10 feet wide, and 6 feet wide flower borders on each side; the whole length being about 90 feet. The borders are given to flowers of blue, white, and pale yellow colouring, and are punctuated at intervals with groups of the white Madonna Lily, that does so well in chalky soil.

Following the main stairway down, another two flights of steps lead to another such terrace, but a much longer one of nearly 200 feet; this runs out on the east to the tennis lawn on the same level. Continuing the main way down, two longer flights of steps lead to the lowest level. It was felt that here should be the main part of the garden scheme. By excavating on the upper side and filling on the lower, a good space was secured; a length of 260 feet and a breadth of 60 feet; all level, both across and from end to end, so gaining a feeling of space and repose. On the upper side dry walling retains the level next above, and a Yew hedge on the south secures an equivalent degree of enclosure. There are two Lily tanks; a circular one centring the main path of steps down, and a rectangular one in line with the second downward path. This path is treated differently from the other. A terrace walk next to the house leads at both ends parallel, well-built pergola. Betwee two piers in the middle of its length beginning of the second path to the levels. Halfway down it meets the green walk and double flower borde runs into the tennis lawn; then, with a two flights of steps, it comes to the level.

This main part of the garden end half circular sweep of rather high dry ing beyond the round tank. The plant the top is boldly treated with Yucca great Euphorbia Wulfenii, Oriental P and tall Irises, backed by Cistuses an shrubs. The main space is treated wit shaped beds of Roses on each side, lea 20-foot width of turf between; a grass wide enough to give the much-needed of level comfort; the whole length broken only by four angle beds grouped the square tank. The eastern end is f by a 6-foot wall with angle piers, and tral flight of circular steps leading upper level, and a semi-circular landin with the grass. This is designed wi of tiles on edge, with a filling of hard brick laid in a herring-bone pattern; landing is a good device when step turf, as it offers a wide area for stepp to the turf, so that the grass does come worn at one place. An illustr this will appear next week in some notes on Highmount.

(To be continued.)

Autumn sown Sweet P

Watch these carefully for the f weeks, and dust ocasionally with s the plants have reached a more wir wire guards should be kept over then winter. All the late flowering cl lines must be cleared away, as they devoid of interest.

HIGHMOUNT, GUILDFORD,

the residence of
Mrs. Graham Wood

This interesting garden is on the side of a steep hill facing south

West side of house
Croquet lawn within the wall to the left

Distant view framed in Clematis

Irises on one of the upper slopes

The circular Lily pool and main flights of steps

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Mowing and edging

This should now be brought to a close, as grass will grow very little from this date, and a light roll drawn over lawns occasionally, together with sweeping up of leaves, will leave them in a satisfactory condition for the late autumn and winter. Before storing away the machines, whether of hand or motor power, they should be thoroughly cleaned and oiled, including all external parts as well as internal, to protect them from rust. A note should also be made of worn bearings requiring renewal, and damaged knives, plates, or other fittings which must be ground or replaced before next season's work commences.

Autumnal colours

At this season when so many beautiful subjects are in their autumn dress, it may prove helpful to those who do not know them, but desire to possess them, if I mention a few of the most striking trees and shrubs in cultivation so far as autumn colour is concerned. Trees: Parrotia Persica (leaves crimson and gold), Nyassa sylvatica (red and yellow), Sorbus Pekinensis (crimson-scarlet), Liquidambar styraciflua (purple-red), Pistacia chinensis (crimson), Taxodium distichum (rich brown and yellow), Prunus avium (red), Ginkgo biloba (pale gold), Cratægus Crus-galli (red and orange), Carya tomentosa (rich yellow), Cercidiphyllum japonicum (crimson). Shrubs: Disanthus cercidifolia (deep claret colour), Fothergilla monticola (red and orange), Berberis concinna (with deep red leaves and fruits as large as Cornelian Cherries), B. Thunbergi (rich red), Cornus florida (red and crimson), Acers (in great variety), Berberis aggregata, B. Wilsonæ, B. dictophylla (beautiful leaves and fruits), Euonymus alatus (rosy scarlet), Pyrus arbutifolia (red), Rhus cotinoides (orange, claret, and crimson), Vaccinium corymbosum, Viburnum opulus. Climbers: Vitis Coignetiæ (scarlet), V. Titanea (scarlet), V. amurensis (crimson and purple), Celastrus articulatus (wreaths of golden leaves and scarlet fruits), Actinidia arguta (golden leaves). Many others could be added.

Spring flowers

Complete the planting of Wallflowers, Canterbury Bells, Forget-me-Nots, and Polyanthus, in order that they may take hold of the soil before severe frosts occur; those left over from the beds being used to form colonies in the foreground of shrubs or other open spaces.

Herbaceous Calceolarias

Move these into larger pots, as their present pots become lightly filled with roots, using a rich but rather light compost, to which has been added a little spent mushroom bed. A cool moist atmosphere is advisable at all times, and so long as frosts can be kept from the plants fire heat should be avoided. These plants are subject to attacks of green fly, which is usually found coating the undersides of the leaves, but a light fumigation given periodically will exterminate these pests.

Campanula pyramidalis and Canterbury Bells

These make beautiful pot plants, and raised from May-sown seed should now be lifted, potted up, and stood in a cold frame, no further shift being advisable. The pots chosen should be large enough to support the plants through their flowering season. These are very little trouble, and are extremely useful when in bloom.

Fruit in store

Neither Apples or Pears when stored in large quantities should be left to chance for any length of time, especially when these lie several deep on stages or on floors, as one bad fruit will affect quite a number in a short time; therefore examine these every few days and remove unsound fruits.

Ordering fruit trees

It should be remembered that orders in most nurseries are executed in strict rotation, and those who leave their orders until late will not only have to wait for their trees, but will have to take what are left, and these are certainly not always the best; therefore no time should be lost in placing orders.

Winter Lettuces

Another batch may be planted out on well-drained and sheltered borders; the plants are very clean and healthy, and will soon establish themselves and prove a boon early in the year.

Broad Beans

Make a good sowing of these to stand the winter. The position should be sheltered from north and east, and the ground well drained. The soil must be in fair heart, but not too rich, otherwise abundant coarse growth instead of abundant beans will be the result.

Rhubarb for forcing

Lift a few roots and expose them to the weather before placing them in a bed of leaves beneath the greenhouse stage, or in the Mushroom house. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

The cold frame

Much more harm results from keeping close shut this useful and, indeed, indispensable structure than from even the hardest winter, providing good treatment is given during autumn and open spells. It is damp and not cold that is to be most dreaded. To counteract the effect of the natural moisture tilt the sashes at the back, at first about an inch, gradually increasing the aperture until 5 inches or 6 inches is reached. Allow this day and night, providing frost is absent. By this method rain is shed from the occupants, and yet a current of fresh air circulates among the plants, building up sturdy and hardy growth that can withstand cold quite readily. Close down only during hard frost and cover with mats.

Latest Cauliflowers

At no time are good fresh heads of this useful vegetable more appreciated than in late autumn. A careful watch should be kept, and whenever a head begins to show bring several of the leaves over it as protection from frost. Any that may show signs of going to waste before they can be used should be pulled up bodily and hung head downwards in a cool shed or cellar. In this way they keep quite sound for 10 days or more.

Globe Artichokes

This crop is over for the season, so all stems should be cut down, but the leaves must not be damaged. If dry litter from the stables can be procured a generous layer of this material should be given the plants, ing it *under,* not *over,* the foliage. W litter cannot be got, a generous quanti dry leaves can be heaped round each and a quantity of dry herbaceous sten Spruce branches laid over to prevent being blown away by the gales.

Jerusalem Artichokes

Growth is now over, so it is well t down the tops to some 12 inches fro ground, this greatly facilitating the di of the crop. Being perfectly hardy the t can be left in the ground until wanted to prevent undue trouble during wet we or when hard frost prevails, a number s be dug up and the tubers stored in a moist but cool place until wanted.

Earliest vineries

Where really early forcing has to be c out it is well to now prune and clea rods and then thoroughly scrub all wood, and iron with soap and water. Vines should also be dressed with som proved insecticide so that all may be re start when required.

Prune Red and White Currants

As soon as the leaves drop, the prun these may be carried out. Pretty close pruning is suitable for these fruits. U the bushes are very feeble no manure s be given, as too robust growth is likely then fruiting will almost cease.

Black Currants

If not attended to just after the frui picked it will now be advisable to car any necessary pruning. This fruit, of c does not require pruning in the sense s for other fruits. All that is required cut away close to the ground any wo branches and thus make room for the vigorous shoots that will carry the b the fruit next season.

Prune Raspberries

It is always well to do this soon aft fruit is gathered, but with the abnorma fall during last August and Septemb work has generally been neglected. A canes should now be cut away a cou inches or less from the ground. Whe young canes have appeared in too grea bers all those unwanted should either away near to the ground-level or else up. Tie canes left into loose but bunches so as to protect them from winds. New plantations can now be choosing a rich site where there is litt of drought during summer.

Rose planting

This important work can be carri now should the ground be in fair w order and the plants available. It practice to plant while the soil is sodde it really pays to defer the business days, or even a few weeks, so as everything in good order, so much success looked for being dependent conditions prevailing while the plant being put in. C. B

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow

Pruning Raspberries

Raspberry fruits are borne on woo duced the previous year. Thus the canes which have developed during th mer will bear fruit next year. The can duced last year and which bore fruit th son are of no further use and should off close to the ground. The stronges shoots of the current year's growth n retained for fruiting next year. G. W

FRUIT GARDEN

lle de Fontenay Raspberry

s nearly twenty years since I received ew dozen canes of the above excellent umn-bearing Raspberry from a garden-iend then living in the neighbourhood istchurch, Hants, and during the time as elapsed since then I have secured good supplies of fine fruit daily hout the autumn. Belle de Fontenay, the summer-bearing Raspberry, bears wood of the current year's making. I obtained my canes I planted them in l which had been trenched between 2 nd 3 feet deep, a liberal dressing of tted manure having been incorporated he soil in the process of trenching. g only had enough canes to make one put them at 12 inches in the row, g the soil moderately firm about them iting, which was done late in Novem- Towards the end of the following ry the canes were cut down to within le of inches of the ground, and as soon young growths pushed away from the ols they were thinned out to 6 inches row, the thinnings being transplanted oining rows 4 feet apart and at 1 foot rows. The earth was pressed well the roots with the hands, water given le the soil about them, and afterwards ce bough stuck in front of each plant rotection from the sun until the roots shed into the soil, when the shade was ed with. A surface-dressing of short r to the thickness of about 2 inches d on between the rows and plants. The oints to be observed in the success-ure of both summer and autumn-bear-aspberries are to keep the young s thinned out to at least 6 inches in v (9 inches will be none too much if pace can be afforded them, all super-growths being either pulled up or cut he ground-line), and to keep the plants pplied with water at the roots during y weather. It is also essential to that the growths which are retained uce ripe fruit from the middle or end ust until cut down by autumn frosts not experience any previous check, it plenty of light and air should reach or the purpose of consolidating and ig the wood. R.

Apples for ornament

e more than once referred to this sub-d quite agree with all that has been its favour, and wherever I have an nity I have acted upon it. There is no place too small for a good-sized ree. From the palace to the cottage scope for Apple tree planting merely sake of ornament. No cottages are ing to the traveller as those with nd Cherry trees shading the entrance ose gable ends are covered with Apri- Pear trees. Such sights are more n in the far-away country districts ar the great centres of population. cottager continue to plant his Codlins nheims, the former for early bearing, latter for the future.

t thinking over the matter as to suit-ieties, especially as regards beautiful l fruit, the following list has occurred s being worth planting for ornamen-oses as well as for the fruit: Blen-Orange, Charles Ross, Peasgood's n, Bismarck, Worcester Pearmain, of Bath, Wellington, Norfolk Beau-art Pendu Plat, Gascoyne's Scarlet, bury, King of the Pippins (I should is because, though its fruit may not y coloured, the tree is of rapid and free growth and bears so freely and will always pay its way), Lady Sudeley, Lord Burghley, Fearn's Pippin, Nanny (a bright coloured Sussex Apple), Crawley Beauty, Prince Albert, Yorkshire Beauty. The above list includes Apples of recent introduction, about the growth of which more experience is required before anyone plants largely, as for ornamental purposes we want free and vigorous growth. A stunted Thorn may pass muster, but a sickly, cankered Apple would have to be removed. Some of the large-growing Apple trees, such as the Blenheim, Peasgood's, the Wellington, Beaufins, and others, might be planted round the margins of the home plantations, or even to a limited extent might take the place of some of the Thorns in the park or in the dressed grounds which surround the mansion. Only in planting have the site properly prepared, so that the trees may have a chance of growing away freely from the first. Some protection should be given to the stems for a few years. In the park or open grounds, cattle and sheep would soon destroy them unless protected, and in the enclosures hares and rabbits are also very destructive. Wire netting would suffice against ground game and sheep, but where cattle have access, something more substantial will be necessary. My idea is that for purposes of ornament only tall standards grafted on the Crab and capable of developing a large head should be planted. I am sure anyone who has the means of planting such trees will only have to think the matter over a little to see how much beauty and usefulness may be created thereby at a very small expense. It is perfectly true the result may not be seen at once. Like many other good and desirable things, it must be waited for; but of one thing we may be certain, that Apples planted within the friendly shelter of the home plantations or as a foreground to some of the groups of trees in the park, will, in consequence of their sheltered position, bear better crops of fruit than can be obtained from the trees planted in straight lines in an exposed orchard. Therefore, those who have utilitarian views may do worse than plant Apple trees. A.

Transplanting Peach trees

So early as the last day of September I noticed when looking through a Peach-house some large flat-trained trees from outside were already transplanted to fill vacancies created. The trees when I saw them were full of foliage, but had mats hung over them during sunshine to prevent any undue flagging of the leafage, as it was desired to retain that on the trees as long as possible. The reason for this apparent premature transplanting is that the more foliage on the tree the quicker the root-action, and, therefore, the more fully does the tree become established before the winter sets in. That is good plant physiology, for the sap descent which leads to the leaf-fall in the autumn at the same time serves to promote root-development, although not so largely when the leaves have fallen as when they are in process of ripening. Where there is somewhat gross top-growth, early transplanting serves to check that form of development, and at the same time leads to early rooting. Of course, in such a case as the one under notice it is easy to have holes prepared in the Peach-house and to lift the trees, moisten the roots, and have them replanted in soil in a few minutes. It would hardly be a safe experiment to conduct in the case of nursery trees. Still, no great harm would result. It is on record that Mr. R. D. Blackmore received a large number of standard Peach trees from America which arrived in a fairly dried-up condition, so that he had little hope of their living. However, they were pitched into a pond and allowed to soak for several days, then planted, with the result that every tree grew. No gardener wishes to trust to trees on such terms. Probably for the supply of his Peach trees it is best to keep a stock of four or five-year-old trees on outside walls where they can be fruited, but still be available to transplant into houses at any time. T.

Grape Alnwick Seedling

During the six years I served my last employer I was obliged to have Grapes all the year round, and Alnwick Seedling was the black variety supplied to the table from the middle of December to about the middle of January. The berries of the last bunches to be cut were as plump and sound as those of the first lot, and the flavour during the time stated was as like that of a Black Hamburgh as it was possible for any Grape to be. In fact, not a few who were more familiar with flavours than characteristics of varieties mistook it for this sort, and I must own that had I not known it I would unhesitatingly have called it a Hamburgh, judging from flavour. The house I grew it in was started on March 1st every year, and we had all finished by the beginning of September. Among the other varieties grown in the same house were Alicante, Lady Downe's Seedling, and Madresfield Court, so that a dry atmosphere had to be maintained for the ripening of the last without split berries. But although a dry atmosphere was maintained, yet dryness at the root was strictly guarded against, and under these conditions we never experienced any difficulty in having the fruit in their sound and plump form at the time stated. There is not the least doubt about the possibility of keeping Alnwick Seedling Grape sound until well into January, and if anyone fails to do so, there must be a flaw in the management somewhere. S.

Plums on north walls

There are a few kinds, Jefferson being amongst them, that will do well on north walls in some, but not all, gardens, and it would be well to prove their adaptability before planting too extensively. For instance, the Washington Plum on a north wall was a mere bag of water, while Reine Claude de Bavay never ripened at all. In the open and on a south wall the former is very fine and good, while the latter on a south wall is quite our latest Plum—late enough for all practical purposes. Jefferson is our most useful dessert Plum, and we grow it for successive crops on walls of south and east aspects, as well as on bush trees. I should like to hear, however, whether trees on north walls produce later fruit than those from the bush trees. In our case they ripened at the same time, and those from the bushes were the best flavoured. To show that the difference in flavour of fruit taken from walls of north and south aspects was not a matter of cultivation, I may say that trees of the best kinds of Plums were planted directly opposite each other on opposite sides of a wall running about E.N.E. and W.S.W.; they were treated alike, and those on the south side gave grand fruit, while the others were quite inferior and very rarely fit for dessert. P.

Apple Cornish Aromatic

This very excellent Apple does not appear to be grown so extensively as it deserves to be, seeing that it is a good grower and a free bearer of good-sized, clean, handsome fruits of first-rate quality. In point of size, shape, and colour this Apple is very much like the good old Ribston Pippin, but with this difference—the fruit shows no tendency to spot or blemish of any kind.

Double-flowered Primroses

THE beauty and effectiveness of the double-flowered Primroses would make them very popular were it not that in a general way considerable difficulty is experienced in maintaining them in the health and vigour necessary to enable them to give a true idea of their worth. Here and there, where soil and atmospheric conditions are exceptionally favourable, they grow freely and flower abundantly, and take on perennial vigour, but such places are few and far between, and one may go through a score of gardens without seeing a single plant. But it was not always so, for I remember the time when the double white mauve and yellow varieties were frequently to be seen in cottage gardens in this district. At the present time they appear to be non-existent in small and medium-sized gardens. Some years ago a cottager here made a speciality of the double white variety. He had two rows on each side of his garden path some 60 feet in length. Many of the plants carried upwards of 100 flowers of high quality, forming a perfect picture of floral beauty. It was the finest display of double-flowered Primroses I have ever seen. Probably the soil was exceptionally favourable, and this perfection of growth would not be obtained in every garden, but I do know that these Primroses may be successfully grown even where soil and situation are not very favourable. The great enemy of the Primrose is red spider, which has increased in English gardens during the last few years and which has a paralysing effect on plant growth, and has caused the death of a great number of double Primroses. The common-coloured Primroses are not very adversely affected by this pest; the foliage may be destroyed, but in their case root-action is so strong that with the advent of autumn rains young leaves push up freely. The double varieties do not possess this power of recuperation, the roots suffer from excess of moisture during the winter, and the plant the following season is but the shadow of its former self. The grower is naturally discouraged, and that garden sees the double Primrose no more. Probably red spider has been the main factor in the disappearance of the double Primrose from English gardens in the southern and midland districts. In the north and in Scotland they are not infrequently to be seen in good condition. These Primroses have, however, another enemy which is quite as deadly, and is even more to be feared, for the simple reason that it works in a subterranean manner and can, therefore, do an infinite amount of damage before its presence is suspected. Some years ago I procured nearly all the double Primroses in cultivation and planted them in carefully-prepared soil on a north border. They flourished, and in the second year I had quite a nice healthy stock of Purple Burgundy, Paddy, Arthur Dumoulin, Cloth of Gold, Marie Crousse, and that highly-prized variety, Crimson Velvet, or Pompadour, which is seldom seen in good condition. I had about three dozen strong plants of this variety, and naturally looked forward to a satisfactory reward for time and labour expended on these Primroses, but the Vine Weevil descended on them, and by the end of the growing time they were practically exterminated.

I must say that it was a cruel disappointment. Had I known as much as I do now I should not have lost them. Nothing that I know of will kill the grub when it has obtained a firm hold of the plant, but its destructive power can be neutralised in a very simple manner. The eggs are laid in June and the grub begins to feed in September. About the middle of the month the plants should be lifted, the soil shaken away, and the plants replanted in fresh, clean soil. The old soil should be burned so that every grub is destroyed. This is the only sure way of neutralising the ravages of this destructive pest, and those who have hitherto failed with these beautiful hardy flowers should try it. As regards red spider, good culture and a partly-shaded position will secure them against loss, but they must be watered hot, dry time. I am growing them among deciduous Ferns and they seem doing very well, as they get shade just needed. Marie Crousse flowers very fr It is one of the best double varieties blooms as early as the sulphur, which h fairly good constitution.

West Surrey. J. CORNHI

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plan be named should send fair examples of each stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of l and points of shoots are useless.) Not more four plants should be sent in any one week b same correspondent. Where more than one is sent they should be numbered. Of conifer cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in diff stages of colour and size of the same kind gr assist in its determination. We have rec from several correspondents single specim fruits for naming, these in many cases bein ripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to not more than four varieties at a time.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

Planting Cytisuses on a grass slope

I wish to plant some Cytisuses on a grass slope beside a carriage drive, fairly tall-growing to shut off the lawn. The soil is chalk, the chalk coming to within 2 feet from the surface. The plants would have to be near Fir trees, but would get the early and late afternoon sun. What varieties would you recommend me to plant, and should I need to add any special soil?

E. M. NELSON (MRS.).

[Your soil is quite suitable for Cytisus (Brooms), and nothing should be added in the way of manure, otherwise these shrubs grow vigorously for a few years and then get leggy and unsightly. The ground should be dug two spits deep, the grass being turned into the bottom spit and placed grass-side downwards. The Fir trees should not have much effect upon the Brooms unless the latter are planted close up to them. We recommend the following:—Cytisus albus (white Spanish Broom), C. nigricans, C. præcox, C. purpureus, C. scoparius, C. Andreanus, C. sulphureus, C. sessilifolius, C. supranubius (deliciously scented), C. Carlieri, and the late-flowering and sweet-scented yellow Spanish Broom (Spartium junceum), which has the largest blooms of them all. You are probably aware that such a position is very suitable for the Rock Rose family (Cistus), of which C. Cyprius, C. Ladaniferus, C. Loretti, C. Corbariensis, C. Silver Queen, C. purpureus, C. Sunset, C. villosus, and C. laurifolius are lovely kinds which require only the same treatment as the Brooms.]

Arbutus not fruiting

Can you tell me the reason for Arbutus not having any red berries? I planted one seven years ago which has done well and has the flower, but never any berries. M. W.

[Your Arbutus is probably growing in a position which is either too exposed or too shaded for the flowers to set. These beautiful shrubs love a fair amount of sunshine and shelter from cold winds. Within a few miles of you these shrubs fruit annually in a sheltered garden.]

Flowering plants for an east wall

Would you kindly advise me what flowering plants would be suitable for covering an east wall about 20 feet high. I have planted Ceanothus, but find they do not live. I have one Clematis montana rubra doing very well. I have a great disadvantage with the drip of a 30 feet stone tile roof, which comes just on the stem of the plants. Could you k state the best time for planting; als pruning of the Clematis? LACO

[Solanum jasminoides, Berberidopsis lina, Abutilon vitifolium, Forsythia susp Wistaria chinensis, W. multijuga, Cle Rehderiana, Rose Reve d'Or, Jasm nudiflorum. Either October or early N ber is an excellent time for planting some protection should be found po against the drip you mention, partic during the winter months. Immediatel Clematis has finished flowering, any sary pruning should be carried out.]

A dozen evergreens suitable for cu

(T. Wilkinson).—Berberis Darwini stenophylla, B. aquifolium, Esca macrantha, Skimmia japonica var. manni, Pernettya mucronata (handso fruit), Kalmia latifolia, Rhododen caucasicum pictum, R. Bagshot R. Everestianum, R. Cynthia, mediterranea var. superba.

Azalea attacked

(F.R.H.S., Donegal).—Your Azalea tacked with the fungus Exobasidium dendri. If you pick these off carefull transfer them to the fire your plant sho free next year.

ROSES

Growing Roses and Clematis in a fined space

(Londoner).—Yes, we consider you be able to grow the Roses and Clemati viding you use really good loam to has been added a little manure—farmy preference—and, failing this, ¼-inch c bones, obtainable from any good nurse A thin layer of gravel or broken crocks be placed in the bottom of the boxes vent sourness and permit water to pass away. Make the soil rather firmer boxes than you would do in the open g and also plant firmly. Mme. E Herriot is a suitable Rose, but we c Lady Godiva rather too strong a grow such a position, and would substitute f either Climbing Lady Hillingdon or Abel Chatenay (yellow and pink respec or, if another colour is desirable, then Scarlet Climber. Clematis Rubella is variety, but a more beautiful c Lazurstern, royal blue and an im flower. Clematis grata is quite uns for your purpose, it being a very grower. There are a few evergreen Cle such as C. Armandii, C. indivisa, a

ana, the flowers of which are white, one—though hardy—is suitable for urpose. C. calycina is also evergreen, ooms during January and February. s creamy-white with large purple s. This is less robust than the fore- but scarcely suitable for your position.

on of Roses

d you, please, give me your opinion the best Roses (bush), not for ex- purposes yet at the same time to be rowers and first-class flowers, well , not subject to mildew, and, if possi- iform in habit? Also three or six s of yellow Roses (not single, of for standards. As I understand the arieties of this colour are rather poor , what stock should they be worked

F. H. CLARK.

it.

really want the impossible, as no Roses have yet been raised that will nything near to your specification. r, the following, if well grown, are cellent:—Mme. Melanie Soupert, McArthur, Mrs. Wemyss Quinn, irrie, Mme. Butterfly, W. F. Dreer, Gaunt, Pharisaer, Christine, Betty rd, and Lieutenant Chauré. Six yellow Roses suitable for standards Christine, Florence L. Izzard, Golden , Mabel Morse, Rev. F. Page , and Sovereign. Opinions differ ably as to which is the better stock. it results are had from both the " and "canina" stocks, so you e your choice.]

FLOWER GARDEN

for spring, summer, and autumn, d manuring a Yew hedge

e a garden sunk 3 feet below the level of the ground, with wide her- borders, facing north, east, and th a low hedge all round for shelter. order is best for spring, which for and which for autumn flowers?

B. U. S.

or autumn flowers the border facing) for summer flowers the border fac- ; and (3) for spring flowers the border vest. April is the best month for g your Yew hedge.]

and Roses for a retaining wall

e side of this house there are two of grass, one about 5 feet lower than . As a result, there is a wall built stones 25 yards long and about 5 , facing north-west. The stones up against the earth similarly to the ed fences almost universal in this n the edge of Dartmoor. Hitherto re growing among the stones, which y loosened the stones, and were removed and the wall built up hich is now bare. Can I plant any Cotoneaster along top edge, so as to n, and can you suggest plants to in- g the stones on the face and Roses at the base to grow up the wall?

C. M. T.

anting along the top of the wall we the following: Arctostaphyles cali- una-ursi, Eriogonum umbellatum, mum prostratum, Rosmarinus pros- olygonum vaccinæfolium, Euonymus Vitis Wilsoni, Teucrium latifolium, a langleyensis, Erica mediterranea Cotoneaster humifusa, C. pyrenaica, nutans, Convolvulus althæoides, lus mauritanicus, Rosa Wichurai- lants for the wall.—Arenaria mon- mone pulsatilla, Gentiana acaulis, ia californica, Aubrietias in variety, Campanula muralis, C. barbata, C. turbinata, C. carpatica, C. garganica hirsuta, C. isophylla, and its white var. alba, Æthionema grandiflora, Alyssum saxatile, A. spinosum roseum, Androsace lanuginosa, A. foliosa, Thymus serphyllum var. coccineum, Sedum Ewersii, S. spurium var. splendens, S. spathulifolium var. purpureum, Geranium lancastriense, Onosma taurica, Saxifraga pyramidalis, S. longifolia, S. oppositifolia, Santolina chamycyparissus squarrosa, Plumbago larpentæ, Hypericum reptans, H. fragilis, H. repens, Helianthemums in variety, Dianthus cæsius, D. neglectus, D. deltoides, Codonopsis onata, Epilobium obcordatum, Dryas octopetala, Erinus alpinus, Heiraceum villosum. Climbing Roses.—Rosa bracteata, R. Mermaid, R. Paul's Scarlet Climber, R. Climbing Lady Hillingdon, R. Cupid, R. Zepherin Drouhin, R. Paul's Lemon Pillar, R. Papa Gautier, R. Lady Waterlow, R. sinica anemone.]

A selection of Dahlias

("A Reader."). — Six good Cactus Dahlias:—Essex, Harry Strutt, John Fowler, Mary Murray, Champion, and Mrs. Walter Jackson. Six large Pæony-flowered:—Countess of Lonsdale, Faithful, Fire Dragon, Gala, Our Annie, and Vesuvius. Six double Zonal Pelargoniums:—Buccleuch Gem, Fireworks, Mme. Recamier, Mrs. W. Ferguson, Progress, and Sunbeam. Twelve Gladioli:—Betty, Boileau, Bourdaloue, Carrick, David Airdrie, Duchess of York, Gloriosa, Herode, Jean Mair, Lovely, Queen Mary, and Sunset.

GREENHOUSE

Abnormal Chrysanthemums

I have an Edith Cavell, the instructions regarding taking the bud being "natural break first crown." Unfortunately, I misunderstood this and took the first bud that appeared in June last. The consequence is that the bud has not developed properly, and now a group of nine or ten shoots have grown out of what should be the flower.

G. A. WILLIAMS.

[We have on previous occasions noticed the "freak" growth you describe, but it is not at all common. It is explained by the fact that Nature usually resents any attempt to curb her. You "took" the bud too early, kept rubbing out all subsequent side shoots, and so the plant, by way of an outlet to its energies, formed fresh growths inside the flower-bud and so found relief.]

Treatment of Gloxinias during winter

(Olive Gaens, U.S.A.).—The windows will do quite well providing frost is not permitted to reach the plants, the leaves of which should be gradually ripened off by keeping the soil on the dry side, and when all the leaves have turned yellow the plants may be stored away in any cool, dark room or cellar which is free from frost, during which time little or no water is required.

VEGETABLES

Quantity of manure for kitchen garden

(A. M. B., Northwood).—You will require six cartloads of manure, assuming that each load contains the average eight barrowloads. The best method of storing is to dig a large square hole and place the manure along with any leafy or garden refuse, but not woody material, inside and thus preserve the quality of the manure. Failing this build the manure into a tidy stack until required.

Improving garden soil

What could you recommend as a means of improving the soil in my vegetable garden in which I wish to grow early and exhibition crops? The general run of crops in this district are very late, due to the cold nature of the soil. This can readily be understood by examining the sketch. The soil does not appear to have been worked properly for many years. How is the "burning" of clay done, and what temperature is required? Could you recommend this as a means of lightening the soil, which is very cold and water-logged in spit 2, due to clay of spit 3.

D. R. TULLIS.

[The first thing to do with such soil is to see that it is properly drained to the depth to which the ground is worked, using agricultural drain-pipes and taking care to place a good layer of brick rubbish or gravel over the pipes, which must have a clear outlet. The land should then be trenched to a depth of 3 feet, keeping the bottom spit at the bottom, but incorporating a good quantity of rich farmyard manure, repeating same with successive layers of soil. Lime is a great aerating and sweetening agent, and should be used with a free hand, at the same time pulverising it well into the soil. Land required for the growing of exhibition vegetables should be trenched, re-trenched, and manured, no matter what it consists of, until the 3 feet depth of soil is as good at the bottom as it is at the top, and the draining will have the effect of warming the ground by disposing of the stagnant water. The burning of clay soil is carried out as follows, and once soil has been so treated it becomes quite light and easy to work, and when enriched with manure will grow practically anything. Build a large pile of wood and a little coal in order to generate great heat, and when this has been attained place a layer of 6 inches of clay over the whole fire exactly as you would cover a clamp of Potatoes. Leave this until the fire begins to show through the soil, when a thin layer of small coal should be spread over the whole surface, followed by another 6 inches to 9 inches of clay, and so repeating until all has been effectually burnt. Always place the clay over the small coal immediately the latter is added, and endeavour to prevent holes burning through and remaining so for any length of time, as this allows a great escape of heat, all of which must be kept inside by constant attention to those parts of the fire which show a tendency to break through. Very little coal is necessary once the fire has got well established, providing these instructions are carried out. Of course, the burning of a portion of such soil and mixing same with the remainder is of great benefit to growing crops.]

FRUIT

Insects on Apple trees

(R. L. B.).—Your trees are infested with Cabbage Aphis (Aphis brassicæ), which may be easily destroyed by successive sprayings of either Quassia Extract or Abol, at the rate of ¼ pint to 1 gallon of water. It will be necessary to repeat the spraying a week later, care being taken that all parts, especially the undersides of the leaves, are thoroughly wetted. All fallen leaves should be gathered up before spraying commences and burnt.

Outdoor Figs

I have an outdoor trained fan shape Brown Turkey Fig tree that I would be much obliged with your valuable advice *re* treatment. This tree is about seven years old, and I planted it in a concrete bottom, leaving a space for a foot to 9 inches of soil and old mortar rubble, etc. I only get about a dozen Figs a year from the tree about August; but many smaller Figs come to about the size of a Walnut, but do not ripen, and drop off in the autumn. First, should the shoots be stopped three leaves above the Figs in June, to encourage the fruit, and should some of the

Figs be taken off? Would the tree benefit by some chemical manure; if so, when should it be used? I should not say the tree is making too much growth, but seems quite healthy. Secondly, should the tree be pruned further than removing dead wood, if any? It has many branches. Thirdly, I propose moving the tree to another position. Am I right to plant as before, say, when the leaf is off in a similar south-west aspect? I also have a White Marseilles bush, about six years old; it has plenty of Figs, but they do not mature, and drop off before they ripen. Is this climate not suitable for these? I stopped all shoots with Figs on, and reduced some of the number, but I fear none will ripen again this season; they are very healthy, and should be fine big Figs if I could ripen them. This tree, I fancy, is making too much wood, and it might be advisable to move it to another south-west aspect when the leaf is off. C. C. BUSH.

[In the first place, your Fig trees are planted in the wrong position. The Fig must have all the sunshine possible, so a south wall is imperative. Then the roots must be restricted. For each tree make a hole some 4 feet long, 3 feet wide, and about 3 feet deep. A brick wall, jointed with cement, should be built round each, and then a foot of broken bricks, gravel, or other rough material, placed in the bottom. Over this lay fresh turves, grass side down, and then fill in with chopped turves, broken bricks, and mortar rubbish, well mixed together. Tread down very firmly. Plant in November or March. Disbud freely when growths are 3 inches long, retaining only those best placed, and short-jointed and stocky. During summer remove all sappy, long-jointed growths that appear, and about the middle of August pinch out the points of all growing shoots. If disbudding has been properly carried out, no pruning is necessary. White Marseilles is not a suitable variety for outdoor culture. If a good crop sets on the Brown Turkey, thin the fruits a little, and feed with weak liquid manure. Better leave chemicals alone.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Book on Chrysanthemums

(M. C. P.).—A very good modern work on this subject is "Chrysanthemums for Garden and Greenhouse," by H. Shoesmith. It may be had from Messrs. Barr and Sons, 11, 12, and 13, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. 2, for 5s. 6d. post free.

Brown patches on lawn

In the early summer I gave my lawn a dressing of lawn sand, and later of fertiliser, yet, in spite of this and of the excessively wet summer, it has, during the last month or so, developed numerous brown patches. Can you advise cause and remedy? Are they due to leatherjackets? E. C. B.

[Without seeing the lawn it is impossible to state with certainty the cause of your trouble, which may be due to impoverished soil. Lawns are often made carelessly by local builders, who simply use the waste from new excavations for correcting and raising levels, some of which soil is absolutely unsuitable for growing and maintaining grass for any length of time in a healthy state, and no top-dressing, however beneficial to other parts of the lawn, will prevent the brown patches you complain of appearing on such soil. We advise you to roll back the turf of these yellow places and take out the top 3 inches of soil, replacing same with good loam, replacing the turf after ramming firmly. If this is too large a job and you suspect leatherjackets, which often infest turf and cause a lot of trouble, apply a dressing of "Larvoid" at the rate of 1 lb. to 20 square yards, sprinkling it evenly over the turf and well watering it in. "Larvoid" is sold by Messrs. Sutton and Sons, the cost being 11s. for 7 lbs.]

Trouble with lawn grass

Will you kindly tell me what I can do for a lawn the grass on which has become so coarse that the mower simply will not cut it? The lawn in question has been kept cut close during the summer except on two or three occasions when the surface was too wet to run the mower over it. Gradually the grass seemed to get coarse, and now it just lies down under the machine. During early spring I gave this lawn two dressings of "Climax Lawn Sand" to kill Moss and weeds. Would this cause rank growth? I might add we have had a considerable amount of rain during late summer and autumn.

Co. Donegal. F.R.H.S.

[It would appear that it is your mower which is at fault, and that the knives either require sharpening or setting down a little harder upon the plate. Two inches is generally regarded as the limit in the height of grass, which can be satisfactorily dealt with by the average mower, and when, through various causes, grass has been permitted to exceed this height resort must be had to the scythe. First tighten the blades down to the plate more closely, raise the front roller 1 inch, and run over the lawn with the machine at this level; this will have the effect of removing the top inch of grass. The following day set the front roller back to its original level, which should have the effect of bringing the grass back to its proper close-cut surface. Roller machines are preferable for wet lawns. The Pennsylvania type of machine not only leaves unsightly lines along the lawn, but the more one has to push, the deeper the wheels sink in, rendering it impossible for the machine to grapple with the grass.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

A. S. N.—1, Lythrum Salicaria (Purple Loosestrife); 2, Salvia pratensis (Meadow Clary); 3, Solanum nigrum (Black Nightshade).

R. C. D.—A, The Rose had fallen. Please send typical blooms next year. B, Shrubby Spiræa Anthony Waterer.

F.R.H.S., Donegal.—Hesperis matronalis.

A. Chave.—1, Lonicera purpuras-cens; 2, Olearia nummularifolia; 3, Leptospermum scoparium; 4, Abutilon vexillarium.

H. M. H.—Escallonia montevidensis.

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the importance of sending only good typical specimens for naming, and not less than two or three fruits of each variety.

H. R. V.—4, Bramley's Seedling; 5, Golden Spire; 6, Allington; 7, Cox's Orange Pippin.

E. L.—1, King of Pippins; 2, Wellington; 3, Allington.

J. M. H.—Hambling Seedling.

T. W. (Regular Reader).—1, Norfolk Beauty; 2, Ribston Pippin; 3, Wellington; 4, Adam's Pearmain.

J. G., Chingford.—1, Early Apple James Grieve, late variety Sturmer Pippin, one variety has been grafted; 2, Winter Quarrenden; 3, Ribston Pippin; 4, probably Ribston Pippin.

New certificated Chrysanthemums

There were several very excellent new Chrysanthemums shown at the meeting of the Floral Committee of the National Chrysanthemum Society held at the Royal Horticultural Society's rooms, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W. on Monday last, the 17th inst. The following varieties were rec by the Committee:—

PINKEST.—A distinctly good and att flower having rather narrow floret evenly arranged, building a bloom 4 inches to 4½ inches across of pleas flexing form, ideal for disbudding and lent for market. Colour, mauv Height, 3½ feet. First-class Certifi Mr. H. Shoesmith, Junr., Mayford Woking, Surrey.

MRS. F. C. MAPLES.—This is a ver and handsome Japanese bloom of ex standard having broad, slightly florets of good substance that build a flower some 10 inches, more or less, Colour, rich golden-yellow. This is did acquisition. F.C.C. to Mr. E. H. Long Sutton Gardens, Basingstoke.

CHEERFUL.—This variety should pro useful in the outdoor garden and for It is a single-flowered sort having fl medium width regularly arranged a well-proportioned disc. Colour, ros cotta, very attractive in a good light. shown in undisbudded sprays, and form is distinctly useful. F.C.C. to Cragg, Harrison, and Cragg, Hounslow.

JIM STACEY.—Another excellent ex Japanese bloom of Japanese incurve The florets are long and broad, pl curling and incurving, building a b good form some 8 inches to 9 inches i Colour, yellow. F.C.C. to Mr. H. J Ryecroft Nurseries, Lewisham, S.E.

There was also a pretty rich yellow sort named Topsy, in form remindin Cranfordia. Height, 2½ feet.

D. B. C

R.H.S. Fruit Show

(Concluded from page 652)

A distinctly attractive group was by Messrs. T. Rivers and Son, Ltd bridgeworth, Herts. They had fo grown examples of Gascoyne's Scarl ing large fruits beautifully colour baskets of magnificent fruits of Pea Nonsuch, James Grieve, Cox's Oran pin, Washington, King of Tomkin's Rival, Worcester Pearmain, Ga Scarlet, Ribston Pippin, Wealth Queen, Lady Sudeley Apples, and tw of Plum President. All the fruits stand were remarkable for their high

Another dainty group of Apples wa by Messrs. W. Seabrook and Sons, ford, all of which were of good qua beautifully coloured. We must Worcester Pearmain, Chas. Ross, Monarch, Newton Wonder, and Wea

The Swanley Horticultural Colleg an excellent group of Apples repr good culture. It consisted of Apples and Crabs, in all about 25 dishes kets. Chas. Ross, Cox's Orange King of Pippins, James Grieve, Beauty, Worcester Pearmain, Co Newton Wonder, Loddington, an good's Nonsuch were all especially g

Messrs. Daniels Bros., Ltd., had a dainty group of Apples and about 22 dishes. Pears Santa Cla enne du Comice, Pitmaston Duch Glou Morceau were excellent, and Apples the noteworthy sorts Vicar o ton, Peacemaker, Allington Pipp Monarch were good.

A most artistic display was Messrs. Laxton, Bedford, every dish of which this group consisted bein best. Gascoyne's Scarlet, The Que cester Pearmain, King of Pippins, L bourne, Laxton's Superb, Mother, a others were very fine. Blackberries Strawberry-Raspberry were also sh

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Too Little Known Apples

HEN our friend, Mr. F. Herbert Chapman, discourses on Apples he makes still more interesting a fascinat- ject, for there are a great many un- points about England's premier fruit hould be brought to light.

tunately, many of our commercial or Apples which look well and are good s to pack and travel, are less desirable ur, yet because they are cultivated by ge fruit growers and are seen in in stores and shows they become nown than some others of superior and many people prefer to plant well varieties in preference to those they now.

instance of this le fact, one may the Worcester n. One sees tractive - looking this for sale in a period when it unfit to be eaten, hard and imma- Throughout Sep- ne sees more of ety offered than r dessert Apple, only fit to eat led ripe from the on in the month ber.

offer such a long ring which they ght to pick from that it is strange are not more grown by ama- specially when orative value in som season is consideration. ld be noted that our nice early ust be eaten within a few days of ced, and not after a week or two store, as they lose their crisp, juicy

rliest Apple ready to eat is Red ; not large, not very handsome, but en comes White Transparent; a he sharp side during July, but re- and a good cropper. Following the handsome and somewhat flavoured Red Astrachan, which, vn as a bush tree on the paradise mences to ripen in July, and con- ipen its fruits throughout the first in August. These three varieties excellent selection for dessert in e Early Victoria becomes fit to

August gives us quite a nice selection of well-flavoured eating Apples, in addition to the better known Mr. Gladstone, Lady Sudeley, and Beauty of Bath, none of which are distinguished for flavour. Red Astrachan is followed by Feltham Beauty, superior to Mr. Gladstone; then comes Langley Pippin, a really good quality Apple, both of these being raised by Messrs. Jas. Veitch & Sons. Langley Pippin is an unusual grower, the leaves often appear somewhat silvery and lacking the deep green that one likes to see. It is nevertheless not unhealthy, and is a fine cropper.

The juicy and delicious Irish Peach is better known by connoisseurs, but not sufficiently appreciated because it is not handsome.

Early Victoria is our best cooking Apple during August, although thinnings of Stirling Castle and Grenadier are also good.

In addition to the varieties St. Everard Pippin and American Mother, mentioned by Mr. Chapman, St. Edmund's Pippin (or Russet), which is first class in September, should also be included.

American Mother, also known as Queen Mary, is of first quality, and even a rival in both flavour and appearance to that justly-famed James Grieve.

After the end of September we have plenty of good varieties. Where Cox's Orange does not succeed Ellison's Orange should be tried; it ripens earlier, and is a better grower. Herring's Pippin is more handsome, but similar in quality to Blenheim Orange, and fruits earlier on younger trees.

As an Apple unique in flavour and more beautiful than most others, Sops in Wine should be in every garden where interest is taken in a variety of flavours.

Strange to say, the best late dessert Apple not classed as a market variety is almost unknown. This is Lord Hindlip, a variety which is crisp and excellent until April if left on the tree until October, and stored in a cool damp place, and not in a dry loft, where Apples are often spoilt. Another excellent late keeping dessert Apple not sufficiently known is King's Acre Pippin, which, like Lord Hindlip, is a good cropper.

It should not be forgotten that sunlight is a big factor in flavour. Apples vary in flavour from season to season. Correct pruning, so as to leave fruits exposed to the sun, is important. Heavy or hard pruning does harm, because it creates much growth which shades the fruit.

Generally speaking, the amateur can get better-flavoured fruit from bush, cordon, or espalier trees (always on the paradise stock, of course), because the growth can be more easily regulated.

Apple growing is worth a lot of study and practice. The more one gives the more one receives, and the greater the interest and fascination of growing becomes.

LAURENCE J. COOK.

Dessert Apple Madresfield Court, which is now being extensively planted
In season from October to January

Apple Madresfield Court

NOT only is this Apple of splendid appearance, but it is also of an excellent and mellow flavour. It was raised by crossing the Worcester Pearmain and the time-honoured Ribston Pippin, the latter being one of the most delicious of all dessert Apples. The new variety possesses good qualities of both its parents, namely, exquisite flavour coupled with shape, colour, and fertility of the Worcester Pearmain. Moreover, the fruit of Madresfield Court appears to be rather larger than either of its parents. The flesh is yellow, very tender, crisp, and juicy. It is

in season from October to January, and it makes an excellent cordon. The growth is robust, making admirable bush, pyramid, or standard trees. This variety received an award from the R.H.S. some 12 years ago, and it is now being extensively planted. We regard it as a dessert Apple with a great future.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Paradise stocks for Apples

LIKE "W." (p. 655), I have doubts—more than doubts—as to the ultimate benefit to be derived from the use of Paradise as a stock for the Apple. I most readily admit and agree that by the use of this "adventitious aid" early bearing is secured, and that, in their early stages, the trees produce remarkably fine fruits and abundance of them. I freely confess, too, that at one time nothing would induce me to plant Apple trees worked on the Crab, but increasing years and (it is to be hoped) increasing wisdom have taught me that, for permanent trees at all events, the use of Paradise is a fallacy. Those who may have had an opportunity, as I have, of comparing an orchard of Apple trees on Paradise, planted exactly 20 years ago, with another planted at the same date, but with trees on the Crab stock, will, I am sure, agree that in every respect the latter is immeasurably the better. "W." appears to have had a similar experience and to have reached a similar conclusion. Unfortunately, in the case of Apples on Paradise, young trees are often overcropped, and they are thereby weakened, so that it is, perhaps, hardly fair utterly to condemn the stock. For small gardens it is unquestionably valuable, and in such cases the occasional expense of renewing failures is not great. But for enduring orchard trees Crab is always to be preferred. There appears to be a certain vagueness as to what "Paradise" really is. Five men out of six who use it cannot reply correctly to the question: "What is Paradise?" Properly it is Pyrus malus præcox, one of the Pyrus family, and probably a native of Russia, although it is also well known in Holland, from which country it was most likely introduced here. There are two forms—the French, or small-leaved Paradise, which is inferior to the English, or broad-leaved form. Why the latter is known as the "English" Paradise is unknown to me, but it is the better stock. Apple trees worked on it may fruit fairly freely during the second or third season—on Crab, trees seldom fruit earlier than the fifth year, and some of the more robust growers much later.

Kirkcudbrightshire. W. McG.

Pillar Rose Effective

I have been interested in the various notes on Roses in your admirable paper, and wonder why no one ever mentions the above Rose. It is a most beautiful semi-double with a golden centre, very large petals of a true cerise (cherry colour), and is the strongest-scented Rose I have ever known. Nice clean foliage free from mildew, profuse continuous bloomer, and exceptionally strong grower; in fact, as a pillar Rose it, to my mind, stands supreme in every respect.

THOS. ALDERSEY.

The Cottage, Shifnal, Salop.

The fruit store

May I correct a statement in the leading article, issue October 15th. We have never tried packing Apples in paper. We keep them in an underground chamber on lattice shelves. The Wellington Apples were sent off on August 1st, and I hardly think they would have proved good eating uncooked as early as May.

We have a heavier crop of tree fruit than ever this year. Black Diamond and Czar Plum trees had all to have their branches propped up; Damsons a heavy crop.

Newton Wonder, Bramley's Seedling, Wellington, Blenheim Orange, Adam's Pearmain, and Mabbott's Pearmain heavy crops, but Cox's Orange poor.

Bush fruit was also quite good, and Potatoes a very heavy crop.

THACKERAY TURNER.

Westbrook, Godalming.

Primula involucrata

In view of the enormous amount of interest being taken in the genus Primula at the present time it appears almost incredible that Primula involucrata should be so little grown, as it was described and named by Wallich well nigh 100 years ago. It is a moisture-loving species, quite at home in a bog or by a stream or pond. The writer was greatly impressed by its beauty on seeing it many years ago in a then famous Irish garden where some hundreds of plants of P. involucrata which had been raised seeds were in full bloom in a bed of soil almost on a level with a little s which flowed through the garden. constituted a most beautiful picture i Since then the writer has cultivate Primula with success in a low part garden in rather peaty soil and kept m dry weather. He has also grown it better by the side of a small Water Lily where it was at the edge of the ov aperture in a moist margin to the Here it grew with amazing rapidity forming a close mass of its small leaves from which rose in due cour May, slender stems carrying heads of sized, fragrant, white flowers, som tinged with lilac. By the way, som separated a lilac form from the oth called it P. Munroi, but this is not ge accepted. As P. involucrata increases at the roots when happy, division f ready method of increase.

Phyllocactus Dr. Bois Duval
Height about 7 feet. Grown in a cold greenhouse from which the frost is kept out by means of a small oil lamp in winter

Exhibiting Apples

Am I correct in a friendly argument with a fellow gardener? I maintaine show near here last August, that Appl as Bramley's Seedling should not be a 1st prizes in August and September against such Apples as Stirling Cas Lord Suffield. Granted, the late were good samples, but they were no opinion cooking Apples in August. noticed so many times that late Ap given prizes in August that I should of your opinion. PONS ASIN

[Preference should be given to vari season; at the same time much dep the wording of the schedule. If it mer "Cooking Apples," it is open to a tor to show any variety classed in t tion. Many schedules are badly wor so lead to considerable controversy feeling. We notice that some pri notably that issued by the Royal Ca Horticultural Society, add, in m cases, "Ripe or unripe," which simplifies matters, and is a safe guid judges.—ED.]

Phyllocactus Dr. Bois Duv

A NOTE about this fine Cactus in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED of 13th, 1921. Two years ago m were moved from East Yorkshire t and the accompanying photograp taken during the summer of this ye Cactus flowers freely every year, t secret for successful cultivation bein the plant a complete rest during th giving little or no water from O March, in a cold house from whic excluded. A full exposure to th necessary, and plenty of water must during spring and summer. While t buds are forming syringe daily to k green fly, to which they and the you are very liable. Re-potting is seld sary, but it is a good plan to stir th of the pot in spring and supply a go ing or top dressing of rich new soil.

RUTH BICKE

Rose Etoile de Holland

In his most interesting notes o Features of the Lesser Known R page 658, October 22nd issue, Mr. J. Cook claims Etoile de Holland a the best garden crimson Rose," b perience of this variety causes m quite a different opinion. Three we procured half-a-dozen good plan were given a good position and w in every way, and I must say the been far from satisfactory. While

well, the number of blooms produced appointingly small, while those that do r are anything but full, and have the ing habit of hanging their heads, which y humble opinion is one of the worst a Rose can have, if garden decoration ut flower purposes are the object. A nuch more satisfactory garden Rose is el Oswald Fitzgerald, its one fault be- ack of scent. It grows splendidly, s profusely, both early and late, and slightly addicted to mildew. Doubtless, limatic conditions, and exposure are re- ble, for I have often heard complaints ling varieties that luxuriate here, fail- succeed elsewhere. Other crimson that do really well here are: Alex- Emslie, W. C. Gaunt, Covent Garden, . E. van Rossem, Lieutenant Chauré, rl Haig. C. BLAIR,
ton House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Schizostylis Mrs. Heggarty

not always that such a pretty and use- nt of this character comes true from ut quite a large number raised here w flowering for the first time are all ue, and occupying a narrow easterly present quite a pleasing feature to- ctober 12th.

plants are about 2 feet in height, and umerous flowers are of a very clear of pink; the seed was taken from growing in the open. As it suckers o difficulty should be experienced in ining a vigorous stock of plants.
x. E. M.

Autumnal colours

Markham's list of trees, shrubs, and s (page 662), which beautify the gar- w with their wonderful autumn should be an encouragement to plant of these delightful subjects. Ad- , small gardens could never afford r many, but all gardens should have rees and shrubs for autumnal colour- ith careful selection one can plant which both flower and also give fine al tints. Most Berberises come this category, also Pyrus arbutifolia, nocarpa, Prunus maritima, Amelan- anadensis, Cornus florida, Nandina a, and many others. R. MOORE.
e Hall.

pening and keeping Grapes

e who possesses the most elementary ge of Grapes will dispute what is 663 in the issue of October 22nd) ng the keeping qualities of Alnwick . The variety, however, is by no qual to Black Hamburgh in point of and it is perfectly possible to have r in good order, plump and sound of t the same date indicated by the f the note. As a rule, Black Ham- wing to the extreme ease with which managed, is used principally as an iety, but it may be had late as well Those who desire to have Black gh late ought to start the house in give the Vines the longest possible f growth, and allow them toward of summer a little extra pipe-heat orresponding amount of ventilation. metimes assumed that when Grapes they must be ripe. This is wrong; sometimes a long way from being require to be (as we call it) finished. only mention the cases of Lady Alicante, and Gros Colman to t blackness does not always connote When Black Hamburgh is finished en it is perfectly ripe—it will hang close of the year, and as a matter have had it, in a Midlothian gar-

Another view of Phyllocactus Dr. Bois Duval

Flowers brilliant red, shaded blue inside, with cream-coloured stamens. The blooms are about 8 inches across. Between 50 and 60 were produced on this one plant this summer

den, well into January, sweet and unshrivelled. The whole secret in keeping Hamburghs is to maintain a dry atmosphere without much fluctuation in the temperature —45 degs. to 50 degs. I consider to be about a correct night figure. Many keep the vinery too close; it is far better to leave sufficient ventilation at the apex of the house to keep the air moving. A little pipe heat will keep things right, and this ought to be given until, say, the middle of November. After then the less heat the better, or shrivelling may set in. Grapes must be kept cool and dry if they are expected to remain plump.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Autumn Raspberries

We have picked, the last week, three small baskets of beautiful ripe large Raspberries, some fruits nearly 1½ inches long and many more *waiting* the sun. These Raspberry canes had borne a fine crop earlier in the summer and show some very healthy growths for next year.

W. HUNT FELTHAM.
The Weald House,
Burgess Hill, Sussex.

The Editor's Windowsill

DAHLIAS FROM CAMBRIDGE.—We have received from Messrs. J. Burrell and Co., Howe House Nurseries, Cambridge, a delightful collection of Charm Dahlias. The flowers are most welcome, for it is pleasing to see such bright colours at this time of the year. These Charm Dahlias or miniature Pæony Dahlias are quite separate from the large-flowered Pæony Dahlias and form a most attractive group. They are useful for bedding or cutting. One of the prettiest of the varieties sent is Our Annie, the flowers of which are shrimp-pink and yellow at the base. Others worthy of special note are Baroda, Clara Hart, Charmer (the pick of the French chestnut coloured varieties, the flowers are shaded salmon towards the centre of the florets with rose shading towards the tips), Gloria, Vedas, Vera, Harriet, Lily, Glamour, and Dazzle. The last is particularly well named, the flowers are brilliant scarlet. It is an excellent variety for bedding or for cutting.

Colour in the flower garden

When planting our flower-gardens, purple may well be the prevailing tone near the house as there are many plants with flowers of this colour that will blossom well in the half-shade which a building gives, and such lovely things as Wistaria and Clematis will clothe the house itself. If blue be placed towards the end of the garden furthest from the house it will give an idea of increased distance and be well away from the semi-tone of the purple. The progression of colour may well be purple, cream shading to yellow, light pink shading to deepest crimson, pale orange, white, scarlet, and blue. Beyond the section devoted to blue, one devoted to brown affords a pleasing relief to the brighter colours. By placing certain colour groups where the bed is broadest we bring them into prominence while we conceal others, and the eye need not be bewildered by having to take in all the colours of the spectrum and all the numberless half-tones at a single glance.

A charming effect is produced by so arranging the plants that those of a rose colour may be seen against a background of white ones, while beyond these, blue will appear. One not only has to arrange for harmonies between the colour groups side by side, but for those which lie in front and behind each other. Plants with a neutral grey foliage placed in such a border at intervals give relief to the eye and enormously improve its general appearance. They are largely used in this way at Hampton Court. But it must ever be remembered that without the tranquil expanses of field and lawn (and let us add lake), restful evergreens and Yew trees, one might make a fine botanical collection, yet never a garden. Our English lawns are envied by garden-lovers in every other country, and are far more restful than crazy paving, though this is useful in very small town gardens where turf gets shabby by being constantly trodden upon.

A Fine Autumn Show at Westminster

ORCHIDS of rare beauty and refinement were the special feature of the fortnightly meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society on October 18th and 19th, but as we shall devote considerable space to these and other Orchids in our special Orchid number next week we will pass them over in this review and deal now with autumn foliage, flowers, and vegetables that were so well represented on this occasion.

Of the flowers of autumn, Dahlias, Roses, Michaelmas Daisies, Chrysanthemums, and Perpetual-flowering Carnations were shown in great profusion, making a wonderfully fine display of colour for the time of year.

Autumn-tinted foliage was beautifully displayed by Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons. Here were Japanese Maples in rich bronze and crimson hues, Rhus Cotinus, Red Oak Quercus rubra, Euonymus alatus, and Berberis Thunbergii, while the berried subjects included the Cockspur Thorn (Cratægus Crus-galli), Cotoneaster frigida, Pyracantha Gibbsii, Pernettya mucronata, and Snowberries in variety.

Two interesting blue-berried shrubs, Gaultheria Forrestii and Viburnum Davidii, were shown by Messrs. R. Veitch and Son.

One of the most interesting exhibits in the Hall was that of splendid blooms of Nerine Bowdeni sent by the Duke of Wellington from Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke (gardener, Mr. H. Beckingham). The fine blooms of this Nerine (see illustration) were shown in great quantity, and all cut from a bed in the open sheltered only by a Yew hedge.

Two interesting collections of Sempervivums, one from Kew and the other from Mr. H. T. Weeks, Northwyke, Rusthall Park, Tunbridge Wells, were shown in connection with the lecture on Sempervivums by Dr. R. Lloyd Praeger.

A number of good tall-growing Lobelias were shown by Messrs. B. Ladhams, Ltd. Many of these varieties were new in shades of rose, pink, and purple.

Nerine Bowdeni, cut from the open
Sent by the Duke of Wellington from Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke

VEGETABLES AND FRUITS

The outstanding exhibit was the magnificent and extensive group of vegetables sent by the Hon. Vicary Gibbs from his world-renowned garden at Aldenham House, Elstree. Mr. Edwin Beckett, V.M.H., declared that this was the finest group he had ever put up, and we can well believe him. It came as a surprise to many to see ho tremely attractive vegetables can be a variety of it all! There were over 200 ties, representing, so far as we coul practically every vegetable grown i country that could be had at this s Bright colours were supplied by Caps Chilies, Tomatoes, Aubergines, Turnips, Beetroots, and Carrots. minence was given to Ailsa Craig C Cucumbers Ideal and Cardiff Castle, Gem Brussels Sprouts, and selected stone Peas. For this great effo Society's Gold Medal with the cong tions of the Council were awarded.

Mr. Notcutt's Apples were very fin included well-grown samples of Lord lip (referred to on page 667), Charles Herring's Pippin, Guelph, Lord Ros Annie Elizabeth, and Ellison's Orang

CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND MICHAELMAS DAISIES

Chrysanthemums by Messrs. L were extremely good, and special re should be made to the variety Golden fordia, which was a feature of the gr

Of the early Chrysanthemums by various exhibitors mention should b of Mayford Yellow, Sanctity, Red Aln Royal Salute, Mrs. Jack Pearson, Sep White, and Crimson Circle.

Mr. H. Shoesmith's new Chrysanth Pinkest, was most attractive, and rece Award of Merit for cutting and marke the day previous it was awarded the class Certificate of the National Chry mum Society as recorded in last week' page 666.

Mr. E. Ballard, of Colwall, exhi new small-flowered Michaelmas Daisy Silver Spray, which was recommen trial at Wisley. It is a very graceful of the A. cordifolium type with sprays of white flowers.

That admirable Michaelmas Daisy, Pink, was well shown by Messrs. B Sons, while Mr. T. Bones showed Pi fection, Mons, Little Pink Lady, an extremely good pink and blue flowere lings, especially of the Amellus sectio

Society Notes and Gleani

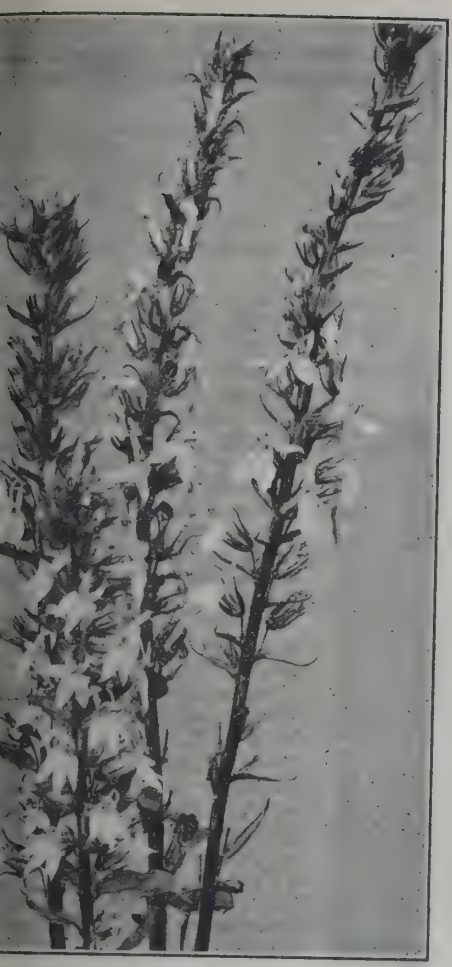
The Royal Welsh Show, 1928, is to in Wrexham on August 8th, 9th, ar The Secretary is Mr. P. A. Howson Welsh Agricultural Society, 10, Street, Wrexham.

The British Gladiolus Society are their 1928 exhibition at the Royal H tural Society's Hall, Westminst Friday, August 10th. The Secretary A. E. Amos, 10, Bergholt Road, Colc

At this year's world-famed Co Oyster Feast (held on the 20th inst were several innovations, not the lea esting being the introduction of Gla use in decorating the Mayor's Parl the Town Hall. The flowers were buted by and accepted as a gift f British Gladiolus Society, and inclu leading British varieties.

The Horticultural Club

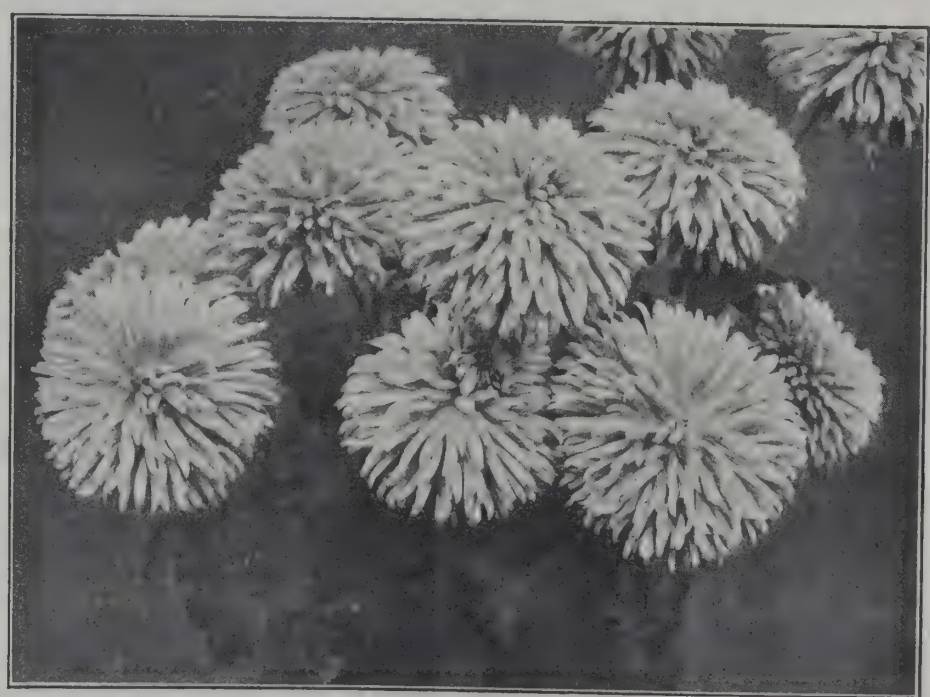
The first dinner will be held at Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, on N 1st, at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m., follow lecture by Mr. E. A. Bunyard on Impressions of the Cape," illustr lantern slides. The Hon. Secretary Tinley, 855, London Road, Westcliff Essex.



all-growing Lobelia syphilitica Excelsior
ers purple-blue, very handsome and effective
Shown by B. Ladhams, Ltd.

The magnificent collection of vegetables from Aldenham House, Elstree
—*the* finest ever seen

eedling Michaelmas Daisy Single Blue
Shown by Mr. T. Bones



Chrysanthemum Pinkest, a Japanese variety with round, compact blooms
Award of Merit for cutting and marketing. Shown by H. Shoesmith, Junr.

Some Gladioli of 1927

THE year 1927 will be written down by not a few Gladioli growers as the blackest in their experience. I have been growing Gladioli now for upwards of 30 years, and I have never known my beds to show so many failures. My land is on the very heavy side, it is true, and the continual rains when the plants wanted most sunshine led one to despair of fine flowers. The fact that one could not sit indoors without a fire may give some idea of the weather conditions outside. The number of flowers to write about is, therefore, small, but there are, however, one or two bright spots, as the following notes will show. The dates of blooming are given in brackets.

APHRODITE (11/8) is not a new one, having been introduced in 1921, but it appealed to me as a good white "prim."

BERNARD SHAW.—I was induced to try this one because the catalogue described it as being an advance on all previous purples, but, alas, although all three bulbs flowered, the only description I could give them was "a dirty white." Evidently they were not true to name.

BUDDY WORDEN (2/8).—This is an early flower of medium size and height (2 feet 9 inches), 12 to 13 pips, and of orange colour. An attractive little flower.

CORAL PRIM (8/8) is a good one with five flowers open at a time on spikes carrying 14 to 16 pips.

GLORIANA (30/8).—The raiser's description is as follows:—"Rich orange blended to a throat of pure golden-yellow. One of the most exquisite combinations, perhaps the most finely-coloured Gladiolus in existence. Tall, with eight or 10 florets open at a time." With all of which I agree. My only regret is that I did not purchase of the raiser. If I had done so, no doubt, I should have had more than one in 10 true to name.

GOLD EAGLE (2/8).—This is a very welcome addition to the yellow varieties. It struck me as being more refined in form and clearer in colour, without the heavy appearance usually associated with the yellows. It is a tall grower and has up to 15 pips on the spike. It is said to be very resistant to heat, but, unfortunately, one had no chance to test this quality this year.

HIGH NYE (18/8).—This did not come up to my expectation other than it was a strong grower 4 feet high.

JAP (5/8).—A primulinus after, and as tall as Butterboy, but a deeper colour.

JOHN TOLAND (31/8).—An upstanding spike with 16 pips and good foliage, five flowers open at once. Peach-red, shading lighter to centre, with an ox-blood blotch on lower petals. Should be a popular variety.

KUNDERD'S YELLOW FAVOURITE (17/8).—In this variety I found a flower which, I think, will prove a favourite wherever grown. It is a tall plant with 11 to 12 flowers well placed on the spike. The buds are particularly pleasing, and for table decoration is bound to be in great demand when the stock increases sufficiently to warrant a more moderate price.

LAVENDER BRIDE (16/8).—A spike with 19 pips, growing 4 feet high. The flowers are very large and the stem did not appear strong enough to support the flowers. This may, however, have been due to the excess of rain we had during August.

LADY ADA FITZWILLIAM (10/8).—A Langprim which stands up well and produces three or more good spikes from each bulb.

LEEN WONE (7/8).—A deep yellow or orange primulinus which should be given a trial on account of its depth of colour. The spike has 11 pips.

LORRAINE WOERNER (1/9) has a spike of 17 pips, but is not to my fancy.

LOUIS BOUWMEESTER (8/8), a purple with darker blotch; a fair spike with 12 pips.

Gladiolus Ethel, a lovely variety of the Primulinus section

Colour salmon and cream with deep crimson blotch, the colour being of that rare quality seen only in the best of the Primulinus hybrids

MARMORA is an Australian variety which reached me with Victor early in June. It did not bloom until October, and I cut my fourth spike on the 15th of that month. It will cause a sensation when placed on the show bench in England. The colour is lavender or lavender-grey with a petunia-coloured blotch. The blooms are exceptionally large (over 5 inches) and are perfectly placed on splendid spikes showing up to 14 flowers (according to the raisers) open at a time. The largest spike I cut had 12 flowers and the bottom flower was still good when the top flower opened.

MEM. OF WILLIAM FFITZER (18/8).—I expected much of this flower, but it was a disappointment and did not seem worthy of its name.

MISS BERKELEY (12/8), a small flow delicate shrimp-pink on a long spike pips, many open. I noticed that seve the pips produced two flowers from the sheaf.

N. ROLAND BURKE (10/8), a good s self.

PANTHER (14/8) is a striking flower be ing to the fancy section, and, as the logue says, "very distinct." The indiv flowers (10) are large and well placed o spike.

PARADER (20/8), growing 4 feet high 12 pips on strong, straight spikes, has fl of soft begonia-rose, with a zone of y round a scarlet blotch.

PEARL OF CALIFORNIA (20 This was one of the surpris the year. A spike with 25 many open at a time. The b ful clear La France pink fl held you spellbound.

PHÆNOMEN (7/8).—This is clean and pleasing variety. to four flowers open on an spike of 16 pips.

PIPPIN (8/9), a good cut- of large size, pink with throat.

PRIMROSE PRINCESS (1 This appears to be a late v Very tall and branching, many flowers open. It wa in flower on October 17th. spike, with its two branches 30 flowers in all.

QUAKER MAIDEN (13/9). variety was planted in shade, which may account lateness to flower. It has straight stem with soft lav pink (almost white) flowers.

QUEEN MARY (17/8). variety must not be confuse the Scotch-raised variety same name. This one wa duced by Mr. Salbach, of fornia. It is 4 feet high, spike of 12 to 14 pips, five of are open at the same time colour is strawberry-pink scarlet heart set in the pale yellow of the lower petals. and of excellent substance.

QUEEN OF SOMERSET (10/ late-flowering variety; I am too late for exhibition grown under glass. It is white with 16 pips on the sp

RED COAT (11/8) had no tion for me.

ROSE BEAUTY (19/8), a s 16 pips which did not impre

RUBELLA (30/8), a deep Amaranth-purple of dwarf Very free-flowering, extendi a long period, the last spike cut on October 15th.

SPLENDORRA (21/8) is not variety, having been introduced in had not grown it previously, and I f to be a tall grower and free bloomer. rich dark wine colour and cheap.

SYLVIA (7/8) is not so tall as which I prefer to this one. As it is later than Ethelyn it may be worth for succession.

SWISS MAIDEN (15/8), a scarlet wit foam yellow" blotch. It is a very and attractive flower. It catches th long way off.

TIGER (15/8) is another fancy as it may suggest.

VICTOR, an Australian variety, reached me at the same time as M and did not bloom until October. I m to secure some half-a-dozen spikes

er 15th. These fully confirmed the n I formed of it when I saw it in bloom mpshire last year. It is a most bril- scarlet with large, conspicuous, pure blotches on the lower petals. The s are extra large, six to eight open at a grand variety.

LET PRINCE (8/8), a dwarf variety with 1 pips.

DY (9/8), a delicate flesh-coloured shaded to yellow in centre, the spike g 11 pips.

LIAM BOOTH (26/8) is a distinct flower, our being a shade between tyrian-rose hodamine-purple. It is a strong with good foliage and not too tall, ght lower central petal attracting the once.

ANGELES.—After a second year's ex- e I still fail to get excited. It is a rower and a coarse flower in my eyes. e other hand, REVUE appeals to me nd more. As I have previously men- 1927 was a bad year for me. Failures ever greater, and I would not like to on your readers a full list, but the ng were among my keenest disap- ents, inasmuch as they did not flower, the majority of cases expired under fort:—Break o' Day, Duchess of hire, Goldfish, Gladsome, Lady St. l, Major C. F. Davies, Miss Demure, g Glory, Lady Byng, Nellie Grant, a, Radiant, Reginald Gwinn, Rich are, Royal Bengal, Simonetta, C. ler, The Flirt, Yellow Taxie, Rose ry, Winston Churchill, and Veiled ce. Perhaps some of your readers ied some of these varieties, if so it be interesting to hear with what

SMILAX.

ood and bad wet-weather flowers

doubtful whether the oldest reader of DENING ILLUSTRATED can recall such a trous season as that just ending. We , of course, seen bad seasons before, 7 surpasses them all in the duration bad weather, for since March there n no really seasonable month. Not s the rainfall been excessive (we re- 25 inches in August and 6·35 inches ember, which is considerably more e-third of the average rainfall for the ear), but even when it was dry the dom appeared, and so, naturally, ng was very late, and numbers of ere partial or entire failures. Under ditions one was able to judge of the f the various plants used for bedding, of a number of perennials grown in ict.

arily Polyanthuses are very fine in len, and had it not been for the con- t the crop of bloom was as fine as ore, but the poor things were con- oaked and covered with splashes of hich seriously detracted from their Auriculas were even more unfor- or, besides the rain, they had, while lower, to stand 10 degs. of frost, f course, settled their account for n. Daffodils in grass were wonder- d, and owing to the dull conditions g lasted quite a long time in beauty. doxas and Scillas were very good, remained decorative much longer al. Sisyrinchium grandiflora and e variety were very fine, but eucojums extra good, but badly with mud. Blue Primroses, for a while, were excellent, remaining beauty. Aubrietias, very fine, but , did not much mind the weather, sy Saxifrages, while never better, were soon knocked to pieces with the rain. Wallflowers were poor, but Cheiranthus Allionii better than ever before, standing the drenching rain well. Very fine but badly splashed were the American Dog-tooth Violets. Roses were, for the most part, excellent, but very late with the first crop of bloom, but the subsequent display was, for the most part, very disappointing, only a comparatively few varieties being able to fight against the climatic conditions. Delphiniums were superb until the deluge came, and Lupins were fair, but short-lived, owing to the wet. Geraniums (very floriferous), Sidalceas, Galegas, Inulas, Eryngiums, Geums, Verbascums, and Aconites were all very fine, but suffered severely with the rain. Phloxes, Montbrietias, Rudbeckias, Astilbe Davidii (a tall Achilea with white flowers), Echinops, Chrysanthemum maximum, and Artemisia lactiflora all stood well, coming up smiling after each deluge.

Of ordinary bedding plants the tuberous-rooted Begonia was the best by a long way, growing and flowering to perfection. Coltness Gem and Paisley Gem Dahlias were little affected by the rain, while the Collarette type were also pretty well rain-proof, but late in opening. The Decorative type of Dahlia has also done well, but the Cactus type has seldom opened a perfect bloom. Antirrhinums, although fairly good, got damaged by the constant damp, but large-flowered Pentstemons stood the deluge fairly well. Curiously enough, Violas were an absolute failure, great numbers of the plants dying off *en masse*, while the flowers of those left were poor in size and in quantity. Sweet Peas were poorer than ever before, or at least the blooms rotted on the stems, and few were ever fit for picking. Single China Asters withstood the torrents of rain wonderfully well, but the double types presented a miserable sight all along. Nemesias were gloriously fine, but were "knocked out" in August altogether. Calendula Orange King, although planted on a border facing north, did remarkably well. Border Chrysanthemums, although very late, are most promising, and the flowers of the varieties now open withstand the wet conditions very well indeed, while the colours are, for the most part, very brilliant. With a few weeks' dry weather a fine display is assured.

C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

TWO NEW AND PROMISING GLADIOLI

Priscilla Alden and Mrs. George Kellner

Priscilla Alden is a decorative variety of reasonable price which makes a splendid vase flower, and the colour is somewhat unusual. The two lower segments showing the white in the plate are bright yellow, the darker petals being a shade of red approaching coral. There are not, however, a great many bulbs about. Mrs. George Kellner, a new Medio hybrid, is a cross between Prince of Wales (Prim—not the large-flowered Dutch variety) and Vanessa. This cross proved a happy match, for out of the same seed-pod came Helen of Troy, first shown at Southport Fête and declared by more than one critic to be the most beautiful flower on the stand of 70 odd varieties. Mrs. George Kellner is highly and effectively coloured, being a delightful shade of rose-pink with fiery scarlet and red throat markings. It is an easy grower, possessing a strong, healthy constitution, and produces large bulblets which flower in the first and second year

Mrs. Graham Wood's beautiful garden at Highmount, Guildford

The treatment of the steep hillside is the special feature of this garden

House and loggia from the west walk

Steps and brick landing at east end of Rose garden, as described in the former notes

View from an upper terrace, Rosemary on the right

From the west end of the Rose garden

HIGHMOUNT, GUILDFORD—II.

By GERTRUDE JEKYLL, V.M.H.

(Concluded from page 660)

he former notice of this garden the e, uninterrupted view from east, by h to the distant west, was mentioned. too much of a continuous panorama pictorial value, but it was easy to see could be broken at one or two points e clever planting of something tall upright habit, such as would become ng to at least three definite and very l pictures. With this in view, Red were placed so that such views should red from the most desirable points, ting in between being such as could v up to obstruct the view. The ter- the various levels, as already de- having been formed, with retaining the upper sides, and such walling nt be required at the sides of the ng flights of steps, the remaining f hillside were still to be dealt with. shaping without much moving of lk was managed here, and they were with such shrubs as would form the sground to the terrace borders, but high enough to impede the chosen iews. In one place, where a view uth-west comes in right relation to ia adjoining the drawing-room, the aces were covered with a mass of Roses, not trained in any way, but o grow as they will, when they form masses of bloom only a few feet

Highmount, Guildford: The covered way from road to house

alky soil is favourable for plants bs generally; only the whole family eæ, Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Kal- dromedas, and Heaths must not be l. But Roses, Clematis, Pæonies, beautiful Madonna Lily, which are in some light soils, luxuriate on d especially the whole great family eræ—Wallflowers, Stocks, Rockets, na, Iberis, etc.—are absolutely at home. Campanulas, many of which are from limestone regions, especially the smaller kinds, such as pusilla, garganica, and even the tender isophylla of Southern Italy, are in perfect health and beauty in the wall joints. Though the situation of the garden is open and exposed, the shrubs and plants seem only to take firmer hold and flourish accordingly.

A space in the upper part of the garden is given to Irises, which enjoy the conditions of clear air and full sunlight; as in other places they have to be replanted every three years.

A useful and pleasant feature of the house is the covered way from the road to the entrance hall. This is solidly built as a part of the house, and is a good place for the temporary placing of any potted plants or small shrubs that may be in flower.

Philesia buxifolia

This charming Chilian plant sometimes grows as much as 4 feet in height, but oftener spreads along the ground, bearing on its twiggy stems, among the narrow, evergreen leaves, beautiful, drooping Lapageria-like flowers of a deep rose red.

In the more favoured parts of Britain it grows and flowers freely when established. With us in Sussex it seems to prefer shelter from direct sunshine, such as that provided by a wall facing north, but the more light it gets the better it flowers. In the rockery at Leonards Lee there is a fine specimen in an exposed position, except that a piece of rock shades its roots somewhat.

A damp but well drained soil suits it best; it rejoices in plenty of loose leaf mould and sandy peat for its roots to ramble in. When growing freely its underground stems push through it, often emerging at some distance from the plant. These suckers when rooted, and well furnished with foliage above ground, may be severed from the parent, and form one of the best means of propagation.

Years ago, when I was in J. Veitch and Sons' Nursery at Chelsea, a hybrid raised between it and Lapageria alba flowered in Heal's new plant department, and though much fuss was made about it at the time it had all the faults and none of the virtues of either parents.

J. COMBER.

Handcross, Sussex.

Irises in the upper garden at Highmount, Guildford

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Salvia Patens

The roots of this beautiful plant should now be lifted and stored away in a cool, dry, frost-proof shed, and in order to maintain the tubers in a plump and healthy state it is a very good plan to place them close together in boxes with a fair amount of dry soil worked in among the tubers.

Standard Heliotropes

These are used in considerable numbers in some places for furnishing the summer beds, and when lifting time arrives these plants—however carefully moved—suffer considerably—indeed, often die. It is usual to house them in a cool airy greenhouse for a time, but under these conditions not a few fail to recover. Plants developing this unhappy state should be cut in severely and transferred to a house possessing a temperature of 55 degs. to 60 degs., where they can be sprayed at least once each day. Under such conditions they generally revive, and in a few weeks may be removed to cooler quarters.

Bedding plants

Those which have been placed under cover must be relieved of all decaying leaves at frequent intervals, and although great care should be exercised in applying water at this season it is detrimental to the plants if they become dust dry before they are established in the new soil.

Dahlias

Frosts may put an end to the fine display of these plants at any time, and immediately this occurs they should be cut down to within a foot of their base and the roots lifted and stored for the winter. A very good plan is to choose a fine sunny day for the purpose, and lift the roots early, removing all soil possible, and allow them to remain exposed to sun and air until the evening, when they should be carefully labelled and stored away for the winter.

Pruning trees and shrubs

In several instances it is difficult to tell the live wood from the dead when the leaves have fallen. Magnolias are a case in point, and any pruning or balancing of specimens is better carried out before all the foliage is cast. Such work may now be done with no harm whatever to the subject dealt with, whether tree or shrub.

Planting Perennials

Whether herbaceous or alpine, the present is an ideal time for this work, and no time should be lost in the preparation and planting of new borders or renovation of existing ones. Most of the robust herbaceous flowers well repay a vigorous splitting up every second or third year. Phloxes, Golden Rod, Chrysanthemum maximum in its many varieties, Sidalceas, Globe Thistles, Scabious, and Bellflowers especially, but thick rooted flowers such as Dictamnus, Gypsophilas, Sea Hollies, Willow Gentian, Anchusas, Delphiniums, etc., should be less frequently disturbed.

Late Chrysanthemums

Plants occupying Peach houses should not be overcrowded, otherwise they will be rendered unsightly as pot plants for indoor decoration, and will be subject to mildew. It is far better to grow a less number and house them with reasonable space than to grow more than can be admitted without risk of disfiguring the whole batch. On one or two occasions at least these plants should be fumigated before the colour shows in the buds, and this is best carried out on a still night.

Spring Cabbage, Lettuce, and Spinach

Run the hoe through these crops frequently as long as the condition of the soil admits of its being done; not only will this check the growth of weeds and encourage free growth among the plants, but it breaks up the passages of slugs. A light dusting of soot applied in advance of this work will prove most beneficial.

Late Turnips and Swedes

There is quite a demand for tender young Turnips and Swedes through the winter, and these should now be housed to meet it. The roots keep well in a cool potato store, and are better there than left in the ground, compelling one to tramp after them, often in the pouring rain, to the detriment of the land.

Salsafy and Scorzonera

These are best drawn from the plots as required for a few months ahead, but it will be advisable to place a few roots in store to meet the requirements of very rainy days. Such, however, must be stored in moist sand.

Jerusalem Artichokes

As these ripen their foliage they should be cut down to within 18 inches of the soil to prevent their being torn out of the earth by rough winds. In many gardens these are well grown, and form an important dish, but it is often sad to witness the rubbishy plantations which have to serve their purpose on the same out-of-the-way corner year after year.

Leeks

Continue to earth up those grown in trenches, but not more than 4 inches or 5 inches of soil should be added at one time.

Young Fruit Trees

Where these are making excessive growth a trench 14 inches wide should be taken out at 2 feet 6 inches from the hole. All roots at this point being severed and cleaned out, to a depth of 2 feet. This will act as a deterrent to growth. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Schizanthus in winter

If this popular annual be still in a cold frame, no more time should be lost in having the little plants moved to a shelf near the roof glass of a light airy house, where frost can be excluded. This plant does not require a high temperature, and if kept from being frozen will do all right. While the plants must not be over-watered, it is well to prevent them flagging at any time. As growth advances, nip out the points of the shoots, so as to induce a sturdy, branching habit.

Amaryllis at rest

For the most part these have now pretty well ripened off, and may be set close together, even under the stage, but secure from drip, and not close to hot water pipes. It is a mistake to permit the soil to get dust-dry, for in such a condition the roots naturally die, which is not at all desirable. Give a little water, therefore, to prevent them being killed; but not enough to excite growth. In due time the flower stems will begin to show up, when the plants can be set in a light, sunny position, to prevent undue "drawing."

Young Gloxinias

As I have previously advised in column, any seedling plants of this warm-house subject that may not flowered should be kept growing slow winter and placed in 6-inch or 7-inch p February. Treated thus, they give display quite early in the season. This is much better than drying off these bulbs, as is usually done.

Begonia Gloire de Lorraine

These winter-blooming plants shoul be permitted to bloom, and to help th "carry on" as long as possible, gentl constant feeding with liquid manure water, and Ichthemic guano should be The latter should be applied at the rat heaped dessertspoonful in a gallon of Twice weekly, especially at first, is enough, and the three kinds used week

Greenhouse climbers

As every available ray of light is re from now onwards, the climbing pla the roofs of plant-houses must be ca overhauled, thinned out severely, an neatly tied in position, after the woo and glass have been well scrubbed.

Training wall trees

If this important but disagreeable wo be pushed on now better progress c made than is possible during reall weather. Properly wired walls are of advantage, and there is not so very difficulty in getting over the work. however, quite another proposition wh trees have to be fastened by means of shreds, and tar-twine. This is a slo tedious job, and so, if it can be ove now, when the weather is still fairly much will be gained in the way of spe comfort.

Root-pruning fruit trees

Where it is necessary to resort method for restraining over-luxurian inducing a fruitful condition, now is t to push on with it, for even at the be a disagreeable business, and in wet s almost impossible task.

Fruit trees in orchards

While these do not require pruning ordinary sense, they yet demand a littl tion. It is necessary to prevent ove ing. Branches that are crossing or cr their neighbours should be sawn o gether, as should, of course, al branches. All wounds made with t should be carefully dressed with a knife or chisel.

Look over crops in store

During bad weather it is advisable over stores of Potatoes, Onions, Carr Beet. And it is well to place potatoes in a light cool and yet fro shed or cellar. This need not be da all tubers intended for food must b cool and dark.

Making leaf mould

Now that leaves are falling rapid well to collect and stack the kinds t best suited for this purpose. As a r soft leaves are useless. Really the Beech and Oak; so if these are abun other kind need be troubled with. these, Sycamore, Maple, Elm, and with hard foliage may be utilized. in some sheltered corner, where th turned and mixed occasionally during and spring. C. I

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

Misdirected Zeal

Tree-lifting and root-pruning are details in fruit culture the value of which can hardly be over-estimated, always provided the work is rationally and well done. At the same time it is possible to overdo either the one or the other, more harm than good not unfrequently resulting from the misuse of the practice

ne truth could be arrived at, it would t probably be found that there are e numbers of Apple and Pear trees, especially in various parts of the , that are not worthy of the space ccupy, owing to their non-recovery ne very severe shock of being lifted to strong growth and thereby cause proness. In the garden under my charge re several fairly large old trees that holly lifted about 20 years ago, and are only just regaining a moderate of vigour. They have neither formed rowth nor yielded crops of any value, ve been retained in order to see what be done with these "wretched s." Had they been kept closely as in former years, they never would one any good, but by leaving the st of the lateral growth all over the al branches, both vigour and fruitfulave been gradually brought about. trees were before being operated on strongly and deeply into a strong bsoil, and many of the roots sawn n must have been upwards of 4 inches mference. Before I fully realised the n, I very nearly made as big a blunder me very fine old wall trees of Pears. also were more noted for the amount g wood they formed than for the fruit d, and in my zeal what we did ed very nearly to a case of kill or Before the leaves had lost their greenot-pruning was started upon, a deep trench being cut 5 feet away from ms of each, and the soil gradually away till we had worked to within f the stems. Next, undermining took nd all deep-running roots found were nly through. As it happened, there ew other than large, deep-running and few comparatively young roots nished with fibres anywhere near the to take early possession of the liberal y of fresh loamy compost substituted old soil. Now, such severe treatment not have been blameworthy in the case paratively young trees, but when large imens, say, that occupy a wall space high and 18 feet wide, are thus there is no mistaking the fact of this n instance of misdirected zeal. Those agged badly soon after they were l upon, and although they broke vell the following season, flagging ook place whenever the weather was dry. Had they not been well supith water at the roots and very fresyringed overhead, they must have ll come to grief. As it was, one only his tree, though still alive, not form- young shoots more than 6 inches vhile the old wood seems to get instead of larger. All the rest rewell, and for the past six years have ailed to bear heavy crops of excellent such large old trees, and any of much e age in the open, ought not to be hly used at one time. The proper pursue in all such cases is to extend of lifting and root-pruning—and by I mean the bringing up of many of t flexible of the deep running roots nearer the surface—over a period of better still, three seasons. If one he tree's roots has to be very severely not till these have formed abundance of root fibres, the new soil being well occupied by them, should the other half be similarly treated. What is more conducive than anything else to a fruitful habit of growth is the formation of abundance of surface-roots, and these are more likely to be forthcoming when the check to the tree is only moderately severe than when extreme measures have been resorted to. What applies to Apples and Pears is equally applicable to Apricots, Peaches, Plums, and Cherries, none of which should be more roughly handled than can be avoided.

Young or comparatively young trees of Peaches and Nectarines—any not exceeding ten years of age coming under this category—are less likely to be injured by being wholly lifted at one time, but unless it is desirable to shift any of these from one position to another, I fail to see the wisdom of constantly disturbing them. Of the advisability of lifting when it is found the principal roots are deep running, there can be no two opinions, partial or completely lifting not unfrequently restoring trees to a healthy, productive state; but when this has been done, where is the sense in repeating the operation annually, or even biennially? Yet this is what is done in several good gardens that I could name. No doubt trees thus often operated upon will behave very similarly to Apples and Pears grown on the old system of dwarfing and root-pruning, their having a thicket of roots in the immediate neighbourhood of the stems preventing a severe check being given, but all this, notwithstanding, I maintain to be another example of misdirected zeal. The change of soil and the loosening of the same may be beneficial, the latter in particular greatly facilitating watering operations, but is there anyone prepared to maintain that these much-lifted, much-root-pruned trees are capable of producing such heavy crops as do those less often interfered with at the roots? I have had too many instances to the contrary under my notice to admit the wisdom of this treatment. Strong young trees do certainly bear all the better for being severely root-pruned, this class of tree appearing to grow so fast as to dislocate the fruit, but in not a few cases severely root-pruning even these has resulted in eventual loss. If the roots are, by good attention in the way of watering and mulching, kept active near the surface, rank growth will give place to that which is harder and more productive, and serviceable trees soon result. It is not stunted trees that all should strive to have, but rather those of a more free-growing character, productiveness following in due course if only the knife is sparingly used. Trees with a good expanse of wood and foliage must have plenty of active roots, the nearer the surface the better, to sustain them, or otherwise the crops will be unsatisfactory. In the case of newly-lifted or severely root-pruned Peaches and Nectarines under glass, the fruit fails to attain its proper size at the first swelling, and although subsequent progress, owing to new roots having taken possession of the fresh soil, may be more satisfactory, full-sized or extra fine fruit is rarely obtained. Doubtless exceptions to this rule might be made in favour of very freely-thinned crops, but with an ever-increasing demand for choice fruit, few of us nowadays can afford to be content with light crops. I would on no account discourage the inexperienced in their attempts to improve the character of the trees they own or are in charge of, but the object of this paper is to warn them against being over-zealous.

W.

Plums growing against walls

Reine Claude de Bavay is a fine late Plum. It is a good grower and a free cropper. The fruit is very large, after the style of Kirke's, only it is green instead of blue-purple. It is a good September and early October dessert Plum. The best results are secured from trees growing on walls having south and west aspects. Thus grown the flavour is greatly improved.

In Blue Impératrice we have a good October cooking and dessert Plum. The fruit attains to a good size when grown under favourable conditions and a judicious manipulation of the young growth during the summer and autumn months, especially the months of May and June, as more is done then by following a skilful course of disbudding and pinching of the young growths than is accomplished by judicious autumn and winter pruning; still, both operations are necessary to maintain the trees in the condition indicated. The summer and autumn pinching, thinning, and shortening back of the shoots promote the formation and consolidation of fruit-buds, without a pretty plentiful supply of which a good crop of fruit cannot reasonably be looked for. Diamond is a fine dark purple Plum, large and handsome in appearance, and excellent in every way for cooking. It makes a fine preserve. Moreover, the tree is a good grower and a free bearer, ripening its fruit towards the end of August and early in September. Sultan is another first-rate kitchen Plum. The fruit is very large, globular in shape, and of a reddish-purple colour. The tree is a strong grower and a good cropper, and should find a place in every collection. Grand Duke is a fine late Plum of recent introduction, ripening its large, oval-shaped purple fruit late in September. The quality of the fruit when ripened on a west wall is such as to render it fit for table use as well as for kitchen purposes. This variety is sure to become popular in gardens as it becomes better known. Other good new varieties are Monarch, Archduke, Belgian Purple, and The Czar.

Plum Transparent Gage

This is one of the finest as well as the largest of the Green Gage class of Plum. It is a very distinct and excellent variety, and pays well, as all approved kinds and varieties do, for generous and skilful treatment in the matter of pruning and giving copious supplies of water at the roots from February to the end of September, more especialy during the summer months, and keeping the foliage clean. What a boon it is for gardeners who have a good supply of water laid on in the gardens, with hydrants fixed at convenient points, so that a man with a short length of inch india-rubber piping attached can thoroughly wash the foliage of the individual trees and when necessary water them at the roots at the same time.

Bush Plum trees

For the first time in a dozen years I have a crop on a few trees growing here as free bushes. The sorts are Victoria, Bryanston Green Gage, and Dymond. In former years the bullfinches and sparrows have been troublesome, eating all the buds, but this year they escaped, and as the wall trees almost failed, the crop on the bushes came in very useful. In consequence of past experience, I could not recommend Plum-growing on bushes in preference to walls. My favourite wall aspect is east for this crop.

K.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

FLOWER GARDEN

Improving a London garden

I have a small garden in the neighbourhood of Earl's Court which was neglected for some years, but which I planted with a few flowers in 1923. I trenched a border well and incorporated a quantity of hop manure. I have a few Irises, Pæonies, Lupins, Montbretia, Gladoli, etc., but my trouble is that I cannot get satisfactory blooms. There is plenty of leaf, but with even some common Chrysanthemums and Michaelmas Daisies, although there are quite a few buds, they do not break and drop off before coming out. I presume there is something lacking in the soil, and should be greatly obliged if you will tell me the proper thing to do to get blooms. Owing to the fact that the only entrance to the garden is through the house, it is difficult to get manure in. I may say that the border is against an east wall, so that from May to August it gets plenty of sun when there is any. A. O.

[Make sure that your border is properly drained, and cease the use of Hop manure. Give your soil a dressing of freshly-slaked lime, working it well into the first foot of surface, and in the spring apply a light dressing of bone meal. If you could obtain a few sacks of old leaf mould to work in with the lime you would find it most beneficial to the plants, and your future results should be satisfactory.]

Increasing the Tiger Lily

I believe one can plant the tiny little black bulblets that appear in the axils of the leaves of Tiger Lilies. When does one gather them and is there any special way and time of sowing them? A. A. H.

[The little bulblets may be removed immediately the flowering season is over and planted about 2 inches deep in prepared boxes of open soil, consisting of two parts loam, one part peat, and one part leaf mould and sand, or in sheltered borders made up of similar material, and in full sun. They should be planted in borders at 6 inches apart, as they may remain at this distance for two years, when they should be given more room. They usually bloom the third year. If grown on in boxes for the first year 3 inches apart will be sufficient.]

Tulip planting

Many thanks for your reply in October 1st issue. As the bed is wind-swept, dwarfness is of importance. Gesneriana major (24 inches) centre, G. lutea (22 inches) band, and G. Rosalind (18 inches) edge seem suitable in colour and height, provided they could stand the wind. Jacob's book (p. 33) gives four Cottage Tulips for my purpose, but I can only find one in catalogues. Please give me names of varieties with the above essential qualities and easily procurable. E. A. M.

[You could probably obtain either or all of the Tulips you mention from Messrs. Barr and Sons, 12, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. 2. Another selection to suit your purpose would be the following:—Lucifer, cherry-scarlet, height 24 inches; Inglescombe Yellow, canary-yellow, height 18 inches; Blushing Bride, creamy-white and pink, changing to carmine-rose, centre peacock-blue, height 15 inches, a lovely Tulip, syn. Isabella.]

Planting Irises in the open and under glass

Will you kindly answer the following questions:—What is the best time to plant Iris out-of-doors? Is any particular soil or preparation necessary? Can these be successfully grown indoors, *i.e.*, in greenhouse or vinery? If so, state soil and treatment for same. J. FROST.

[August, September, and October are the best months for planting and dividing the majority of Iris, although a few, such as I. cristata, Douglasiana, Dichotoma, Gracilipes, lacustris, Tenax, Teunis, Wattii, Tenuissima, etc., are best when planted from May to June. Bearded Irises may be planted immediately after flowering. Few Irises will flourish for long in a water-logged soil. Those that enjoy plenty of water during their growing season are generally all the better if drained during the winter. These are the Beardless Apogons, such as pseudo-corus, versicolor, and lævigata. I. Kæmpferi and I. siberica are also in this category. Bearded Irises, without exception, require dry conditions, and the only hope in damp situations is to make raised beds for them. Nearly all the Irises love sunshine, although a few will succeed in partially-shaded positions. The soil for Irises should be deeply dug, of good heart, such as one finds in established kitchen gardens, and beds prepared for Bearded Irises can scarcely be overdone with old mortar-rubble, which acts as a preventative of the troublesome leaf spot. Irises can be flowered under glass, but should be stood in the open air for several months, and although they may be forced into bloom it is not recommended, as this tends to destroy the vitality of the plants. A cool intermediate temperature is best for these plants. The soil should consist of good loam to which has been added a little well-rotted manure or leaf-mould, lime-rubble, and sharp sand. Potting of the plants should be carried out at once, and it must be borne in mind that once the plants begin to push their flower-stalks they must be kept close up to the glass, otherwise they will become drawn and spindly, and unable to support their flowers.]

GREENHOUSE

Raising Smilax

(E. L. P., Notts.).—This is done from seeds and division of roots. In the former case sow in warmth in spring; in the latter any time.

Cineraria rust

Can you tell me anything about the fungoid pest which is attacking my Cinerarias this year? I send you two sample leave closed. I was troubled with it also last which was the first time it made its ap ance here. Can you also suggest remedy? A. J. DA

[Your Cinerarias are affected with which is caused by the fungus Coleosp senecionis, Fr. Your best plan will be t off and burn the badly affected leaves, a the plants should be dipped into or sp with a solution of liver of sulphur (pota sulphide), using 1 ounce of the chemi 3 gallons of water; dissolve the liver o phur in a little hot water, and then ma with cold soft water. Repeat the trea at seven-day intervals until you have g disease under control. You should not liver of sulphur does not keep when ma and that it discolours white lead paint. Rust is to be found on Groundsel and plants. You should take care that such are not allowed near your Cinerarias.]

Lily of the Valley crowns

(J. G.).—Crowns of Fortins and Vi Lily of the Valley may be obtained fro of our well-known seedsmen, such as M Sutton and Sons, Reading, or Messrs. and Sons, King Street, Covent G London.

Perpetual-flowering Carnations

My Perpetual-flowering Carnations tinually die off. Apparently some ki green fungus or microbe attacks the Could you tell me how I could protect t I enclose one for your inspection. Ar leaves any good as a fertiliser for Gera in pots? ELSIE CHAM

[Your specimen was so dried up shrivelled on arrival that it gave us bu assistance at arriving at a solution to trouble. Most likely, however, faulty ing and airing are at the root of th these two points in the culture of the C tion being most difficult for the amat master, and, being the most vital of a responsible for the majority of failure this plant. While at no time should t get really dry, it is of even greater impo not to apply one drop of water until re In the matter of air, while cold draug harmful, the Carnation cannot have too fresh air on all favourable occasions.]

ROSES

Soil drench for Roses

My Roses have been very badly affec Black Spot this year. I propose this to use a soil drench of sulphate of co ¾ ounce to one gallon of water. Are proportions correct? How heavy shou drenching be? Should one use an or coarse spraying syringe or a fine one? G. C

[The quantities of copper sulphat water given in your letter are correct making of a soil drench. During the ing season the various diseases which the Rose discharge hosts of spores, s which fall to the soil, where they rema mant until the spring. In spring the germinate, and the Roses are again a The idea of a strong soil drench is to the resting spores on the wood of th and the soil around; you should therefo wet the wood and the top inch of soil drench would be best applied to the trees by using a coarse spraying syrin to the soil through a fine-rosed waterin You understand, of course, that this must only be used on dormant Roses, b if the buds are pushing they will be It is perhaps not generally understoo these winter washes and drenches on with the portions of disease that lie

ant. Many diseases of plants, in addi- producing spores which lie outside the live from year to year within the tissue plant. With Black Spot a soil drench ul in dealing with outside infection, but ngus lives within the old leaves and the wood. To control the disease the old should be destroyed; the diseased wood be cut away and next year's growth be sprayed with a weak solution of ulphur or liver of sulphur to try and t free from the disease. Please see re- D. A. Dawson in this issue.]

rust

Roses are badly infected with Black Rust. I shall be much obliged if you ndly tell me what treatment you advise hat measures to take to prevent a re- ce of the trouble. We have burnt a 18 bush Roses (Mrs. Henry Morse) the Spot started, but are unwilling to e more. We are collecting and burn- e leaves as far as possible. Can you the possible cause? Six beds were in autumn, 1925, and six more in ll bush Roses from reliable firms.

D. A. Dawson.

leaves you have sent in for examina- e not affected with Rose Black Spot, h Rose Rust, and we do not remember seen cultivated Roses so badly affected Rose Rust is caused by the fungus nidium subcorticium, Wint., and is mmon on Wild Roses. The fungus not ects the foliage, but the young wood attacked. You are doing good work cting the diseased leaves and burning ut you should also examine the wood, ny sign of disease is present it should way and burned. We are inclined to hat if you could pick off the majority oliage clean and diseased it would not trees, and would help you to control ase. If there are any Rose hedges, r Roses, or Wild Roses near to your should examine them for Rust, and nt you could spray them with lime at summer strength, *i.e.*, one gallon sh to 29 gallons water. Growths e Briar stocks are often the cause of eak of Rose Rust. All such growths of course, be cut away as soon as de- Your plan of action next year will be all your Roses with a solution of phur just before the leaves begin to using one gallon con. wash to 59 of water. Try this strength on a few and if they are uninjured spray the It will be necessary to spray several ter on, and you should experiment find the strength your young Rose vill stand, because this depends very variety and locality.]

e Roses unsatisfactory

two Cabbage Roses, planted a year t, from the first, are so weak in the t they have had to be supported—the a wall as a climber, and the other cks! They both flowered well, but s hung down miserably. What do you They are in a heavy soil, facing

"Casetta."

is nothing you can do at the present in April next year prune the plants her harder than usual, and in the e mulch them with well-decayed manure. As the roots become estab- e plants will strengthen, but the u speak of is rather common among of Rose.]

FRUIT

pots

ight some pot Figs last autumn for ated greenhouse (Brown Turkey). We had a fair crop of ripe Figs from them, and now there is a good crop of green on the trees. Nearby and half full grown are a couple just inclined to turn brown. What I want to know is, ought these green Figs presently to be picked off as one does the outdoor Figs, or will they come on early next year to ripen? The trees are small, 3 feet to 4 feet, and in 12 inch pots, in which we bought them. Can you tell me how often they should be repotted, and how big a shift one ought to give them? Eleanor Pain.

[It is rare indeed that a Fig, which can be seen to be a Fig fairly protruded from the bud in autumn, ever becomes a perfect fruit in the following season, and we advise you to rub off all such without delay. But those towards the extremities of the shoots, which are really embryo fruit buds and about the size of peas, retain their vitality through the winter, grow and ripen in the course of the following summer, and should be left. Figs should be repotted every second year, and the size of the pots will suggest itself from the size of the plants, although their roots should be rather confined at all times, as this forces them to make hard, short-jointed, and free fruiting wood. A vessel giving the plants a 2 inch additional root space all round would be quite suitable, and for this purpose half-barrels are often used, and very suitable.]

Damaged Apples

(B. Hurst).—We have carefully examined your Apple and can find no trace of a fungus which could cause the splitting of the flesh around the eye. A similar query to yours has been received from W. Watson, but in the latter we could find plenty of the Apple scab fungus, as well as the splitting damage. We are of the opinion that the damage to your Apples was caused by a late frost which injured the eye of the young fruits, but which was not sufficient to destroy the whole fruit. If this be the correct explanation the damage should not recur another season. Bramley's Seedling has behaved in a similar manner in many districts, and we have received a lot of samples showing the same curious split effect. From other districts we have received complaints that this variety has missed a crop altogether, owing to frost damage. In some cases the unopened flowers had both stamens and pistils blackened. If you cut open a fruit you will notice that the damage is not deep-seated, and we think the fruits will store if care be taken.

Apple Scab

(W. Watson).—Your Apple fruits are affected by late spring frosts, and also by Apple Scab. Please see reply to B. Hurst in this issue *re* the frost damage. The Apple Scab is caused by a fungus named Venturia inæqualis, which attacks the foliage, wood, and fruits of all varieties of Apples. You should examine the young wood of your trees and see if you can detect the presence of the fungus. Any scabbed growth should be cut out and burned. When the leaves have fallen from the trees, they should be raked up and burned or buried deeply in the soil. Apple Scab can be controlled by spraying with lime sulphur, but several operations are necessary. Towards the end of February you should give the trees a good spraying with soluble lime sulphur, using one gallon concentrated wash to 12 gallons of water. When all the petals have dropped from the flowers a second spraying should be given, using one gallon concentrated wash and 59 gallons of water. A third spraying should be given at this latter strength three weeks later. Trees so treated will produce most of their fruits free from scab. It is important that the second spraying be not delayed beyond the period when the majority of the petals have fallen. If the spraying is delayed a week many fruits are scabbed. We do not think your fruits will keep any great length of time, and we should use the badly affected ones up first.

Abnormal Pears

I am sending you a Crassane Pear, which may be of interest as a curiosity. A few years ago one of the gardening papers had correspondence about a curious growth of a Pear in this neighbourhood, and I thought you might possibly like this one.

Slough. T. R. W.

[We have examined your specimen Crassane Pears, and agree that they are certainly of a curious shape. The cause of these abnormal-shaped fruits is due to imperfect pollination. After normal pollination the pips of the fruit become fertile, and as a consequence the fleshy portions of the Pear begin to grow and swell. When this happens the Pear fruits are normal in shape. In some cases fertilisation does not proceed so far as this, and we often get cases where perhaps only one pip in the entire fruit becomes fertile; in such fruits the development of the growth is often curious, and often takes the form of swelling perfectly on the side where the pip is situated and of not swelling at all on the opposite side. In still other cases we find that none of the pips is fertile; generally, when this happens the flowers drop from the tree, and there is no crop; but some varieties swell in spite of the fact that they carry unfertile pips. When this happens curious development always occurs. Some of the fruits never get beyond the size of a pea; others swell up to normal size, but take on all sorts of shapes. The larger Pear you sent had no fertile pips, and we consider that the abnormal shape is due to "false gestation." It is, of course, possible to get all three types of fruits mentioned above on one tree, but we think this is only likely to occur on certain varieties. The variety Crassane is good only in warm soil, and is best grown with the protection of a wall. It is rarely very prolific.]

VEGETABLES

Saving Cabbage seed

(Lux).—This is the wrong time of the year for saving seed of Cabbage, and all you can do now is to give protection to the plant in question during the winter, such as erecting a shelter of matting or similar material around it, but you must admit plenty of air. If you can pilot your plant safely through the winter, it will develop its flower stems with the arrival of spring, when the shelter may be removed, flowering and seeding will follow in due course, and as soon as the ripe seed becomes available a portion, at least, should be sown at once. Red Cabbages, if left uncut during winter, usually develop growths around the base of the old heads, as well as up through the centre at the end of March.

Potato White Elephant

Can any reader of Gardening Illustrated tell me what has become of a Potato very much in favour many years ago known as White Elephant? Has it been reintroduced under some other name? Bruce Hewitt.

[We are of the opinion that the White Elephant Potato has not been cultivated for the past ten years to any extent, and at the present time we doubt whether a true stock could be found in the country. It probably became unpopular because it was a coarse and irregularly-shaped tuber.—Ed.]

Culinary Peas under glass

Will you kindly tell me whether it is possible to grow culinary Peas under glass to fruit in the winter? Has it ever been done satis-

factorily? If there is any hope of Peas setting and swelling at the winter season I would undertake the job. By raising early Peas under glass I usually provide the household with this vegetable for nearly six months in the year. GRÆCA.

[Yes, these Peas are grown largely by market growers, and command very high prices, specially-constructed houses being devoted to their culture, and although Peas have been produced much earlier under special circumstances the middle or end of April is usually the date of the earliest supplies. There are many varieties suitable for the purpose, and these may be grown in orchard-houses and frames, and although the grower must be guided somewhat by the conveniences at his command, he will do well to grow varieties of medium height, because of their greater yield. These Peas may be grown either in pots, deep boxes, or specially made-up borders, the seeds for the earliest crop being sown during the month of November. The seeds should be sown thicker than they are to remain, and thinned when about 3 inches high, five plants to an 8-inch pot being ample. Avoid fire-heat as much as possible and afford as much light and ventilation as the weather will permit. Stake each growth separately, and when a fair number of flower-buds have opened, the points of the growths should be stopped and all side growths removed. Air must be freely admitted during the flowering stage, and immediately the pods are set feeding may be resorted to.]

Mushrooms

Can Mushrooms be successfully grown under glass apart from the use of horse dung? If so, how? F. F.

[No; to grow these successfully a cool moist atmosphere similar to that of a September night is necessary, and this is only realised by beds made up in structures designed for the purpose at the back of north walls.]

LEGAL

Planting tall hedge

A fence 4 feet high divides my neighbour's ground from mine. My neighbour has planted, on his side, a hedge of Douglas Fir which threatens to partly obscure from me a very valuable view. Can I compel him to keep the hedge down to the level of the fence? M. F.

[If a man plants a hedge of tall-growing bushes or trees that spoil the amenities of his neighbour's garden or property he can be called upon to cut them, and if he fails to do so the neighbour can enter in certain circumstances and cut them. That is the ordinary law, but whether it applies to your case or not we cannot say, because the whole of the circumstances want to be gone into carefully. We advise you, therefore, to consult a solicitor before doing anything.]

Wages of sick gardener

Would you kindly explain my position as head gardener. I have had the misfortune to have been laid aside for three weeks with influenza. I have been head gardener to my present employer for eight years. I received no wages from him last week. He wants to know what I get from the Health Insurance so as to make the wages good with the same. Has he any right to do so? J. W.

[The legal position in a case of this sort is very simple. If an employed person is sick and unable to perform his duties his employer is bound to pay him his wages in full until such time as the man's employment has been terminated by legal notice. The employer is not in any way concerned with what the man may or may not get in the way of Health Insurance benefit, and is certainly not entitled to deduct any such amount from the wages. This has been decided in the Courts over and over again.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Caterpillar for name

(G. N. Croft).—Your caterpillar is that of the Pepper and Salt Moth (Amphidasys betularia). This caterpillar is not uncommon, but because of its stick-like appearance it often escapes detection. The colour of the caterpillar varies a good deal; some are green, others yellowish, and they may be dark brown. When mature they are about 2 inches long. Your specimen must have been fully fed, because it had half changed into the chrysalis stage when it arrived at our office. The caterpillar feeds upon Apple, Cherry, Oak, Elm, Hawthorn, Birch, Poplar, Roses, and Hops, feeding at night and resting by day. We have never known a case where this caterpillar has been in sufficient numbers to be a pest.

Breaking the pan

(C., Bagshot).—An implement known as the jackpan, made by the Plantation Engineering and General Supplies, Ltd., 3, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W. 1, provides a ready means of breaking the hard iron sandstone pan that is common in your district. It is essential that the pan is broken before planting, or attempting to grow Sweet Peas. The ordinary spade and fork are useless for breaking up the pan, which is as hard as brick. It is a case for a pickaxe, or, better still, the jackpan specially made for the purpose.

Malt dust for inspection

Is malt dust of any use to the garden? If so, what are its feeding properties, and when would be the best time to apply it to the soil? I am interested in growing vegetables for exhibition, and wondered if malt dust would improve a light, sandy soil. I enclose a sample for your inspection. A. G. L.

[The malt dust has a certain amount of fertilising power, equal to, say, shoddy, and would be valuable, like any other organic manure, on a sandy soil. Apply in autumn.]

Substitute for crazy paving

I wish to cover a newly-made terrace so as to prevent weeds growing. It is about 50 feet by 12 feet. Can you suggest any form of paving less expensive than crazy paving? I have plenty of sand available. S. M.

[You could scarcely improve upon a concrete covering for the area you mention, especially as you already possess a quantity of sand. The area should be levelled and rendered thoroughly firm by ramming. This should be followed by a thin layer of clinker or broken brick, stone, or gravel, also well rammed and wetted. Over this place a 3-inch layer of concrete, care being taken that the mixture is pressed or rammed down firmly in order to prevent air pockets, finishing off half-an-inch below the levelling pegs, the remaining half-inch being added the following day. The materials required are as follows: Portland cement, clean coarse sand, and well-graded coarse aggregate consisting of gravel or broken stone. Proportions: One part Portland cement, two parts sand, four parts coarse aggregate. For the finishing-off coat, one part cement, three parts clean well-graded sand or crushed granite, none of which should be greater than ¼ inch in size. Do not use a metal trowel on the finishing coat, as this gives a glossy finish, unpleasant to the eyes, and dangero walk upon in certain seasons. If you a warmer colour to that given by or concrete, add a little of good quality ox iron (ferric oxide). This, however, mu mixed with a dry cement thoroughly the latter is added to the aggregate. teen parts of ferric oxide to 86 parts of c is a proportion which has been succes employed, but the quantity employed de upon the depth of colour preferred, a prove this we advise you to mix a small tity first and colour it to suit your taste

Flies around a tub garden

We have just sunk a large tub in ou den in readiness for a Water Lily spring, and in the meantime have Kin growing and Forget-me-Nots. We ha a bag of broken charcoal in the water. can we do to prevent clouds of small fli seem to settle? We had to fix the now, as we were making a new bed wanting to plant things round. "CASEN

[Paint the top ridge of the tub with paraffin, but do not allow any of it to g the water. If this is repeated occas the flies will disappear, but paraffin deadly to plant life must be applied care.]

Gathering Moss

Will the correspondent who inquire recent issue for Moss please send his and address to H. R. Higham, Head Priddy, Wells?

SHORT REPLIES

E. L. Phillips, Notts.—You mean anthemum The Favourite, a popul white variety which can be obtained any specialist in Chrysanthemums, ei cuttings in December or rooted ones i spring.

J. B., Berks.—It is desirable not t the growth of Chrysanthemums so the season as this; it is late, too, for l ing, and resulting stems may be soft. the plants as much room as possible, as abundant air when under glass.

NAMES OF PLANTS

B. Fisk.—Chrysanthemum Mrs. Pearson.

W. Taylor.—1, Globe Artichoke (Scolymus); 2, Erica vagans; 3, Aster Angliæ Lil Fardel.

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the imp of sending only good typical specim naming, and not less than two or thre of each variety.

J. E. P., Earlswood.—1, Claygate main; 2, Cockle Pippin; 3, Worceste main; 4, Rosemary Russet; 5, Wonder; 6, Lane's Prince Albert; 7, S Pippin. It is impossible to be certai only one specimen of each sent.

A. H. Ford.—1, Christmas Pearm Allington; 3, Lane's Prince Albe Cornish Gillyflower.

F. C., Dartford.—1, Beurré Clairg and 3, Doyenne du Comice.

F. Norman, Cambridge.—1, Pear Clairgeau; 2, Newton Wonder; 3, Elizabeth; 4, Winter Queening.

J. F. R.—1, Cockle Pippin; 2, Bes 3, Court Pendu Plat; 4, poor specim recognised.

A. J. L., Reigate.—Apple Lord raised in the garden of the Mar Exeter, at Burley, near Stamford.

W. Kewell.—1, William Crun Cox's Pomona; 3, King of P 4, out of character, may be B Orange. The injury to the fruit is p

the tree having rooted deep down into able clay subsoil.

L.—Lord Hindlip, probably the best t Apple after February.

E. N. C.—1, Lord Suffield (cooking), ts best; 2 and 3, Emneth Early (syn. Victoria), cooking, August and Sep-. The brown crimson fruit is Mère énage (culinary), from November to ary. Pear: Catillac, stewing till April.

B., Halcombe.—1, Pear Beurré Clair-November to December); 2, Keswick ; 3, Gravenstein.

Gray, Kent.—1, Lady Henniker; 2, laygate Pearmain; 3, Cockle Pippin.

ield.—1, French Crab; 2, Allen's Ever-; 3, Bess Pool; 4, Lemon Pippin.

Mackenzie.—The Apples are Golden (golden-yellow) and French Crab.

Asinorum.—Warner's King, poor .

Burnham.—1, Golden Spire; 2, Alling-, Lane's Prince Albert; 4, Northern ng.

Ifare.—1, St. Martin; 2, Adam's Pear-3, Sanspariel.

P.—1, Hormead Pearmain, probably; heim Orange; 3, William Crump; 4, Pippin.

n Brothers' Other Journals

Cabinet Maker.—Special Wycombe r: A Famous Wycombe Mansion; Wycombe is Making; High Wycombe ort Facilities; Dry Rot in Timber; National Cost Conference.

Chemical Age.—Protective Measures r: Prevention of Accidents in Chemi-boratories; Fire Risks in Industry; of German Chemical and Fuel logy.

overy. — The Choco Indians of a: Swedish Expedition's Report; rd Census in the Alps," by E. M. on; "Central Heat" for Crops: Details of a New Development; sting and the Press.

Electrician.—Manufacturers' Num-The Design of Small Coil Windings," C. Woods; "Training Personnel for y," by A. P. M. Fleming; "High-Turbo Generators," by William "How I Would Sell Electric s," by Mrs. C. Frederick.

Export World.—"Great Britain's Position Analysed," by Lord Gain-The Export Credits Scheme," by Mr. Samuel, M.P.; "Chemical Markets d," by E. C. Warren, B.Com.; is Trade?" by Sir Ernest Benn; into British Industry—V.: Billiard lanufacture.

Fruit Grower.—Imperial Fruit Show "The Song of the Show," by Sir bjoit; Guide to Competition and eatures; Growers' Day Programme.

Gas World.—Capital Charges and s in the Gas Industry; Wrought Iron Advance in Gas Fires.

Hardware Trade Journal.—Prepara-the Christmas Trade; Utility Gifts Festive Season; The Marking of Im-Brass Taps; Cutlery and Plate Notes; lio Counter.

Timber Trades Journal.—Full Story Kara Sea Expedition; The Plywood Dinner; Railway Rates for Timber; ation in Transit; Temperature and ling.

LATE REPLIES

from Liguria

se shoot of Echium fastuosum, with id beetle. I have lost several ants this last month, all affected . All the plants that have been at-re those from which cuttings were taken last May and June. In May and June, after cuttings had been taken, the plants bled rather badly, and these same beetles were on the plants in large numbers.

A. J. Hopkins.

Villa Yolanda, Ospedaletti, Liguria.

[The beetles enclosed have nothing to do with one another. The dead beetle found underneath the plant is Pentodon punctatum, belonging to the family Dynastidæ. The larva feeds, presumably, on rotten vegetable matter, so that it is not likely to cause any harm. The grub in the stem is one of the Longicorn larvæ, probably a species of Agapanthia, but of this we cannot be sure unless we can rear the beetle. When the beetles are found on the plant, about May or June, they should, of course, all be collected, and watch should subsequently be kept for any stem showing signs of wilting or discoloration, which should then be picked off before much damage can be done. We should think it highly probable that the enfeebled state of the plants after profuse bleeding would be a special attraction to the beetles to come and oviposit in them.]

Dried French Plums

I should be grateful if you could tell me the simplest and best method to make dried "French Plums," if there is a particular Plum that I could grow for that purpose, and its name.

D. Roscoe.

[The Plum usually dried is known as Ager, but it will not do in this country, owing to lack of sun. The Quetsche, which is offered by Messrs. George Bunyard and Co., Maidstone, will dry very well on an oven, and if put in the oven at night when the fire is going down, for about a week, will probably be dry enough to keep. Experiments were tried many years ago by Messrs. Chivers to find a Plum which would really dry well in this climate, but they were not successful.]

A CHAT ABOUT ROSES

SPRING and autumn are the two seasons when there is much work to be done among the Roses, and very much depends upon how and when such work is carried out. Late blooms are very plentiful and pleasing this season, some varieties being literally covered with fairly good blossoms at the time of writing (October 13). And how exquisitely sweet some of these autumn blooms are, with the deepest and most intense shades of colour and delicate perfume. The darkest Roses are always superb in autumn, as the sun does not burn them and produce the dull shading over their purple, scarlet, and maroon shades in the same way that many summer blooms are spoilt. Besides, they last fully twice as long. The Brier stock continues in growth longer than the Manetti, and this is very suitable for autumn blooming; in fact, very few autumn flowers are found upon the Manetti during the first two seasons. After this, and when the plants are more upon their own roots, those upon the Manetti will frequently produce some good late blossoms. I have a bed of plants that were set up together some ten years ago. These were the cullings or leavings from other beds during transplanting. Each season some of the best are lifted out and their places filled with other cullings. After the second year all of them are on their own roots to a great extent, and then produce some splendid late blooms. Planted deeply, and being virtually upon their own roots, these plants send up shoots from their base late in the summer and produce fine flowers.

Budded stocks are looking particularly well; I have seldom seen them better. On the Manetti, Brier, and standard stocks they are already putting on the ripe and red colour that indicates that they are well set, healthy, and ready to stand any ordinary winter. Speaking of my own buds, I have seldom had a better take; nor have I heard of complaints from others. With the exception of a few varieties that are naturally late growing, the bulk of the plants in my neighbourhood are commencing to ripen satisfactorily. All of those on the Manetti, and many on the seedling and cutting Brier stocks, are already fit for transplanting. After the wet weather we have had, these will lift well and lose very few of their fibrous roots. The sooner planting is done the better, except with those still in growth. I have invariably had better results from plants that were lifted early.

While upon this point, let me once more recommend that more care be taken as to what class of manure is used. Always use light manures for stiff land and the reverse for light land of a porous nature. With a little attention to this detail, Roses will grow anywhere. Heavy manures are usually recommended for Roses, but due care should be taken to apply them more or less according to the staple of your soil in a natural state. A middle course is much the best for Roses, *i.e.*, neither extreme in light or stiff soil, nor yet a very rich or poor compost. It is so generally imagined that the Rose requires an exceedingly rich compost, that more often than not they are overfed, and with less satisfactory results than if they had been treated as ordinary flowering shrubs. It will pay to give the Rose more generous treatment than you would accord such flowering shrubs as Deutzias, Spiræas, and Weigelas, but avoid going to extremes. This only encourages late growth—generally far too late to be of full service. It is late, because the plants cannot grow well until the coarser part of the manurial strength is expended. Nor do I advise the use of manures at the time of planting any stocks for Roses. Ordinary soil will grow the stocks quite strong enough, and I am convinced that the buds will unite to the stock better when the growth is not so vigorous, as we often see the Manetti grown. All of this growth is practically wasted, as it is cut away again in the spring when pruning. The necessarily strong and somewhat coarse body of roots made by stocks when so grown is of little value, and only serves to produce a coarse and often sappy maiden growth. Fork in a little well-decayed manure among the budded stocks during the present time, and so secure that what nourishment is taken from the soil goes direct to the benefit of the Rose, or, better still, lift all maidens and plant in well-prepared soil. Personally, I do not like strong and "fat"-grown maiden Roses. The wood does not mature, nor do they usually turn out so satisfactory as smaller and better finished plants.

C.

Allotment holders and playing fields

Following the annual conference of the Allotments Organisation Society and Small Holders, Ltd., at which the subject of playing fields was discussed, the Secretary has forwarded the following resolution to the National Playing Fields Association:—

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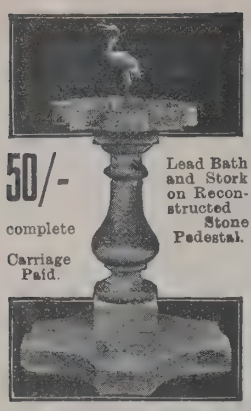

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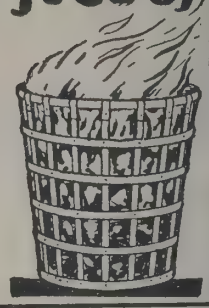

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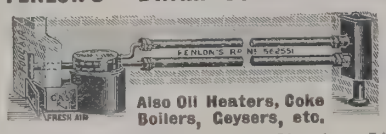

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By F. E. DILLISTONE, F.R.H.S.

Growing Violets for Profit

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GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Cultivation of Cool House Orchids

By The Hon. Mrs. Sutton

E section of Orchids that can be classed "Cool House" is certainly the most ɔular among amateur growers, and a ıts on their successful treatment may ne amiss to readers.

ically, any greenhouse may be made ', providing there is heating appara- ɔrevent the temperature falling below . Fahr., though hardy plants will live ɔom in an ordinary living room for three months. Aim at keeping as a temperature as possible from 45 o 60 degs., giving plenty of ventila- hich is essential to all plant life, but g draughts. For example, if the top ɔrs are open, close the door! During ımer months the difficulty experienced to keep your Orchid house cool . Shading of some sort must be pro- ɔutside blinds of lath or canvas, or ent shading with ıer Cloud," or olour wash, or butter muslin" inside. It is le to commence from the end of y, as after the s of winter the ill not stand the ight in the first ɔrilliant spring

g the summer keep your house spraying over- the plants and staging twice ı winter, if the ture is 55 degs. spray the stag- the paths.

actual watering lants. Sphag- ss will be found on the surface of the pots. ficient water to green. When ur turns grey, gain. Probably ce a week on a will be found able rule, with l scrutiny of very three or s, and a re- atering to any require it. tmosphere of ther will be found to affect the plants, so that it is impossible to have an absolutely fixed rule.

When watering, water well! The Sphagnum on the top will absorb and hold a great deal of the moisture.

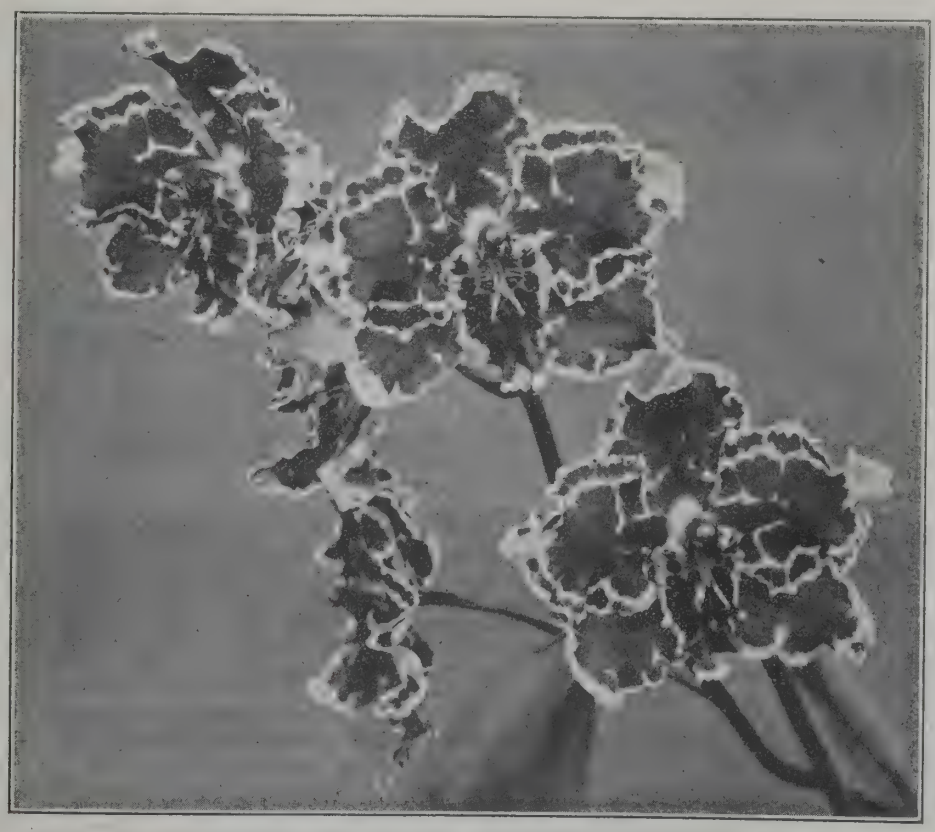
The next important item is the great question of re-potting.

Many plants when purchased will be in good condition, and may not need potting for a year, or even two.

Should the compost be sour it is advisable to re-pot at once, otherwise see if the new growths protrude over the edge of the pot, when you may take it as a sure sign the plant requires more room. The best stage to re-pot is when the new growth is about 2 inches high. The compost to use is three parts Osmunda or A1 Fibre to one part of Sphagnum Moss. Have clean pots and clean crocks, and fill your pot one-third full of broken crocks arranged to allow free drainage. "Pull" your fibre and keep it upright in the hand, inserting a small portion between the roots of the plant, and then arranging it round, still keeping the fibre vertical; place the plant so that the oldest back bulb is close to the edge of the pot, well up to the rim. This allows space in the centre of the pot for two years' growth of new bulbs. Fill in the fibre firmly, pressing it towards the centre with a flat-pointed potting stick; when quite firmly packed in, trim off the top with scissors, insert live Sphagnum Moss, pressing the roots down round the edge of the pot, give a good watering, and allow to dry out before re-watering. After a little practice you will be proud of the neat appearance of your plants, and the difficulty of keeping the fibre vertical will soon be overcome.

One caution. Watch for "thrip" and slugs! The latter can be trapped with potato slices, or other slug traps. "Thrip" is less easily observed, just a tiny light-coloured thin speck of an insect, almost invisible, on the stalks of your flower shoots, the back of the leaves, or down the "cracks" between the leaves near the pseudo-bulbs, but your plant will show signs of drooping and that general air of "not thriving," with small brown speck marks on the leaves. Fumigate and again fumigate. Use any good insecticide, and if your temperature is sufficiently high keep your house moist, as thrip loves a dry atmosphere.

Now, as to the variety of Orchids classed as "cool house," the wide range of Odontoglossums and their allied genus, Odontiodas, provide a pleasing choice. One of the most popular, Odontoglossum crispum, with graceful sprays of flowers, white, mauve blotched, or rosy in colour, ranges in price from 5s. upwards. Odontoglossum



Odontoglossum serapis var. Argus

One of the outstanding varieties in the Gold Medal group of Orchids recently shown by Messrs. Charlesworth and Co. at Westminster

Triumphams gives a contrast, with yellow flowers marked with brown barred blotches.

Among the Odontiodas more vivid reds and copper colours are to be found; Odontioda Grisell, Lady Polwarth, typifying the deep coral red, while others range from scarlet and maroon to the paler shades of mauve such as O. Juno, with its pretty sprays of heliotrope, blotched with darker shades of the same colour.

The principal flowering season is during the spring months, but anyone with even a small collection can have bloom all the year round.

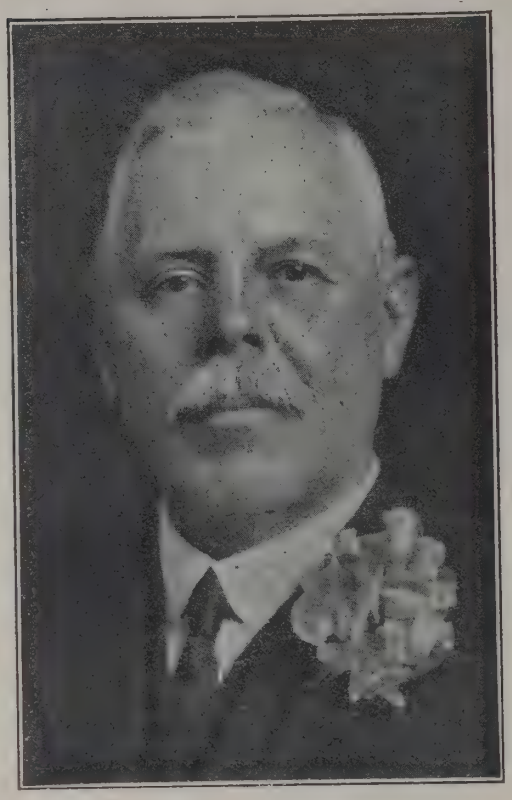
The hints on Orchid culture given above may sound elaborate, but put in practice are very simple, and require very little time, while the fascination of these plants far exceeds that of the ordinary plant requiring greenhouse culture.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Mr. E. H. Christy

MR. E. H. CHRISTY, the new President of the National Sweet Pea Society, has long been associated with the Society, and is one of its best known amateur members. He was chairman of the General Committee in 1915, and chairman of the Floral Committee in 1917 and 1918.

Mr. Christy is a very keen and successful amateur gardener, and in his garden at Greenways, Ingatestone, Essex, he grows not only Sweet Peas but hardy fruits, Roses, Chrysanthemums, flowering shrubs, and many other hardy flowers. Moreover, he is President of that progressive Society of Chelmsford Gardeners, known as the Chelmsford and District Gardeners' Association, and he is the Hon. Sec. of the Ingatestone Horticultural Society.



Mr. E. H. Christy
The new President of the National Sweet Pea Society

Boenninghausenia albiflora

A little colony of this very elegant plant attracted my attention recently. It possesses all the charming and graceful characteristics of the better-known Thalictrum diptero-carpum. The plants were about 2 feet 6 inches in height and in full bloom on October 5th, the loose sprays of white flowers being about 9 inches long. The foliage is similar to that of a Rue, or one of the shrubby Coronillas, such as C. emerus, and in itself very pretty. A native of Japan, this little-known and all too rare plant deserves a larger place in our gardens than it occupies to-day. The plants referred to were growing in very leafy soil and partial shade which, judging by their healthy appearance, suited them admirably. E. MARKHAM.

Demonstrations at the Imperial Fruit Show

Demonstrations of new horticultural machinery, such as that for spraying fruit trees, for cultivating the soil of fruit plantations—a special business—and for grading Apples, are being given at Belle Vue Gardens, Manchester, from October 28th till November 5th. The chief advantage of the show from the growers' point of view is that they can there see for themselves how their brothers overseas study the art of presentation of fruit for the market. The best and most attractive packings of graded fruit are shown side by side. It should not be inferred from this statement that the British grower is ignorant of the art. Many of the foremost of them have graded and packed their fruit for some time, very much to the advantage of their sales.

Grading and packing

The Ministry's demonstration of proper grading and packing, which is given continuously at the Manchester Show, is here referred to. The National Mark, which the Ministry have suggested, is again used experimentally on graded home-grown produce, its object being to obtain recognition by all purchasers that they are buying home-grown fruit of good quality. There is also a demonstration kitchen, where some of the many ways of using fruit in cookery are shown, and where Christmas puddings are made entirely of Empire ingredients. No doubt the housewives of Manchester and the district will not let any opportunity such as this pass of seeing "how the thing is done." Ministry has arranged also for demo tions of the same kind as those given last Ideal Home Exhibition in London many ways of cooking Potatoes.

Black rust and the Barberry

The Common Barberry is a shru digenous to this country, but not now abundant in most parts of it. It has been known that on the leaves of this one of the stages in the life cycle fungus which causes the Black Ru wheat is passed, and it is well known those districts (chiefly in South-West in which the Barberry is still rather co Black Rust of wheat is most prevale destructive. A couple of centuries ag farmers were wise enough to eradicat berry bushes from their hedges, and one reason why we now suffer muc from the attacks of Black Rust than other parts of the world do. In the States of America tremendous efforts ing made at present to eradicate the B at enormous cost. In Denmark a la passed in 1903 requiring the destruct this shrub, and as a result there has since that year, no serious epidemic of Rust in that country, although pre there had been, periodically, severe out causing much loss. Recently, the vie expressed that the Barberry was n coming more common than formerly the countryside of England and Wal it was suggested that this shrub wa haps, being purchased in quantities nurserymen for planting hedges. In made by the Ministry of Agriculture ever, have shown that this is not th for the trade done in this shrub by nurseries is practically negligible. theless, it does not seem superfluous attention once more to the dangerous ter of this shrub. It would be the folly if the present generation, by re the wide planting of Barberries, w undo the splendid work done by the fathers in getting rid of them at leas the principal wheat-growing districts country.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

The Lavender industry

I HAVE noticed with interest the letter of Mr. E. S. Rands and the reply in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED for October 8th. Having made a slight study of the Lavender industry, I would like to attract Mr. Rand's attention to the fact that most of the world's Lavender supply comes from France, where the plant is native in certain districts. There is a very accurate paper by J. Méro and Boyveau on the subject in "La Parfumerie Française et L'Art dans la présentation" on page 287. This unique volume was published by La Revue des Marques de la Parfumerie et de la Savounerie, 43, Rue Gambetta, Paris. In this article it is stated that the English Lavender crop is more uncertain than the French, as, to afford a really profitable industry, a snowy but not too cold winter, a sunny spring, and several strong rains in June, are necessary. There is also another very good account of the French Lavender trade in "Les Fleurs de la Côte d'Azur" by Léon Marret (Paul Lechavalier, Ed., 12, Rue de Tournon, Paris), 1926, p. 334-335. The only way so small a portion of land could be profitable in this crop would be in conjunction with a novelty shop—what we call here in America a "gift shop"—where the tiny basket made with the Lavender flower stal ribbon could be made a speciality.

(Mrs.) ETHEL ANSON S. PEC
"Langthwaite," Davenport Neck, New Rochelle, N.Y.

Roses: On booking orders at s

To the grower of Roses a visit to is not only a pleasure and an educat frequently gives one an opportunity fo intercourse with others like-minde these functions one meets with men the fraternity who are on the look-ou best novelties, and it also enables compare the sorts exhibited with th varieties we have at home. We brought into personal touch with the of the premier award blooms, and if nurseryman, as is frequently the c are often tempted to place an order livery of trees the following autum little more to guide us than the ha novelties which we have seen for time, or the catalogue descriptio them. This, I have always contend mistake. Unless we have seen the growing in the nursery, perhaps in

ozen, or we can rely upon the experi-
f those who have tried them, it is
not to embark in the purchase of
es, but wait for a season. The
of one year may give place to some-
egarded as a great advance on any of
decessors, and may not be heard of
uch again. It is not given to every
ntroduced in the last 10 years or so to
a reputation like that old tried sort,
nce. I do not suggest that novelties
not be looked after, but rather would
o the would-be buyer of them to pro-
ith caution. Keep an open mind, and
know, if possible, from someone who
ed the varieties you are keen after,
r they are good doers before ordering

W. F.

uropean Dog's Tooth Violets

wonders what the reason can be for
gher prices now being asked for
nium dens-canis and its varieties, the
g's Tooth Violet, which has been
thrown over for some of the exquisite
n species and varieties. For a while
-canis was very cheap in mixture suit-
planting in grass, but of late years
eciation in cost has been going on.
think it is due to increasing demand,
ems to be making little progress in
of to-day, worthy though it is of
I am inclined to think that the
is the case and that the bulb
do not find it worth while to stock
. At one time several named varie-
re obtainable, but these are now
by few dealers, and even the mix-
isually cheap by the hundred, are
ore expensive to purchase. This is
as lower prices induce many with
rses to purchase, and those who are
for naturalising purposes are un-
to expend so much on what is only
of many bulbs suitable for planting
undred or thousand.

AN OLD BULBIST.

Centaurea Hunt's Variety

accompanying illustration is that of
ariety of perennial Cornflower, ex-
ed by G. and A. Clark, Ltd., Dover,
f the summer shows at the R.H.S.
he plant is of bushy habit, producing
rs in abundance, and growing from
3½ feet tall. It is admirably adapted
herbaceous border, flowering from
August.
liage is highly ornamental, being
with a beautiful silvery tomentum,
purplish flowers, very similar to C.
najor, but a little smaller. It is per-
dy, requiring a well-drained soil and
sition.

W. LOGAN.

Roman Hyacinths

rliest batch of Roman Hyacinths is
tober 30th, in bloom, and I am
ask the question: Are Roman
s worth while? The present-day
tterly preposterous. Personally, if
way I would not buy a single bulb.
ern quality, too, appears to have
ed in proportion as the price has
By actual counting only 78 per cent.
lbs have done as they ought to have
12 per cent. of the whole have
start at all. Circumstances over
ave no control compel me annually
considerable—a very considerable
of Roman Hyacinths, and I can-
yself of the feeling that, so long as
s maintain their present level of
money so expended might be put
greater advantage in the garden.
, however, as I have merely to
m as required, and have not to "foot the bill," I need not murmur, but I do consider, emphatically, that they are not "worth the money."

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

The Chincherinchee from South Africa

There was some discussion in your paper last year about the national flower of South Africa, "The Chincherinchee Ornithogalum Lacteum." It might interest some of your readers to know that I purchased from Messrs. Barr and Sons, Covent Garden, London, this year some bulbs, and have succeeded in flowering one bulb to perfection, about 8 inches long. It has been in flower for nearly a month, and I am keeping it going as long as it lasts, which I expect will be some time yet. I should have had four more flowers, only the pot in which the others were growing got neglected. I have been informed that this plant is a very difficult one to grow.

J. R. CONNAL.
The Mount, Port St. Mary, Isle of Man.

Begonia Gloire de Lorraine

Is this very charming winter-flowering Begonia as popular as it was a decade ago? I ask the question because, in many gardens which have been visited during the present season I have rarely observed it. The value of B. Gloire de Lorraine through the dull months is great, and alike for decorative value in rooms and in plant houses. It is not a specially difficult subject. The other day I put a fairly large batch in full bloom into the fernery in which, in groups among the Ferns, it is highly effective. Equally effective is a combination of this Begonia with the earlier Roman Hyacinths. In shallow receptacles in rooms this arrangement is always appreciated. At the same time, in order to do B. Gloire de Lorraine really well I consider the variety requires a house to itself. Interspersed with a few plants of Cocos Wedelliana and Eulalia, Japanese variety, with an edging of Panicum variegatum, such a house is, in its season, a "perfect picture." A very excellent grower of this Begonia told me, on one occasion, that instead of leaf-mould in his compost he used chopped Pine "needles." This I tried, but I could see but little difference between plants grown by the aid of the "needles" and the main batch grown in the orthodox compost.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Centaurea Hunt's Variety

The Beech tree difficulty

One wonders at the difficulties which exist in the vicinity of the Beech tree, and ponders still further upon the feeble attempts which are made to combat the evil. It was whilst going over the grounds of Mrs. Hartley's beautiful home at Bishops Lydeard, Taunton, that I expressed my surprise at the wonderful greenness of the plants almost underneath the Beeches there. This lady told me of the way in which she had dealt with the difficulty. The plants had been placed in petrol casks sawn in half. The existence of the petrol in the wood of the casks has the necessary effect on the Beech roots, retarding their undermining influence on the health of the plants. It would be interesting to learn how far this excellent method has been adopted.

BRUCE HEWITT.

Rodgersia tabularis

Although the late Mr. Farrer placed Rodgersia æsculifolia at the top of the Rodgersias for beauty and effect when growing in cool dark places, yet the noble R. tabularis is not by any means to be discredited as a glorious plant for effect in shady, rather moist spots in the garden. Those who, like the writer, have seen Rodgersia tabularis flourishing in a cool, shady place in the wonderful and delightful garden of Sir Herbert Maxwell, in Wigtownshire, could not fail to be impressed by its nobility, nay, its grandeur. It has great broad leaves, likened by some to those of Saxifraga peltata, but larger and finer than the foliage of S. peltata at its best, and its tall plumes of creamy-white Spiræa-like flowers standing high above the leaves cannot withhold a meed of admiration for such a magnificent Rodgersia. Like others of its race, R. tabularis loves a moist, cool spot, and is quite at home in a small opening in a deciduous wood. It is increased by division of large plants and also by seeds, which I saw offered this year.

S. ARNOTT.

Potato yield from a single root

The enclosed particulars of the weights lifted from a single root of Sefton Wonder Potato in recent competition would, I think, be of interest to many readers. Potatoes are grown more extensively in this country than any other vegetable, and when one considers that the average farm yield, as shown by the Ministry of Agriculture Returns, is only 6 tons or 7 tons per acre, one is inclined to question whether it would not be possible, by better cultivation and the selection of better varieties, to double this yield. Allowing that in this competition each plant occupied 1 square yard, and taking the average yield to be 20 lbs. per root, the weight of crop per acre would amount to over 43 tons. An increase of yield in any measure approaching that weight would mean prosperity to the farming industry, especially when it can be proved that the better cultivation improves the quality of the Potato.

Liverpool. J. LYTLE.

Mr. T. Milne, 12, Rainton Road, Elmfield, Doncaster, lifted on October 1st the enormous weight of 24 lbs. 6 ozs. from a single root of a new second early immune variety of Potato named Sefton Wonder. Other weights lifted on the same date in dif-

ferent districts were:—22 lbs. 2 ozs. by Mr. W. H. Walley, Bank Cottage, Ponsanooth, Perranwell, Cornwall; 20 lbs. 6 ozs. by Mr. R. C. Beard, 2, Railway Cottages, Llanwrtyd Wells; and 19 lbs. 11 ozs. by Mr. W. Wood, gardener to Dr. Randle Leigh, Waterloo, Lancs.

Viburnum fragrans

This lovely winter-flowering shrub is opening its flowers now, a month earlier than usual, owing no doubt to the mild weather we are having. Viburnum fragrans has everything possible to recommend it. Its flowers usually open end of November and continue all through the dull winter days. These are borne in clusters on the end of each small twig, are white in colour with a delicious scent reminding one of Lilac time.

This Viburnum has proved itself quite hardy and a very fast grower here, making shapely shrubs of over 8 feet high. It can be carefully pruned by cutting it when in bloom to use for indoor decoration, where it lasts so well in water.

Viburnum fragrans is easily propagated by cuttings taken in early spring, and if these are "potted on" all through the summer serviceable plants will be available for autumn planting. R. MOORE.

Thorpe Hall.

Roses in a Somerset Garden

Roses have been wonderful this autumn. Those I planted a year ago have, with one or two exceptions, been a great success. Christine, amongst the older varieties, is, with me, quite the best yellow bedder. The Rev. Page Roberts, Mabel Morse, Mrs. Henry Morse, Etoile de Holland, and Betty Uprichard have done magnificently. The only variety which I am discarding is Mme. Melanie Soupert, a fine Rose, but in this soil, at any rate, not free enough to be classed as a bedder. L. B.-W.

Wells, Somerset.

Blue Primroses

In his interesting notes on "Good and bad wet weather flowers," on page 673 of your issue of Oct. 29th, Mr. C. Blair refers to Blue Primroses. If these are really blue I envy him. For some time I have been combing nurseries and raising seed, but I have not yet got a real blue. There are many shades of colour, but all seem to have an admixture of red, even if slight. At any rate, if Mr. Blair or any of your readers can inform me as to a source of genuinely Blue Primroses I shall be very much obliged to him or them. W. LESLIE CARTER.

Ellesmere, Bloxcidge Street,
Langley Green, Birmingham.

Rose Chateau de Clos Vougeot

I was very pleased to note the reference to Rose Chateau de Clos Vougeot in a recent issue. Grown in the only correct form, as a standard, there are few, if, indeed, any, dark Roses more satisfactory for garden or house decoration. The peculiar pungent fragrance is pronounced, especially when a dozen or so of the blooms are cut just before opening, and as they unfold in a room, preferably with the door closed for some time, the room is completely pervaded with the most delightful perfume, probably incomparable among the complexity of all the multitudinous Rose scents.

Our first specimens of Rose Chateau de Clos Vougeot were of the bush form. They were most disappointing; the habit of the flower is drooping. The flowers when well grown are also exceptionally heavy, and consequently grow close to the soil.

And when I saw Erica kneeling upon the ground trying to inspect the flower and to inhale the fragrance I decided that these Roses must come up during the next planting time. The verdict was, that they were not worth growing.

"What if we fix the dark Chateaus upon stilts," pleaded Erica, "and then, probably, we may see his noblesse to perfection." So we introduced some of the 6 feet standards. The half-hardy standards are not nearly so effective. In this form Chateau de Clos Vougeot is a most satisfactory garden Rose.

And yet I think I must qualify my former eulogy of the fragrance.

Last summer in the mountains of Wales we came across a most wonderful specimen of the old white Cabbage Rose with upwards of 600 blooms in various stages of development—bud, semi and full bloom. And this was to realise the full beauty and delight of fragrance incomparable in the Rose world.

MURALIS.

Nerine Bowdenii

A beautiful autumn picture is a colony of this exquisite Nerine profusely flowered. A native of Cape Colony, it is hardy in the warmer parts of the country and may be grown in gardens over a wide area if afforded slight protection such as a frame-ligh hand-glass, during the winter months.

A sandy loam is admirable for Bowdenii, and an ideal position for the is at the base of a south wall or at the of a greenhouse wall with a south or s west exposure. The flowers are produ little later than are those of Amaryllis donna, so that in a border planted with twain may be found a rich store of au colour and interest.

The flower umbels are large, the flow deep rose-pink, a warm, glowing colour exquisitely lovely in the autumn sun and amidst the varied tints of the "Fa

Plant rather deeply as one would Cri and remember that disturbance is resent this wonderfully bright flower.

Now (late October), in Gloucestershir South African Nerine is a riot of colour bulbs are growing in a western aspect base of a greenhouse, and during wi frame-light is elevated over the n border, the sides left open to allow a passage of air. In company wit Bowdenii are growing, amongst other t Amaryllis belladonna, Cypella Her various Tulipas, Iris Bucharica, and Fritillarias. RALPH E. ARNO

A Nosegay Garden

A CORRESPONDENT, writing to inquire what sweet-smelling herbs would be appropriate to a series of beds with Box edging, suggests a pleasant piece of gardening which others might care to carry out and develop. It is not a question of reproducing the old herb garden, which would be merely a "museum piece" of horticulture, but of making a permanent scented bouquet in a formal frame of Box.

If we are not to limit ourselves academically to scented herbs, one or two Dwarf Roses might be used in the centre of the beds. The Scotch Briar, "Stanwell Perpetual," and the double white, with their delicate rose-water scent, suggest themselves, and the old Rose "Burgundy," a compact, little Cabbage Rose about 2 feet high, would fit particularly well into the slightly formal setting, for its sweetly-scented pink flowers are as conventional as those on an old sampler.

The silvery green leaves of Rue (which smell of coconut when *lightly* brushed) and the still more silvery leaves of the "Camphor Plant" (Balsamita vulgaris) would associate well with the pink Roses. Smaller grey-leaved plants which recommend themselves are the Lemon Thyme, "Silver Queen," and most of the smaller Wormwoods such as Artemisia canescens, A. lanata and A. valesiæa. Of the bushy Thymes, Thymus micans has a scent which suggests Pineapple. Th. hyemalis smells of Thyme and Patchouli. Th. carnosus and Th. erectus are like the ordinary kitchen Thyme, and Th. vulgaris var. fragrantissimus is the sweetest of all the Thymes, with a delicate fruity scent that contains a hint of Rose Geranium.

The Golden Sage, Variegated Balm (Melissa officinalis), and the "Embroydered Time that smelleth of Pome Citron" (Th. citriodorus variegata aurea) will provide golden leaves. Hyssop, in its best blue form, will provide coloured flowers and a coarse scent; Monarda didyma (in variety) brilliant flowers and a delicate scent of Bergamot; Micromeria chamissionis (syn. Douglasii), a scent of Brown Windsor soap, and no flowers to speak of; Geranium macrorhizum, a distinct, individual scent and coloured leaves in the autumn; Satureia montana, Calomintha grandiflora, Origanum pulchrum, and Micromeria piperella are all small, floriferous fairly well scented.

The shadiest beds might be given to v Mints, Mentha rotundifolia variegata scented), M. viridis var. crispa, M. (Bergamot scented) and Peppermint.

A patch of alpine or Wild Strawberri old "Plymouth Strawberry" is a ver gant curiosity) will be not only decora fruit, but will give us in autumn the cellent cordial smell of Strawberry dying," and, at the same time, the Wo (Asperula odorata) will give off the so new-mown hay.

Costmary (Tanacetum Balsamita), smells of Mint, the Burning Bush (Dict Fraxinella), and Pennyroyal (Mentha gium) might be included if liked, and it be a pity to leave out the Clove Pink Double Rockets, because they are not "sweet-scented herbs."

If it should be possible to bed out plants which would probably not surv winter, then there would be a great ra scented Pelargoniums to draw upo Salvia rutilans (Pineapple scented), B Gilead (Cedronella triphylla), smell lemon and camphor, the Eau de C plant (Origanum marjorana), and Verbena (Aloysia citriodora) would be able.

And many other scented plants, both and tender, will no doubt occur judicious reader. F. A. HAM

Pyrethrums: the best time divide

Notwithstanding that the finest flow nearly always to be found on clu Pyrethrums of small or moderate dime they are often allowed to go too long any attempt is made to divide them. best time to do so is after they have to flower. If the clumps have lon neglected, only the portions of the cl the outsides should be replanted, as g the centres of old clumps are weak an out. Clumps can be cut with a blun —an operation which demands care— can be pulled to pieces. In planting soil which has been well dug and manure added, and plant quite firmly.

MIDLA

THE NEW SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE, PEMBURY, KENT
Showing the Residence and the Rose Garden

ol of Horticulture at Pembury

NEW School of Horticulture for young men is to be opened shortly at Pembury, Kent. Pembury is a picturesque village miles from Tunbridge Wells, in the of some of the most beautiful scenery in uth of England.

new school of gardening will be held in nction with Mr. N. I. Baggesen's Horti- al Establishment, including Hardy Nurseries. The object of the school is vide for young men a sound foundation hich to start their future career on the In this undertaking Mr. Baggesen is ate in having the co-operation of the of Woods Gate, the fine old Half-Way ing House that dates back to the 16th ry, situated on the main Hastings Road. nanaged nurseries consisting of 12 devoted to fruit trees, Roses, flowering shrubs, herbaceous and alpine plants, ing the residence, and another nursery the same management is at Romford Pembury. Full particulars of instruc- outine, accommodation, and fees may ained from Mr. N. I. Baggesen, the ultural Establishment, Pembury, Kent.

Dahlias old and new

SHIONS in these popular flowers have ring the past few years shown many anges. Time was when the only s that were worth looking at were the and fancy types. Everything that did form to a certain standard was ruth- discarded. The old Dahlia grower of rs ago would have none of these so- orized types that are in these days so , and although I appreciate the beauty efulness of all later-day varieties, I as an old hand, a hankering for warriors. Although the selection of s was perhaps more restricted than e now, I think a greater interest and ains were taken to get the best results; a brilliant show in the garden I think ould still hold their own.

30 years ago the Cactus type began favour, and so great was their popu- hat growers sprang up in all sorts of he-way places—everyone who owned a must grow Cactus Dahlias. These lly a beautiful class, and I consider e finest type of present-day Dahlias. great many, however, have the habit s so important for garden decoration, varieties whose flowers are raised well he foliage on long, strong stems.

Collarette type has on this account, and the great variety and novelty of their gained much popularity during recent I would say, however, that next to the the honours for the present day kinds must go to these rightly-named Decorative varieties, and I think we in Scotland owe much to the Messrs. Dobbie for introducing and popularising this as well as other types. Those who were present at any of the large shows this season must have been struck by the gorgeous display made by these exhibits. I am not, however, so much concerned with their effect when put up as a big exhibit at a show as I am of their value for garden decoration and cut flowers.

The trade growers give a fairly accurate description of the colour and habit of the variety, but I find that it is only after a season's growth under one's own conditions that one can depend on what will be kept for the following year.

Of some 30 varieties of this type grown this season only about a dozen are satisfactory as far as length and strength of stem are concerned, and these are for the most part of American origin. A wonderful flower is Amarillis Grande, 9 inches across, lemon colour, with strong stems 15 inches long; Bob Pluese, maroon, lipped white, most effective; Elite Glory, radiant bright red; Amun Ra, reddish-copper or bronze; Emma Marie, pink, with creamy white centre; Tillamook, changes to salmon pink, red orange yellow and gold; Snowdrift, a good white; another good white is Madonna, requires to be well disbudded; Sagamore, pure golden yellow; Ebor, bright red, a free flowerer; Anglais, a small-flowered variety, but most effective and useful, a salmon or fawn colour; Wm. Barr, a very free-flowering variety of a light pink colour. It is unfortunate that so many fine large varieties have drooping flowers, which are hidden among the foliage, but I have no doubt that raisers always keep in mind the great qualities of those sorts with erect and strong flower stems.

Stirling. P. McCowan.

The tuberous-rooted Begonia as a bedding plant

IT is rather curious that the great merits of this plant for outdoor decoration are so long in being acknowledged, for it must be confessed that the numbers met with are quite insignificent compared with some others that cannot be named along with them for effectiveness in all kinds of seasons. The present summer and autumn have been probably the most trying within living memory, and many plants that, under normal conditions, succeed quite well have this year been almost total failures, whereas the Begonias have not minded the continuous dullness and wetness one little bit. Indeed, after being exposed for days on end to torrential rains, they appeared brighter than ever, continuing to throw up fresh flowers through it all. And these plants are of quite easy culture, and require no space under glass except for a month or two in spring. Nor are they expensive to raise (providing, of course, that one has command of suitable accommodation for raising a stock by means of seeds). Even when the bulbs have to be purchased, the outlay is but trifling, and, with decent care, the bulbs are good for years.

The time having again arrived for the lifting and storing of the bulbs, a few hints on how to proceed may not be out of place. While the plants are very tender it appears that the bulbs mature better and keep better if the tops are frosted down before being lifted. I have seen plants removed under cover while the stems and foliage were quite green, and these wintered badly, whereas others that had been cut to the ground with frost came through unscathed. Well, when the tops are cut down by frost, the tubers should be carefully dug up, the bulk of the soil shaken from the roots, and then set close together in shallow boxes. Set these on a dry sunny shelf to dry thoroughly. In due course the stems will drop from the bulbs, so the latter should be gone over one by one, and all soil and old roots rubbed off, care being taken not to damage the skin of the bulbs while doing so. A quantity of perfectly dry sand (even sifted sandy compost, if thoroughly dry, will do) should be ready. Next procure a strong, deep box, and place a layer of the sand or soil in the bottom. On this arrange closely together a layer of bulbs, hollow side downmost; then more sand and soil, then more bulbs, and so on, until all are packed past. The box is then set in a dry, cool, yet frost-proof place, safe from the attacks of mice or rats. Here they may remain until early in March, when they should be planted in boxes of light, rich soil, set in a green house, until the shoots attain a height of 4 inches or so, when they are moved to a cold frame until early in June, when they are well hardened off and planted in their flowering quarters. Good soil, to which some leaf mould has been added, suits the Begonia well. It will thrive in both sunshine and partial shade, and does not seem to mind either drought or heavy rain. Of course, in very dry seasons, hand watering will be necessary at times, but this is seldom required. C. Blair.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Protection from frosts

All pans containing seedlings, also pots and vases containing plants which have been standing in the open should be placed in frames without delay and protected from sharp frosts, otherwise these receptacles will be split asunder. Also cover up all frames at night from this date.

Lælio-Cattleya Mrs. Medo The Node Variety
Shown by Mrs. Charles Holmes. Award of Merit
The intense deep velvet crimson of the lip is in marked contrast to the green Primrose yellow-coloured sepals

The rare and beautiful Vanda Sanderiana
Shown by Mr. J. J. Joicey, Witley, Surrey
Flowers pale mauve on upper petals, with heavy chocolate coloured reticulations on greenish ground on lower petals

Cattleya Fabia var. Queen Elizabeth
Award of Merit. The high-water mark in Fabia seedlings
Shown by Messrs. Sanders

e Orchid Show at Vincent Square

IE remarkably fine exhibit of Orchids t Vincent Square on October 18th and ›th serves to remind us that these s are as much cherished as ever. In years great progress has been made sing Orchids and in cross-fertilisation. varieties and hybrids have been brought rd, and the varieties of to-day are, beall shadow of doubt, vastly superior to rieties of 20 or 30 years ago. Most of w varieties seen now are produced by s of artificial hybridisation, comparafew new forms being sent home by ors.

JPS FROM AMATEUR GROWERS

Orchid Challenge Cup offered for the xhibit arranged by an amateur on a not exceeding 60 square feet was ed to Mr. J. J. Joicey (gardener, Mr. ckay), The Heights, Witley, Surrey, superb collection. Every plant in this was a well-grown specimen. The gem collection was the rare and exquisite Sanderiana, illustrated and described page opposite. Other fine specimens s group were Vanda cœrulea, with fine spikes, Brasso-Cattleya British var. Admiration, Pleione lagenaria, ng-lost Cypripedium Fairrieanum, C. Sanderæ, C. Boltoni, C. Mme. A. r, Selenipedium Schlimii, Cymbidium num, and Miltonia Beau Brummel.

interesting group from Sir Jeremiah n, Bart. (gardener, Mr. J. Collier), Park, Reigate, contained the curious- Catasetum sp., illustrated on page When inverted the flowers, which are ull green colour, are said to have the ance of birds alighting on their nests. npression may be obtained by holding ustration upside down.

ery fine Lælio-Cattleya, Mrs. Medo Node Variety, was shown by Mrs. Holmes (gardener, Mr. Penton), The Welwyn. This is a very effective with perianth of a curious shade of -yellow and in marked contrast a ruby- d lip. It was raised by crossing the autiful parents, Cattleya Venus and uminosa aurea. A somewhat similar , viz., L.-C. Mrs. Medo var. Brilliant, ellow-bronze sepals and petals and a t ruby lip, was shown by Messrs. A. J. and Sons.

n Bruno Schröder (gardener, Mr. Dell Park, Englefield Green, showed vers of two new golden-yellow Brasso- as.

HIDS FROM TRADE GROWERS

lrobium Phalænopsis with sprays of se-coloured flowers was admirably in the gold medal group by Messrs. worth and Co., Haywards Heath. oup was rich in beautiful Odonto- s, Odontiodas, Brasso and Lælio as, and Cypripediums. Special mention should be made of the lilac-rose Brasso- a Mme. Charles Maron, fine O. forms of the Premier type, ma suavis (white), Cypripedium (soft green and white), Spathoglottis is (soft yellow), creamy-white and Cœlegyne Brymeriana, and the rich Vuylstekeara Edna, Normandy . The beautiful Odontoglossum var. Argus, with fine large flowers marked maroon is illustrated on the torial page in this week's issue. The ge of this fine variety is O. eximium y Monarch.

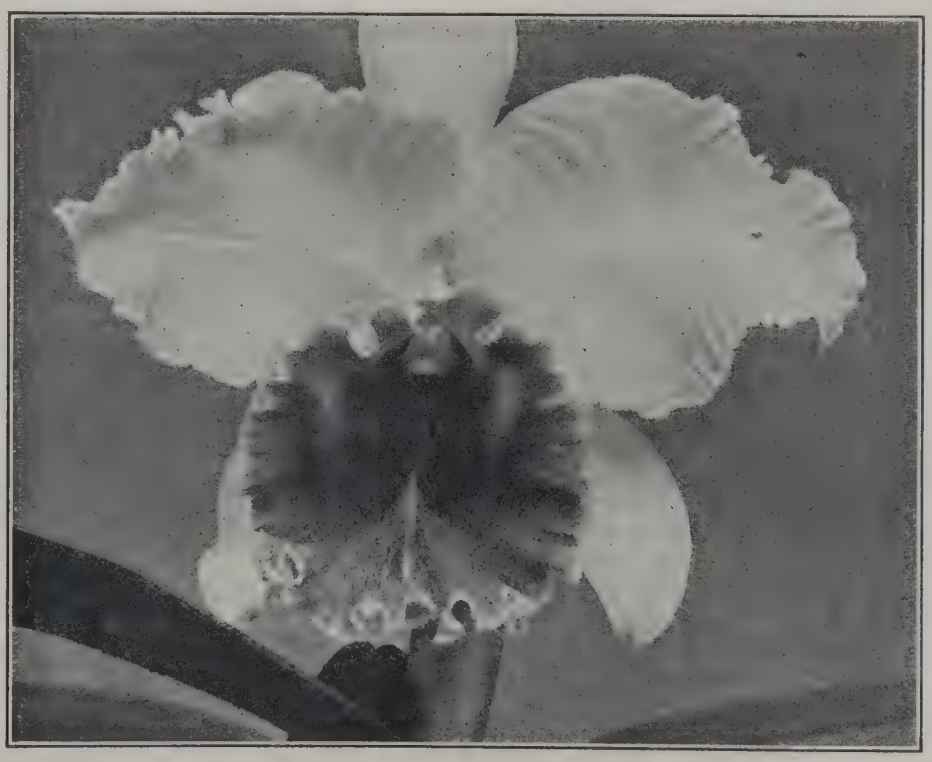
ner gold medal group was that of J. and A. McBean, Cooksbridge.

Lælio-Cattleya Hilary
Award of Merit. Shown by Messrs. Cowan and Co.

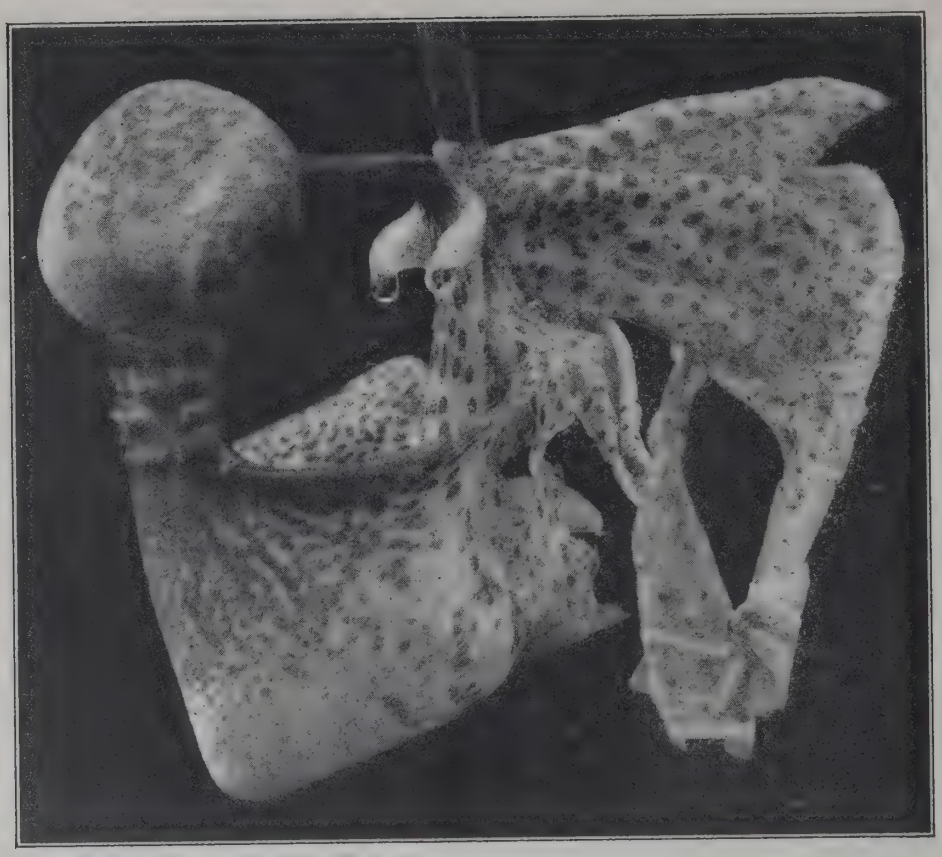
Cattleya hybrids were particularly well represented, and special mention must be made of the magnificent Lælio-Cattleya Valencia. It needs but a glance at the accompanying illustration of this novelty to appreciate its breadth of petal and of lip. The flower is not only of massive proportions, but it is most refined in colour, the dark crimson lip being heavily veined in gold. Other noteworthy plants in this superb collection were Miltonia William Pitt, Cattleya Princess Royal, C. aureata, and the fine Lælio-Cattleya Warrior, of Tyrian purple hue with orange-yellow in the throat.

Cattleyas, especially those of the exquisite Fabia type, predominated in a large and comprehensive exhibit from Messrs. Sanders. Perhaps the finest of all was the variety Queen Elizabeth, which gained an Award of Merit and is chosen for illustration in the page opposite. This variety is remarkable for its very rich and gorgeous colour, and its well-proportioned flowers. In the same group was Cypripedium Gowerianum var. Mrs. Leonard Dixon, a beautiful form, pale apple-green with white dorsal and green stripes. This also gained an Award of Merit.

The choice group by Messrs. Cowan and Co. contained the good Lælio-Cattleya,



Lælio-Cattleya Valencia
Award of Merit. Note the massive flower and the breadth of the lip
Shown by J. and A. McBean



Coryanthes macrantha or Helmet Flower
One of the most remarkable of all Orchids

Queen Mary, and another named Hilary, which received an Award of Merit. The latter was a fine specimen plant carrying three magnificent blooms with crimson lips and gold markings. The parentage of this hybrid is L.-C. Soulange x C. Fabia.

Cypripedium hybrids were shown by Messrs. Cypher and Sons, and Odontiodas, Cattleyas, and Lælio-Cattleyas in variety were shown by Messrs. Stuart Low and Co. and Mr. Harry Dixon. Representative groups of Orchids were also shown by Messrs. Sutton Bros. and Messrs. Black and Flory. H. C.

Coryanthes

Among all Orchids, Coryanthes have apparently the most strange and complicated blooms, yet, in reality, they well exemplify the economy of nature and the co-relation of all their parts to attain a certain purpose.

THE illustration represents a variety of Coryanthes macrantha, which recently flowered with Messrs. Sanders in their Bruges (Belgium) Nursery.

A wonderful combination of strength, fragility, and one might almost say, prodigality is exhibited, all helping and harmonising towards the one end of a flower, viz., to ensure fertilisation and the subsequent production of seed.

The means by which the desired end is obtained in this particular species have often been described, and the illustration shows clearly the two "points" secreting the liquor which eventually nearly fills the receptacle or bucket, in reality the epichile of the lip. A fluid ounce is said to be excreted in each flower, a remarkable effort when it is remembered that three blooms are often carried on a spike and that the pseudo-bulbs and leaves are not particularly large.

Apart from this, the flowers are well worth studying. Insects are attracted by a strong odour and also by the inner surfaces of parts of the labellum. In attempting to reach and gnaw these, they are pushed, or fall, into the liquid, and to escape use a narrow passage which leads them beneath the pollen and stigma.

Colour, though not so brilliant as in some Orchids, is by no means lacking, the species under mention being ornately marked with dull purple on a yellow ground, while the hypochile, the horizontal bar, is deep purple, and the mesochile, the fluted support, blood colour, the epichile whitish, flushed and marked with rose.

With so many attractions, and in view of what must be a considerable stress to the plant caused by the size and weight of the flowers, in addition to the quantity of the secretion, it is not surprising that the flowers last but a few days—three or four. Colour, scent, and size are sufficient efforts to most flowers, and scent is not usually found in combination with bright colours.

In most of the Coryanthes, strength is somewhat conserved, as though the sepals and petals play their usual part in the protection of the genitive organs, while the flowers are immature, they are very thin in texture, and do not have the longevity and substance of the labellum.

As soon as the flowers are fully open, these exterior segments seem to realise they have completed their task, and in a short time actually bend backwards as though without interest in the future, assume a membranous texture, and fold up in such a way that they have been likened to bat's wings, fading quickly.

The converse applies to the lip, which is thick and fleshy, with a wax-like poli surface, the supporting stalks similar, bining strength and rigidity.

These parts last much longer than sepals and petals, and their strength mu considerable to withstand the strains o fleshy bucket, the liquid, atmospheric sure and insects.

The spikes are pendant, often directl beneath the plant, thus reducing the ri breakage by wind and enabling the pla better bear the weight of the flowers wi the further effort which a thick, st peduncle would demand.

Under cultivation this fact must be in mind and the plants placed in, prefer Teak wood baskets, so that the spikes project over the sides, and drainage mu so arranged that descending spikes may easy egress.

It would be interesting did we know sequence of changes which led up t present specialised flowers of Coryanthe

The need for the liquid is explained, a bees which fertilise the flowers would force their way through the passage u their wings were so clogged. Were buckets dry and their wings free, they w take the easiest exit, the open top, bu it is, they are forced to use the passage first bee through removing the pollen a returning to its meal, and again receivi bath, leaving the pollen on the stigma o same or a second flower.

In Cypripedia we have a similar pa fertilisation, but in their case the liqu absent, the slipper is dry, but its shape size prevent the particular insect usin wings, and in escaping by one of passages behind the pollinia and stig removes the pollen, and, as in Coryanthe a second visit leaves it on the stigma o same or another flower.

Why should not Coryanthes have ad the less expensive method? In Stanh an allied genus, we find both cup and are dispensed with. Scent and colou usually present, but horns are produced part of the labellum to serve as insect g

Few of the Cypripedia develop a perce scent, but they last a long time in fl whereas Coryanthes last but a few days so, as if aware of the brevity of their lif the three common attractions to insects, a specialised one, peculiar to them, to e their purpose.

The name Coryanthes is derived Korys (a helmet) and anthos (a flower). greater number of the species are nati Central America, Venezuela, Peru, Dem etc.

Many of them are said to grow o branches overhanging streams, and a plants produce quantities of advent roots, which are the home of fierce a is said that often the branches are se allowed to fall into the water and re after the ants have been drowned.

Species have been reported with spikes, but if such exist and erect and dent spikes are present in some gene orchids, *e.g.*, Cymbidiums, it is probabl the flowers would be smaller than th macrantha, leucocorys, maculata, etc. the liquid secretion would not be so liber

Under cultivation the genus requi warm, moist atmosphere, and very c watering during the winter—a treatmen similar to that given Stanhopeas, but if anything, a higher temperature.

The thin plicate leaves are susceptil attacks of Red Spider, but the plants s not be shaded too heavily. A rapid g should be encouraged as much as possi

E. Coo

Catasetums

se are among the most interesting of hids, but unfortunately are not so uently met with under cultivation as would be were the species and their merits better known.

TASETUMS have never been, and parently cannot be, imported in great mbers like Cattleyas and Dendrobiums, pecies were grown as far back as the half of the last century, and since then been occasionally seen at exhibitions.

name Catasetum is said to be derived Kata (downward) and seta (a bristle), ing to two antennæ—prolongations of stellum—which are found in the male s, but are not apparent in every species. play an important part in the fertilisa- f the flower. Usually one only is sensi- r more so than the second, and on be- uched by an insect the pollinia is pro- from the column, adhering to the in- y a viscid disc, which often contracts, ng the pollen into such a position that not fail to be attached to the stigma of ale flower if entered.

entered" must be noted, for Catase- have male and female flowers in dif- spikes, and the two sexes are not s present together, though both may be ed from the same bulb. For some , male flowers are far more plentiful, y rate in our glasshouses, than the , so much so that in many species the flowers, which differ considerably he male, are not known.

asionally, indefinite flowers are pro- apparently neither male nor female, so riginally three genera were founded, anthus, Myanthus, and Catassetum, ter name now containing all.

considerable variation is exhibited, in the labellums, by the various species. In some this organ is galeate (helmet-like), but may be superior or inferior; in others it is saccate or shell shaped. In all it is very fleshy, of far greater substance than the sepals and petals.

setum sp. shown by Sir Jeremiah man at the recent Orchid Show

e wide orifice of the lip, the prominence column, and the small size of sepals and petals compared with the labellum

Odontoglossum Ashtonii

Award of Merit, R.H S. The markings are dark blue, and the contrast with the white ground is very pronounced

Catasetum virideflavum was introduced from South Central America in 1841. Its name—green-yellow—describes the colour of the flowers. In common with many Catasetums, the lip is very fleshy, galeate, or almost globular in shape and superior, the dorsal, sepal, and petals appearing as if below the lip, the two petals overlap, almost hiding the dorsal. The lateral sepals are strongly reflexed, and though narrower than the petals, are slightly longer, over 1½ inches in length; all are green. The lip has, for its size, a comparatively small rounded orifice, and is deep yellow on the upper (really the lower) portion, shading to dull green. The interior is of a rich golden yellow, much more attractive than the exterior surface. The pollinia and antennæ are so placed that, unless very small, an insect could not enter the lip without disturbing them.

This species grows to a greater size than do many, but the habit is typical of Catasetums. The stout, ringed, furrowed pseudobulbs are 3 inches to 6 inches high, and carry eight plicate leaves, 9 inches to 15 inches long, their basal portions sheathing the bulbs. The spike is erect, or would be, but for the weight of the flowers, five or six.

C. macrocarpum, probably its nearest ally, is distributed through Central America, and may be distinguished by red-brown markings on the flowers and three short "teeth" at the apex of the lip, which give rise to its synonym "tridentatum."

C. pileatum, a very handsome species, often known as Bungerothii, with a large shell-like, concave, ivory white lip, seems to be distributed with Macrocarpum as splendens, a very variable, and, in some forms, highly coloured, Catasetum, is supposed to be a natural hybrid between the two mentioned.

Other species occasionally met with and well worth growing are: Laminatum, a large-flowered species, in which the lip is particularly conspicuous by its fringed edges, frilled keels, and the purple-red tint prevalent through the flower; fimbriatum, green flowers, spotted with red and a fringed margin to the lip; Rodigasianum, having erect, or arching, many-flowered spikes of green and red blotched blooms, the labellums orange and toothed. C. tabulare, again, has large flowers, the lip being almost covered with a fleshy whitish callous. C. atratum, barbatum, callosum, maculatum, Russellianum, and Cliftonii are also seen from time to time and invariably attract attention.

As regards culture, on the whole, Catasetums are not difficult. A position near the roof in a warm Cattleya, or ordinary stove house, suits the majority. The compost should never be allowed to get water-logged, but the plants enjoy a warm, moist atmosphere when growing. Growth is made very quickly, but when completed a decided rest is necessary. The plants should then receive as much light as possible with long intervals between waterings. The apical leaves often persist through the winter, but the plants are almost deciduous. E. COOPER.

Odontoglossums

Orchids for the Cool House

By E. R. ASHTON, Member of the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society

WHERE the cultivation of a small collection of Orchids is in contemplation, there is much to be said for specialising in one section only, in preference to attempting the difficult task of growing together a variety of species requiring different treatment if the best results are to be obtained.

Conditions suitable to success with Odontoglossums or the cool house section are more likely to be found, and the great economy in fuel is an advantage worth serious consideration. Where the successful cultivation of the popular Maidenhair Fern is attained, the essentials of success with Odontoglossums will be present. A cool, moist house, with ample provision for shading, and sufficient pipe heat to maintain a minimum of 45 degs., are the conditions required. Formerly a house with a north aspect was considered

necessary, but it was found that the absence of light in winter led to soft weakly growths and want of substance in the blooms.

Even a house with a south aspect may be utilised if double shading be provided, as the principal difficulty with this section, strange to say, is a sufficient reduction of the temperature in summer.

I find lath blinds raised 9 inches above the glass, and a tiffany blind at an equal distance, has the desired effect, and full advantage may be taken of the sunlight in winter. Two rows of pipes are an advantage, as an ample supply of very mild pipe heat is the ideal in winter. With an insufficient amount of overheated piping, a dry fiery heat is produced, which leads to a reduction of moisture and a bad attack of thrips.

Where the compartment forms part of a range of houses, it is essential that valves be fitted, which will entirely cut off all artificial heat during mild weather. Under these cool, moist conditions, the house will not dry up so quickly, and suitable growing conditions can be more easily maintained. The practice of shutting up the house in the late afternoon, as is done with Cattleyas, should not be carried out with Odontoglossums, as a free circulation of air is at all times desirable, and unless under very severe conditions ventilation may be continued at night.

The application of fresh potting material requires careful attention, as the compost soon becomes exhausted, and the plant makes no headway or even dwindles. When this condition is observed remove as much compost as possible from the back and centre of the plant and replace with clean fresh fibre. One-third part each of Osmunda, A1, and Sphagnum Moss is suitable, with the addition in the case of Oncidiums and any weakly plants of a light sprinkling of half-decayed leaves. September and early March are the most favourable periods for an extensive repotting, but the great heat of summer only need prevent the treatment of occasional plants.

Keep down thrips by a moist atmosphere and frequent spraying in fine weather with plain water, with an occasional addition of an approved insecticide. In the case of a bad attack, dip the whole of the plants head-downwards in a solution of the insecticide at the strength advised by the makers.

Fumigation with nicotine may be employed in bad cases, but poison gas is neither healthy for man nor plant, and where possible should be avoided.

The early removal of all flower spikes from weakly plants should receive careful attention, or at most one or two blooms allowed to develop and removed soon after expansion. In no case should a full spike be retained for a length of time if the pseudo bulbs show signs of shrivelling, or serious weakening of the plant may occur.

There is a grace and refinement about the arching spray of the Odontoglossum that appeals to many in preference to the more blatant charms of the gorgeous Cattleya, and the enthusiast in this section will find a never-ending joy in ministering to the wants of his easily-pleased charges.

Pear Durondeau

This is one of the few Pears that bore anything like a crop where the blossom was not protected this year. My tree is a young one, and, owing to building operations, it was shifted from one west wall to another last autumn, being transplanted with a good ball of soil and roots into a properly prepared hole, into which 9 inches of clinkers broken fine on the top were placed for drainage. A mixture consisting of four parts sound loam and one of old mortar was used in planting.

FRUIT GARDEN

Planting fruit trees

Distance between the trees

IN a recent article stress was laid upon the bush tree as suitable for planting for profit. These should have from 6 inches to 8 inches clear stem at the base, so that the ground can be freely cultivated with the hoe and fork at different seasons, and should stand 10 feet to 12 feet apart each way, the intervening space as previously advocated planted with Gooseberries and Currants, which must be grubbed up as soon as the trees fill their allotted space.

If half-standard trees are preferred, and the small fruits likely to be permanent, there is much to be said in favour of this form of tree admitting more light, also freedom in working the ground beneath. These trees if on the Paradise or Nonsuch stock begin to fruit earlier than those worked on the Crab. It has been said that bush trees suffer from late frosts much more than do standards while in bloom, but this I cannot vouch for and doubt whether such an authority needs studying.

Plums require a little more space than the Apple; 15 feet to 18 feet apart is more suitable while those contemplating planting standard Cherry trees should allow 25 feet to 30 feet asunder, as in the case of standard Apple trees, Pears, and sometimes the Plum.

The preparation of the holes wherein the trees are to be set is an important one; 3 feet to 4 feet in diameter is none too wide, especially when dealing with a heavy soil, and moved up quite 2 feet in depth is very necessary. If some grassy soil such as is sometimes available by the roadside in rural districts can be had to place in the bottom, so much the better, in giving the tree a good start. Avoid deep planting in all cases, the nursery mark on the stem being the best guide, and see that there are no damaged roots; if so, cut the same clean away, and shorten any fibreless runners, as well as any that are inclined to grow downwards, if not removed previously by the nurseryman. Purchase trees from a reliable nurseryman who makes a speciality of these. It is far better to pay a trifle more and secure really good stuff true to name.

Insert your stake in centre of pit before adjusting the tree in position, thus avoiding any damage to the roots, and as the same are spread out work in some rather fine dry mould, so that it can settle down among the fibrous roots, making it quite firm with the fingers, after giving the tree a gentle lift once or twice, finishing off with 4 inches or so of soil, which should be trod lightly to make all moderately firm. Then securely fasten the tree to the stake to prevent the wind from swaying it either way. Finally, as soon as much frost appears, apply a 4-inch mulch of some light material such as fresh stable litter, bracken, or half-decayed leaf-soil.

J. MAYNE.

Birds and fruit

Starlings have been very troublesome again of late with the best Apples and Pears, much of the fruit being badly pecked. Where Pears are on a wall one can, of course, afford protection in the way of netting, but in the open it is almost impossible to check them unless one is prepared to watch with the gun the greater part of the day. They pick out, too, the best quality fruit, Cox's Orange and the unattractive Cornish Gilliflower being among the first attacked. Mabbot's Pearmain, too, is one of their favourites. Apples are late coming to maturity this year owing, doubtless, to the excessive wet and the absence of any real summer weather, and picking of fruit has been delayed as l as possible, especially of the latest ki Not many standard Pears are to be fo nowadays except in old orchards, and w they are grown as pyramids or bushes can generally spare a bit of netting to pr them. With Pears, too, it will generall found that the best sorts are the first t attacked. It is sometimes stated that w are responsible for the first perforation, I am doubtful if this is so, except in the of the soft early Pears. The middle and varieties are gathered when fairly hard, I think the birds start the mischief these, and the wasps may follow in wake. It may be well to give the remi that where the best of the fruits are slightly pecked they may be kept well u the ripening stage by filling the small l with plaster of Paris. So far as the s fruits are concerned, like Peaches, Nectar and the choicer Plums, it is probable wasps often take the initiative, although earwig is often the first to attack; inde have known this enemy tap Peaches Nectarines when one could hardly mak impression on them with the thumb. earwig, however, can be so reduced in n bers if traps are set early as not to be troublesome, but the wasp is not so e dealt with. Bottles partially filled with or wine dregs may reduce its numbers, it will not choose alcohol in preferenc ripe fruit. Very few wasps have, howe been seen this year, for which the ex tionally wet time was doubtless responsib

E. BURRE

Imperial Fruit Show

The Imperial Fruit Show, held this ye Belle Vue Gardens, Manchester, close Saturday next (November 5th). It opened by the Minister of Agriculture. M public interest is given to the compet amongst retail fruiterers for the best-dre window in Lancashire. £500 is awarde cash prizes for it. But that competitio of course, a mere sideline to the show it Its importance will be understood when observed that fruit growers in all parts o British Empire are interested, and, w they can, have sent picked samples of produce for show and competition.

The show is presided over by a Comm representative of growers, distributors, tailers, and all the exporting Dominions Colonies of the Empire. It is of import to the public as being interested in the provement in fruit varieties, the increas quantities, and the hoped-for conseq cheapening of prices.

For the purpose of the competitions i chief fruit—Apples—there are separate cl for the United Kingdom, Overseas, and for certain sections of this country, nam Kent and the Southern Counties, the and Northern Counties, the West and land Counties, and Ulster, and there is a division for growers of not more than acres of fruit in the United Kingdom, c the Small Growers' Section.

In citrus fruit—that is, Oranges, G fruits, and Lemons—there is one sectio the British Empire, the produce co chiefly from South Africa and Australia

The canned fruit division, which is gro by leaps and bounds, is open to all par the Empire. In it the produce of this cou canned by the new industry which is ga foothold very rapidy here, comes into co tition with that of the older-establishe dustries overseas.

The important demonstrations of gra and packing fruit are referred to on page

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

outhern and Midland

es under glass

en the leaves have fallen, a start may ade with the pruning and thinning of rees, following which the branches be loosely drawn together to admit of sy access to walls, trellis, and glass, should be thoroughly cleansed. If ider or thrip has been troublesome dur- e summer paraffin soap should be added lukewarm water used for washing all es, working same into all the crevices these pests lurk during winter. All should be washed with fresh lime, and ould be followed by the cleansing of the for which purpose the old Gishurst ound can scarcely be improved upon, ing it is worked into all parts of the The trees may then be tied out, secur- st the main branches with stout cord, t an even spread is obtained, the re- g shoots being secured with raffia, will last through one season. The e of the border must then be removed.

ies

g forward the pruning and cleaning of nes, as the houses become free of plants have been temporarily occupying them. ly bug has been troublesome it will be ary to strip the rods more than usual, se pests always resort to the crevices bark, and are difficult to get at. A olignum added to the washing mixture ssist in the destruction of bug, but it only be entrusted to absolutely reliable s who have some experience in the . Others I would advise to rely upon ell-tried and reliable Gishurst Com- Following the cleansing of the Vines l with the washing of the walls and top- g of the borders, using a proportion of anure with the freshly-introduced soil.

inue to transfer batches of these from nging ground to cold frames as they 2 inches in height, bringing them to ht gradually by covering the lights uring the daytime for a few days. occupying frames—from an earlier nay now be introduced to gentle heat, lly the early batch of Hyacinths and s, both of which are now in need of upports such as Birch twigs, than nothing looks better.

ed plants

customary to have a quantity of these d for forcing into bloom for Christ- Such plants should now be placed in possessing an intermediate tempera- here a moist atmosphere must be ned.

owering house

ge gardens this is often a very inter- nd important house, especially where ervatory exists, to which all shrubs nts approaching their flowering stage nsferred from the warmer houses in at their flowers may become accus- o cooler conditions, and thus retain auty over a longer period, rendering ore lasting when used for indoor on. The temperature of this house range between 45 degs. and 50 degs., little air admitted through the top rs day and night. Begonia Gloire aine, Cyclamen, Primulas, Chrysan- s, Plumbagos, etc., must be moved to ise, as their flowers appear in order ir beauty may be maintained over a iod.

Planting Roses

As these arrive from the nurseries endeavour must be made to get them into their permanent places without delay. If unpruned they should be at least shortened back to within six or eight buds of their base, and if their roots have been broken in any way the damaged portions must be cut away, and it is often advisable to cut back extra long stout roots somewhat to facilitate planting. If the soil of the bed is too wet to admit of its being worked freely among the roots, drier soil should be brought in for the actual planting. Spread out the roots evenly, plant firmly, and finish off with the base of the plant 1 inch below the surface, as the newly-trenched ground will sink that much before the spring.

Violas

Insert another large batch of cuttings, using those only which spring from the base of the plants, and of which there are now good supplies.

Cuttings

Frames filled with these and small seedlings must be frequently examined, all leaves showing signs of decay being removed.

Celery

Where the earthing up of late rows has been delayed, it should now be brought to a conclusion, and protective material of some kind placed in readiness for spreading over the rows during severe weather.

Remove crops

Collect all the herbage of all crops of a decaying nature which have completed their growth, and build it into a stack, adding a sprinkling of fresh slaked lime to every foot of material. This will form useful manure to dig into the ground in about a month's time. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Pruning bush fruits

For small gardens, dwarf bushes of Apples and Pears are best suited, taking up small space, and these, if judiciously pruned and tended, usually produce good crops. It is, of course, essential that suitable varieties be planted. Bushes in fullbearing require but little pruning, but must not be permitted to become overcrowded. Those producing great strong shoots and few fruits must not have these shoots cut hard back, or the trouble will be accentuated. Merely remove the soft tips, and, of course, such shoots as are crowding their neighbours must be removed. Root pruning will usually correct this unsatisfactory condition.

Standard Plums

Where these succeed, they are very valuable adjuncts to any garden. Very little pruning is necessary, but any dead wood should be removed, as also should branches that may be crossing each other or otherwise obstructing the proper development of the tree.

Espalier trees

It is unfortunately a fact that this method of fruit growing is now pretty well out of favour. One wonders why this should be, for 40 or 50 years ago there was scarcely a garden but what boasted of its more or less extensive rows of espaliers, and never do we see finer fruits than were then produced. By this method the wood was well ripened and the fruits well coloured by being well exposed to the sun.

Rose planting

With weather dry and soil in suitable condition, this important work should be pushed forward with all speed. It is foolish to plant anything, but more especially the Rose, while the soil is sloppy, because the Rose must be planted very firmly, the soil as it is filled in over the roots being trodden well down, this plant disliking a loose root-run. Care must also be taken to prevent any of the manure coming in contact with the roots at planting time. Any unduly long shoots, or roots, should be cut back a bit, with a sharp knife.

Planting bulbs

As in the case of Roses, any arrears of bulb-planting should be seen to, should the soil remain in a fairly dry state. It is a good plan to place a little clean, coarse sand under the bulbs, this helping to prevent undue moisture collecting, and is also an inducement to produce early and abundant roots.

Other things to plant

Where spring bedding is in vogue, the present time is well suited to the planting of Myosotis, Polyanthuses, Violas, Daisies, Wallflowers, etc. This is a somewhat laborious job at any time, but ten times worse when the soil is sodden; so leave it a little, rather than attempt it while in this condition.

Variegated Kales

These are not now much in favour, and yet they have their uses, brightening up a dull corner wonderfully during the winter and early spring months. To transplant these is a big job if the roots are retained. Quite as good results are had if the plants are cut off just above the ground, a few of the lower leaves removed, and then planted firmly in the winter beds. Many of them will root, and all will remain fresh and decorative until late spring.

Lift and store Swede Turnips

This humble root has become of late years one of the most popular of the winter vegetables. It is now well to pull up, trim, and store for use during winter and spring. If heaped sharply against the north side of a wall, thatched over with long, clean straw, and then covered with a little earth, it will keep sound and good till April.

Earth latest Celery

If this has not already been done, the first favourable opportunity must be seized to have the last of the necessary earthing-up seen to. Heap it well up in the middle and beat firm and smooth, so that rain may be shed and the stalks kept moderately dry.

Manuring vacant ground

On frosty mornings get manure wheeled on to vacant quarters. With the growing scarcity of good stable manure, very careful application is imperative. A plan of the cropping for the ensuing season should be made. It is foolish to apply manure indiscriminately, more harm than good usually following this indiscretion. Crops such as Leeks, Celery, Onions, Globe Artichokes, and Rhubarb require liberal supplies, while the Cabbage family generally, Peas, Beans, Lettuce, and early potatoes all require a fair amount. Beet, Carrots, and late Potatoes (exceptions are Golden Wonder and Langworthy) are best without fresh manuring. C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Flowers without sacrifice

THE grower of Chrysanthemums is alive to the fact that if he desires the largest blooms he must look to crown buds, confining the energies of plants to the production of three, or possibly four specimens. From an exhibitor's point of view this is essential. But we are not all exhibitors; neither are such huge blooms so serviceable for indoor decoration as those produced on terminal shoots, which involve little or no sacrifice. Quite a number of varieties are listed to-day as decorative Chrysanthemums that are very beautiful, but have long since been passed in the race by those which produce larger flowers. To the one with a moderate sized greenhouse, and whose main object is the growing of blossoms for the adornment of the home, these decoratives are extremely useful, and will keep him supplied with flowers for weeks. So long as the cuttings are struck by March, in most instances, they will be early enough for stopping in May in order to have plants of moderate size for a small house. I have a number of plants so growing at the time of writing in a house from which only frost is excluded in severe weather; consequently at Christmas many of them are in flower. Some of them are in pots only about 7 inches in diameter, and are full of promising shoots which are in bud. I find the following sorts, which give flowers from October to December, very useful:—

JAPANESE.—Caprice du Printemps, Caldocks Crimson, Source D'Or, Rayonante, Blanche Poitevine, Jean Pattison, Lizzie Adcock, Christmas White, and Market Red.

SINGLES.—Laddie, Miss D. Hilder, Mrs. H. J. Jones, Nona, Supreme, Phyllis Cooper, Mrs. J. Palmer, Bronze Beauty, and Margaret Nicoll.

INCURVED.—Romance, Mrs. P. N. Wiseman, Alice Honour, Monarch, Buttercup, Ethel Thorp, Lady Isabel, Mrs. F. Judson, and Mrs. G. Rundell. TOWNSMAN.

Growing Chrysanthemums in six inch pots

A convenient method for small houses

A good number of varieties of present-day Chrysanthemums can be successfully grown in 6 inch pots for home decoration, and this will be found a convenience for the owners of small houses who have not the room to accommodate many 8 inch and 10 inch pots. When potting on in June last some of my plants into the smaller size a friend of mine made the remark, "Of course, you will give them another shift," and when I told him that they would not have another, he seemed rather surpised that pots so small would suffice (some were in 5 inch). But events have proved that certain Chrysanthemums can be grown very well in such confined space, provided they are given the right treatment subsequently Towards the end of February the cuttings were struck; in May they were pinched back, and this induced them to send out four or five shoots, which have developed into sturdy, bushy plants; at the end of September they were full of buds. In summer they stood out-of-doors up to their rims in ashes, and beyond watering them when required and giving them liquid manure from time to time, have not been much trouble. Rough winds played havoc with shoots of some of the taller varieties in large pots, but these dwarf specimens escaped injury. The varieties grown in the small pots are:—Sœur Melanie, Blanche Poitevine, Jean Pattison, Mrs. E. H. Jones. W. F.

BOOKS

"Plant Autographs and their Revelations"*

WE need some justification for including in the GARDENING ILLUSTRATED a review which may seem to some to have only an academic value. Many of the results of Dr. Bose's researches suggest possible modifications in the practice of horticulture. Dr. Bose found, for example, that many substances are poisons only if applied in large doses, but that if they are applied in small doses they greatly enhance the rate of growth; such is the result consequent upon the application of small doses of ether. Incidentally, it is interesting to note that the reaction of animals to minute doses of the same poisons is similar. The information regarding the effect of wounds on plant growth may also find an application in horticulture. The two above instances are by no means exhaustive as to what applications may be found from Dr. Bose's discoveries; a perusal of the book will suggest many more.

Dr. Bose has attempted to realise unity amid the apparent diversity of nature. "Is nature a Cosmos, in which the human n is some day to realise the uniform marc sequence, order, and law?" he asks. answer is suggested by a sentence in a c ter on the "Response of Inorganic Matt The sentence reads: "The dust particle the earth, the plant, and the animal ar sensitive." The same doctrine was ta 30 centuries ago on the banks of the Gan Recently General J. C. Smuts developed same theme in his book, "Holism and lution." The greater part of the book u review is concerned with a particular of this problem—that of the affinity exis between plant and animal. That an aff does exist has been recognised ever sin inception of modern experimental bi It is only the closeness of the affinity th been in dispute. As Strasburgher "Plants and animals are living being agree in their most important vital proc The processes of nutrition, of reprodu of growth, and of development are b considered essentially similar in both a and plants. A plant also respires wi production of heat and exhibits pow movement and irritability of various k Bose, however, claims to have estal an affinity closer than that taught older school of biologists. Hithert absence of nervous and muscular s

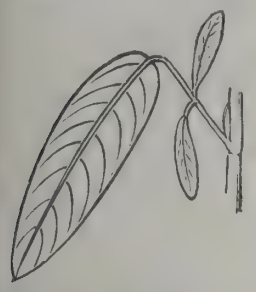
The Praying Palm

The upper illustration represents the morning and the lower the afternoon position

* "Plant Autographs and their Revelations," by Sir J. C. Bose, F.R.S. Published by Longmans, Green, & Co., Ltd. Price 7s. 6d.

been held to be distinguishing characteristics of the plant kingdom. If Dr. is justified in the conclusions he has from his experiment, then this dis- n becomes non-existent.

ain experiments carried out on the pul- of the leaf of Mimosa pudica led Dr. o the belief that the leaf movements of lant were largely effected by a tissue ous to animal muscle. He says: "It contraction of the cortical cells of the

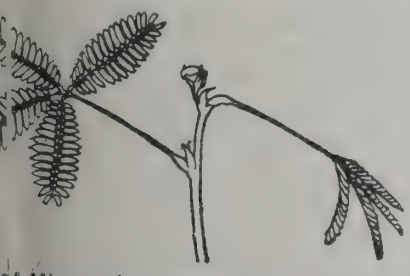


Leaf of Desmodium gyrans

ie two small lateral leaflets exhibit spontaneous movements

is that produces the rapid fall of the But the leaf of the Mimosa is not in having a pulvinus. There are other plant leaves that have pulvini t do not exhibit leaf movements like of Mimosa. This Dr. Bose explains ing that the upper and lower halves pulvinus exert their pull in opposite ns, and thus, if the two halves are active, as he suggests is the case in ants, on stimulation both forces coun- ne another, with the result that there isible movement. In the case of the lower half of the pulvinus is the r, and can therefore overcome the f the weaker upper half. It is inter- to read that "the functional simi- etween the two contractile organs, s and muscle, is not confined to the tation of outward movement, but can ed to the ultimate protoplasmic ism."

s seem to be necessary complements les. It is therefore possible that if a as muscles, it may also have nerves h those muscles are activated. Bose evidence to show that impulse in the vels in a manner essentially similar to he animal nerve. He shows why the echanical theory of Pfeffer and the theory of Ricca are untenable. The upon which he bases his contention



f Mimosa in expanded position (*left*) ntracted after stimulation (*right*)

dimentary nervous system exists in the following:—

ysiological changes affect the rate ction, then the impulse must be of s character; the absence of any such the other hand, proves the mechani- cter of the impulse.

are various physiological means by is possible to retard or arrest the mpulse, but have so such effect on ical impulse. Some of these are as

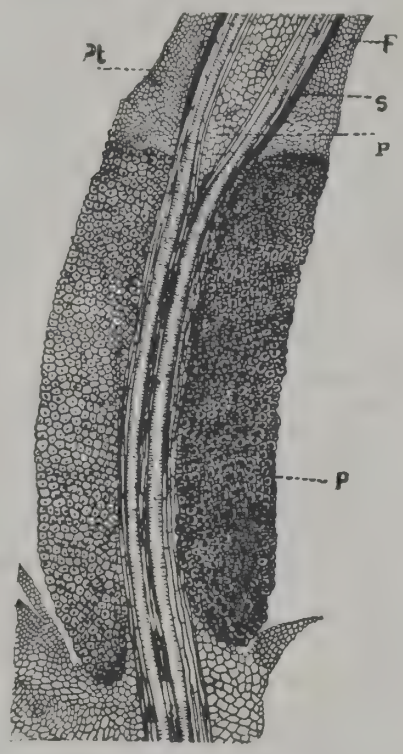
"(1) When the conducting tissue or nerve is cooled, the speed of the impulse is slowed down, culminating in its arrest.

"(2) Poisonous solutions applied on the nerve permanently abolish its conducting power.

"(3) The conducting power is temporarily arrested by a block produced by the passage of an electric current in a portion of the nerve through which the impulse is being transmitted. The electrotonic block is removed on the stoppage of the current."

Dr. Bose applied these tests and obtained the reactions indicated.

Having established the presence of a nervous system, Dr. Bose proceeded to localise its position. This he effected first by means of an instrument he calls an electric probe; he confirmed his results by double staining with safranin and hæmatoxylin. By these means the "nerve" strand was traced to the phloem. If plant and animal nerves are similar, then they will give similar reactions on stimulation. Dr. Bose found that the



Longitudinal section of petiole and pulvinus of Mimosa passing through the upper and lower vascular bundles

***Pt*, the cortical cells of the petiole which remain unstained; lower *P* to the right, contractile cells of pulvinus deeply stained**

reactions of the plant nerve were similar to those given by the nerve of the frog. But, stranger still, we are told that the plant has a reflex arc not unlike that of the higher animals.

In the preface we read, "there is no life reaction in even the highest animal which has not been foreshadowed in the life of the plant." Dr. Bose further justifies this contention by demonstrating that among other things the plant, like the animal, is subject to fatigue, and has a definite death point such as that of the higher organism. Again, in the mechanism of the ascent of sap, he finds another like movement, which gives support to his theory of the greater unity of life. The author of the book points out that no satisfactory statement has been put forward in explanation of the manner in which sap rises to the topmost branches of the tallest trees. He suggests that the sap is propelled upwards by peristaltic waves in the walls of a definite layer of cells. He says: "Any condition which enhances the activity of the heart and thus increases the rate of flow of sap; and conversely that depressing agents lower or arrest the flow in both." The exigencies of space forbid any detailed description of the methods employed in the elucidation of the problem. Suffice it to say, that for localising the propulsive layer the electric probe was used. The active layer "was the internal layer of the cortex abutting upon the young vascular tissue."

Other phenomena there are in plenty which must excite the curiosity of every observant horticulturist. "When taking a walk in the garden we are struck by the constant changes that are taking place in the postures of various organs of plants. Here is a tendril that has touched the twig of a neighbouring shrub; the contact has been perceived by the tendril which has clasped the support and turned round it, thereby helping the plant to climb up so as to get as much light as possible. There a potted plant in a dark shed, which has so bent and twisted its leaves that their upper surfaces are fully exposed to the incident light coming through a hole in the shutter. In yet another place the plant has turned away so as to avoid excess of light. Here a plant has been accidentally upset and the horizontally laid stem is bending upwards so as to grow erect once more." Such plant movements are indeed puzzling! Some may be able to find a satisfactory explanation in that submitted by Dr. Bose. Briefly this explanation is that positive heliotropism is the result of the direct stimulation by light causing a decrease of turgor, and of indirect stimulation which causes an increase of turgor. Negative heliotropism is the result of percolation of excitation from the near to the far side, and thus partially reversing the above process.

Whether this last explanation is accepted or not will depend, like every other conclusion and deduction in the book, on the accuracy of the methods and instruments employed. An opinion as to the efficacy of the instruments is impossible owing to inadequate descriptions. Other relevant criticisms will suggest themselves on perusal. Doctrines of such a highly controversial nature must evoke much criticism. But criticism of this nature is not to be deprecated, for the reason that no great advancements in knowledge are posssible without the sifting action of sincere criticism.

As we have seen, much of Bose's philosophy may savour of the problematical; but this much, we suggest, embodies one of the perennial truths of reason, which is often repeated and as often forgotten:

"Not in matter, but in thought, not in possessions nor even in attainments, but in ideals, is to be found the seed of immortaility."

(Illustrations from "Plant Autographs and Their Revelations." by Sir J. C. Bose, F.R.S.)

Report on condition of Horticultural crops on the 27th October

Broccoli (Autumn). — Average crop generally.

Brussels Sprouts.—Good average crop.

Cabbage (Autumn and Winter Varieties).—Plentiful and of good quality.

Cabbage (Autumn Planted).—Plants making good growth; planting out still in progress in some districts.

Celery.—Crop above average generally; little disease reported except in Hunts, where blight is prevalent.

Sea Kale (for Forcing).—Crowns beginning to ripen.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Some notable white Clematises

IF a plebiscite could be taken as to which is the most popular Clematis I think Jackmanni would head the list. This variety, with its profusion of purple clusters, held sway for a long time in many gardens, and though it is still retained, other sorts are now grown in conjunction with it. To-day there seems to be a disposition to grow white varieties in many quarters, and among such there are some which are very beautiful and thrive quite well in town and suburban gardens.

One which I planted many years ago is worthy of special commendation. I refer to Henryi, best described as a creamy-white, and belongs to the large-flowering Lanuginosa section. Other whites of that group are Enchantress, double, the centres slightly flushed with rose; Gloire de St. Julien, with very large blooms; Lanuginosa, greyish-white; and in the Jackmanni section, Jackmanni alba, white; and Smith's Snow-white.

For early summer blooming and for planting in positions where rapid growth is desired, Flammula is a white, small-flowered sort whose blossoms are sweetly scented.

Anyone intending to add to his collection or who desires white blossoms borne in great profusion over arch or trellis should bear some of the varieties mentioned in mind. They can be planted any time, as they can always be procured in pots. It is well to remind those interested in these showy creepers that the soil for Clematises should be rich and deep, digging out a space 2 feet or 3 feet deep and incorporating loam and old cow dung or stable manure with a spadeful or two of mortar-rubble over the drainage, which must be ample. The indifferent manner in which some Clematises are treated is a lack, in the first place, of a properly-prepared site, and failure afterwards to afford them liquid food in the shape of manure. Those in the Jackmanni group should be cut down to within a foot or so of the ground in late autumn, as it is from new shoots that the finest blooms are produced. Those of the other group should have the shoots shortened in spring. W. F.

Clerodendron fœtidum

This is a pleasing Chinese species which, in a sheltered position, looks well at this time of year. It grows to 5 feet high, has large handsome foliage contrasted with its purple stems and rosy-pink clusters of flowers. It seems of easy culture, providing the soil is enriched with plenty of old manure and sand. This Clerodendron is best propagated by root division in late spring, and is a shrub of great merit for a long-flowering period. It usually opens in late August and continues to bloom on until the end of October. R. MOORE.

The Calico Bush

Kalmia latifolia is one of the prettiest of dwarf flowering shrubs, although it is likely to undergo a partial neglect, at least, on account of the numerous dwarf Rhododendrons of recent introduction and of high charm. But it should not be forgotten in the shrubbery border or the rock garden, where a good bush is a picture in summer. I have here a dwarf plant in a border, and although in bloom when we had such severe frost it passed through the ordeal unscathed, and is still covered with its rose-coloured blooms. It has a great many heads of flowers, and these are quite delightful on the dwarf bush. It grows variously from 3 feet to 10 feet high, and in some of its native regions in the United States is said to reach as much as 20 feet high. Those who know it can well picture in the mind's eye such a specimen; but for garden purposes we rarely want it to reach such a height, and those with small gardens will be gratified to know that it is of slow growth, and that it will flower when only a few inches high. K. latifolia likes a peaty soil, but is not too fastidious in this respect. S. ARNOTT.

Escallonia Montevidensis

The one drawback to this very fine shrub is its very late flowering. It not infrequently happens that so soon as the flowers are nicely open they are sullied by a frost, and an exceptionally fine autumn effect is at once spoilt. The corymbs, almost panicles, of flowers are terminal and are pure white, the foliage is of handsome appearance, of glossy green colour, and the habit of this fine Escallonia is somewhat erect, a good example presenting a striking appearance.

Flowering in autumn, it is well to E. Montevidensis in a sheltered pos such as at the base of a wall, either us to clothe the wall or as an independent men in the border. Not fastidious as t a sandy loam fulfils its requirements.

Cuttings offer a ready means of inc and should be inserted in small pots in mer and placed in a cold frame. If moist and shaded roots are readily emi

Examples may be planted durin autumn months, and it will be wise, f first winter, to afford them a little ligh tection from the vicissitudes of the wea

E. Montevidensis, sometimes known floribunda, is not at all common in ga and is yet quite an old plant, being duced from New Grenada so long a 1827.

The branches of this species ex clammy resin. RALPH E. ARN

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their pla be named should send fair examples of eac stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of and points of shoots are useless.) Not more four plants should be sent in any one week same correspondent. Where more than one is sent they should be numbered. Of conife cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in di stages of colour and size of the same kind g assist in its determination. We have re from several correspondents single specim fruits for naming, these in many cases bei ripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to not more than four varieties at a time.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

Advice upon Clematis

I have several Clematis of the Jackmanni type and should like to know how to treat them after they are cut down by frost. I understand it is usual to cut them down to about 6 inches from the ground and mulch them. These plants, however, I am told, have not been pruned so hard as that, and there is about a yard of bare stems from the ground. If I cut them back hard next month will they flower next summer? Trusting you will be able to help me in this matter. CHARLES TRIBBICK.

Church Street, Holbrooke, Derby.

[All you need do at the present time is to cut away loose, straggling growth which is liable to be tossed about by rough winds. In February the plants should be pruned down to within 12 inches of their base, all the previous growth being absolutely cut away. This sounds rather drastic treatment to the uninitiated, but it is quite correct, and well repays doing, as the flowers are borne on the current year's growth of this particular section, and plants so treated by the writer produce thousands of blooms annually. After the pruning has been carried out prick over the surface soil lightly and apply a good mulch of well-decayed farmyard manure. A ring of zinc placed around the stem will protect the tender young shoots from being devoured by slugs in spring. Yes, the plants will flower next summer.]

Transplanting Arbutus

Will you, please, tell me the proper time to move an Arbutus (Strawberry Tree)? W. W.

[Early October or the end of April are the most suitable months in which to transplant the Strawberry Trees, but if the plants are small and can be moved with a good ball of soil attached you need not hesitate to transplant them at any time before the end of December. Older plants, however, must be moved as above, transferring all the soil possible attached to the plants and usi greatest care in the planting, su ramming the soil firmly around the roots and thus excluding the air. planting, place a mulch of Bracken or around the base of the stem.]

Protecting Pyracantha berries from

A friend and I would be grateful can kindly tell us how to prevent taking our Pyracanthus berries. We wish to kill the birds. MARY MCILQU

[If you spray your berries with a strong solution of Quassia Extract settled day you will render the ber bitter as to be unpalatable to the Quassia Extract is perfectly safe to u cheap to procure. See that all the are thoroughly wetted with the solutio repeat in a fortnight's time should th again interfere with them.]

Destroying tree roots

I would be much obliged if you co me the best way to get rid of big tre without going to the expense of diggin out. There are many of them near th of the drive here which must be remov A. MACDO

Cluny Gardens, Kingussie.

[The following has proved very satis in destroying the stumps of trees several large holes into the stump as as possible with an auger and fill th with paraffin. When this has become into the wood refill the holes at leas times until the stump becomes saturat the paraffin. Follow this by placing dry straw or other matter over the tre and set fire to it, and the whole root burnt clean out. It is sometimes difficult to get the stump well alight you use sufficient material at the firs little difficulty should be experienced.]

Time to plant and soil for Clem

Would you kindly inform me as to lowing:—(1) At what time of year

soil should a Clematis be planted? (2) is the name of a strong Clematis that owers of a dark wine shade, and also me of a good purple variety?
diff. M. GILL.

) Take out a hole 2 feet by 2 feet, and soil is poor it should not be used, as ematis loves a good rich soil consisting e parts good fibrous loam and one part up of either well-rotted manure or leaf- to which has been added a little old ubble and sharp sand. The planting e carried out at any time between er and February, or even later, but the t time is preferable. (2) Ville de Lyon ne. Edouard Andre (red), Jackmanni a (violet-purple).]

rees in tubs

ve in my charge five Bay trees about high in tubs about a foot across. I the tubs are too small for trees of their Am I right? The owner had them in last winter to protect them from frost. nder the impression that if trees were into larger tubs that would not be ry, as I take it they are hardy ever- catalogued as Laurus nobilis.
REGULAR READER.

e Bay tree stands confinement of its remarkably well, but it would proba- advisable to shift your plants into f a larger size. Providing they are n a sheltered position no harm should to them unless severe and continued appeared which threatened to freeze ll of earth right through. Should this you would be well advised to place under cover. Planted in the open, s nobilis is rarely damaged by frost, roots are more protected, and gener- its own mantle of foliage.]

ROSES

ng Roses

bout a week or so I hope to plant some I have tested my soil and find that ficient in lime, which state, I am told, l to all soil fertility. I cannot trench se beds for they have Roses already l in them, so I intend to proceed in the ng way:—Dig a hole 2 feet square feet deep, removing this soil; fork up ttom of this hole. Then put into the bout 6 inches of rotted farmyard e, a handful of chicken manure, and f basic slag. On top of this put about s of the soil taken out, and thoroughly e whole lot up together. Now put in 4 inches of good, dry, fibrous loam, this plant the Rose, well spreading e roots. Cover the roots with ibrous loam and on the top of this a handful of steamed bone-flour, own very firmly, then cover over with ore of the soil taken out of the hole. e up for deficiency of lime in the soil I put on quicklime now and let it or wait until February and then put nd lime?
AMATEUR.

method you propose to adopt is a od one, except that you are inclined lo the soil with manure. Instead of ic slag, which is really unnecessary, ld substitute a little crushed ¼-inch and omit the chicken manure. If myard manure is well decayed repeat ame way with the next layer of soil, a good handful of freshly-slaked lime, lverise it well together. The re- of the soil may be added to in the same way, providing the manure lecayed, slaked lime and a little of the nes being well mixed into the soil. y plant your Roses in such a mixture rfect safety and with excellent results. But if the farmyard manure is raw, that is, has not been stacked, you would be well advised to keep it down beneath the roots. Slake the lime on the spot and add to the soil without delay. Do not plant the Roses any deeper than they have been previously planted—this you will see by the plants themselves—as the ground will sink during the winter and admit of a little fresh soil being added to the surface in spring.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Violet trouble

(T. S.).—Some marauder is responsible for the damage to your Violet leaves, probably slugs or snails. Dust the plants with soot or Slugicide and set traps in the form of Lettuce or young Cabbage leaves, and you will probably locate your enemy. Stir the soil between the plants frequently.

Sweet smelling herbs

Kindly advise me as to suitable sweet-smelling herbs (perennials of a dwarf nature) for beds about 5 feet across with Box edging all round about 9 inches high. Half of the beds face S.W. and the others N.W.
E. W. B.

[See article specially written by Dr. F. A. Hampton, entitled "A Nosegay Garden," page 686.]

Diseased Iris

Could you tell me if there is anything wrong with this Iris? The whole clump is exactly the same. There are 40 clumps in the garden, and all the others (39) are perfectly clear and unspotted, and are exceptionally clean and bloomy for the time of year. It grows in a bed facing due west.
A. B. D.

[Your specimen Iris sent in is affected with Iris Rust, which is caused by the fungus Puccinia iridis. This disease is found on the leaves of many species of Iris, but we have not found that the disease is a particularly troublesome one. If, as you say, you have only one plant affected out of 40, it would be safest to take up and burn the affected plant. Nearby plants should be sprayed with a weak solution of liver of sulphur, because the spores from your diseased plant are capable of spreading over a considerable area. Watch the rest of the plants carefully, and if they show signs of developing the rust cut off the affected parts and burn, again spraying with a solution of liver of sulphur. If you desire especially to save the affected plant lift it and cut away and burn the diseased portions, wash the root-stock free from soil, and dip the whole in a solution of liver of sulphur. Replant well away from the rest of the Irises. Watch the plant for another outbreak of the rust, which should be treated by cutting out and spraying until control is gained. In either case the unaffected plants should be sprayed and watched carefully or they may all become like the sample sent in to us.]

GREENHOUSE

Taking cuttings

Will you kindly tell me when and how to take cuttings from Chrysanthemum plants now flowering in an unheated greenhouse?
H. L. M.

[After the plants have done flowering cut the stems back to within 3 inches or so of the base, then turn the roots out of the pots, remove the greater part of the soil, trim in the loose rootlets, and pack the plants closely in a shallow box on just a layer of earth. Secure from frost, and by February there should be cuttings in plenty of a soft nature which will root readily. An alternative plan is to deal with cuttings when the bloom is passed and discard the old roots. Against it, however, is the trouble of young plants in winter time; they are apt to become spindly. Cuttings root freely in soil composed of fresh-rotted turf, leaf-mould, and sand, and it would be a mistake to employ any in which there has been manure. Cut the little green growths about 3 inches long, dibble them in a shallow body of earth, preferably using flat boxes of 3-inch length, or, if pots, small ones. Water the cuttings in the first place, then keep them in quite a cool structure. Take no notice if at first the leaves flag, these will gradually prick up as roots form. Pot singly and treat the little plants as nearly hardy subjects then growth will be sturdy and satisfactory.]

VEGETABLES

Basic slag for Asparagus bed

(T. S.).—The salt will do good applied in spring. You will require 5 lbs. of basic slag.

Seed Potatoes

Why is it that Scotch seed Potatoes are always relied upon to be free of disease (Phytophthora infestans)? Is it due to their different soil or methods of culture, or do they go in very largely for spraying their crops?
W. WOODWARD.

[We think you have got the diseases of seed Potatoes mixed up. "Scotch Seed" is superior to "English Seed" not because it is more free from blight disease (Phytophthora infestans), but because it is not so liable to be affected with the virus diseases, *e.g.*, Leaf Curl and allied troubles. These virus diseases are probably responsible for more loss of crop than is caused by all other Potato diseases put together. As far as is known the virus diseases are spread from affected to healthy plants by means of sucking insects, such as aphides and capsids. In many of the best seed Potato-growing districts in Scotland these insects do not occur, or, if they do occur, are only present in small numbers. Under such conditions the spread of Leaf Curl is slow. Farther south these insects are abundant, and a stock of Potatoes does not remain free from virus diseases for any length of time. In fact, once grown Scotch seed is often useless for crop production, because of infection during its first season. As far as we have been able to observe, Scotch and English seed Potatoes are equally prone to Phytophthora infestans. Will you kindly note that we do not reply to questions through the post. We are pleased to answer questions through the columns of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED. As we have to go to press several days before the date of issue it is not always possible to reply to questions the same week as received.]

Celery decaying

I am sending two plants of Celery for your inspection. The past two seasons my Celery has decayed as enclosed. They are grown two rows in the trench and about 15 inches between the plants, and earthed up in the usual way. I would be pleased if you would suggest any remedy for it. Are single rows preferable to double?
ROSS-SHIRE GARDENER.

[Your Celery plants have been badly attacked by a tunnelling maggot, but although we have carefully examined every portion of the plants sent we have failed to find any of the culprits. We therefore conclude that all the maggots are now fully fed and have left the plants to pupate in the soil. The nature of the damage is similar to that of the Carrot-fly, and as this pest, in addition to attacking Carrots, frequently attacks Celery, we are fairly confident that it is the cause of the damage. After the outer leaf-stalks have been damaged by the larvæ of Carrot-fly

other organisms gain an entrance through the wounds made and decay sets in. Your best plan will be to give your Celery site a good dressing of crude naphthalene. This will kill many of the chrysalides in the soil. We find that 2 ozs. of crude naphthalene scattered on the top of the soil and forked in 8 inches or 9 inches deep is effective. The naphthalene is best applied towards the end of March. If the site is required for a crop before the end of March the plot should be dressed 14 days prior to cropping. You can do nothing now to prevent your Celery decaying, the damage is already done. Your Carrot bed should also be dressed with naphthalene as advised above. We do not think that single rows of Celery have very much advantage over double rows for general purposes. A little more attention can, perhaps, be given to plants in a single row, especially from a show Celery standpoint.]

FRUIT

Neglected fruit trees

(Newcomer).—We sympathise with you in having to take over trees that have been sadly neglected and are overcrowded. Begin by thinning out the trees, burning all prunings. Later cleanse the trees with Cory's Tar-oil Winter Wash, applying according to the directions.

Woolly aphis

Enclosed Apple tree slips are badly infested with some pest. Will you kindly name it and give the remedy through your valuable paper? Thanking you in anticipation. F. F.

[Your Apple twigs are badly infested with Woolly Aphis, or American Blight as it is sometimes called. Woolly Aphis feeds upon the stems and roots of Apple, and at certain times of the year also upon Elm. Your best plan will be to spray your trees about the end of November with a good paraffin emulsion; afterwards a grease-band should be placed in position so that any of the aphis leaving the soil for the aerial parts of the tree would be trapped on their way up. At the end of January, but certainly not later than the end of the first week in February, your trees should be again sprayed, this time using a good tar oil wash. Tar oil washes can be obtained from horticultural sundriesmen and should be used according to the maker's directions. These washes are extremely useful in controlling certain insect pests, and appear to us to be most useful when applied as late in the season as safety will allow. Next year, when your Apples are in leaf, you should watch carefully for the re-appearance of the pest, and then the colonies should be dealt with by applying a half-and-half mixture of methylated spirit and water. This should be well brushed in with a stiff paint brush. The solution must be kept off the foliage and buds.]

BEES

Transferring Bees

I have just made a new bee hive and painted it. I have a splendid lot of bees established in an old hive which I want to put in my new hive. Would it be safe for me to remove them from the old hive to the new one? Would the smell of the new wood, also the paint, hurt the bees? E. R. T. E.

[It is too late in the season to transfer bees from one hive to another. This should be done on a warm day about the middle of April, not before. The operation is a simple one. The old hive should be moved to one side and the new one placed on its stand. If, as is usually the case, the frames are arranged to hang at right angles to the entrance, the floorboard should have a slope of about 1 inch from back to front, but must be absolutely level across the frames. This ensures straight, even combs. In transferring, place the combs in the *same* order as they occupied in the old hive. On no account should bees be disturbed during the next five months. If there is any doubt as to the food supply a cake of candy can be placed above the frames without disturbing the bees.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Hard tennis court

(A. L. Matley).—To carry a Tarmac surface 4 inches of hard core, such as gravel, stone, or broken brick, would be necessary, and this must be reduced to the size of cricket balls and crushed in level before applying the coarse Tarmac, which should average in size 1 inch to 1½ inches, and be applied so as to give a depth of 2 inches when rolled. The final coat will average ½ inch to ¾ inch in size, and should be applied 1 inch thick. Sand and hot tar is then brushed into the surface and the job is complete. The advantages of Tarmac are its cleanliness, durability, and small future attention, providing that it receives a fresh coat of hot tar once a year, the same as painting a building. This I find to be necessary, otherwise the surface tends to become porous unless used largely, and here I would say that the more such a court is used the better and stronger it becomes. Disadvantages.—Colour, tendency to crack when covering large areas unless well cared for. Inclined to reflect the heat and tiring to players' feet, dangerous in wet, frosty weather. A Tarmac court is available for play during all weathers except when rain and frosts occur together; it then becomes a sheet of glass. Given a few inches rise from sides to centre little or no water will remain upon it for any length of time. As to cost, this would be more correctly ascertained in your own locality.

Is manure a necessity?

(W. Miller).—The argument you put forward is based on ill-defined and/or false premises. Plants in Nature are not necessarily or usually more productive than cultivated ones; manures have other duties besides providing food materials, and these other duties cannot be entirely effected without the aid of manure; gases and water do not provide all a plant requires; germs of decay are not necessarily or usually those causing diseases, either animal or plant. The mere fact that we isolate and cultivate plants in a strange environment entails treatment different in degree and often different in kind from that given by Nature.

Cockle shell for garden paths

(H. L. C.).—This is offered by Messrs. Joseph Bentley and Sons, Barrow-on-Humber, Hull, at 13s. per cwt., to whom it might be advisable to explain your requirements, as consideration is given where quantities are used.

NAMES OF PLANTS

Fieldfare.—1, Cimicifuga racemosa; 2, Helenium pumilum magnificum.

A. M. N.—Your specimens arrived very much dried up, and were evidently past their best when picked; at least one of the specimens bore nearly ripe seeds. Fresh specimens of really good condition should always be sent to aid us in our work of identification. 1, Helenium autumnale var. striatum, or possibly var. cupreum; 2, Aster Novæ Angliæ var. rubra, or may be var. Lill Fardell; 3, Aster Novæ Angliæ var. Mrs. Rayner; 4, probably Boltonia asteroides.

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the import of sending only good typical specimens naming, and not less than two or three of each variety.

J. Pope.—Small aromatic Apple, Gr stein; large fruit, Newton Wonder.

GARDENING APPOINTMEN

Mr. A. J. Chiverton, now head garden Mrs. Forse, Old House Lodge, Hoathly, Sussex.

TRADE NOTES

Frost mats from Russia

As we have from time to time rec inquiries for supplies of Frost Mats it interest our readers to state that Goo and Warren, of 24, East Street, Walw S.E., have taken delivery of a large qua of Russian mats and will be able to orders for these regularly. The mats first grade, closely woven, 7 feet by 3 6 inches, weight 2 lbs. to 2½ lbs. The are also in a position to arrange for deliv of Archangel mats for large quantity bu and are offering very favourable terms t trade only for this line.

Hard Court line cleaner

An excellent mechanical line cleane hard courts is being offered by the inve Mr. Geo. Thorne, of Mantle Street, We ton, Somerset. Cleaning the lines is g ally a tedious operation, performed hand brush, but this new contrivance at least 25 minutes in getting a court for play. The brush in the apparat specially constructed to clean all widt lines on all types of courts. These mac are now in use by some of the leading t clubs.

Heating the greenhouse

"Making the Most of Your Greenho is the title of a useful booklet issu Chas. P. Kinnell and Co., Ltd., 65, S wark Street, London, S.E. 1, giving information on the equipment of ga under glass and displaying especially t vantages of their well-known "Horse-s boiler. A similar coal or coke fired recommended for the moderate-sized house is the "Loughborough," mad Messenger and Co., Ltd., Loughbor Two other popular makes are the "De by Thos. W. Robinson, Ltd., Stourb and the "Stourbridge" by J. and W. Ltd., also of Stourbridge. Less exp boilers are the "12 Hours" and "Meet-all," obtainable from 12 Hours Syndicate, Ltd., 258, Vauxhall Bridge S.W. 1, who supply all types of h apparatus. A list just issued by Fenlo Son, 8, Tudor Street, E.C. 4, will i those who prefer heating the greenho gas. These boilers, the "Dwarf L "Temple," etc., are fixed inside the house, and the lighting door and flu piece outside. This firm also issues a smaller oil-heated boilers and stoves fo propagation. A simple and inexpensiv of oil greenhouse heater is manufactu Rippingilles Albion Lamp Co., Ltd., mingham. This is an economical which has secured an excellent repu over a good many years for its effi List "O" gives full particulars.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

R. Gill and Son, Himalayan Nu Penryn, Cornwall. — Rhododendron cluding Himalayan and Chinese speci scriptive and well illustrated.

John Waterer, Sons, and Crisp, Twyford, Berks.—Bulbs for autum spring, bulb bowls, lawn grass seed.

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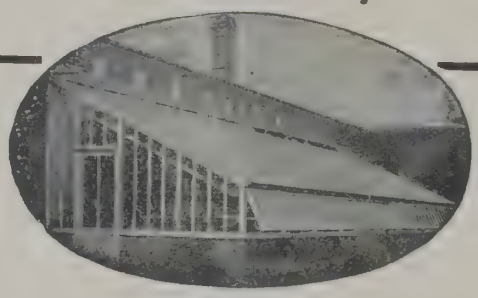

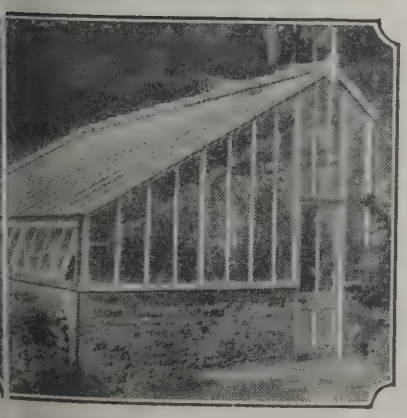

Grow Orchids yourself —under glass

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Foot-rot of Asters and Stocks

DURING the season we have received many samples of diseased Asters and Stocks; in all cases the plants have been attacked by Foot-rot, and although the fungus responsible for the diseased condition has not always been the same the general symptoms have been similar. In the main, we can divide the complaints received into two groups.

(1) Disease has first appeared in the seed boxes at the time when the seedlings were almost ready to prick off. The first sign of trouble has been that some of the plants have damped at soil level. Some of our correspondents have reported that the spread of the disease has been rapid, and that they have lost the whole batch. Others report that they have pricked off the seedlings into new soil as soon as they detected the trouble, and by so doing stopped the spread of the disease. Afterward a plant was lost from time to time, and this continued right up to and including the flowering period.

(2) In this group the plants have remained healthy up to the time they have been planted out into their flowering quarters, then plants begin to fail here and there, sometimes only a few plants have died, but in others the losses have been considerable. All the correspondents agree that the plants suddenly wilt and die, and all the plants we have been able to examine have rotted at the root, and the disease has spread rapidly upwards.

We have hinted above that the cause of the Foot-rots sent in was not in all cases the same fungus, but they are similar in their mode of life. The fungi responsible for Foot-rot in Asters and Stocks, overwinter by means of spores. These spores are situated in garden and potting soil, seed boxes, greenhouse benches, rubbish, rotting sashes in greenhouses, and often in water tanks. Some of the fungi appear to grow during some part of the year as Saprophytes attacking living plants under certain conditions. In group No. 1 infection has been caused by diseased material coming in contact with the seedling stage. The fungus has either made short work of the whole batch, or its progress has been arrested, but from time to time it has been able to claim a victim. In group No. 2, where the disease did not appear until the plants were put into their final quarters, it must be the soil of those final quarters that causes infection.

In gardens where these Foot-rots are troublesome the following control measures should be adopted. All seed boxes and the materials used for filling them should be sterilised by means of chemicals or heat. A good chemical to use for sterilisation is formalin. A solution is made by adding 1 pint of commercial formalin to 12 gallons of water. If soil is to be sterilised it must be well wetted with this solution, and then covered with sacks for 48 hours. The soil should then be well turned and aired to get rid of the formalin, and it should not be used for at least 14 days. All boxes, pots, or pans used as containers should be treated with a solution double the strength given for the soil, and they should be soaked for 20 minutes and then dried before using. The practice of using sterilised soil and containers is useless if when the seed has been sown the boxes are placed in contaminated houses and watered with contaminated water. During the winter the houses should be thoroughly cleaned up and the tanks cleaned out.

As soon as germination has taken place the seedlings should be closely watched for damping off, and if it becomes evident the boxes should be well watered with Cheshunt Compound, left 24 hours, and then the healthy seedlings pricked off into other boxes, the soil of which was previously treated with the same compound. Cheshunt Compound can be made by taking 2 ozs. of powdered copper sulphate and 11 ozs. of powdered ammonium carbonate. These two ingredients should be placed on a sheet of paper and rolled out with a dry bottle to crush any lumps that may be present; the ingredients should then be well mixed together and placed for 48 hours in a tightly stoppered bottle, and it is then ready for use as required. The solution for treating plants and soil with is made by taking 1 oz. of the compound and dissolving it in 2 gallons of water. Cheshunt Compound can be bought ready mixed from certain horticultural sundriesmen, and is advertised from time to time in our columns.

In gardens where the Foot-rots are only troublesome after the plants are put out into their flowering quarters the plants should be watered with Cheshunt Compound as a preventative; two or three applications should be given with at least a week's interval between applications. Any plants which show signs of attack should be removed and burned.

Cheshunt Compound is a good soil disinfectant. It will not save plants already infected, but it does prevent the spread of soil diseases to healthy plants. If diseased plants are burned and the healthy ones treated with the compound, Foot-rots should not cause serious loss.

If heat is used as the sterilising agent care should be taken to ensure that all contaminated materials are heated long enough to ensure that the organisms are destroyed. Steam is, of course, the ideal steriliser, but the necessary plant is not easy to obtain on small establishments.

VEGETABLES

Cauliflowers

How to treat autumn-raised plants

CULTIVATORS have at their command varieties of Cauliflowers and Broccoli that will, with good management, yield a supply of tender produce all the year round. In nearly every garden where vegetables are grown and appreciated there is now a nice batch of Broccoli of several sorts already making good progress. The latest of these Broccoli will be used up about the middle or third week in June. By that date there should be a nice batch of early Cauliflowers available, and it is to help inexperienced cultivators to procure them that this note is written. Very early in the New Year young plants may be raised where there are houses or heated frames available. But these early-raised plants, subjected to a certain amount of artificial heat do not always succeed well. The autumn-raised ones rarely fail to give satisfaction if they are grown without any serious check and are not subjected to artificial heat.

Cultivation in cold frames is the most satisfactory, and really anyone can succeed if they will follow the hints given below. Seeds of naturally early sorts should be sown not later than the third week in September. In the northern counties 10 days earlier will be better. I prefer to sow the seeds in a box filled with good loam, not very rich; the resultant seedlings are generally very sturdy, and when they possess two rough leaves they should be transplanted in a bed in a cold frame or one roughly erected for the purpose. Protection from frosts: First place a thin layer of old coal ashes in the frame, then a layer of well-rotted manure, 1 inch deep, and, finally, one 5 inches deep of good loam, and a small quantity of rotted leaf-soil added. The layer of ashes should be beaten down firmly with the back of a clean spade; the layer of manure should also be beaten, but less firmly, and the ge compost should be firmly pressed dow hand. Transplant the seedlings deep en to touch the seed leaves and 4 inches a The soil should be on the dry, rather tha wet, side when it is put in, and at the ing time, then the firming of it will be ficial to the plants. Apply water at through a rosed watering can; close the lights for two days, or, in the case of a porary structure, cover with mats or sac three days. Then gradually expos plants, keeping off all coverings day night except in frosty weather. Whe night frosts are light there should be a opening at the top of the frame to ad little air. Do not unduly coddle the p do not overwater; do not allow the s soil to become close and "greened" ove finally plant out in well-manured g early in April. If a hand-fork is use plant can be lifted from the layer of with all the soil adhering to the roots.

GEO. GAR

Potatoes: seed tubers

Although it is bad policy to save seed year after year from the same gard many growers do, they may be stored f purpose two years in succession. Af two years the wise cultivator will have seed tubers from a distance—preferabl Scotland. Any tubers saved now sho well treated; indeed, they must be give attention throughout the winter montl

All tubers intended for planting ne should be stored in a shed or room can be ventilated at will and lig mitted. This is necessary all throu winter.

Select tubers weighing from 2½ oz ozs.; place then in single layers in b on shelves in the store room; Second may be stored two layers deep, and Ma three layers. It is good policy to tr Maincrop tubers in this way rather th them under a thick covering of straw.

The first shoot or sprout that grows be on the tuber when the latter is p then there will not be any loss of st strong "sets," not weak ones, planted. The sprouts should be, a mately, three-quarters of an inch in le planting time, and both tuber and should be purple-green in colour.

A most useful vegetabl

There always exists a difficulty in up a constant supply of vegetables for establishment—not necessarily in the of successive supplies, as in selection. kept house looks for and has a right t all sorts and conditions of vegetables son and otherwise, and the "useful table cannot be to highly estimated. one is Mercury, so little grown ex Lincolnshire. It can be utilised as up" very satisfactorily. The seed s sown now in a well-manured bed, in the same way as for Asparagus. plant the seedlings if possible during showery weather, the distance apa about a foot. Cared for in practi same way as Asparagus, the plants for years, and will be much appreciat vegetable, otherwise known as Go Henry, Allwood, and Wild Spinach podium Bo'nus-Henricus), is grown in the gardens of Mrs. Hartley at Lydeard, Taunton, and it is of interes that this lady introduced it from Lin many years ago. The method of Mercury is akin to that generally Spinach, whilst the young shoots of may be peeled and treated in a simila to Asparagus.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Fruits That Succeed in Northern Gardens

ITH the planting season here again many growers are puzzling themselves about what nt. The lists of varieties offered fruit catalogues are confusing to ovice, and a few notes on varie- hat I have found to succeed satis- ily in several districts may, I prove helpful to northern readers. the lists given are of all good ies, I could not claim that every y mentioned will succeed every- , for no variety yet raised is sally satisfactory. A good plan ose who are planting for the first is to endeavour to find out the of the varieties that succeed best neighbourhood and plant these for it is very disheartening to the to find out, after a few years, is trees and bushes are quite un- to the district.

Apples

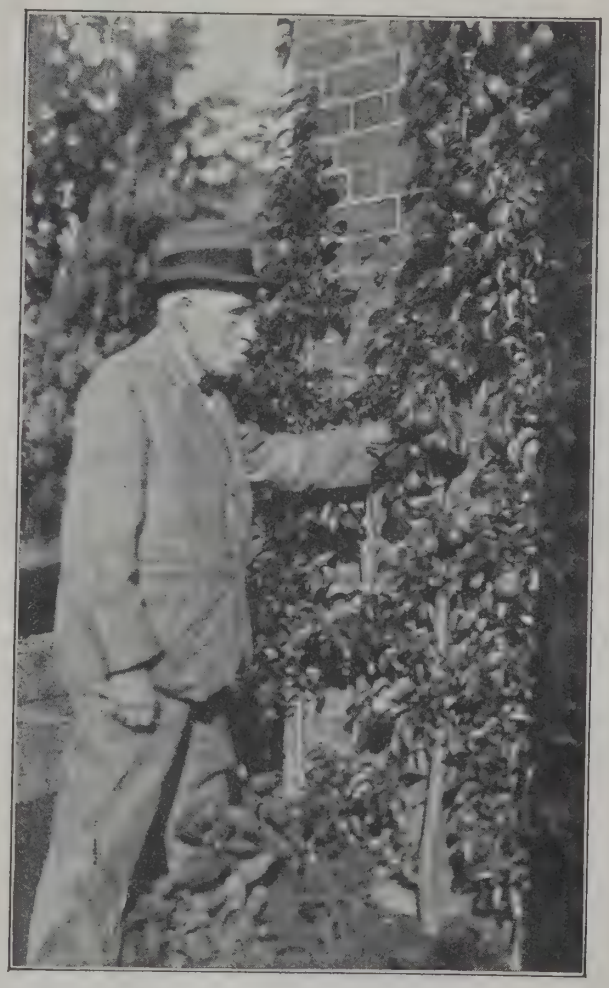
Apple is more widely grown ny of the other large fruits, and w offered in endless variety. ng generally, the real dessert does not succeed very well unless the protection of a wall. Not hat these grow and fruit quite bushes and pyramids, but they e colour and flavour found in uth. The following are, pro- the most satisfactory to plant:— ladstone, Irish Peach, Devon- uarrenden, James Grieve, Thorle Worcester Pearmain, Allington Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribston and King of the Pippins.

ties that, while being mainly of r use in the kitchen, but which, properly ripened, are fit for are not at all numerous, but owing half-dozen are fairly de- e:—Duchess of Oldenburgh, Grieve, Loddington, Cox's a, Emperor Alexander, and m Orange.

ary varieties of Apples that give ops, as a rule, include Lord Early Victoria, Ecklinville, er, Tower of Glamis, Bismarck, Codlin, Stirling Castle, 's King, Bramley's Seedling, Menage, Dumelow's Seedling, e's Prince Albert.

Apricots

are not a great success, except y favoured districts, the three being most reliable:— Early Peach, Moor Park, and Large Peach. Must be planted against a south wall.



TRAINED FRUIT TREES FOR WALLS

Mr. Henry Merryweather, J.P., the noted fruit-grower, is a great believer in cordon Pear trees for walls. On the occasion of a visit to Southwell he pointed out a single cordon of Pear Emile d'Heyst growing on his house in a narrow space between door and windows, a tree which hardly ever failed to carry a good crop. Large and luscious fruits of Pear Doyenne du Comice were being gathered on a wall just outside his sitting-room window. Pointing with pride to these well-cropped cordons, Mr. Merryweather remarked, "Is there anything other than a fruit tree that could be grown on a house which would give one-tenth of the pleasure and profit?" Mr. Merryweather also had a good word for the fan-trained Plum, and said that we should hear less about silver-leaf if growers would deal with the disease in its early stages by cutting out infected branches and painting over the freshly cut surface with Stockholm tar.

Cherries

Planted against suitable walls the following varieties of Cherries succeed admirably in most districts:—Frogmore Early Amber, Reine Hortense, Early Rivers, Waterloo, May Duke, Old Bigarreau, Late Duke, and Morello. The last-named is a great success on a wall facing north.

Peaches

Only in the more favoured districts and when planted against a high brick wall facing due south will the Peach really succeed, but where it does it is one of the most profitable of all fruits. The following six varieties are best suited for outdoor culture:—Alexander, Waterloo, Hale's Early, Royal George, Stirling Castle, and Dymond.

Pears

Some splendid Pears are produced in Scotland, but mainly on walls, although in some districts properly-managed dwarf pyramid trees give a good return in the open. The espalier is also a suitable method for growing Pears in sheltered districts. Most reliable varieties include:—Beurré de Capiaumont, Buerré Hardy, Clapp's Favourite, Conference, Durondeau, Hessle, Jargonelle, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Swan's Egg, Marie Louise, Souvenir du Congrès, and William's Bon Chrètien.

Plums

The bulk of these must have the protection of a wall to bring them to anything like perfection, but Victoria, in some districts, gives immense crops, and these of fair quality, grown as a standard:—The Stint, Early Transparent Gage, Denniston's Superb, Kirk's Purple, Early Prolific, The Czar, Victoria, Green Gage, Prince of Wales, Old Orleans, Diamond, and Coe's Golden Drop. Good Damsons are:—Fairleigh's Prolific and Frogmore Prolific.

The Smaller Fruits

These all succeed to perfection, as a rule, but the Black Currant is being threatened with extinction from attacks of Big Bud and Reversion, or Nettleleaf. Black Currants of value are:—Boskoop Giant, Seabrook's Black, Victoria, Lee's Prolific, and Black Champion. Red Currants:

Raby Castle, Fay's Prolific, Comet, and Red Dutch. The best White Currant is White Dutch.

Gooseberries crop grandly nearly everywhere. Some first-class varieties are:—Early Sulphur, Golden Lion, Whitesmith, Crown Bob, Gunner, Yellow Warrington, Warrington, Langley Beauty, Langley Green, Profit, Keepsake, Thumper, Dan's Mistake, Whinham's Industry, Wonderful, Blucher, Bobby, Gipsy Queen, London, Trumpeter, and Matchless.

Raspberries are among our best-cropping fruits, most varieties succeeding. The following I find heavy croppers:—Lloyd George, The Devon, Pyne's Royal, and Superlative.

Strawberries, although not planted now, may be mentioned, as they are, probably, the most popular of our small fruits. If suitable varieties are selected fine returns are pretty certain. The following are good:—Laxton's Leader, Dumbarton Castle, Garibaldi, Royal Sovereign, King George, Success, and Elton Pine. C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Geraniums red

THE Zonal Pelargonium, better known in gardens as a Geranium, has had vicissitudes in the last few generations. To-day, like the steel trade, it is depressed; yesterday, the yesterday of crinolines, it boomed, and gardeners propagated it till their winter glasshouses were crammed to overflowing. Planting-out time when the frosts were over was as much a milestone in the year as Easter or Christmas. And how they were broadcasted! Geraniums in pots, Geraniums in beds, Geraniums in circles, squares, oblongs, and in every bewildering shape and place. Those pleasure grounds of Edwin and Angeline were more Geranium plantations than gardens; it was only in the kitchen garden, where, perhaps, a Georgian border of herbaceous plants had been allowed to stay, that one saw variety.

Then came the reaction. Gardeners still planted Geraniums, but owners began to feel they wanted something else. "Let's have less of those beds dotted about, Wilkins, and something else besides Geraniums." And Wilkins went off mumbling about the master being "shockin' bad at layin' out gardens," and if he was a strong-minded man he went on planting Geraniums—many Wilkinses are still planting them. The strong hand of authority has, however, suppressed most of them, and Geraniums are abolished. To-day, when we see them planted out, we murmur to our wives, with a sniff, "Victorian."

I wonder why we have allowed ourselves to be thus bigoted. A Geranium is a beautiful plant. It is good in shape, tidy, free-flowering, and brilliant in colour—its only fault is that it is not hardy. The truth is, that there are places where Geraniums should be used, and places where they should not be used. This is not a manœuvre to advertise these plants, for "please we don't keep 'em" in my nursery. It is a desire to see moderation and justice. Geraniums should not be broadcasted on borders and in rows after the manner of Wilkins—his landscape ideas have been tried and found wanting; but there are places in gardens generally away from other flowers where a touch of bright colour is of great value. Such a place might be found in difficult dull corners by the drive or front door, or at the end of a long vista where there is chiefly form and distance without colour. In these places bright Geraniums would add life and colour, and few things would do this as successfully as our much-abused plant. Only let the bed be a bed of one colour boldly planted, and no Lobelias! GAVIN JONES.

Letchworth, Herts.

An Australian garden in 1860

This account of an "early days" garden in Australia may interest readers; it sounds so successful yet so homely. My great-uncle was a pioneer also, being sent out by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland in 1859. His account ["Ninety Years in the Master's Service," by the Rev. Robert Henderson] of the country and people in those days is very interesting, as he held services and meetings in many out-of-the-way parts.

The garden belonged to a Scotsman and his wife, who had gone out to Melbourne some years before, and my great-uncle, who visited them, calls it an earthly paradise. They had 150 varieties of the best Roses they could get, such as Fortune's Yellow, Adelaide d'Orleans, Mme. Fortado, Mdlle. Bonnaire, Devoniensis (white and crimson), the white and yellow Banksias, and the Austrian Briar. There, too, were the pink Hawthorn and the climbing Wistaria, with great rows of Orange trees, Figs, Almonds, Peaches, Apricots, Quinces, Pomegranates, Plums, Apples, and Pears. Then there were Vines loaded with the choicest Grapes by the side of well-kept walks 6 feet broad.

SARAH ROBSON.

3, *Stanhope Avenue, West Hartlepool.*

Parochetus at Gravetye

Gravetye to the gardener is a well-known kingdom of delight, but Gravetye on a sunny afternoon in early November can be something very soul-satisfying. In the peaceful loveliness of autumn tree and flowers alike show the guiding hand of the master. Above one's head the red Vine has tossed its fiery trails of glory among the Apple trees and wreathed itself about the pergolas, whilst beneath our feet great stretches of the Shamrock Pea vie with the sky for purity of blue, in no wise shamed by the long-throated Gentian hard by; and this lovely blue thing is here with us in November! But in this peaceful home of our greatest gardener of English flowers this gem grows to perfection, its delicate flowers, often twins on one stalk, nearly covering the close carpet of fresh young Shamrock-like leaves beneath, cascading its azure over stones and steps, creeping as near as it can to the dampest spots it can find, and beautifully clothing the stone edges of the Water Lily pond in its endeavours. About the mullioned windows of the old Tudor house many treasures weave their delicate patterns, and about the garden ways many delights meet one's eye, but there is no flower more precious than this lovely Pea early and late in the year. M. H.-B.

The Shamrock Pea (Parochetus communis) in November

The most beautiful subject in this large garden at the present time (November 7th) is the above with its carpet of fresh, green, Clover-like leaves, which absolutely cover the earth and above which rise hundreds of the most beautiful Pea-like blooms of a wonderful blue and borne in pairs on slender 8-inch stems. Fine as Gentiana sino-ornata been this year, this remarkable plant f Nepaul surpasses it in beauty as seen her the present time. One large bed contain three plants of Romneya Coulteri is carp with it, and there must be at least a thous flowers open upon it as I write. Ano little drift which has established itself a the cool walls of the Lily tank would average more than a yard square, yet t are between 100 and 200 blooms fully o upon it and lots of buds peeping through leaves. This is a much-neglected plant, once the position has been found to suit i further trouble is experienced, and it merrily on blooming in the wildest profu year after year, giving pleasure to all have the good fortune to see it. A moist position is all it requires, with its in the sun. The plants have been gro unprotected in the open here for the las years, and our only difficulty is to keep beautiful little trailer in bounds. It is creased by division of its roots, and ma raised from seeds sown in gentle warm March. E. MARKHA

Gravetye Manor Gardens, Sussex.

Hens and Chickens Marigold

Enclosed please find specimen (althou poor one) of what I imagine is a Marigold. As you will see, the flower seeded, and a number of small ones sprung from it. WM. NEA

Marlow.

[This is another example of the intere Hens and Chickens Marigold. We have many instances this year (see notes illustration issue July 2nd, page 403, July 9th, page 419). We are unable t plain the sudden and widespread appea of this curious and abnormal develop The Hens and Chickens Daisy seems to duce its chickens only when liberally Possibly the very wet summer has some to do with the exuberance of the Mar This is a fairly common form of monst in plants with composite flower-heads.—

Some little known autumn-flower plants

When visiting Messrs. Thompson Morgan's Nurseries, Ipswich, during th week in October I saw some inter plants which carry on the beauty o garden into the late autumn. Perha most striking was a group of Cynogl amabile, sometimes known as the Ho tongue. The spikes of true Forget-n blue flowers some 3 feet high cann easily forgotten. This Cynoglossum biennial and must be raised just in ti develop into fair-sized plants befor winter, but they should not be allov flower if fine plants are to be expected following early summer.

A true Myosotis was also in blosso azorica, which possesses very dee purple flower-heads.

Another rich deep purple blossom be found in Primula capitata. It is q hardy as P. Cashmeriana, which it son resembles, but the flowers are much and are rendered conspicuous by the the unexpanded flowers and the stem thickly covered with snow-white farin

Another deep purple flower, very d in character to the last-mentioned, wa by Liriope spicata. The blossom-spik somewhat like a large Grape Hyacin the leaves of the plant much resembl of our wild Hyacinth. It is a native Caucasus and quite hardy. It grows light loam and when given partial sha

Yet another purple flower, or per should be termed bluish-violet, was the Sisyrinchium bermudianum. It i

s termed the Bermuda Iris, but the soms resemble those of the Triteleia in and the dark violet petals pass off to a yellow at the base, which adds to beauty. They are of real value to the garden in the late autumn.

H. H. WARNER.

Salvia uliginosa

a recent note one of your correspondents an appreciation of this species. It is, d, a most beautiful plant, but it is not to generalise when writing of its habit. correspondent said it grew no more 4 feet high and was so stiff that it re- d no support. No doubt the conditions y garden are unfavourable, but the only laint I have to make of this fine subject at it grows 7 feet high and is so flaccid it requires support up to its apex. I er whether cutting it down to about its height in August, before it begins to r, will keep it in reasonable bounds. If y add another defect, in my opinion, it at it flowers so late that all its neigh- are gaunt skeletons before it arrives at ction. This, again, may be due to the ern slope of my garden.

A. H. WOLLEY-DOD.

zostylis Mrs. Heggarty from seed

EFERRING to the letter of your corre- pondent, "E. M., Sussex," issue October 29th, page 669, about Schizo- Mrs. Heggarty, we have had the same ience. Not only have the seedlings true, but their seedlings are also true. are all planted in the open air. The also multiply rapidly.

G. W. W. BLATHWAYT.

st Porlock House, Somerset.

umn flowers at Abbotswood, Glos.

erring to Mr. Ralph Arnold's note on e Bowdeni, in your issue of November his beautiful autumn-blooming subject rs to be perfectly hardy not only, as he in the warmer parts of the country, lso in the coldest, as a large clump urvived the last two or three winters it any protection whatever in a well- d position in my rock garden situated Cotswold Hills. It has bloomed con- sly for two months, and may be ied as certainly one of the very best of n flowers, far better, in my opinion, he Belladonna Lily, which can seldom ied on to bloom here, even under a If desired it can be lifted in July and ted, and every bulb will bloom. In he bulbs seem to bloom rather better livision.

ne Bowdeni and Schizostylis coccinea Irs. Heggarty are the two best things garden at present (November 6th). itter, from a small piece planted last s carrying 42 fully-developed spikes of and looks like continuing for some till. I may say that the variety Mrs. rty blooms far more freely than the ere. I do not know that I ought to either the Nerine or the Schizostylis the hardy Fuchsias, than which there better plants for the late summer and n garden. The old Dunrobin Bedder, n, Mme. Cornellisson, Myrtifolia, temma variegata, and others are just d to-day as they were in early , and they will continue to bloom till l by severe frost. But for continuity m I have never known anything to Phlox argillacea, which came to me Ir. T. Hay, of Hyde Park. It began er, if I remember right, in early June, still a mass of bloom, with many more open, and it looks like going on till k of doom.

Schizostylis Mrs. Heggarty (the Pink Kaffir Lily), now flowering in many gardens

Gentiana sino-ornata is still producing flowers, though they only open on a warm, sunny day. Oxalis lobata, a fair number of autumn Crocus, Cyclamen neapolitanum, and Europæum and the double Colchicum autumnale all help to make the rock garden interesting at this late season of the year, while Polygala chamabuxus, Helleborus altifolius, and the first few flowers of Erica Darleyensis remind us that another season is approaching.

MARK FENWICK.

Abbotswood, Stow-on-the-Wold.

Chrysanthemums: Late flowering of early varieties

The abnormal character of the present season is evidenced by the fact that to-day (November 7th) the outdoor varieties are still flowering in the greatest profusion, the plants carrying flowers of good quality both in form and colour. My plants have been flowering for several months. I have never known the outdoor Chrysanthemums to flower so long and so continuously, and I have grown them since about 1886. At that time the only encouragement I got from some of the Chrysanthemum growers was "take those dowdy things away." I have lived long enough to see the outdoor Chrysanthemum progress, until the so-called "dowdy" things are grown by many market men by the hundred thousand, and the world has been all the brighter in consequence. Varieties that were so beautiful this morning were Alcalde (Red Almirante), Goldfinder, September Glory (bronzy-yellow), Crimson Circle (deep crimson), Mrs. Phil Page (bronzy-chestnut, a persistent bloomer from July onwards), Cranford Yellow (a glorious yellow), Harvester (yellow, tinted bronze), Phœnix (reddish-crimson), Cranford Red (reddish-crimson), Cranford Cream (creamy-white), Cranford (a rich yellow on long, slender stems), Lichfield Purple (a fine purple), and many other good things, including Pink Delight, a real delight in pink varieties.

D. B. CRANE.

ALPINES

Senecio abrotanifolius

THIS plant is not so much grown as it deserves. It is of easy cultivation, and the abundance of its yellow shaggy flower-heads renders it very attractive.

Apart from the beauty of its feathery flower-heads this plant is welcome on account of its pretty dwarf habit.

It answers very well for the margins of borders, and makes on the rock garden charming little enduring groups.

From the dense tuft of leaves it throws up numerous stems 6 inches to 8 inches high on which orange-yellow blossoms form a neat and conspicuous mass.

The plant is of a somewhat straggling habit, therefore it is best to give them room to spread, otherwise much of their effect will be lost, and to use them in positions where their full beauty may be seen to advantage, as, for example, a stoned-in pocket in a low position somewhere below the level of the eye, as its beauty is of a showy nature.

It is a good plant for the upper parts of the moraine. The surrounding stones provide a pleasant setting to the glowing colour of the flowers and intensifies the colour of the blossoms. In such a position it may be necessary to curtail its slightly roving tendency to associate itself with smaller plants in the surroundings.

It may be exposed to the hottest sun, although it does very well in shade, and develops proportions equal to that when the plant is fully exposed, although it does not flower, perhaps, so freely.

The plant is not fastidious as to soil. If the soil is too rich the plant bears long leaves of a rich freshness and the flowers are partly hidden, but planted in sandy gritty soil it will never fail to bloom profusely.

Old plants should be top-dressed with open material worked well in and about the plant in spring and be divided every three or four years.

As the shoots trail along the ground and root as they grow, it is increased with the greatest ease.

It is perfectly hardy and may be used with good effect near the lower flanks of rock-work or the angles of steps in the rock garden with very pretty effect.

H. STEVENS.

Erysimum linifolium

I recollect well seeing this plant exhibited for the first time in London by a leading firm of alpine growers a good many years ago, and of being considerably impressed by its beauty. It is unfortunate that some find it is only a biennial with them, but with the writer a plant has generally lived for a few years and has given much satisfaction. It differs in colour from most of the other Erysimums, most of which have yellow blooms. E. linifolium, on the contrary, has its flowers of a pretty shade of lilac or mauve. It is only about 6 inches high and is an excellent wall or rock garden plant, while it may also be used at the front of the border. This Erysimum is raised from seeds or increased by means of cuttings or division of large plants where such exist. It should have a light soil and a sunny position.

S. ARNOTT.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Fabiana imbricata (the False Heath)

THIS is a charming hard-wooded evergreen little shrub of moderately vigorous habit, and can be relied upon to do well in warm open soil. In general appearance it resembles a Heath in the arrangement of its tiny leaves and fox-brush-like growth, which is terminated by a pyramidal cluster of white tubular flowers nestling in the pale green foliage with which the stem is furnished with delightful contrast.

The plant is hardier than some people imagine, as it flowers and thrives here in the open without any protection. It may be used in various ways in the rock garden as a specimen plant, or in masses regulated by cutting, or associated with other flowering shrubs. In either case, perfect drainage is essential.

The plant forms compact well-proportioned specimens 3 feet to 5 feet high, but may be cut back to a symmetrical form if desired. It is of facile increase, every cutting pressed firmly into sandy soil during September and October, under cover of a hand light, will root and produce a nice bushy plant which may be expected to flower the following spring. Few plants contribute so much to the beauty of the garden as "The False Heath," as this shrub is generally called. It should be grown by everyone who delights in choice evergreen shrubs. H. STEVENS.

Shrubberies, lawns, and walks

As soon as the leaves are all fallen, attention should be given to making a general clearance so as to get everything into a tidy condition for the winter. In the case of leaves the most natural course undoubtedly, with a view to returning to the soil that which has been extracted from it, is to allow them to rot on the ground where they fall, as frequently advised by those who treat on the subject; but in gardens of small or moderate extent, where anything like a neat appearance is required, this is out of the question, as every gust of wind blows them out from under the shrubs and trees on to the walks and lawns; and in small gardens, where the soil is of an average description, the deciduous trees will generally grow even too fast without any manurial assistance, either in the shape of the leaves they have produced or otherwise; consequently, the best course to follow is to gather them up and bury them just at the extremities of the roots of evergreen shrubs, on which they will have a most beneficial effect; but, before this is done, enough should always be secured for laying up to rot to furnish leaf-mould for potting purposes, and also for mixing with stable manure or hotbed work in winter and spring. After the shrubberies are cleared, the lawns should be well swept and rolled, and in the case of any that have been recently made, where the grass is generally disposed to grow luxuriantly, advantage should be taken of a few dry days to go over them again with the machine; this will be the more necessary after the present exceptionally fine autumn, which has kept the grass growing longer than usual. On old lawns, on the contrary, where the grass generally grows weak, and is liable to suffer through drought in summer, it is well not to mow more in autumn than is necessary for appearance sake, and in such cases never to cut the grass too close, as the shorter it is cut the weaker it gets. Walks should be again gone over, and every bit of weed picked out or, better still, eradicated by weed-killer. Common grasses, that spring up on the gravel, always give the most trouble on walks, and amateurs who have not had much experience in gardening often take very little notice of these, especially at this season, when they are small; but they should never be neglected, as being British plants of the hardiest kind, they will go on seeding at all times, except in the very depth of winter. Keep the walks well rolled, so as to present a clean, even, firm surface. When everything in a garden is neat and orderly it goes far to compensate for the lack of flowers. Those portions of the garden devoted to decorative purposes should again be looked over, to see where any additional bulbs can be planted with good effect. Few places are met with, large or small, where a sufficient number of the earliest of these flowering plants are grown, such as Snowdrops, Crocuses, early Tulips, Aconites, Erythroniums, Daffodils, Narcissi, Hyacinths, and Crown Imperials. The advantage arising from these plants being grown in quantities enough to produce an effect is that they make the garden interesting and cheerful in appearance from the first dawn of the lengthening days, and their absence can never be compensated for by any amount of summer-flowering subjects.

The False Heath (Fabiana imbricata)

Planting

Now that the season has arrived for planting many things for both use and ornament, such as fruit trees, Roses, and other deciduous as well as evergreen shrubs and trees, we would especially caution amateurs against a very michievous practice that is often recommended, and too often acted upon. It is this, when the natural soil is not of a character well suited to the trees that have to be grown in it, it is a common practice to dig holes to a considerable depth, and to fill these in with what is termed suitable soil; this often takes place where the ground is naturally of a clayey and retentive description; in such soils, holes like those just alluded to are made for fruit trees against walls, by the sides of walks, and in open quarters; standard Roses have similar stations prepared for them by the sides of walks, and in other situations where their presence is deemed desirable. Under such conditions as the above the soil used planting in will naturally be considera lighter in character, more open and por than the surrounding earth, the inevit result of which is that the holes so dug filled in with this lighter material at become receptacles into which the wate both the surface and the surrounding gro drains, reducing the newly-put-in materia a state of saturation, in which the root the trees and shrubs so planted stand thro the winter as in a cold bath. The extr ties, more or less broken in the operatio removal, at once absorb the superabun moisture, rotting back to a considerable tent, and entailing disappointment mor less. In all cases where planting is b done the whole of the ground, if poss should be dug, trenched, or, what is ter sometimes, bastard-trenched, that is, upper surface, to a greater or less depth cording to the good or indifferent natur the land, turned over, and that undern stirred, but not brought to the top, full deep or a little deeper than the deepest which have to be made to admit the pl By loosening the whole body of earth to a depth, it will easily be seen that the w collectively has a chance of passing a without obstruction, into the drains, w land of such a character will not do with Where, as in planting Roses, in prep stations such as above, when the surroun ground is often lawn, and digging in way described would be out of the ques or in planting fruit trees or anything where the places the roots are to occup prepared in the way first named, in case a drain of some description shoul laid from the bottom of the hole so dug which will carry the water off into or the ordinary drains in the place. If simple but indispensable precaution taken, a good deal of the disappoint that results from planting trees in e tional situations would be avoided. It be easily seen that where the land is n ally of a too light character for the gr of the subjects intended to be planted, the stations are opened and filled with of a stronger and heavier description, mischief above spoken of will not occu the open character of the ground admi the superfluous water passing off.

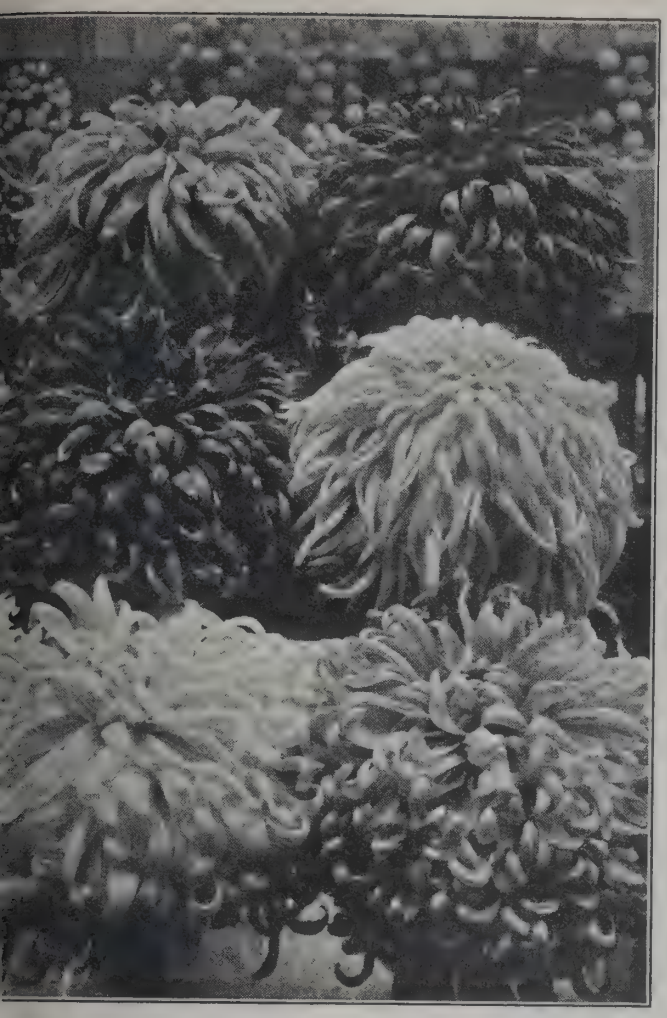
Cæsalpinia japonica

Among dwarf growing flowering s which are hardy in our gardens the takes a foremost place. It is a compara easy shrub to grow, as it will flourish i kind of soil that is well drained. To whose soil is of a poor sandy character shrub is indispensable, for in such soils will luxurate and give their blossoms fr

It is a distinct and graceful shrub, ing into dense prostrate bushes of tr aspect. Its procumbent habit renders cellent for the rock garden. As a so plant at the top of a huge rock it is char and provides a picture of more than usu terest. The leaves are a foot long and graceful, resembling in colour and te those of a feathery fern. The flowe yellow, produced in erect clusters well the sea of foliage.

The most distinctive feature is the brown colour of the stem and the c arrangement of the alternately arr spines which sheathe it in a plate of ar It is useful for association with pla fine summer foliage, but must have ro spread, otherwise much of its pictu effect will be lost. It grows freely in shrubbery with full exposure to the sun

H. STEV



Japanese blooms that gained for Mr. R. L. V. Sherwood ardener, Mr. J. Heath), St. Gatien House, Newmarket, the First Prize in Class 7

varieties shown are Mrs. B. Carpenter, Majestic, Red Majestic, Queen Mary, Mrs. A. Davis, and Princess Mary

The First Prize Vase suitable for Hall Table or Sideboard (Class 33), again won by Mr. G. Richardson (Gardener, Mr. J. Vanstone), Hollymead, Tulse Hill

The Japanese Chrysanthemum Converse (old gold and crimson) was shown well in this large vase, with a little foliage of scarlet Oak, Asparagus, and the fruits of Berberis

NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

Annual Exhibition was held in the ll of the Royal Horticultural Society, acent Square, Westminster, S.W., on ay and Friday, November 3rd and d the display certainly exceeded the nguine expectations of many of the s best friends. The season is a late d many thought the show would be consequence. As a matter of fact, a first-class show, the competition y being quite good and the quality of ers excellent.

TRADE EXHIBITS

were very fine, indeed, and were l most effectively around the walls of hall. There were exhibits of varyacter, some showing grand exhibition at their best, others showing decorales and market sorts. All combined a beautiful show.

alm of position must be given to Mr. nes, Ryecroft Nurseries, Lewisham, o well maintained his high position arge comprehensive group embracing of the Chrysanthemum. Here were in tall stands grand exhibition f such varieties as Mrs. A. Holden, , Wm. Rigby, Mrs. R. C. Pulling, 927, John Hall, Red Majestic, Mrs. dy, and others. Glorious singles, Phyllis Cooper, Sandown Radiance, , Decoratives such as Mrs. R. F. Red Uxbridge, R. A. Roots, Golden Marvel, Bronze Uxbridge, and a host of other good things too numerous to enumerate. The arrangement and artistic finish of this fine exhibit left nothing to be desired. This fine group well deserved the large gold medal awarded to it.

Another excellent display was made by Messrs. Keith Luxford and Co., Sawbridgeworth, this, too, occupying a very large area. Large exhibition blooms, as well as other sections, were well displayed, proving how diversified is the character of the Chrysanthemum as we know it to-day. The better large Japanese blooms were Mrs. Chas. Fox (grand yellow), Majestic, Belle Chinoise, Lady Findlay, Thalia, Thos. W. Pockett, U 21, and Sulphur Queen. Singles worthy of note were Phyllis Cooper, Cherub; Decoratives, Sunshine, Mrs. R. F. Felton, and a host of other good things. It was a very fine effort and very closely followed the leading trade exhibit. This exhibit was awarded the Gold Medal of the Society.

The King's Acre Nurseries, Ltd., Hereford, refreshed their exhibit of the previous Tuesday and made a most attractive display of the various sections. There were masses of big exhibition blooms in which were striking examples of Edith Cavell, Majestic, Mrs. R. C. Pulling, Mrs. T. Attwood, and a splendid array of singles and decorative sorts, all combining to make a noteworthy exhibit. Silver-gilt Medal.

A pretty table group was put up by Mr. H. Woolman, Shirley, Birmingham. His flowers were beautifully fresh and well coloured. He staged remarkable blooms of Yellow Majestic, Mr. T. Slack, Julia, Mr. T. W. Pockett, Belle Chinoise, and Marjorie Woolman. Good singles were seen in Miss Mary Powell, Yellow Stewart Smith, R. Blythe, Exmouth Pink, Clytie, Cleopatra, and Everlasting. There were several good decorative varieties in this exhibit. This display was much admired. Small Gold Medal.

It was good once again to see a display made by Messrs. W. Wells and Co., Merstham, Surrey. The group was most attractively set up, the colours being very bright, and the flowers clean and nicely finished. Mrs. B. Carpenter, Mrs. R. C. Pulling, Majestic, Mrs. G. Monro, Junr., and Queen Mary were good exhibition Japanese varieties. Unique, Pink Thorp, Ondine, and Alice Honour, good incurved sorts, and of the singles we had a preference for G. Fox Wilson, Everlasting, and Phyllis Cooper. Aphrodite was a beautiful Anemone-centred single. Silver-gilt Medal.

To Messrs. Cragg, Harrison, and Cragg, Heston, Hounslow, belongs the credit of making an exhibit exclusively confined to market or decorative Chrysanthemums. Their exhibit was quite unique in this respect. There were good stands of such varieties as Comus (yellow), Atlanta (pink), Mrs. R. F. Felton (crimson), Iolanthe (flesh-pink), Jean Pattison (bronze), Golden Marvel,

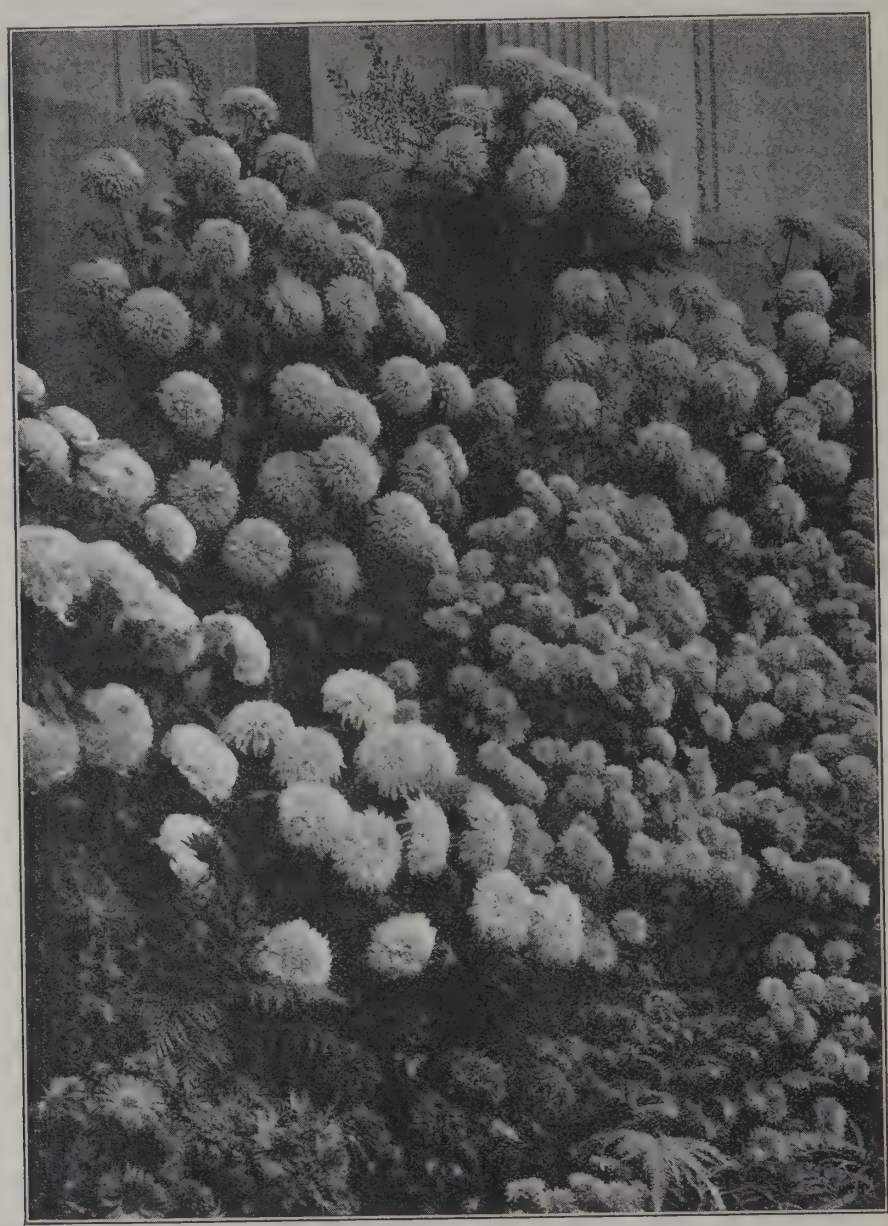
Mrs. S. Ward (white), The Wizard (terra-cotta-bronze), and many others. Good singles were J. H. Blythe, Margaret Davies, Ceddie Mason, Clytie, and Cheerful (a beautiful terra-cotta spray sort). This group was finished off with spray sorts and useful foliage plants. Small Gold Medal.

A charming table group of decorative Chrysanthemums of all types of the flower was staged by Mr. A. G. Vinten, Balcombe, Sussex. Here were to be seen a large number of bright-coloured flowers in the pink of condition. Of the Japanese sorts we liked Enton Sun (bright golden-bronze), Mayford Yellow, Golden Marvel, Shirley Scarlet (really scarlet), Captain Fox, Ethel Harvey (yellow), and many others. The singles were good as represented by Jessica, J. H. Blythe (grand colour), Phyllis Cooper, and Everlasting.

Messrs. J. W. Cole and Son, Peterborough, also staged an attractive table group in which both form and colour were pleasingly diversified in the many different varieties and forms showed. The flowers were noteworthy for their colour. Silver-gilt Medal.

A useful group of outdoor Chrysanthemums was shown by Mr. William Yandell, Maidenhead. This has been a splendid year for outdoor Chrysanthemums, and this exhibitor showed them at their best. Especially noteworthy were Goldfinder, Mrs. Phil Page, Harvester, Sanctity, Crimson Circle, Armorel, Red Almirante, Phœnix, Cranford, Mrs. J. Pearson, and Golden Almirante. Silver Medal.

A dainty group was put up on a table by Mr. H. Clarke, Taunton, in which most of the better decorative sorts of all types were displayed. We liked The Wizard, Jean Patterson, Blanche du Poitou, Primrose du Poitou, and Kathleen Thompson among the Japanese, and of singles we liked Absolute, Mrs. W. J. Courtney, Catriona, Raleigh, and Bertha Fairs. Silver Medal.



The centrepiece to the group by Messrs. Cragg, Harrison, and Cragg

The varieties shown included Fifi (the small, very free-flowering pink), Atlanta (pink), Comus (yellow), J. W. Streater (Incurve), Ondine (Incurve), and the crimson Mrs. R. F. Felton

CHRYSANTHEMUMS IN POTS

A non-competitive group of well-grown plants of the decorative varieties was shown by the Hon. Lady Macnaghten, Sandhurst Lodge, Berks (gardener, Mr. F. J. Bright). This was a very welcome feature of the show, and was reminiscent of the earlier days of the Society. The better plants were Jean Pattison (grand), Blanche de Poitevine, Cranfordia (grand), Romance, Blanche du Poitou, Cranford Pink, and the si flowered variety Gaiety. Gold Medal.

A well-grown specimen plant of Japanese variety, Mrs. Keith Luxford, shown by Capt. A. H. B. Wright, Rookery, Marlow (gardener, Mr. Le The plant carried over 70 good flowers was a triumph of cultural skill. S Medal.

OPEN CLASSES—CUT BLOOM

The principal class in this section wa 36 Japanese blooms in 12 varieties, blooms of each staged in vases. Of th competitors the better exhibit, which awarded first prize, was set up by Capt. Brassey, Cottesbrooke Hall, Northar (gardener, Mr. J. G. Quinn). His b were grand. They were Mrs. B. Carp Mrs. A. Holden, Julia, Rosemary Simm Mrs. G. Drabble, Majestic, Duchess of minster, Golden Rigby, and No Chittenden. Second prize was award Sir John Ward, K.C.V.O., Chilton, Hu ford (gardener, Mr. C. Beckett). were also good blooms, the better sorts Mrs. A. Holden, Mrs. B. Carpenter, M Drabble, Majestic, Red Majestic, and A. Davis.

The next class of importance was o 18 Japanese blooms in six varieties white, one yellow, one bronze, one cri or one of any other colour. There we excellent exhibits, the first being awar the Dowager Lady Annaly, Holdenby H Northampton (gardener, Mr. D. Cam The varieties were Mrs. G. Monro, (grand colour), Yellow Majestic, and P. Murray.

Second prize was secured by the Ho John Ward, who also had a beautiful of grand blooms. We must mention i exhibit the blooms of Mrs. A. Holden Algernon Davis, Mrs. G. Drabble, an Majestic.

Third prize was secured by Mr. Stoop, West Hall, Byfleet (gardener, M Carpenter), whose blooms of Princess were magnificent.

The Holmes Memorial Challenge for 36 Japanese blooms, distinct, ways a competition of much in On this occasion there were only competitors. A beautiful lot of bloo too closely packed together, won firs for the Hon. Sir John Ward. The mo spicuous varieties were Mrs. A. H Marjorie Woolman, Mr. T. Slack, M Drabble, Mme. Stuart, Tom Abbot, James Baxter, Mrs. B. Carpenter, M Davis, Mrs. G. Monro, Junr., and M

Second prize was awarded to V Hambledon, Greenlands, Henley-on-T for a less meritorious series of bloom

Another good class was that for 24 ese blooms distinct, and, as in former blooms of superb quality were staged. were four good exhibits, leading h resting with Capt. R. B. Brassey. better examples of cultural skill were Mrs. B. Carpenter, Victory, Marjorie man, Mrs. P. Murray, Mrs. A. Holder cess Mary, A. J. Cobb, and Mrs. J. Gib

A quite good second was found in hibit made by Mr. R. L. V. Sherwo Gatien House, Newmarket, who had heavy lot of blooms, even in form and character. Majestic, Mr. B. Ca Mrs. A. Holden, Yellow Majestic, an cess Mary were grand.

Third prize was secured by Mrs. Th Long Walk House, Windsor (garden L. Barnard), with another good exhib

EXPERIMENTAL CLASS FOR BLOOMS.

This class for 12 Japanese blooms in its second year has proved to be

ess. The boards are provided by the ety, and the holes for the cups are 10 es apart from centre to centre, which y means that a space 10 inches square is ated to each bloom. In this way it is ble to see the whole of each bloom and e each one quite satisfactorily. On this sion there were no fewer than seven com- ors, and they represented the Chrysanthe- at its best. Leading honours were won e Dowager Lady Annaly with superb ples of Marjorie Woolman, Melody, , Autumn Tints, Majestic, Red Majestic, P. Murray, Dawn of Day, Victory, A. Davis, Mrs. A. Holden, and Mrs. E. ickle. This was indeed a remarkable it of cultural skill.

cond prize was awarded to Mr. R. L. V. wood, who also had a grand series of ns, Red Majestic, Mrs. B. Carpenter, stic, Mrs. F. J. Fleming, Mrs. Algernon s, Julia, Mr. T. W. Pockett were all ially fine.

ird prize was won by Mrs. Thomson, in e stand were some grand blooms, and h prize went to Mr. F. C. Stoop, also a grand lot of blooms. This competition roved the undoubted advantage of using r boards.

e class for six blooms, Japanese distinct, quite good, and many excellent blooms shown. First prize was won by Mr. vood, who had a beautifully even lot of quality blooms. Second prize was led to Mrs. Constance Pearson, Sud- Suffolk (gardener, Mr. C. Hodgson), excellent blooms, and third prize was ed by Col. Chas. Brook, Kinmount, n, N.B. (gardener, Mr. T. Cload), who ed well.

one vase of three Japanese blooms, , there were only three exhibits. First was won by the Hon. Sir John Ward, good blooms of Mrs. H. Wells.

Sherwood was second with unfinished s of Cissie Brunton, and third prize was led to Mrs. Sofer Whitburn, Andover ener, Mrs. H. S. Gooden), who staged blooms of Mrs. H. Wells.

one vase of three Japanese blooms, on, there were four neat exhibits, the best of these came from Mr. W. S. Graves, Newells, near Horsham (gardener, Mr. J. Marshall), who showed Mrs. G. Monro, Jun., in ideal form and condition.

With the same variety the Dowager Lady Annaly won second prize, and again with the same variety Mr. Sherwood was awarded third prize.

For one vase of three Japanese blooms, yellow, the five competitors made a good display. Mr. Sherwood was a good first with superb blooms of Princess Mary. With the same variety in good form, Mrs. Sofer Whitburn was second, and Mr. Graves was placed third, he also showing Princess Mary.

In the class for one vase of three Japanese blooms, any colour than white, crimson, or yellow, there were no fewer than six exhibits. A good first was found in the exhibit of the Dowager Lady Annaly, who showed Red Majestic in magnificent condition. With good blooms of Majestic, Mr. Sherwood was deservedly placed second, and with the same variety Mrs. Thomson was placed third. This was a distinctly interesting display.

We were glad to see the class for one vase of six incurved blooms; there were six entries. A well finished lot of large blooms secured first prize for Mr. S. W. Wickens, Osborne Road, Southsea. Second prize was secured by Mr. G. H. Fisher, Down View, Purley (gardener, Mr. T. Finch), who also showed well, and with large less finished blooms. Mr. W. S. Graves was placed third. These incurved blooms were quite well done.

The Holmes Memorial class for 18 incurved blooms, distinct, used to be a great feature in the shows of former years. On this occasion there were four good exhibits.

First prize was well won by Mr. S. W. Wickens, who showed excellent examples of P. Dove, Romance, Capt. Kettle, Golden Glory, Embleme Poitevine, and Ondine. A less meritorious lot won second prize for Mr. F. C. Stoop. His best blooms were Romance, Mrs. P. Wiseman, Ondine, and Mrs. H. W. Thorp.

Third prize was awarded to Mr. G. H. Fisher, who also showed well. We liked his blooms of Progress, Mrs. G. Denyer, and Frank Trestian. There seemed to be quite a revival of interest in these globular-shaped flowers.

The class for 12 incurved blooms, distinct, used also to be noteworthy for its character and the high quality of its blooms. These blooms were shown on boards. There were only two exhibits, Mr. Fisher winning first prize with a fairly even lot of large blooms, and second prize was awarded to Mr. F. C. Stoop, who had an exhibit of varying merit.

Mr. H. J. Jones' large group, which was an outstanding feature of the National Chrysanthemum Society's exhibition

e First Prize Collection of 18 Japanese blooms in 6 varieties shown by The wager Lady Annaly (Gardener, Mr. D. Cameron), Hildenby House, Northampton

The varieties shown were Mrs. George Monro, Jun., Mr. G. Drabble, Yellow Majesty, Mrs. A. Davis, Mrs. P. Murray, and Majesty

SINGLES

Class 23, for a display of Singles, has often been a very fine feature of these great shows. On this occasion there was no exhibit.

GEO. MONRO CHALLENGE CUP CLASS

The class for 12 vases of large Singles, distinct, is invariably well contested, and on this occasion the four entries made a fine dis-

Specimen Chrysanthemums in pots, each carrying hundreds of bloom, shown by Hon. Lady Macnaghten (Gardener, Mr. F. J. Bright), Sandhurst Lodge, Berks
The best specimen plants were Blanche Poitevine, Jean Pattison (bronze), and Cranford Pink

play. First prize was awarded to Viscount Hambledon, who staged large blooms of Catriona, Bronze Molly, Augusta, Hilda Shoebridge, Annette, Supreme, Hon. E. Smith, Susan, Sandown Radiance, Mrs. W. F. Smith, Molly Godfrey, and Phyllis Cooper. We had a distinct preference for the second prize lot of blooms, which came from Mr. F. J. Yarrow, St. John's Wood, N.W. (gardener, Mr. A. Robertson). The blooms in this exhibit were superbly finished, and were of consistently good quality. Especially good were Crimson Velvet, Golden Seal, Isobel Felton, Catriona, Susan, Annette, Stuart Smith, and Bronze Molly. Third prize went to Mrs. Guthrie, East Haddon Hall, Northampton (gardener, Mr. P. Buir), who also showed well.

FLORAL DECORATIONS

In the open class for one vase of Single Chrysanthemums arranged with any foliage for decorative effect, the two vases made a very charming picture. Leading honours were won by Mrs. A. E. Taylor, Hillside Terrace, Winchester, who set up a distinctly pretty exhibit. Second prize was awarded to Mr. R. Chetwynd-Stapylton, Great Berkhampstead (gardener, Mr. W. Meager), who ran the first prize exhibit very closely. There were fewer exhibits than usual

In the same section for a vase of large Exhibition Japanese blooms, arranged for decorative effect with any kind of foliage, there was no exhibit.

Another decorative class was that for a vase of large incurved blooms arranged for decorative effect. There were three exhibits. First prize was won by Mr. F. J. Yarrow, who had a distinctly dainty exhibit. A good second was found in Miss N. Hedges, Kirkdale, Sydenham, who used an Oriental vase. Third prize was secured by Mr. R. J. Jolliffe, Lyndhurst, Hants, who also showed attractively.

The class for a basket of Chrysanthemums with any foliage arranged for decorative effect is always a feature of interest. On this occasion there were three good exhibits, first prize being awarded to a light arrangement. This came from Miss N. Hedges, and well won the leading honours.

Second prize was awarded to the King's Acre Nurseries, Ltd., Hereford, for a rather stiff arrangement, and third prize went to Miss Constance Pearson.

FLORAL DECORATIONS—AMATEURS

The chief decorative class in the shows, in our opinion, was that for an arrangement of Chrysanthemum blooms, suitable for a hall table or sideboard, set up on a space 5 feet by 3 feet. This was a most glorious display, leading honours being well won by Mr. G. Richardson, Hollymead, Tulse Hill (gardener, Mr. Vanstone). Huge exhibition blooms of high quality were beautifully arranged with Asparagus and autumn foliage for effect; it was a source of inspiration to many visit Second prize was awarded to Mr. Ar Tickler, Upton Court, Slough.

Space will not permit us to mention in tail the many very excellent exhibits smaller character, and those also in w amateur growers staged the results of cultural skill. Suffice it to say that man the large Japanese blooms exhibited by a teurs would compare quite well with the blooms of the professional growers. We much struck in some cases with the quite markable blooms set up by the ama growers. We must, however, mention success of a well-known Leicester ama Mr. J. H. Goddard, Lathana, Rothley, Leicester, who won two first prizes and second; he exhibited beautifully-fini blooms of large size that did him great cr We again regretted the absence of a co tion for table decorations which years was always an unfailing source of int and attraction to visitors.

NEW CERTIFICATED VARIETIE

No fewer than 35 new varieties were mitted to the Floral Committee for adju tion. This Committee have set up a standard of quality for their certificate, the result that only six varieties gaine coveted award of a First-class Certif They were as follows:—

Mrs. Keith Luxford.—This is a l flowered exhibition Japanese having florets of medium width, pleasingly twi building a promising flower of drooping for exhibition. Colour, chestnut-red golden-bronze reverse. Unanimous class Certificate to Messrs. Keith Lu and Co., Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

Monument.—A very handsome whit curved bloom having broad florets bui a large, deep, incurved bloom ideal fo hibition. No grower should be without fine exhibition flower. Unanimous F. Also from Messrs. Keith Luxford and C

Blackpool. — An attractive Jap flower having narrow florets slightly twi building a bloom of pleasing Japanes flexing form. Colour, ruby-crimson gold reverse. Unanimous F.C.C.

Specimen plant of Chrysanthemum Mrs. Keith Luxford, shown by Capt. A. H. Wright (Gardener, Mr. Lewis), The Rookery, Marlow
This plant was over 2 yards across, and carried over 70 fine, well finished blooms

New Chrysanthemum Monument

This was the outstanding novelty in the exhibition—a large white Incurved variety of perfect form and substance Shown by Messrs. Keith Luxford. First Class Certificate

by Mr. H. Woolman, Shirley, near gham.

HAMPTON.—A distinct and attractive on Japanese flower having long, lorets prettily curling, building a deep of much promise. Unanimous F.C.C. om Mr. Woolman.

H SEYMOUR.—This is a flower that to be seen on the exhibition table in ent years. It is a Japanese variety long, rather narrow florets, slightly that build a flower of reflexing form. chestnut-terra-cotta. F.C.C. to J. Dalgety (gardener, Mr. Baxter), ly Hall, Romsey.

DAVIS (1927).—This is one of the riking Japanese novelties of the pre- ason. The florets are of medium charmingly curling, and building a ep flower of drooping form. It is lly refined, and should assist exhibi- no mean degree. Colour, canary- Unanimous F.C.C. to Mr. H. J. Ryecroft Nurseries, Lewisham, S.E.

D. B. CRANE.

Early Chrysanthemums

Thinned and disbudded

DOOR varieties can be beautiful as as useful cultivated in any way, but e is surely something to be advanced r of what we will term the specimen Probably gardeners generally have n this phase a trial; the market ele- s, however, and there seems to be no the number of flowers which from o early November can be readily dis- Compared to the show blooms, y be small, although samples from to 6 inches across and proportion- p cannot be termed tiny.

standard of beauty has been set in s by the powers that be. The bloom shapely, high-coloured and refined; have a bloom stem not too thick, but ly strong to be upright, and the leaf-age may not be heavy, so that the whole has elegance when cut and placed in a vase. One has come against instances where the grower has overdone the matter of thinning; where, possibly, the plants had been about 9 inches apart and confined to a single flower to each. This practice, at any rate, should not be encouraged; and indeed the grower defeats his object, inasmuch as the big leaves resulting do not provide that desirable balance noted above. Resulting blossoms may gain a trifle in size; such usually lose in refined appearance, and, indeed, would stand a poor chance in competition with samples less large, but possessing what is termed quality.

A point in favour of disbudding is the comparative earliness of varieties. This season, for instance, many are complaining that their flowers are a month behind a natural time; probably this is so on account of a long sunless summer. From August, however, in the case of the thinned plants there has been no dearth of opened blossoms.

The general method of culture differs in no way from that when a huge head of bloom is aimed at. The plants are started from cuttings rooted under glass in spring and allowed to grow without taking away their points. A stick is placed to each, and they subsequently branch with freedom. Onwards the matter is simple; the cultivator reduces those branches when long enough to handle, and allows the earliest flower buds that show themselves to set, by taking away all except the centre one on each branch. How many, or how few, flowers a plant shall carry depends on the variety or on the strength of such plant. Good cultivators obtain as many as a dozen; by this is meant good land, an open position, and moisture provided if necessary. The one thing that has astonished the writer this wet season is how well the flowers come through without protection. Fogs are bad for them, but rain with air and wind as company seems to rot the petals of the blooms but little; that is if the flowers are cut before being fully developed. The lasting power of the Chrysanthemum is, of course, notable, and a comparison between those blooms grown as sprays and those from thinned growth is very much in favour of the latter.

Names of varieties that follow are a dozen or so of the better of those already in commerce, and are placed in some like order of time in flowering from early September to well on in the following month. White: Mayford White, Framfield White, Sanctity. Yellow: Hollycot Yellow, Cranford Yellow, Mrs. R. Hamilton. Pink: Profusion, Delight, Uxbridge Pink. Bronze: Harvester, September Glory, Almirante. To these must be added a pretty cream form of Framfield White and a fawn one of Pink Profusion.

At the moment a pressing detail in connection with the early-flowering section is care of the old roots. In some soils and localities, notably those high and dry, these may pass through the winter unscathed. Much the safer way, however, is to lift in all cases, as wet as much as frost ruins them. Cut back the stem to about 6 inches of the base, then lift carefully with a spade, and prick away most of the old earth, taking particular care not to sever the sucker-like growths under the soil. Pack the roots closely together in shallow boxes, and give cold frame treatment through the more severe months. Provide ample air, but be sparing with water, and by March there should be a supply of little green tips of growth which root readily in a glass-house without warmth.

Woking. H. SHOESMITH.

Indoor Chrysanthemums

Continue to insert cuttings of these as they become available, and place them in small airtight cases inside cool houses. Immediately growth is apparent stand the pots in the open house, on beds of ashes for preference, and near to the glass. Keep a sharp look-out for green-fly, both among the cuttings and old stock plants, fumigating the house immediately it is discovered.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Fallen leaves

With the almost total absence of farmyard manure in many gardens to-day leaf-mould is of inestimable value, and forms the bulky substance for digging into heavy soils to provide aeration, and if freshly-slaked lime or bone-meal is added to it before digging in, the soil is vastly improved and enriched. It is, therefore, important that all leaves from drives and lawns and bare places—but on no account from shrubberies—should be collected into some out-of-the-way corner, where they should be built into a large pile and left for at least six months to decay, following which they will be found most valuable for a variety of purposes. Those possessing woodlands should gather all possible from them and so increase the supply.

Border Chrysanthemums

These are valuable for cutting purposes in addition to their beauty in the autumn garden, and except in the south and west it will be found advisable to lift a few plants of each variety for stock purposes. These may be placed in large pots or boxes and stood in a cool greenhouse or frame, where in due course plenty of cuttings will become available. Admit plenty of air on all favourable occasions, otherwise the cuttings will be weak.

Pernettya mucronata

These beautiful little shrubs are fruiting very freely this year, and small, well-berried plants are very useful for indoor decoration if lifted with care at the present time and placed in a cool glass structure. Either pots or tubs may be used to accommodate them. The present is a suitable time to make a plantation in the open, using a friable, open, and lime-free soil. Peat is not essential, providing a fair amount of leaf-mould is available.

Planting shrubs

Nearly all deciduous shrubs are rendered more effective—especially those which bloom in advance of the leaves, such as the Witch Hazels, Forsythias, Parrotias, Fothergillas, Pyrus, etc., and those with rich autumn-tinted foliage—when provided with a background of evergreen trees or shrubs, and this should be ever present in the mind of the planter at this season. Masses of Mollis and other Azaleas are remarkably effective when so grouped, both when in bloom and again in autumn when developing their rich tints.

Camellias in the open

A few branches of Fir driven into the ground between the bushes will assist in dispelling frosts early in the season and prevent the premature dropping of the buds in those districts where these shrubs are on the border-line of hardiness, it being the earliest frosts which usually cause the damage before the shrubs have become hardened.

Arum Lilies

Place a number of pots of these useful plants in a warm house to provide early blooms and apply stimulants twice each week to vigorous specimens, encouraging a moist atmosphere by syringing the plants twice daily.

Campanula pyramidalis, Canterbury Bells, and Snapdragons

Those growing in pots will benefit from a weekly application of liquid-manure. These plants should be grown on in cool houses or frames for the present, any disfigured foliage arising being constantly removed.

The Alpine garden

From this date all plants with woolly or tomentose leaves should be given protection from constant damp which adheres almost perpetually to their leaves, causing such plants to rot off at the collar. An inverted sheet of glass, though unsightly, will prove effective.

Pruning fruit bushes

Most of the leaves have now fallen, and the pruning and shaping of the bushes may be proceeded with, first having made good any vacancies or replacements. Young bushes, whether of Gooseberries or Currants, should be treated lighter than full-sized specimens, the branches of which should be rather closely pruned, each individual branch resembling a small cordon tree with its evenly-regulated spurs. Always shorten the leaders to a bud pointing outwards. The manuring and forking over of the land between the bushes should be reserved for cold mornings and evenings, when pruning is rendered difficult.

Celeriac

In the south we do not find it necessary to store this vegetable, but in the midlands it is advisable either to store part of the crop or to work a quantity of litter in between the roots.

Globe Artichokes

Litter of some kind should now be placed round the crowns of these plants as a protection from severe frosts, which they are incapable of withstanding.

E. Markham.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Greenhouse Primulas

To improve the quality and prolong the display of these charming winter-flowering plants a gentle course of feeding should now be begun, and continued, throughout the flowering period. Weak liquid made from sheep or cattle droppings is excellent, and can be given about twice a week, while on alternate weeks a tablespoonful of Ichthemic guano well stirred into a gallon of clear water can be given as a change, and this with advantage to the plants.

Calceolarias and Cinerarias

Keep these as cool as possible without, of course, permitting frost to reach them. While over-watering is fatal, it is also dangerous to permit the soil to get really dry. Keep down vermin by occasionally vaporising the house. Give air on every favourable occasion.

Young vegetables in frames

Plants of Cauliflower, Lettuce, and Parsley wintering in frames should have every care during the dull, short days, so as to preserve them in health. Abundance of air, day and night, unless during frost, is one of the best ways of attaining this object, while stirring the soil lightly with a pointed lath, removing weeds and decaying foliage at frequent intervals, and the trapping of slugs, if present, are all conducive to the welfare of the young stock.

Planting the larger fruits

This is, undoubtedly, the most favourable time for the planting of Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Pears, and Plums, providing, of course, the ground is in working condition. To carry out this work with the soil sodden is bad practice, and must not be thoug Much better, indeed, defer until s Fresh mellow soil not newly manu most favourable to the satisfactory cult these fruits, the "stone" kinds being a fair amount of mortar-rubbish from building.

Plant fruit bushes

Give Black Currants and Raspberries that has been well worked and gene manured. These, also, rather delig moist ground, and do not much mind shade if not really under trees. Goose and Red and White Currants should given rich soil, or rank wood and folia no fruit will result. As with the fruits, plant only when the soil is w freely, as it is always desirable to firmly.

Pruning

Winter pruning is seldom an agreeab so the more forward it can be got duri milder weather the better. Trees or making gross, long-jointed growth mu be cut hard back or the trouble will o intensified. Remove, rather, the so portions and thin slightly where over ing threatens.

Carrying out alterations

Any improvements or alterations in to be made on garden or grounds shou have attention as opportunity offers. often possible to carry on such work the ground is too wet for digging or ing, and such occasions should not b mitted to slip, many items of such w ing possible while things underfoot ar wet.

Value of garden refuse

It is not often that the amateur the value of the garden rubbish-heap, much valuable plant food is lost to hi a little care be exercised in the way of ing such refuse much trouble will be later. All rubbish should not be flu gether, but laid aside in three heaps— all soft matter that will rot quickly, a for everything that can be burned, third should be kept for stones or othe insoluble rubbish, but which may eve be useful for making bottoming for p roads, or for drainage purposes. easily-decayed portion be turned and occasionally with the ashes obtained fr burning of No. 2 heap a very valuab stitute for manure is at hand that will improve all garden soils.

Rose planting

Continue to push on this importar whenever the weather and soil are s It is, of course, essential that the soi the roots of the Rose be made very fi as this cannot safely be attempted w ground is sodden it follows that th can only be carried out during a dr Dryness at this season is, of course, comparative term, for soil can never dry, but what is to be aimed at is Roses planted when it does not undu to boots and tools.

Lift border Chrysanthemums

It is hardly safe, here in the north, out stock plants of these during wir shelter of a cold frame being really n to ensure their safe passage throu period, and also to ensure the produ cuttings at a reasonably early date. yet done, therefore, get the necessar ber of shoots of each variety potted c and placed in a frame. C. I

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

The Plough in the Garden

OBABLY the day is not far distant ıen all large vegetable gardens in this ıntry will be cultivated by the plough reat extent, and spade labour, except few special subjects, will become a of the past. The use of the plough the garden walls has been suggested often within late years, but the sug- has not been as yet received with favour. One chief reason of this is ır kitchen gardens are at present so d and arranged that the plough could used to good advantage. The system ding the ground enclosed into small r quarters devoted to both vegetables ıit trees renders the use of the plough impracticable. Before it can be intro- successfully we must remodel our vege- gardens, and there is no valid reason at should not be done, when new ones med or old ones have to be altered. culture would also entail larger gar- or the close-cropping system could not be followed; but that would matter le, for the extra ground required would ıper than the extra labour incurred in ulture. First of all, it would be neces- get rid of the idea that the kitchen must be an ornamental as well as a ıle ground. The proprietor must come ırd it in the same light as one of his or Turnip fields, and nothing more; w with our spring, summer, and wild s this is not too much to expect. Gar- would undoubtedly welcome the , for the plough would save them abour and anxiety.

present system of cropping kitchen s is the cause of much waste of time bour. For example, all main crops roccoli, Cauliflowers, Peas, Brussels s, Cabbages, etc., have mostly to be ınd afterwards transplanted, because s at the time the quarters are not to receive them, or that the time can- afforded to dig and sow the ground the plants are to remain; but it would er for all such subjects if they could be eated. Every gardener knows that all assica tribe produce the best crops he plants are sown where they are to and that transplanting in most in- is attended with a check to growth if se evils, and buttoning in Cauliflower, is the bugbear of the Cauliflower , would be unheard of almost if trans- g could be abolished.

the practice of sowing in beds and g every crop off from its neighbours an infinite amount of trouble, and is ive of weeds and filth; it is all ground s to be kept clear to no particular pur- ıd the same may be said of small plots ters. The more plots the greater the of useless margins, walks, alleys, and dgings, that have to be looked after. ed up, it is simply astounding the ex- walks in some private kitchen gardens ns which the proprietors hardly look nce a year or more. The cost of pro- kitchen vegetables and other crops for se really does not represent more than n, and that the least, probably, of the maintenance, the greater part of the xpense being incurred in keeping and walks and borders and vacant Hence, too, it is that private gar- ve got the name of being unremunera- it, as a matter of fact, vegetables, if d by their actual cost of production, saddled with the extra expenses in- for other purposes, are produced , as a rule, in private gardens than re else.

ault lies in the plan of our kitchen gardens, which entail a certain degree of good order and dressiness, irrespective of the necessities of vegetable culture. A garden laid out with trim walks and miles of Box and other edgings and fruit trees and flower borders looks simply disgraceful if not kept tolerably well up to the mark at all points; but do away with the necessity for such keeping and no one expects it, and nothing appears to be wrong. Those who wish their kitchen gardens kept up in flower garden style have a perfect right to have their wishes gratified, of course, but, as a matter of fact, nine-tenths of our large private kitchen gardens are a shame to be seen.

A certain horticultural society in the north took up the subject of kitchen gardens and offered a prize for the best plan, but nothing in the least original or better came of it, and the prizes were awarded to designs that were clearly faithful copies of the old style, and these same plans were afterwards published by a contemporary as commendable. If the plough is to be employed in the garden, therefore this state of things will have to be altered. What a gentleman will need for a garden in which to grow the whole of the main crops will be a piece of good ground from 3 acres to 6 acres in extent, according to the supply expected, and sheltered on the north-east and west sides by a belt of trees, and fenced to exclude game, unless he wishes to have it walled round. This piece should consist of one quarter intact, and at the most it need only have a boundary road running round the outer skirts of it. One portion of the ground might be set apart for the culture of small bush fruit (all fruit trees like Apples and Pears being confined to an orchard), and the bushes should be planted in straight lines right across the quarter. The remainder of the ground would, of course, be reserved for vegetables, and here all the Brassica tribe (including Turnips), Spinach, Peas, Beans, Carrots, Beet, Parsnips, Onions, and Potatoes, could be sown or planted by the plough or seed drill in sections without a break or alley anywhere.

The small French farmers, some of whom have only a little piece of ground not so large as some English kitchen gardens, follow this plan successfully, as may be seen by anyone travelling on the railways in France. Of course, early crops could be grown on warm borders as at present, but these form but a fractional portion of the crops of a kitchen garden. Such a garden as we have described would, we submit, look much better and be much more easily managed than one laid out on the usual complicated plan. We shall probably be met with the assertion that ground worked by the plough would not be deep enough for many kitchen garden crops; but the objection will barely hold good. No doubt a deep soil is beneficial, and there need be no difficulty about trenching the ground deeply in forming a kitchen garden, but the farmer has proved conclusively that as good root crops almost can be produced in the field as in the garden by intelligent culture, and that, too, where the soil is not very deep.

One has only to point to the monstrous Mangolds, Beets, grand Potato, Turnip, Carrot, and Cabbage crops that are constantly raised as field crops in proof of this. It should be borne in mind, however, that very large vegetables are not always the best for kitchen use, nor preferred. On the contrary, moderate-sized samples are always preferred by cooks; and, so far as this applies, the produce of the farm just suits his wants as well as that of the garden. Another point connected with kitchen gardens that it is needful to mention is the situation of the forcing and plant houses, which are generally placed in the kitchen garden, no matter how far these may be from the mansion, sometimes as much as a mile, entailing a long journey on the part of the proprietor or his friends when they wish to see the hothouses. Some portion of the forcing houses are best placed in or near the vegetable garden, but plant houses, vineries, and Peach houses, etc., might advantageously occupy a more ornamental position in or near the pleasure grounds, and not too far from the house. They need not necessarily be in the vegetable field where the plough is used, at least, and their absence will leave that department free to be treated for its own special purpose.

The plough is employed in several market gardens about London, and it only needs an example setting to show what can be done with it in private gardens. Those who from any cause find their kitchen garden too expensive to keep up in the old semi-ornamental style, and yet wish to save it from becoming a half waste piece of ground, would do well to eradicate the unkempt walks and borders and turn the plough into it. A kitchen garden should at least be as cleanly and well cultivated as a farm, which is cropped at considerably less cost, and where this cannot be done something is wrong; but it is well known that hundreds of private gardens are in this plight. C.

FRUIT GARDEN

Some good late Pears

FROM now onward, so long as they can be procured, Pears are highly appreciated in the dessert; and while it is a matter of personal opinion—and to a greater extent, perhaps, of climate—I consider that the best dozen of late Pears may be found in the following selection, which will cover a period from November to March, both months being included. A very regular bearer, Emile d'Heyst can be recommended; and Doyenne du Comice requires no testimonial from me. A large and good fruit may be found in Fondante de Thirriot; Marie Louise needs no description. Winter Nelis is small but delicious, and I think Marie Benoist ought to be more largely planted. Beurré de Buisson is a fine Pear, and the little-known (in Scotland) Chaumontel is worth a select place on the Pear wall. Easter Beurré is a splendid sort—unfortunately it is misnamed—as my experience is that the variety is at its best round about Christmas, and not at the season implied by its name. Josephine de Malines is always appreciated at the table; and, if small, the flavour of Olivier des Serres is in the foremost rank. President Barabe and Beurré Rance complete my selection. The latter is one of our latest Pears, and when thoroughly ripe it has a fine flavour. A few alternative varieties may be named in Glou Morceau, a very choice variety in some districts. Ne Plus Meuris is worthy of inclusion in any collection; Huyshe's Victoria—a sport, or seedling, from Marie Louise—is also a good late Pear; and Passe Colmar, with its peculiar flavour, is useful in spring. Although I have had a fairly extensive experience among Pears, it has never been my lot personally to grow Passe Crasanne, but I know it to be worthy of the highest commendation. All of these succeed well on the Quince stock, although in some cases it is advisable to have recourse to double grafting. I have found Quince, Pitmaston Duchess, and the selected variety to be a good "team."

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Late fruiting Raspberries

We all regret the end of the season for Raspberries, for among soft fruits none are more appreciated for rich flavour. The sea-

son of the summer fruiting varieties is very short, hence the importance of the autumn ripening varieties. Of these we have not as yet many varieties, but Lloyd George, Alexandra, and Hailsham are to be depended upon.

Their cultivation is similar with the exception of pruning to the summer varieties, and like them do best on rich, moist, well-drained ground.

The autumn fruiting kinds produce their fruit on the wood of the current year, and pruning consists of cutting all the growths down to the ground in February.

Success then depends upon good culture during summer. Prick over lightly in May the surface soil, and place along the rows a mulch of good old manure, which will keep the soil moist and encourage the roots to keep near the surface. Plenty of water is necessary in hot, dry weather. Ripe fruit may be gathered in ordinary seasons from September into November. F. H.

Raspberries in South Wales

The variety Lloyd George in these gardens are the best I have ever seen, both for crop and size of berry, but, alas, the one fault with this splendid Raspberry is that it lacks the true Raspberry flavour, and reveals itself too much of the Loganberry flavour. However, for culinary purposes it is a fruit that cannot be spared. The Hailshamberry, as is well known, is an autumn-fruiting Raspberry, and one that is very little heard about. In our case the canes were planted four years ago, cut down each spring, and bore little or no fruit. The canes, being strong and healthy, I determined this year to see what they would do in summer, so, instead of cutting them down in spring, as is usual, I allowed them to carry on, and in July they carried a good crop of large berries which have quite a peculiar taste of their own. Of course, by the amount of rain we are having in these parts it is difficult to correctly describe the taste of these soft berries.

W. E. WRIGHT.

Tregarth Gardens,
Creigiau, near Cardiff.

Cutting Grapes

Grapes will not ripen after they have been picked, and should not be gathered until fully ripe. Grapes that are picked before they are ripe are sour and lacking in flavour. As most varieties colour before they are ripe, some experience and considerable judgment is necessary to tell just when the bunches are ready to cut. When fully ripe the stems of the clusters turn brown and shrivel slightly; the seeds separate readily from the pulp, usually turning from green to brown; and the berries develop their full flavour and aroma. Fully ripened fruit also has a characteristic colour by which the experienced can tell whether the fruit is ripe or unripe without examining the clusters.

Grapes should be harvested by cutting off the bunches, not by pulling them from the vines. In cutting the fruit, the clusters should be held by the stems. It is also important to place the fruit carefully in the picking basket or tray instead of dropping it.

ORCHIDS

A fragrant Orchid

THE delicious fragrance emitted from blossoms of Pilumna fragrans should place it in high favour, whilst its tractability under ordinarily good treatment has won for it many friends. Sometimes called Trichopilia fragrans, the species was originally discovered by the collector, Hartweg, about the year 1840 in Colombia. It is a small-growing plant with compressed pseudo-bulbs, and will grow admirably in pots or in Teak-wood baskets in peat or Osmunda fibre and Sphagnum Moss. Many growers prefer baskets or pans, so that the plants may be elevated to the glass by the suspension from the rafters of the receptacles. The plant succeeds in a cool house with Odontoglossums and other "cool" Orchids. The flowers are comparatively large, most deliciously perfumed, and purest white with just a suspicion of yellow colouring at the base of the lip, and the sepals and petals will occasionally display a slight suffusion of green.

When potting or basketing this pretty little plant the pseudo-bulbs should not be submerged in the compost, but kept on the surface by "pegging" or wiring the creeping rhizome. It is a winter-blooming Orc great point in its favour if any recomm tion apart from its chaste and delicate and unrivalled fragrance is necessary. nobilis is a large-flowered variety always pure white, never displaying th green colouring sometimes present type. In the 'sixties of last century two plants were imported in consid quantities from Colombia. The plan quire abundant moisture during the gr season, but when at rest a lessened should be forthcoming. They do not, ever, require a definite dry period.

The flowers last long in beauty, and flowered plant is an exquisite object buttonholes the blossoms are near perf

RALPH E. ARN

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their pla be named should send fair examples of eac stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of and points of shoots are useless.) Not mor four plants should be sent in any one week same correspondent. Where more than on is sent they should be numbered. Of conif cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in di stages of colour and size of the same kind assist in its determination. We have re from several correspondents single specim fruits for naming, these in many cases bei ripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to not more than four varieties at a time.*

GREENHOUSE

Diseased Carnations

(W. Hatherall).—Your Carnations are affected with Fairy Ring of Carnations, which is caused by the fungus Heterosporium echinulatum, Cke. This is a common disease of Carnations, and is especially to be watched for just after housing the plants, because the disease spreads very rapidly under greenhouse conditions. We notice that you have kept plenty of air circulating in the house; you should continue to do this, and at the same time we should use some fire-heat to keep the air drier and moving. You should pick off the affected spots and spray the plants with a solution of potassium permanganate. This is a useful fungicide for plants under glass as it checks the progress of disease and does not mark the foliage, but you should remember that it discolours paint. You must repeat the picking off and spraying until you have got the disease under control. All the time care must be used with water at the roots of the plants and about the house. Another year it would be a good plan to spray the plants just before bringing them in, and also once or twice after they are housed. A pale rose-red solution of potassium permanganate is the best strength to use. All diseased material should be burnt.

Culture of Begonias

("Dewsbury").—The cultivation of the Begonia is not difficult, but it must be borne in mind that the plant is not hardy, and must not be exposed to frost or the excessively wet conditions of our winters. Where a little artificial heat is available the corms should be started in February by pressing them into shallow boxes filled with a mixture of leaf-soil, loam, and sand. Place the boxes in a light position in a fairly close atmosphere with a temperature ranging from 50 degs. to 60 degs. Excessive heat is not desirable as this results in the rapid production of weak growth, and it is much safer not to hurry the plants during the early stages. Keep the soil nicely moist, but not soaking wet, and as soon as the corms have produced a good supply of roots (which they sometimes do before making top g transfer each corm separately to a sma using a similar soil mixture and rather firmly, and then let them grow a cool, light house or frame, gradua mitting air as the spring advances, they will be sufficiently hardened planting out in late May. If they tended to be grown as pot plants ind is not so necessary to harden them o they may be kept growing on in a co able temperature, and potted on, ready, into 6-inch pots for flowering this final potting the soil should con three parts coarse turfy loam to one pa of leaf-soil and old manure, with a litt added to ensure good drainage. flower-buds begin to appear regular tions of weak liquid-manure are desir produce good blooms, as Begonias ar feeders and appreciate a rich soil, b doors and out. The stems are very and the heavy flowers, particular double kinds, will show to greater adv if supported by neat stakes. Give pl fresh air at all times and a little shad the hot sun, and do not attempt to fo plants at any time. After flowerin plants should be allowed to ripen off down naturally, after which they may away for the winter, still in the pots, odd corner where they can be kept d protected from frost. If no heat is a the corms may be started in boxes as but not until late March, when they placed in any sheltered position and pr from frost by covering them with which may be removed on mild da finally discarded when the danger fro is over. The corms will start quite a rough frame, which can easily b with old boxes and pieces of glass, a tected on frosty nights by a cove straw. Begonias, for all purposes, obtained from any good seedsman colours and types required, such as singles, crested, and frilled. Name ties are obtainable, but are much m pensive, and as the names are rat stable and constantly being added t advisable, if these are required, to co specialist's catalogue.

atment of Begonias and Gladioli

have a number of Begonias in pots in house. They have now finished flower- Shall I leave them in the pots or lift and dry off roots, and when should be repotted? Also shall I lift Gladioli ds outside? "ROSAMOND."

is best to allow your Begonias to ripen aturally by gradually withholding water the stems have died down, when the containing the corms may be laid on sides under a stage or in any frost- corner and left so for the winter (see reply to "Dewsbury"). The Gladioli d now be lifted and placed in a shed or e until the stems have died off, when orms may be packed away in sand or until the spring. Do not cut off the but allow them to die down naturally.]

ations for inspection

B.).—Your Carnations are suffering Carnation Leaf Spot (Septoria dianthi) s caused by faulty management. It is stake to even partially shut the venti- s at night, providing the weather is mild, as moisture gathers on leaves stems, and so encourages this fungoid se. Cut off and burn all the worst- sed leaves, and then spray occasionally Bordeaux Mixture.

on Azalea

n you tell me what is attacking my as, whether it is anything that matters, now, if so, I can cure it? They have out of doors all the summer, and I re- l of them this year. They are now cold greenhouse.

(MISS) IDA M. SHAND.

his curious-looking growth or gall is common on Azaleas and on bushes of lpine Rose, Rhododendron ferrugineum note and illustration issue July 23rd, 448). It is not a serious trouble, but alls should be cut off and burnt, and the sprayed with sulphate of potassium.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

splanting large trees

nks to having at last been able to pur- some land adjoining my garden, I se doing a lot of transplanting this n (about now). There are Prunus, ssus, Poplars, and a Beech tree 25 feet Will you, please, tell me the right nt, and whether the risk, with the especially, is too great to take. *We wish to lose* IT. Poplars about 20 feet Prunus about 15 feet high, Cupressus 12 feet high. Our altitude here is 650 bove sea-level. JOHN GLYNN.

e present is the most suitable time for planting your trees, and if moved with nd treated as follows there is a reason- hance of their coming through safely, of course, with such large specimens is a risk of loss, however well the work e. (1) See that the new stations are prepared by deep digging before lifting ees, and that such stations are a foot all round than the present require- of the ball of roots; the benefit of this felt during dry spells next year. (2) ots of the deciduous trees should not ered at less than 3 feet from the bole, ll the soil possible moved with the ssus. (3) Cut the side branches of all, ing the evergreens, back to half their t length. This sounds rather drastic, will pay you in the end, and, apart helping in the re-establishment of the will reduce the possibility of to-and-fro ent by strong winds. When planting, he soil in firmly about the roots, lly those of the evergreens, and in the case of the latter particularly give a soaking of water, and finish off by mulching the trees with litter of some kind. (4) Stake all the trees very securely, and until growth is seen to be active next year see that the trees do not suffer from lack of moisture, and should May prove excessively dry, as is often the case, damp the evergreens overhead during the evening. New growth is rarely visible on freshly-transplanted Cupressus of the size you mention before the end of July.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Rodgersias for a damp position

(Lady Clarke).—Yes, Rodgersias would be quite a suitable subject for a damp though sheltered position. These might be obtained from Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons, Crawley, Sussex; Messrs. R. Wallace and Co., Tunbridge Wells; or Mr. Amos Perry, Hardy Plant Farm, Enfield. Rodgersia podophylla is the finest of the species, but either Rodgersia æsculifolia or R. pinnata would answer your purpose.

VEGETABLES

Corky Scab of Potatoes

("Ebor").—Your Potatoes are affected with Corky or Powdery Scab, which is caused by the fungus Spongospora subterranea, Lagerh. This disease on some varieties and in some seasons produces roundish powdery scabs; in other varieties a canker-like disease is set up which eats into the flesh of the Potato to a considerable extent; in yet other varieties the Potatoes make secondary growth, and it is the secondary growth that falls a prey to the scab. Your specimens show this latter form of damage. Corky Scab is a serious disease in almost every place where Potatoes are grown, but it is always worse in badly-drained soil, and in wet seasons your land is, of course, contaminated with the spores of this disease, and Potatoes planted another year are almost bound to be affected. To starve the disease out of the land by not planting Potatoes is a long process, and if it is tried, self-set Potatoes must be kept down each year. We have found that anything which can be done to improve the drainage of the garden will reduce the damage caused by this disease. When planting Potatoes in the land again a dressing of flowers of sulphur should be applied at the rate of 2½ ozs. per square yard. The best time to apply this material would be at planting time. Lime increases the disease and should not be applied until the disease has been got under control.

Cooking Silver Beet

Will you kindly tell me the best way to cook Silver Beet? Is it better after it is frosted? We had some plainly boiled, but it was very insipid. E. A. M.

Cheshire.

[Boil for half-an-hour with a little salt, drain off, and put in au Gratin dish and cover with grated cheese. Place a little butter on the top and brown in the oven. It is not improved by frosts.]

FRUIT

Big Bud of Black Currants

(F. W. Harris).—The specimen shoots sent in for examination are affected with Big Bud, which is caused by the mite Eriophyes ribis, Nalepa. If all the plants are so badly affected as the specimens sent, you should take up the plants and burn them, because they are a source of danger to any other Black Currants growing near. If you only sent in the worst of the shoots less drastic treatment may be successful. Your best plan would be to leave the buds alone until January, then go carefully over the bushes and take away the abnormal buds; badly-affected shoots could be removed entirely. All the collected material should be burnt. After the removal of the buds the bushes should be sprayed with a good tar oil winter wash, using 1 gallon of concentrated soluble tar oil added to 19 gallons of water. When growth starts next year and the first leaves of the Black Currants have reached the size of a shilling the bushes should receive another spraying, but you should use lime-sulphur at this period. One gallon of concentrated lime-sulphur should be added to 12 gallons of water. Lime-sulphur at this strength will burn the foliage, but the leaves grow out of the damage and no permanent damage is done. A further spraying with a weak solution of lime-sulphur might be given three weeks later, using 1 gallon to 59 gallons of water.

Quinces for preserving

(Regular Reader).—You can scarcely do better than write to Messrs. Lewis Solomon, Central Avenue, Covent Garden Market, stating your requirements, or an advertisement in our columns would probably assist you.

MISCELLANEOUS

Artificial manures and other questions

(Cymro).—(1) The manures you mention, being readily dissolved in water, and therefore at once taken up by growing plants, are best applied in spring. If applied at the present time much of their valuable properties are washed away by heavy rains.

(2) Time to apply hot lime to the garden.—This may be applied any time during the winter months, especially on heavy clay soils, providing it is dug into the ground straight away. Use stone, or what is generally called Bristol lime, slaking it on the ground where it is to be used, and apply at the rate of half a bushel to the square rod (30¼ square yards).

(3) Holes for Parsnips, Carrots, and Beet.—March is the best time for this work.

(4) Improving Sweet Peas.—Trench your ground 2 feet deep, incorporating a liberal quantity of manure (farmyard) with the soil, cow dung for preference if your soil is heavy, horse manure if the soil is light, a sprinkling of lime (freshly slaked) and wood-ash being added, and the whole thoroughly mixed together. To the top 12 inches add a dusting of bone-meal also, and when the plants commence to bloom water once each week with diluted manure-water, which may be provided by placing half a bushel of sheep's droppings in a sack and keeping same in a barrel of water. Soot-water is also very useful as a change for the plants if treated in the same way. Prepare your ground in November and leave it until spring to settle down, pricking it over with a fork three weeks before planting the Peas.

Brown patches on lawn

I read with interest your correspondent's, "E. C. B.'s" note referring to "Brown patches on lawn" (page 666, October 22nd issue). I have had trouble here with brown patches the size of a dinner plate on a new lawn made by a good firm of nurserymen. We have three dogs here, and I found the source of my trouble to be the dung and urine from our dogs. F. B.

Cleaning garden paths

My gravel paths have become more or less coated with a black slime which the weed-killer I use does not remove, though it is quite efficient on the weeds. Can you recommend a suitable dressing to remove it?

A. H. WOLLEY-DOD.

[Try a dressing of common salt applied during settled weather.]

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ghton's Best Chrysanthemum Show

HE three days' Chrysanthemum Show of the Brighton, Hove, and Sussex Horticultural Society, which opened on mber 1st, was a record one for entries for quality. The exhibition was re-able for its large groups of Chrys-mums and other flowers. These ex-; were so numerous that the whole of Dome, Corn Exchange, and the Art ry were occupied. The number of en-(650) represented an increase of nearly ver the total last year.

great feature of the show was the ton Corporation's magnificent non-etitive exhibit in the Dome. The huge rm was completely hidden in a wealth rysanthemums interspersed with foliage s, with a neatly-clipped hedge of era nitida in the foreground.

President, Sir Cooper Rawson, M.P., led at the luncheon, and the speakers led Major G. C. Tryon, M.P., Lady on, Councillor R. Major (the retiring r of Brighton), Councillor H. Close Mayor of Hove), Councillor C. Kingston Mayor-elect of Brighton), and General e, of the London Parks.

the luncheon the Chairman of the y, Councillor Richard Major, J.P., re-ed upon the fact that the Society had xceeded the 2,000 mark in membership. nnection with this fact he made brief nce to a scheme which has been ged for competitions for the best dis-in front or back gardens, window-, and hanging-baskets in the town.

ME AMATEUR PRIZE-WINNERS

William Balchin Cup for a group of anthemums was won by Mr. W. H. s (gardener, Mr. V. J. Scott), Beech-Withdean. The second prize was d off by the new Mayor, Councillor C. ton (gardener, Mr. A. B. Bishop), Lea-Withdean. Happily, there has always a close association between the civic of the Borough and the Society, and is every prospect of a continuance of easant state of affairs.

silver bowl presented by Alderman iah Colman, J.P., for 24 Japanese anthemums was won by Viscountess ay (gardener, Mr. R. Middleton), ckhurst, Crawley. Mr. R. Middleton uccessful in winning many prizes for exhibition blooms. His best varieties Majestic, Red Majestic, Mr. Sargent, al Petain, Princess Mary, Thalia, y, Dawn of Day, H. Wells, Julia, Thorpe, A. Davis, F. Joliffe, and Pulling.

he fruit class, Mr. E. Carpenter, gar-to Lieut.-Colonel P. R. Papillon, urst Park, Battle, won Mr. J. han's silver cup for two bunches of Grapes.

he vegetable championship class for a on of vegetables (nine distinct kinds) Sussex the first prize was once again y Mr. W. Sinfield, of Brighton. Mr. l was the winner in 1925 and 1926.

TRADE EXHIBITS

Brighton Corporation Cup for the best in the show was won by Messrs. W. and Sons, Ltd., with a marine gar-in which an anchor, formed of and Chrysanthemums, rested on on which were arranged boulders, d, and sea birds.

the non-competitive exhibits which o much to the splendour and magni-of the scene special mention should le of the vegetables by Sutton and arnations by Allwood Bros., Orchids by Sutton Bros., Chrysanthemums by Keith Luxford, Ltd.

Hardy fruit, autumn-tinted shrubs, and Chrysanthemums were well shown by Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons, Geo. Miles and Son, Dyke Road, Brighton, and others.

NAMES OF PLANTS

A. L., Stirling.—1, Cypripedium spicerianum; 2, C. Fairrieanum var.; 3, C. barbatum var.; 4, C. barbatum hybrid; 5, C. insigne hybrid, probably x villosum. Rex Begonias: 1, Roi Leopold; 2, Marshalli; 3, Argentea.

Lismore.—This appears to be a form of Ulmus nitens as far as we can gather from a withered specimen. Please send a better specimen and tell us the habit of the tree. There are many forms of Ulmus nitens.

P. A. A., Derby.—Vitis (Cissus) rhombifolia.

M. N.—1, Veronica Andersoni; 2, V. Autumn Glory.

Erin.—The Spindle Tree (Euonymus europæus). This interesting and beautiful shrub is a native of Britain and does well over chalk. The fruits are most decorative at this season.

A. J. L., Reigate.—1, Chrysanthemum Champ d'Or (golden-yellow); 2, C. La Garonne (pink).

J. Hetherington.—The white sport from Chrysanthemum Pride of Keston is interesting, but we doubt if it is worth naming, as there are better white varieties in cultivation.

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the importance of sending only good typical specimens for naming, and not less than two or three fruits of each variety.

T. M.—Cox's Orange Pippin.

J. F. R.—1, Gascoyne's Seedling; 3, Pear squashed on arrival, probably Triomphe de Vienne; Nos. 2 and 4 next week.

H. Fox, Braintree.—We are interested in the Apple known in Essex as Honeydown. It is probably a German variety known as Rote Walzer. It is not in commerce so far as we know.

H. R. V.—Gascoyne's Scarlet.

Yorks.—1, Pear Winter Nelis; 2 and 3, Apples too poor to name.

A. J. L., Reigate.—1, Not recognised; 2, Pear Beurré de Jonghe.

J. P., Camberley.—Apple Queen.

M. C. and A. S. Taylor.—Emperor Alexander, culinary or dessert Apple, September-November. It is a moderately good variety and worth keeping.

A. J. T., Caterham.—5, Adam's Pearmain; 6, not recognised; 7, Brownlee's Russet; 8, Newton Wonder.

H. R. V.—Apple Wellington.

J. L. Brooks.—Apple Hollandbury; Pear Beurré d'Amanlis.

A. J. J., Caterham.—1, Not recognised, very poor; 2, Allington; 3, Christmas Pearmain; 4, King of the Pippins.

[Many names of fruits are unavoidably held over till next issue.]

LATE REPLIES

Selection of Chrysanthemums

Please tell me (1) the best outdoor Chrysanthemum to grow and earliest, and also could you give me (2) the best indoor white (incurved); also (3) the best six varieties of coloured Japanese Chrysanthemums.

F. A. WOODWARD.

[(1) The best outdoor varieties include Almirante, Golden Almirante, Red Almirante, Cranford Cream, Cranford, Crimson Circle, Harvester, Hollicot Yellow, Mayford White, Mrs. Phil Page, Mrs. Jack Pearson, Phœnix, Pink Profusion, Salmon Profusion, Roi des Blancs; (2) H. W. Thorp; (3) Blanche du Poitou, Jean Pattison, Mrs. R. F. Felton, Mayford Yellow Sunshine, Uxbridge Pink, Delicata.]

Chrysanthemums for cutting

I am anxious to build up a really up-to-date collection of Chrysanthemums, such varieties that are really good for market work, as cut flowers in distinctive colours of white, yellow, bronze reds, and a good pink shade. My object is to grow varieties to follow on the early-flowering section, and to have Chrysanthemums as long as possible.

M. S.

[The following varieties answer your requirements:—Blanche du Poitou, Golden Marvel, Delicata, H. W. Thorp, Jean Pattison, Miss A. Booker, Mrs. R. F. Felton, Mayford Yellow, The Wizard, The Favourite, Uxbridge Pink, Uxbridge Bronze. Single-flowered: J. H. Blyth, Grenadier, Rita, Phyllis Cooper. The above may all be grown in the open ground and then lifted in early autumn with ball of earth and put under glass. Flowers resulting, however, will be inferior to those you would obtain by growing the plants in pots. Do not top the shoots at any time, but allow each variety to assume its natural habit and blossom in its particular season.]

R.H.S. Examinations

The Examinations of the Royal Horticultural Society will be held in 1928 as follows:—

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

General Examination (Seniors and Juniors), Wednesday, March 21st.

Teachers' Examination (Preliminary and Advanced), Saturday, March 24th.

National Diploma (Preliminary and Final), Saturday, May 5th.

PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

Teachers' Examination (Advanced), Friday, June 15th.

National Diploma (Preliminary), Tuesday and Wednesday, June 19th and 20th.

National Diploma (Final), Thursday and Friday, June 21st and 22nd.

All entries, except those for the National Diploma, should be made on the form in the syllabus, obtainable from The Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Benn Brothers' Other Journals

The Cabinet Maker.—Furniture to Special Design; Textiles in Furnishing; Upholstery and Curtains; New Books; Inside of a Mattress—XXXVI.

The Chemical Age.—The Sulphate of Ammonia Position; Monthly Dyestuffs Supplement: Basic Intermediates for Dyestuffs; Fastness from the Makers' Point of View.

The Electrician.—"Atmospherics," by Lt.-Col. A. G. Lee; "How I Would Sell Electrical Appliances," by Mrs. Christine Frederick; "Electricity Supply and the Consumer," by J. Rutherford Blaikie; "The Electrical Equipment of Cinemas," by R. V. Johnson.

The Fruit Grower.—Growers' Day at Imperial Fruit Show. Special Report of Conferences and Luncheon, with illustrations.

The Gas World.—Grilling on Gas Cookers; Utilisation of Waste Heat in Gas-works.

Hardware Trade Journal.—Kettles and Competition; Ironmongers and Price-cutting; Anglo-German Trade; Students' Notebook: Facts About Roofing Felts.

The Timber Trades Journal.—Warranties in the Contract of Sale; Congestion Problems at the London Docks; After-effects of the Carpathian Cloud-burst; Sun-sharpening Machine.

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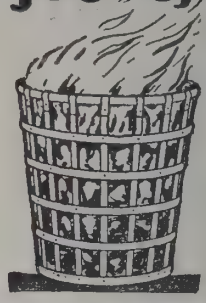

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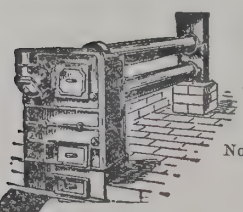

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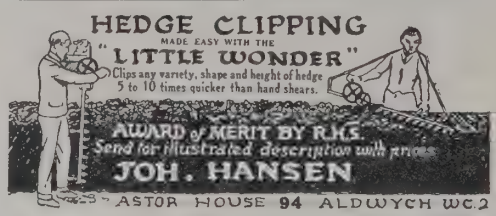

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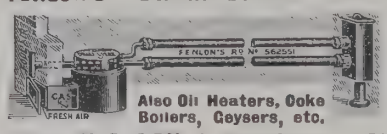

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Starting a Hardy Flower Border

these days few gardeners practise the d-time bedding out of more or less tender lants, and rightly so, for hardy plants not only less expensive, but they add so h more interest and charm to the gar-

No garden, large or small, can be con-ed complete without a good border of y plants ensuring a delightful display for e years. And if hardy bulbs, annuals, biennials are mingled with them in cer-parts this mixed border will become one e finest features in the garden.

e secret of success in starting a hardy er is the thorough proper treatment of oil before planting, rwise disappoint-t is the only result. ly plants must a well-tilled and enriched soil if are to root freely, fore trench the er quite 3 feet deep. out a trench two wide and one in 1, and remove the o the opposite end. break up the soil e bottom with the working in some ire at the same

Over the broken-il place a layer of ire and dig over ext spit of soil on . Proceed in this until the end of the r is reached and oil from the first 1 ready to fill the and the job is ed.

border is now to the depth of t without mixing yers of soil, which some importance. a mistake to put od surface soil at the bottom and bring bsoil—which is almost always sour—to p. If care is taken to properly carry e operation we shall obtain a greater without mixing the top soil and sub-

s important to consider the manures le to the different soils. Those of a clayey nature require fresh horse e incorporated with the subsoil and tted manure with the top soil; also rit, leaf-mould, and any burnt refuse, obtain a good surface rooting medium. case of a border not to be planted till spring give the soil 4 ozs. of ground lime to every square yard in January or February.

Soils of a light or sandy nature should have cow or pig manure or fresh peat moss litter manure, also 1 oz. of sulphate of potash and 4 ozs. of bone-meal to the square yard, adding the latter two to the top soil. With regard to chalky soils they require cow or pig manure and 1 oz. of kainit to every square yard. If manure is scarce Wakeley's Hop Manure is an excellent substitute, giving 2 lbs. to every square yard.

When autumn comes round again dress the borders with 4 ozs. of ground lime per square yard, and top-dress with rotted manure at the rate of one barrowful to about 10 square yards. Then in May fork in 2 ozs. of a good fertiliser to every square yard. Carry out this treatment and you will secure a fine display of bloom from spring to late autumn.

Where the garden and borders are large enough much attention in these days is given to harmonious colour schemes.

In most amateurs' gardens, however, where borders are only 2 feet or 3 feet wide and 40 feet long at the very most it is almost impossible to get a mass of colour to look well. In these circumstances try a nice mixture of colours, taking care not to plant near each other two colours that do not harmonise.

In the large garden where borders are 10 feet to 12 feet in width and 60 feet to 100 feet in length there can be a definite colour scheme. In such cases we can then have from eight to a dozen of one kind planted or massed together in irregular groups, and if there is a sequence of harmony of colour the whole will be delightful. Plants of different kinds must be selected in order that the border may give a display of colour from early spring until late autumn.

The first flowers will be in February from Snowdrops, Crocuses, Chionodoxas, etc., and end in autumn with Michaelmas Daisies and Chrysanthemums.

In the large borders let the plants be grown in large bold groups, but in small borders use three plants like Delphiniums and Phloxes, six medium ones like Pyrethrums, and eight to 10 plants like Violas in a group. Avoid planting in straight lines, but have some in oblique strips, some in elongated ovate masses, and others in a free and natural way. There must be no arrangement in order of height from the dwarfest to the highest, but let some kinds come well and boldly to the front, forming bays of irregular formation in which the dwarf kinds can be planted.

If the border is planted on these lines it will be far more interesting and beautiful than lines of equal height or a mere jumble of colours.

Flower beds and borders may also be planted for effect at various seasons.

All tall plants, such as Delphiniums, should be given ample space, not less than 3 feet apart; medium growers, such as Pyrethrums, 2 feet; Carnations, Antirrhinums, etc., about 16 inches apart; and Violas, Pinks, and other dwarf plants about 9 inches apart.

F. H.

Children and flowers

Borders of flowers, with wide grass path and backed by tall Yew hedges, in Mr. Thackeray Turner's garden at Westbrook, Godalming. The flowers include Phloxes, tall Campanulas, Gypsophila, Verbascum, and Tobacco Plants. In this picture are the three children of the late Mr. Mallory, whose name will for ever be associated with the gallant attempt to reach the summit of Mount Everest

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Harrogate Horticultural Show

The Harrogate Horticultural Show, which is run with the Agricultural Society's Show, is fixed for Friday and Saturday, August 10th and 11th, 1928, and is likely to be of an extensive and attractive character. A working Committee has been formed with Mr. C. W. H. Allen as Chairman and the Rev. J. Bernard Hall, Manager, whilst Col. W. F. Collins, D.S.O. (President), and Lady Evelyn Collins are taking great interest in the section. The show this year took everybody by surprise, and the exhibitors are sure to be more numerous next time. The Royal Horticultural Society have promised to send delegates, and several cups are to be available for competition. H.R.H. Princess Mary Viscountess Lascelles is a patron of the Society, and it is expected she will again visit the show.

Grading and packing of Apples

Much has been heard on this subject recently, particularly in connection with the demonstrations of proper marketing which the Ministry has given at various agricultural and other shows. Now, a leaflet of the Ministry of Agriculture (No. 98) has appeared which goes into the whole question of Apple grading, giving the various kinds of packs for use in connection with certain stated packages and the descriptions of recognised market grades for both cooking and dessert Apples. Questions of wrappings for the Apples, the proper labelling of boxes and other details in correct marketing are also discussed in the leaflet, which can be obtained on application to the Ministry at 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. 1.

Veronica trial at Wisley

The Royal Horticultural Society is arranging a trial of herbaceous Veronicas at Wisley during the coming season, and invites entries of three plants of each variety, which should reach the Director, R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, Ripley, Surrey (Station, Southern Railway, Horley), on or before Saturday, December 17th. The necessary entry forms may be obtained on application to the Director.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Salvia uliginosa

WITH reference to the article from Col. Wolley-Dod, I have grown Salvia uliginosa for several years. It grows easily anywhere. I have it in three different positions here, but in one the results are far more satisfactory. This is at the end of a border in a paved courtyard under a south wall sheltered from the east. The soil is sandy loam and mortar-rubble, very dry, and the border has in it, among other things, a Fig, Iris stylosa (white and blue) against the wall, and Crinums. The Salvia has made a great clump at the end, does not grow more than 4 feet, flowers earlier than in other situations, and was this year covered with its lovely blue flowers till the frost.

Sussex. MEILOR BRIDGMAN.

Schizostylis Mrs. Heggarty

I was interested in the notes on this handsome plant by "E. M., Sussex" and Mr. Blathwayt, and, cultivating both the common Kaffir Lily and Mrs. Heggarty's plant in my garden and having big bunches of both of them in our living-room now and for several weeks past, whilst the plants in the open continue to throw up quantities of further spikes in spite of bitterly cold winds, I feel I must add my testimony to the usefulness of these African flowers for late autumn colour. I had my first experience with S. Mrs. Heggarty fully five years ago, when living in Hertfordshire. I received a packet of seeds of this from a friend in Ireland who thought a proportion of the seedlings might be expected to produce rose-coloured flowers.

The seeds were sown at once in a pan and germinated most readily, being wintered in a cold frame. They arrived at flowering size within a year of being sown, and I am still growing plants from that sowing and the third generations of seedlings from them, and have not found a single plant reverting to the scarlet plant so long known in our gardens. I am ignorant of the origin of the plant named after Mrs. Heggarty, but feel a strong inclination to look upon it as either a very well-marked form of the common Kaffir Lily or even a distinct species.

With me it has always been fully 6 inches shorter than the scarlet-flowered plant, although growing side by side with it under identical conditions, and the same difference was maintained when growing both in pans under glass for the brightening up of a cold house during the dull months of the year. I should be glad if this correspondence would induce the original raiser or introducer of this fine plant to tell the gardening world whether Mrs. Heggarty was a chance seedling or sport of S. coccinea, or if it originated from an importation of seed from So Africa. Referring to the Cambridge logical Series' volume on "Flowe Plants," I see it stated that two species o in South Africa, although all my avail handbooks mention only S. coccinea, an wonder if the plant we know as S. M Heggarty may not possibly be the sec species introduced as seed from South Afr

W. E. TH.

Salvia uliginosa, which, as its name implies, likes moisture

Flowers dark sky blue on long twiggy stems. The flowers are produced over a long season from July to the arrival of autumn frost

Prize-winning Apples

At a recent show held in this part of country a special prize was offered for best dish of dessert Apples to be selected f all the others and a special for the best of cooking. Charles Ross was awarded special for dessert and Peasgood's Nons for cooking. In some catalogues these varieties are catalogued dessert and cook The Charles Ross was as large as an o nary or good-sized Peasgood. Now I sh like to have your opinion or the opinio your readers. Peasgood is a good des Apple, and yet it was awarded in the cool class. Some might think it too large dessert; if so, the Charles Ross was large dessert. Several varieties were exhib If I sent an order to a nurseryman fo good cooking Apple tree I would expect be a cooker, not a cooking or dessert var

Co. Galway. T. V

[In awarding the prize for the dish of cooking Apples to the variety P good's Nonsuch and for the best disl dessert Apples to the variety Charles the judges were quite within their rig Peasgood's Nonsuch is essentially a coo Apple, and a frequent prizewinner as s Charles Ross, which is a cross between P good's Nonsuch and Cox's Orange Pippi always classed and exhibited as a des variety. It is a very handsome Apple a popular favourite on the show table, but not of first-class quality. We are rather prised that extra large fruits of Charles should be adjudged the best dessert Appl the show, but as we know nothing of competing exhibits we obviously ca criticise the judges' decision.]

Yellow and other Roses

We have a large Rose-bed to plant will take 10 or 12 dozen Roses to fil With so much red brick about near, it been suggested that a bed of yellow R would come well. I wonder what you th It would be kind of you if you would and what Roses to plant. J. C. S.

Long trials here have made us know r of the yellow Roses and many fail Some that got a gold medal at a show r opened a flower at all.

The finest two yellow Roses are Wemys Quin, a very noble Rose; the ne value is Lady Hillingdon; these after r years' trial in the open without protecti any kind. I should not go beyond two, and plant a group of, say, a d plants of each kind, not closer than 3 apart.

Do not attempt to make large mass yellow Tea Roses alone. Follow groups of such Roses as Mme. Leon P Marie Van Houtte, La Tosca, Joseph Mme. Butterfly, G. Nabonnand, Princ Bulgarie, Pharisær, General MacAr Lady Inchiquin, Theresa, Frances G Hugh Dickson, and Mrs. Henry M These are more beautiful and varied in c than the yellow Roses.

Cast away the idea of the Rose as bo stuff. Every good Rose deserves a sp earth to itself. As the Roses may not their natural rods, I scrape off the bark the graft in the hope that the Roses will emit their own roots. W.

Gravetye.

A new garden fertiliser

n the course of a recent visit to Germany ame across a development in horticulture ch may be of interest to your readers. recent years in that country there has n an immense development in the manure of "synthetic" fertilisers, that is, ilisers made from the soil. The principal is the familiar sulphate of ammonia, but most interesting is urea, the active ciple of animal excreta. This is, in one se, not an "artificial" manure at all, it dentical with the substance which gives lung its fertilising value. In fact, *one nd* of it is in this respect equivalent to *cwt.* of ordinary stable manure. During visit I learned the interesting fact that tinental growers of fruit, vegetables, and ers find that urea is a most valuable liser. They say that, not only does it ease yield, it also improves qualities, as flavour and keeping quality. Flowerers claim that its use deepens the colour of flowers. I actually saw herbaceous ers which had been treated with urea, the vividness of the colouring was unted. The enterprising "Stickstoff icat" has gone a step further. There now on the market "Harnstoff-kaliphor," which may be politely interpreted n-cum-potash-phosphorus. I believe this ains urea, phosphate of ammonia and te of potassium, the most complete and able collection of manures that can be ained. I should like to see these new s on the market here, for I have a contional dislike to using substances of unvn chemical composition. I know that y craftsmen do not like artificials; they their faith on muck, and plenty of it! what about urea, the identical essence uck? A. B. B.

Climbing flowering shrubs

seems to me that climbing Roses are so ctive, so numerous, and so easily grown there is a great danger of other beautiful ers for fences, arches, and house walls entirely neglected. Take the glorious atis, for instance. In how many gardo we find it adequately represented? t can be had in flower almost the year if careful selection be made. As I there is that grand variety, Comtesse ouchard, in full flower on one of the walls, its satin-rose flowers showing perfection in the pale November sun. A good late-flowering kind is C. tica, the golden Clematis. The flowers nall, it is true, but they are attractive, he plant is a most graceful climber. there are other very useful climbing s, such as ornamental Vines, Rock or Cotoneaster, Jessamine, Firethorn, thus Wistaria, and many others. of them will be found nice and attrac winter and others in summer. Those lesire to have their gardens as interests possible all the year round I strongly mend them to consider these climbing s. F. H.

anthemum: New incurved variety

as pleased to see the illustration of the ncurved variety, Monument, in your of the 12th inst., as it enables readers reciate in some measure the large size rm of this handsome new white in variety. During the last year or two has seemed to be a slight revival of t in these flowers, of globular form, ular 30 years ago. Strange to relate, arket growers are now taking interest incurved type of the flower—at one hey were not tolerated. The incurved es are highly decorative. One of the prettiest vases I have seen at the shows where I have judged this season was that in which about nine blooms of medium size were arranged, and these were of yellow colour and white. D. B. C.

The quest of the unusual in Iris

I READ the article under the above heading with much interest and wish that we had as many native species in the British Isles as she mentions. I wonder if she has grown or seen Iris lacustris? When visiting Messrs. Thompson and Morgan's nursery at Ipswich in the last week of October I saw some of the beautiful little things in blossom. The small tufts threw up green grass-like leaves about 6 inches high and the flower-stem reaches about the same height. The general effect of the bloom is that of light violet, but it well repays close examination. The standards are a rich light purple and the falls are light purple at the margin with a well-defined white stripe in the centre bordered by a very deep purple zone. The white central stripe is dotted with very small purple spots and the base of the white stripe shades into deep yellow. This is exposed far down into the throat and not covered in as in most of the

Iris lacustris
Native of North America

Irises. I think this little gem must be the smallest of them all. At Ipswich it appears to thrive well in ordinary loam and the usual conditions of a choice herbaceous flower border. H. H. WARNER.

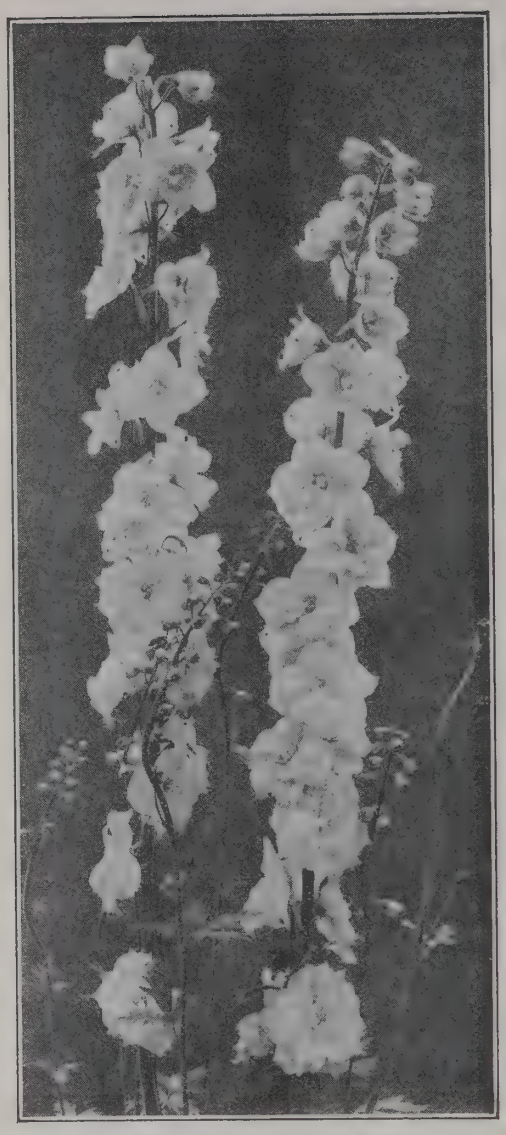
The plough in the garden

The very interesting contribution in the issue of November 12th, p. 711, concerning the use of the plough in the garden, opens up a matter which might, profitably, be discussed in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED. The writer makes out quite a good case, but there is a reverse to the medal. Even admitting everything he adduces in favour of the plough, it appears to me that in the majority of cases the use of that implement would not be an entire success. To begin with, we are faced with the necessity of purchasing a pair of horses (and their appropriate harness), with their maintenance, shoeing, and so forth, for what is merely seasonal work. What are we to do with the horses when their services may not be needed? They cannot always be at work in the garden. Horses accustomed to the plough are not easily hired. If the plough must supersede the spade then, I think, it were time to abolish the kitchen garden, as such, and to hand over the producing of vegetables—I mean, of course, in private establishments—to the home farm, or to some adjacent agriculturist, who would be paid for his labour. The plough cannot do everything—it cannot prepare Celery trenches, nor is it adapted for making, for instance, an Asparagus bed. The writer instances the fine root crops produced by plough culture, but apparently he overlooks the fact that these root crops never for a series of years occupy the same site. In a kitchen garden, of necessity, the rotation of crops is quicker than it is upon a farm of several hundred acres. Then let me take the question of Brassicas. I do not, for one, agree that this family produces the best crops when the seeds are sown where the plants are to grow. Even admitting that they do, is it not clear that instead of buying our seeds of Brassicas by the ounce we will require to buy them by the pound? Consider, too, the labour involved in thinning the seedlings, which cannot be done with a plough! I do not pause to inquire into the condition of the subsoil of a garden which has been cultivated to a depth of no more than 8 inches—the average depth of the plough cultivation—year after year. Those who have any experience in the matter will know that the "hard pan" underneath, while it may suit Turnips and other roots, is not at all suitable for Peas and legumes generally. I agree, heartily, with the writer in many of his remarks—he has quite evidently devoted much thought to his subject, and, in some respects, his conclusions are well founded. Yet point of view is everything, and I am sure he will not feel aggrieved if I point out certain details which, to me at all events, appear to be fatal to the employment of the plough in the kitchen garden of moderately-sized private establishments, and by "moderately-sized" I mean those of from 3 acres to 6 acres in extent. Even the larger could not, profitably, employ a pair of horses. A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

National Chrysanthemum Society's Show

The very excellent report of the show held by the National Chrysanthemum ociety at Vincent Square on November 3rd and 4th, accompanied by such admirable illustrations (issue November 12th), must have made many old exhibitors like myself wish that they could have been present. Every year the flower seems to be greatly improved, and it demonstrates what possibilities are open for its culture.

We do not all exhibit in these days, but I think if it could be found possible for the National to be a movable show many more members would join it, and it would be an asset to some provincial exhibitions that are now only once more "feeling their feet" after the war years. I think I am right in saying that in the early 'eighties the experiment was tried of having a National Show at Sheffield, but I do not think it met with much success then. Times have changed, however, and where a dozen grew Chrysanthemums in that far-off time a hundred will be found to-day who cultivate the flower. The early-flowering section has done not a little to popularise it, and because of this, greenhouses in many districts have been erected for the sheltering and blooming of later-flowering sorts. What amazed me was to read that in the Class No. 23, devoted to singles, there was no competition, yet in that section we have some of the most beautiful and easy-to-grow Chrysanthemums for home decoration. I am glad that it was found possible to produce photographs of specimen plants in pots, and in particular those two very charming varieties, viz., Blanche Poitevine (white) and Jean Pattison (bronzy-yellow), which are most excellent for the purpose, as I can testify from practical experience. W. F.



Delphinium Statuaire Rude

Delphiniums to plant now

THESE handsome stately border plants, the most beautiful of the blue flowers, are indispensable for beds and borders. The tall, bold flower-spikes grow from 3 feet to 6 feet high, according to the variety, and range in colour from palest sky-blue to the darkest shades of violet and indigo. Many have a pretty tinge of rose, pink, or purple on the petals, whilst in the centre of some there are clusters of white, brown, and even bronzy-black petals. There are now also good white-flowering varieties. The season of flowering extends from June to October. To flower from August to October, seedlings make the greatest display, but if after the first flowering the stems are cut down, fresh flower-spikes will push up from established border clumps.

Roots can be planted this month in most gardens, the only exception being when the borders are of a rather heavy and wet clay. This ground should be dug up in November, left rough all the winter, planting towards the end of March. Delphiniums are perfectly hardy, and will grow and flower well in most cultivated soils. Trench the ground from 1½ feet to 2 feet deep and add plenty of well-decayed manure, leaf-mould, soot, and bonfire ashes. The roots or clumps should be lifted, divided, and replanted every third or fourth year, at the same time trenching and manuring the ground.

To divide the clumps use a digging-fork or hand-fork, forcing the prongs into the centre of the clumps, and gradually work the roots apart. Chopping the clumps in pieces with a spade destroys some and damages most of the crowns, so that recovery takes time, whereas clumps carefully divided bloom well the succeeding year if planted in November.

To reproduce named varieties the best mode of increase is by root division, but cuttings can be inserted in sandy soil during spring, when the young shoots are about 3 inches or 4 inches high. Named sorts do not come true from seeds, but amongst the seedlings will be found many with flowers equally showy for general border decoration. The best seasons for sowing on an outside border are in May or June, and in a greenhouse during February and early March. Single clumps of Delphinium are effective in the borders of small gardens, whilst planted in bold groups in borders for lawn beds few hardy plants produce a more brilliant effect during summer and autumn.

As a protection against slugs and snails, old weathered coal-ashes thrown over the clumps are the best, and at intervals during the winter and early spring lime and soot should be sprinkled alternately amongst the plants. Sunny, open positions are the best to plant in, but it is surprising how well Delphiniums thrive in partial shade when the ground is moist.

The varieties of Delphinium are so numerous that it is difficult to make a selection, but I have found the following ones noteworthy for their large single flowers:—Capri, sky-blue; Lamartine, violet-blue; Rev. Lascelles, dark blue with white centre; The Alake, royal blue with violet-purple centre; Carmen, gentian-blue, flushed crimson; King of the Delphiniums, gentian-blue with white centre; Lizzie Van Veen, sky-blue; Moerheimi, white; Mrs. Creighton, cobalt-blue, shaded plum; and Mrs. Thompson, Oxford blue. To this list should be added the Rev. Charles Storr and Sonia. All of these varieties have been well shown in recent years and are now being extensively planted. J. BAKEWELL SMITH.

Delphinium Nudicaule

This delightful Californian species is a fine plant for the rock garden or the front of the hardy flower border. It succeeds admirably in well-drained sandy loam, and to obtain the best effects the plants should be arranged in irregular colonies or drifts, for preference on the higher parts of the rock garden. Seeds offer a ready means of propagation, and it is well to maintain small stocks of surplus plants, as in some soils D. nudicaule is not a long-lived species. The red and yellow shiny flowers are produced over a long period during the summer months, the leaves are lobed and somewhat fleshy, and the height of the plant ranges from 10 inches to 18 inches, according to soil and situation. This "easy," pretty, and wholly satisfactory plant was introduced from California in 1869.

The annual species, D. cardinale, also from California, is taller-growing than the last-named plant, is easily raised from seeds, and is worth a place in the flower border. The flowers are a very bright shade of red, almost scarlet, with the petal limbs distinctly yellow.

For their bright colouring these two Larkspurs are well worthy of attention from all gardeners, especially D. nudicaule, a really good plant. RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Pinks

Pinks are amongst the most appreciated of our sweet-smelling garden flowering plants, requiring nothing in the way of special culture, and are often allowed to go for years undisturbed. That, I think, is a mistake so many are apt to make, as, instead treating them as individual plants, and getting the best from them, they are left themselves, and the young plant in the fi instance spreads out in all directions in border, usurping, very often, space righ belonging to other things, so that they come miniature beds. This is not imaginary picture, as one frequently fi this state of things permitted, and one come to no other conclusion than that t are not disturbed because of sentimen reasons. But those who make a practice propagating a few plants from cuttings ev year after plants have bloomed know v well that it ensures quality of flowers, as i from young plants the finest blossoms can cut. The propagating of Pinks is a v simple matter, as cuttings taken at a jo in August will not be long in rooting dibbled firmly in sandy soil just where t are wanted to remain, or in a bed for s sequent removal. For years I have follov the plan of striking a certain number of c tings, and so quality of stock is kept up, plants being discarded. Mrs. Sinkins is of our best whites, and its fragrance is yond question. Cuttings that were stru last autumn and need to be shifted to ot quarters can be lifted carefully and plan in March. Ordinary garden soil with little grit worked amongst it suffices.

TOWNSMAN

Erigeron Asa Gray

This attractive hybrid Erigeron has b in cultivation for a considerable number years, and the writer well remembers h pleased were hardy plant lovers when it introduced, as it marked a distinct break colour, although one of its parents, aurantiacus, is orange-coloured. But Gray is apricot in hue and has considera larger flowers than E. aurantiacus. grows about a foot high and flowers in J and July. It is quite a good border pla and will thrive in ordinary garden loam. is perfectly hardy in sun or partial shade. Asa Gray is increased by division. colour of this Erigeron is not brilliant enou for some, but it is greatly admired by oth who appreciate its large flowers and common hue. Plants may be planted autumn or spring. The writer has n grown it from seeds. S. ARNOT

Delphiniums, from palest sky blue t darkest shades of indigo

Perennial Lobelias

ALL perennial Lobelias are showy plants for a damp, shady part of the garden, and more use should be made of them hese positions. It is often stated that are only half-hardy, and thus trouble-, but all that is necessary for their con-d existence is to lift them in November winter them in the cold frame, the roots- planted out again in the following g. Large clumps may be divided in spring, and these will give vigorous g stock for planting out in May. It is always even necessary to lift the plants utumn, for in many districts they sur- the winters outdoors if afforded the pro- n of light litter or cinder ashes. How- for safety's sake it is a wise plan to lift v plants so that a stock may be in re- for propagating purposes in case of ent to the outdoor plants. Lobelias also be raised from seed sown in heat in the year, and these seedlings will r quite well in their first season. From od strain of mixed seed many rich rs can be expected, for though the true es are restricted to blue, white, scarlet, rose, the hybrid forms will exhibit a far r range of colour than this.

e four most important garden species ardinalis, with bronzy-green foliage and scarlet blossoms; fulgens, having dark gany foliage and tall spikes of scarlet rs; Syphilitica, with rich masses of foliage surmounted by bold spikes of om in white, blue, or pink; and Tupa, a aratively new sort bearing reddish- le flowers. Besides the species noted , all of which reach a height of 3 feet , there are many hybrid forms of varied ntage, as well as fine selected forms of rue species. Some of the best of these Rosalind, salmon-scarlet; Cœrulea liflora, bright blue; Gloire de St. Annes, t vermilion; Geraldi, large violet oms; Sam Barlow, carmine; Hunts- rich velvety-crimson; Firefly, with red e and vivid scarlet flowers; and Queen ria, purple foliage and scarlet blossoms. mentioned earlier, Lobelias must have nplitude of moisture if they are to be a ss. The ground should now be deeply n preparation for planting, leaf-mould otted manure being incorporated as the proceeds. For specially fine flower- weak liquid-manure may be given frequently as soon as the flower-buds r, but for all ordinary purposes there is ed to go to this extra trouble.

se Lobelias are often recommended for ng by the waterside, but their half- nature does not render them ideal for this purpose. A new race of dly hardy kinds, with the practically L. syphilitica as one parent, has been d during recent years, and these should great value for the purpose under con- tion, as well as for planting in the border. These hybrids will respond same general details of cultivation as sted for the half-hardy sorts, but, of , it will not be necessary to lift them autumn. A slight covering of sharp s should be scattered over the crowns winter, as the succulent young hs are much beloved of the voracious In spring the clumps should be lifted ivided, the tufts of growth being re- d rather thickly in their permanent ns. There are a number of named available at the present time, and a entative collection of this class will the following among others:— Beauty, with plum-coloured foliage ep crimson flowers, growing 4 feet to tall; Kimbridge, unique for the rich of its foliage (brick-red, with an over-lay of carmine), and bearing rich purple-maroon flowers; B. Ladhams, vivid scarlet-crimson blossoms; Purple King; Carmineus, bright cerise; and Bluebird, with flowers of a good shade of blue. B. D. SHAUL.

Aster Farrerii

Aster Farrerii, on its advent, was received with jubilation by many on account of the enthusiastic admiration bestowed upon it by the lamented flower-lover whose name it bears, *i.e.*, "It is a superb beauty." These words may well sum up his opinion of the flower. But it is doubtful if this verdict will be fully endorsed by those who have cultivated it. Its drawback with many has been its shy-flowering habit, and it would be a benefit if a little interchange of experience would lead to a better understanding of its requirements and of how to secure plenty of its striking, rough, rather straggly ray-petalled flowers. Personally, I have received the best results from a plant set close to a stone edging beside a paved path, where the plant had grown so as to cling closely to the low stone edging and through the crevices of which it had invaded the joints of the path. There it bloomed fairly well and gave its orange and purple flowers much more satisfactorily than in other places. In Nature, in Tibet it appears to grow in grass, but it is doubtful if it could hold its own in our lush grass. It is absolutely hardy, as one would expect from a Tibetan plant such as this. A. Farrerii may be planted now or in spring, and increases freely at the root for dividing, but seeds are procurable. S. ARNOTT.

Corydalis solida

Corydalis solida, sometimes known as Fumaria bulbosa, has been many years in cultivation, but, like many other good plants, has never found its way into a vast number of gardens. It has been recommended for naturalising, and it is eminently adapted for this in the wild garden, but there are many gardens where there are out-of-the-way shady spots which might be beautified from March to May with the Fern-like foliage and purple flowers of Corydalis solida. It has in C. cava a sister-flower resembling it greatly, but having a hollow instead of a solid bulb. In favourable conditions it may reach a height of 15 inches or so, but this depends greatly upon the soil and its character as regards moisture. In very dry, sandy soil it will be much dwarfer. C. solida likes a compost of leaf-mould and sand, with some loam, and, with a little, but not too much, moisture, will be happy and increase with fair rapidity. Tubers can be procured in autumn, and may be planted as soon as received at a depth of 2 inches. Although not showy, C. solida is pleasing, its Fern-like leaves and heads of pretty purple flowers giving a quiet pleasure to the beholder. S. A.

Lobelia cardinalis in the flower garden at Gravetye Manor, Sussex

"TRANSAT"

By Sir William Lawrence, Bart.

THE Compagnie General Transatlantique, "Transat," has an extensive programme of tours in North Africa. As a private party, five in a car, we were able to arrange our excursions to suit our convenience, whilst the "remorque" or trailer which carried our luggage was most convenient for baskets of plants. Major Pam and I descended at likely spots armed with fern trowels, and the three ladies of the party ably assisted.

At Bordeaux, whence we sailed for Casablanca, the Botanical Gardens are of long standing and contain many fine trees, notably Magnolia. In the centre is a large Palmhouse with wings for succulents and temperate-house plants. From the line of the glasshouses the collection of hardy plants, arranged in natural orders, spreads fan-wise.

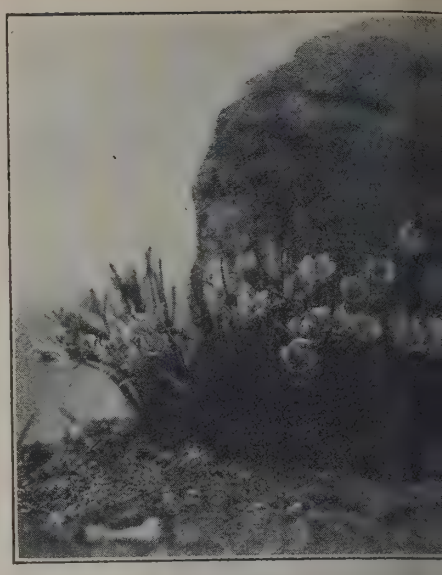
We left Casablanca for Marrakesh late in the afternoon, and as soon as we were clear of the town found the deep verges on each side of the road ablaze with annuals. Take the most gorgeous picture of a border that has ever graced Sutton's or Carter's catalogues, convert it into a transparency and hold it to sunlight, and you will have some idea of the riot of colour. Calendulas, Chrysanthemums, Arctotis, and other composites were there in endless variety of flowers and foliage, white, primrose-yellow, sulphur, canary, orange, buff, brown. Some had annular markings and others had deep brown or purple coloration at the back of the petals. Unfortunately, in nearly every case it was too early for seed. A magnificent form of Convolvulus althæoides was ubiquitous in Morocco, the colour varying from pale pink to a deep wine-red. A low-growing Echium was seen everywhere, and here, again, the colour varied—blue, purple, red. Lupins were deep blue, canary-yellow, and, in the neighbourhood of Rabat, turquoise-blue. Glorious masses of violet flowers were greeted by all as Convolvulus mauritanicus, but proved to be an annual, Convolvulus minor, a plant which accompanied us throughout. This occurs in many shades of blues and violets, with yellow or white eye or without an eye, some forms being very fine. Iris sisyrinchium rarely left us for long, and occurred in deep purple, dark blue, light blue and grey. I found one pure white flower on the road to Rabat.

Marrakesh is a very large city, now not far short of 200,000. Most of the inhabitants are natives, and their quarters are interesting. In the "souks" the greengrocers were selling both the stalks and heads of wild Artichokes, Broad Beans, and Carrots. The Artichokes and Beans are eaten raw. Also herbs for the evening soup and, above all, Mint. The scent of fresh Mint pervades all Arab towns, and Mint tea is the prevailing passion. To prepare this the teapot is warmed, one teaspoonful of green Tea is put in for each person, and the pot filled with boiling water. After infusing for two minutes the water is poured away without disturbing the Tea leaves. Lumps of sugar are then thrown in and the teapot filled with sprays of fresh Mint; boiling water is added and in a few minutes the Mint tea is ready.

The "Transat" hotel at Marrakesh is palatial, but we were anxious to get to the snow-covered chain of the Atlas some 10 to 15 miles to the south.

We made two expeditions to the foothills and lower slopes of the main chain, and found the country little changed from when Hooker and Ball were there in the 'fifties. Above Amizmiz the flora was of the usual Mediterranean type, Cistus rosmarinifolius, albidus, and salvifolius, two Junipers, Calycotome, Lavendula stœchas (in many shades), and multifida, evergreen Oaks, wild Olives, and Carob. There were patches of Narcissus bulbocodium, a few Orchis, and a beautiful composite with bright pink flowers, purple on the underside and glaucous foliage. (I have since identified this plant as Chrysanthemum Mawii.) In arid passes two beautiful Sorrels, Rumex papilio and R. scutatus, were in seed, and many varieties of Statice in shades of violet, turquoise-blue, and white.

The next day we rode for four hours on mules above Asni, where we found Convolvulus mauritanicus for the first—and last



Narcissus Bulbocodium in the Ceda Forest

—time. There was a very beautiful Ge with purple flowers carrying yellow keel

An ultramarine Teucrium fruticosa, stead of being a shrub, grew through bu of this Broom and other leguminous sh and Clematis cirrhosa was in full seed.

A new "sand" 9-hole golf course is b laid out; "brick" would describe it b than "sand." It was very picturesque.

From Marrakesh we went to Rabat, w was not a fruitful centre for collecting pl though nowhere were the masses of b red Pimpernel more beautiful. Ou Rabat, on the Meknes road, is a large C oak forest, and here we began to find clu of Iris filifolia. Along the irrigation was a Crocus in seed with very long le and large corms, possibly a form of sat which had survived from an early cultiv of Saffron, and also Romuleas.

From Meknes the great expedition Azrou and the Cedar forest. This fo which consists of large isolated group Cedrus atlantica, is between 4,600 feet 6,000 feet, and the snow was lying in r places early in April. Cedrus atlantica tall-growing Cedar, and in this countr best distinguished by its form from Ce Libani. The former is pyramidal in sh while the latter has large spreading bran which often lie on the ground.

After leaving Azrou, a prosperous vi containing a large European populatio gaged in the exploitation of the forest, road winds through a large wood of green Oaks, in every opening of which great clumps of Pæonies just coming flower. A Crocus with small bulbs found in this wood. The open moor was full of two very beautiful pla Asphodelus acaulis, with large, bright flowers, the whole plant being not more 2 inches high, and the white and Ranunculus calindrinifolius, recently sh by Mr. Musgrave at the R.H.S. In spots were large clumps of Narc papyraceus, a plant very rarely found wild state, and the beautiful Scilla peruv with a large umbel of bright blue flowe a short scape. In the dry places Romuleas and small Colchicums in Higher up, where the snow had melt pale, small-flowered Crocus (? nevade was in flower, and also Romuleas Gageas. On the north-east slope, b each large stone were great masse Narcissus bulbocodium varying very siderably in size and colour. A conside number of small Tulips were also f here.

The Forest of Cedrus Atlantica

m Fez there is only one excursion to be in a car, viz., Sefrou. Here the moor-again was full of a tall Iris which ap-d to differ from filifolia, and may be inesii.

e forms of Ophrys lutea, fusca, lum, and Arachnites were found here lsewhere, and we began to find a wine-lallow with enormous flowers and also Verbascum with flowers the size of a . The country round Tlemcen, the Algerian town of importance after g Morocco, provided the best hunting d for Orchis. Here we found quanti-f O. papilionacea, O. tenthredinifera, ot in flower) apparently longibracteata, olopax and Serapias in variety, as well ny commoner or less conspicuous varie-Narcissus, Colchicum, Iris tingitana, lata were also found in the Cork-oak of Hafir, while the spikes of Liliastrum just appearing.

Cistus were just coming into flower, e Erica arborea was nearly over, but cented the air. In this forest were magnificent ancient Cork-oaks and .

profaned the soil of the "bois sacrée" racting two species of Narcissus bulbs, y distressing an old Arab woman who he Marabout.

r leaving Tlemcen the road ascends to ateau, which slopes very gradually to a at Oran. This is highly cultivated ntains magnificent vineyards. As we ched the sea the effects of the ous cyclone of April 12th began to be . All the foliage on the windward ad been burnt up as with fire. The shoots, some 4 feet long, were de-l, the Broad Beans were blackened to a few inches of the ground and were over to the goats. Figs, Eucalyptus, and fruit trees alike had been com-stripped; Bananas were in shreds. ew vineyards, however, between every ws of Vines a narrow line of wheat en planted, perhaps three drills deep, is had almost completely sheltered the in its lee.

enes the country is very dry, but the urses are full of bright flowers, such onillas, Wild Roses, etc. Here we a bright yellow form of the brilliant Adonis.

first part of the road to Algiers winds the coast and is very beautiful, the e very dry and brilliant with Cistus, hing is more beautiful than the great of the unspotted form of Cistus rus. Here, as everywhere in North there is an abundance of sweet-; herbs—Thyme, Lavender, etc.—luscaris and Alliums are to be seen ere.

An ancient Cork Oak

Approaching Algiers the land between the dunes and the foothills is given up to Vines and to market crops. The new Potatoes were being lifted, and the Peas picked (April 19th), and the Tomatoes beginning to colour. All these crops are grown in rather small enclosures of Arundinaria mats. The Tomatoes are grown on ridges and are tied to cords stretched between stakes, long grass being tied to the cords between each plant to protect the young growths. The whole of the cultivations are irrigated.

In a Pine wood above Algiers a number of Orchis were collected, and this wood was very rich in parasitic growths—Orobanche, Limodorum, and a beautiful and brilliant yellow and scarlet flower.

Some of the joys of a garden, October, 1927

By A. C. Bartholomew, V.M.H.

From trees and shrubs for their flowers: Fremontia californica, Ceanothus Arnoldii, Gloire de Versailles, Rosa Mermaid, Magnolia grandiflora.

For their autumn tints: Eucryphia pinnatifolia, Parrotia persica, Vitis Coignetiæ, Rhus cotinus purpurea and atropurpurea, Amelanchier canadensis, Gaylussacia resinosa, Stephanandra Tanakæ.

For their fruits: Berberis aggregata, Cratægus coccinea, Cotoneaster horizontalis, frigida, Callicarpa purpurea, Rosa pendulina, Magnolia tripetala, Celastrus articulatus.

From hardy Monocotyledons: Lilium auratum, Crocus speciosus var. Aitchisoni, caspius, zonatus, pulchellus, Colchicum autumnale, Bornmulleri, byzantinum, Decaisnei, speciosum and s. album, Leucojum autumnale, Funkia subcordata, Sternbergia lutea angustifolia, Tricyrtis hirta, Galanthus cilicicus.

From rock garden plants: Androsace lanuginosa, Putoria calabrica, Anemone obtusiloba, patula, A. slavica, Cyclamen africanum, cilicicum, europæum, neapolitanum and n. album, Campanula haylodgensis, Gentiana Farreri, sino-ornata, acaulis, Omphalodes Luciliæ, Parochetus communis, Oxalis hirta, lobata, Polygala chamæbuxus purpurea, Wahlenbergia hederacea, tasmanica, Viola hederacea, Veronica corymbosa stricta, catarractæ, Meconopsis Bayleyi, Primula capitata Mooreana, Hypericum polyphyllum, Geranium Wallichianum E. C. Buxton's var.

From herbaceous plants: Aster climax, Dahlia Merckii, Calceolaria Sinclairii, Convolvulus calabricus, mauretanicus, Lupinus mutabilis var. Cruickshanksii, Œnothera odorata, Verbena chamædryfolia, Vinca difformis, Salvia uliginosa, Grahami.

On two Magnolia grandiflora on the gardener's cottage there were over 150 perfect flowers.

Weldenia candida.—The gardener discovered that this plant, if pollinated by hand, produced good seed. Had not the season been so wet there would have been quite a good crop.

No words of mine can do justice to the refinement and beauty of Delphinium Welbyi. I think it comes from Kenya.

The golf course at Marrakesh

Rudbeckias

Rudbeckias are hardy flowering plants, distinguished by their showy, and in most instances handsome, yellow flowers, which light up a garden and look well on the back row of a border. They love moisture, do well on soils that are of a retentive nature, but also succeed on shallower soils, provided the surface is well mulched with old manure or leaf-soil, that help to retain moisture. One point about these plants is not always

appreciated by those growing them for the first time, and it is that the flowering stalks are so hard that the buds and blossoms quickly droop in a dry season unless frequently watered. When blossoms are cut, the stems should in all cases be bruised to allow the water to percolate before placing them in vases. Rudbeckias are easily increased by root division in late autumn or spring. LEAHURST.

Sweet-scented Hardy Plants

THE sweet-scented hardy plants, Violets, Pinks, Lavender, and their company, are already in the garden of every reader, and no one needs to be reminded of their good qualities, so in putting together these few notes it seemed better not to attempt a representative list, but to jot down a record of some plants which a certain interest in scent has brought within my own modest and quite limited experience.

The Great White Evening Primrose (Œnothera cæspitosa) is not seen very often, perhaps because its needs, though definite, are not always easily supplied, for it demands a loose, stony soil in full sun; and, exhausting this rapidly, it wanders far afield into unsuitable situations. I should like to grow it among scarlet and crimson Opuntias on a stony terrace in a climate where summer occurs every year, for its great white chalices are superbly beautiful, whether floating over the rough leaves in the twilight or unfolding under your eyes on the dinner-table, and they pour out a tropical scent of Tuberose and Lemon. Œnothera acaulis (taraxifolia) has slightly smaller flowers in a rather warmer tone of white, but with the same beauty of scent and design, and as it is taprooted I hope that it will prove easier to keep satisfied than Œnothera cæspitosa, though it is reputed to be less hardy.

Although Nature has so many scented substances at disposal she sometimes plays the same tune twice over, and we meet the scent of the Evening Primrose almost exactly reproduced in the inconspicuous, greenish-yellow flowers of Valeriana Celtica, the "Speick" of the dolomites and Styrian Alps. I expect that it would be described in catalogues, with timid hopefulness, as "interesting," but it surely deserves a place in the rock garden for the merit of its fragrance, since this good quality is by no means common in Alpine plants. It grows contentedly in a stony peaty mixture and half shade. If it should spread rapidly and out of bounds you can make use of its patchouli-scented roots, which were once exported to the East as an understudy to the true spikenard, and turn them into pot-pourri.

Clerodendron fœtidum is severely handicapped by its name, which was, presumably, given to it by a botanist who looked on the dark side of things and was more impressed by the Elder-and-overdone-roast-beef-smell of its leaves than by the luscious scent of its flower, which suggests the Pheasant's Eye Narcissus slightly spiced with the waxy-white flowers and crimson buds. The Clerodendrons have one real drawback in the lateness of their flowering, which an inclement summer may turn into complete failure, but we can have approximately the same scent (curiously enough both the pleasant and disagreeable) in Asclepias Syriaca, though its flowers are dull and dingy beside those of the Clerodendron.

Another plant with two scents is Clematis heracleifolia, best known in its form Davidiana. The blue Hyacinth flowers have a delicate fruity scent, and the leaves, as they wither, give off a strong smell of Tonka Beans or Woodruff. We find the fruity scent again, but this time more powerful and robust, in Iris graminea, which smells strongly of Greengages. This scent (which occurs also in Muscari neglectum) suffers a little from its close association with the melting sugariness of the fruit, but it is a sweet, rounded scent which deserves consideration for its own intrinsic merit. Iris graminea is easy and accommodating, but not much grown, perhaps because the flowers hide ("nestle" in catalogues) among its leaves and do not make much show, but they are excellent for cutting.

Lathyrus tuberosus is established, though probably as an escape, in one or more places in England, and I was so charmed by the clear pink and delicate scent (Sweet Pea with an added freshness of Lemon) of a specimen that was sent me this summer that I have introduced it into the garden. It may prove too invasive, but it may also give some interesting crosses with the larger-flowered but scentless perennial Peas.

Several other flowers stand out in memory for their good scent. Iris Hoogiana, with a delicate fragrance that vaguely recalls a Tea Rose, Primula Sikkimensis, varying in different plants from Lilac to Hyacinth, Primula chionantha, approaching Jasmine, and several of the hybrid Pæonies of which "Bunch of Perfume" adds to the family Rose scent a hint of ripe Raspberries, which brings its fragrance curiously close to that of Clos Vougeot. But there is no room, nor, perhaps, is there any need to speak of them here. F. A. HAMPTON.

Œnothera fruticosa

Flowers clear bright yellow, calyx and tube tinged with red. A welcome Evening Primrose for the hardy flower border. Height about 2 feet, with a succession of flowers

Œnothera missouriensis

The best of the low-growing Evening Pr roses. Flowers pale yellow, about 4 inc across. This plant loves a sunny posi

Œnothera speciosa rosea

Œnothera speciosa is of fairly fre occurrence, but, apparently, the much p pink variety is far from being common. the typical form it shares the valuable q of flowering continuously from spri autumn, and a colony of this plant placed in the rock garden will usually a fair measure of interest and admirat

Œ. speciosa rosea enjoys a position i sunlight and a well-drained gritty lo which to root. The plant is fairly hard it is well to maintain a small stock in frame, and this is quite easily accomp by means of cuttings, which are easily during the summer months.

A plant of this Evening Primros spread with considerable rapidity, an advisable to plant it at a discreet di from small and choice alpine plants.

Œ. speciosa was introduced fro America in 1821. RALPH E. ARN

Naturalising

There is something fascinating in pl out bulbs and certain roots to natura the lawns, under the shrubberies, or water's edge, and there are numerou jects admirably adapted for the p other than the Crocus, Winter A Daffodil, and so on. Briefly the fol are to be well recommended:—An apennina, height 4 inches or 5 inches blue flowers; A. blanda, a little l height, with deep blue flowers; a sylvestris, with white, drooping fl Cyclamen hederæfolium, with its ro flowers appearing before the folia album, with pure white bloom; Frit splendidly suited for shady spots, wat dens, and the like, although rarel there. Imperialis makes a brave sho Meleagris, rose, white, and purple, 4 inches deep in the grass or in th garden, is hardly surpassed for a m bloom in May.

Tulips are scarcely as popular a might be as naturalised subjects, ye are varieties which really make a

f so treated, and among them may be ned Golden Beauty, Caledonia, and iana lutea (yellow), three good colours. hat is necessary to ensure success in lepartment is the careful attention must be given to every department of work, namely, thorough and care-iapped-out "system," without which n can style himself a gardener.

BRUCE HEWITT.

Old double Wallflowers

e old double Wallflowers long held in affection by the gardeners of former et remain and are prized by those who fortunate to own them. The first to tioned is Cheiranthus Cheiri Harpur distributed, I believe, by that long-d lover of flowers, the Rev. Harpur and bearing his name. It is an erect-g plant, 9 inches or a foot in height, spikes of perfectly double flowers of t yellow. It is a perennial, but it is e to keep a few cuttings in case of the f the parent. Cuttings strike easily glass. This and the following, unlike ible German Wallflowers, cannot be rom seeds. The next to be mentioned ier which is known by the name of a l gardener of the fair sex who did n her time to promote the love of This is C. C. Miss Hope, which described as a replica of Harpur but with deep blood-red flowers. It mpanion named Golden Drop, whose am unable to trace. It has lighter flowers than Harpur Crewe. These Wallflowers prefer a poor soil and a lace, and are all propagated by cut-

S. ARNOTT.

Spiræa Aruncus

giant Meadowsweet of the sides of e torrents has made itself thoroughly ome in English gardens. As with all ners, it is happiest in moist or even round, though if it is guarded from rought it will do well and display its ream-white plumes in the flower though the flower border should be mple size to do justice to its 7-foot It is also a fine plant for a cool place of and among dark shrubs. A de-ffect may be gained by planting next purplish form of Talictrum aquilegi-a plant that enjoys just the same s.

G. J.

Campanula Loreyi

xcuse, if any is needed, for re-o this delightful little annual plant columns is that it is different from nuals in hardiness and vitality; in-he poorest conditions of soil it grows gives graceful bloom in masses to-e summer and autumn, when the ds are fading away.

erect slender stems barely more than high, with numerous branching ch supporting many blue, purple-bell-shaped flowers on thread-like h a light airy effect.

gem for the rock garden. Its fine d ease of culture, combined with its e habit and profuse sheets of oom, render it ideal for adorning s on the rock garden devoted to nts.

other annual plants which quickly g bad weather, this little plant does to suffer, but continues the same all through the long flowering

ers and flourishes luxuriantly on g soil, and should be sown in broad mewhere on a level with the eye, ity is of a showy nature.

Those seeking for beautiful miniature plants should take note of this. It is one of the flowers that may be used with good effect to clothe bare spots that may occur in the rock garden through winter losses.

As it sows itself the cultivator will have no trouble with it. It will flower in about a couple of months after being sown, and when sown in spring in the open ground the self-sown seeds of the early flowers soon start into growth and give a second crop of flowers in autumn.

The plant starts to flower when about 2 inches high with one solitary flower, the little stems gradually rising until the plant resembles in general outline and delicate poise the rare native, Campanula patula in miniature.

It is truly a delightful annual and well fitted to adorn the rock garden.

In mild winters the seedlings stand the winter and make a brave show in early spring.

I think it would do well sown between flagstones in paved walks and make a pretty sight.

H. STEVENS.

Spiræa Aruncus in front of dark shrubs

Herbaceous Calceolarias

These plants simply revelled in the cool, damp weather of the past summer and are now looking splendid in the cold frames. The earliest batch has to be constantly re-set so that the plants do not stand too crowded or they would become thin and weakly. When there is no risk of heavy rain the lights are drawn off and abundant supply of air is allowed to keep the growth strong. The plants from the seed sown in June are now in 3-inch pots; in fact, some will require a larger size. The plants must be enclosed in a house unless the frames are heated all the winter. But it is well to remember that the less heat one uses the better will be the result.

F. H.

Blue-eyed Mary

This is the attractive popular name of one of our native plants, Omphalodes verna, which is such a lovely carpeter with its pretty green leaves and lovely flowers, resembling those of the Forget-me-not, in very early spring. It is most at home in the woodland, and the writer knows a small wood in the precincts of an old mansion where it abounds. It does not require woodland treatment, however, but is all the better for a little shade. The failing of O. verna lies in the comparative paucity of flowers compared with the number of leaves, but one can forgive a great deal to such a charming little plant which creeps along the ground and does not obtrude itself upon our gaze. It is easily increased by division, and may be planted in autumn or after blooming. There is a lovely white variety, but this is exceedingly rare, if still in cultivation, as it is many years since I saw it and last heard of it.

S. ARNOTT.

Wulfenea carinthiaca

This is a graceful and distinct plant, hardy, and not particular as to soil or situation, but prefers growing among rocks.

The plant forms dense tufts of foliage, and bears blue drooping flowers in spikes about 9 inches high in July and August.

It has the quality of throwing its flower stem well above the deep green leaves, and coming into bloom when most plants are fading away.

The plant has a neat habit and large leaves of a cheerful bright green colour, which continue the same freshness all through the winter.

It is worth growing, not only for its flowers, but for its dense sea green carpet of leaves. It is pleasing on the margins of raised borders, the front edge of the mixed border, or in exposed spots of the rock garden.

H. STEVENS.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Planting fruit trees

The present is an excellent time for the planting of all fruit trees, and providing the soil is in a suitable condition no time should be lost in bringing forward this important work. Examine all trees arriving from nurseries for the presence of American Blight, as one affected tree will infect a whole orchard if left unchecked. Most of our good nurseries are extremely careful with their trees, but there are exceptions.

Pruning

Apples and Pears have mostly cast their leaves, and pruning must be commenced, especially in gardens where fruit is grown extensively, as this work occupies several months. Trained trees should be dealt with first, as these usually occupy important positions in the garden, and unless such trees are pruned forthwith the work of digging, manuring, etc., is held up. Many fear to do so, but often among Pears it is necessary to thin out the spurs severely to prevent overcrowding, nor should too many fruit buds be left on the remaining spurs. The delicious Pear, Olivier de Sierres, is very troublesome in this respect, making three times the fruiting spurs desirable, and unless severe thinning is resorted to, quantities of poor undersized fruits will result.

Large orchard trees

It is often a question of thinning and balancing, and a whole branch may be removed with considerable advantage to the tree. This thinning is, nevertheless, entrusted to experienced hands only, who can visualise the appearance of a tree before such branches are removed. All canker wounds should be either cut away or thoroughly scraped out and dressed with Stockholm tar, and all crossing branches which saw upon each other when swayed by the wind, and thereby cause wounds, must also be cut away.

Onions

The roping of Onions provides suitable work for the men during bad weather. I believe this is known as reefing in some districts, and I recommend it in preference to any other method of keeping Onions, for when properly done quite a large number may be reefed to a stake, and in this way they are graded, every bulb being exposed to the air and placed out of the way when suspended in lines from a good stout beam. Even small Onions may be thus treated.

Forcing Asparagus

A heated pit facing south is a very satisfactory place for the forcing of Asparagus, providing it is deep enough to admit of a good bed of fermenting material being placed beneath the soil, such as fresh stable manure and leaves pressed firmly down to form a bed 2 feet in thickness. Over this place a layer 3 inches thick of good leafy soil. The roots may then be stood over the surface quite close together and covered well over with the same soil. Water thoroughly and maintain a temperature of about 55 degs.

Draining in the kitchen garden

Where such has been found desirable it should now be carried out, and thus prevent the progress of digging, trenching, and manuring, which must shortly be taken in hand. It is important that all drains should be laid with a good fall and a clear and easy outlet, and that they are below the level of future digging and trenching. On very heavy soils it is sometimes found necessary to place a layer of porous material over the drains to enable the water to reach the pipes, and in such instances special allowances must be made.

Roses

At this season it is advisable to reduce the growths of strong-growing kinds in order to prevent rocking by winds, with the result that holes—which become filled with water—are formed about their base to the detriment of the plants. The shortening back of the strongest shoots prevents this. Surplus shoots on pillars and arches may with advantage be treated likewise. It may interest readers to know that for the past four or five years all the Roses grown here have been pruned finally in November with excellent results, and this practice is now being extended in the district.

Clematises

Cut away the large surface masses of growth from plants growing on tripods and arches as this will have to be removed later in any case, and only forms a buffet to the wind and a strain upon the lower and more important growth.

Herbaceous and Alpine flowers

Continue the making of new borders, the dividing and transplanting of the various subjects, and, in the case of the former, enriching of the soil. Most of these are improved by a judicious dividing up of their roots every second year.

Christmas Roses

Those growing in the open will be brought to greater perfection if given the shelter of a frame, which may be easily erected over them. Clean straw or Bracken worked beneath the leaves and among the plants will assist in drawing up the stalks and preserving the quality of the blooms. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Harvest Swede Turnips

Although this now very popular winter root is greatly improved in flavour by being subjected to a little frost before being stored, it is unwise to leave it out too long, so it is now advisable to have the bulbs pulled up, the tops removed, and then stored behind a north wall. Heap sharply against the wall, thatch with some clean straw, and then lay a layer of fresh turves all over the straw and they will keep fresh till April.

Vegetable roots in store

Take advantage of inclement weather to look through the stocks of Potatoes, Carrots, Beetroot, and Onions, removing any that show the least sign of decay. See also that rats and mice are kept down, these rodents being very partial to Beetroot, Carrots, and Potatoes. Parsnips and Jerusalem Artichokes keep best in the ground, but for fear of a spell of frost setting in it is always advisable to have a small quantity in the storeroom to supply current demands.

Spent crops

Have these cleared off as soon as possible after the useful parts have been used, for not only does this add considerably to the tidiness of the garden, but it allows manure to be wheeled on when frost appears and the ground to be dug as soon as in a fit state.

Manuring the garden

Do this intelligently and not at hapha Plan where each kind of vegetable is sown or planted next season, and appl manure according to the needs of each. only is this best for the various crops, also economical both of labour an manure. And economy in the use o important material is imperative now as yearly it becomes scarcer.

Digging in autumn

There can hardly be two opinions the beneficial effect of the elements on vated soil, and the greater the surfac posed the more the benefit. In dig therefore, during autumn and winter, up the surface as rough as possible. T especially desirable in the case of stif tentive land. In spring ground so trea a pleasure to work, being sweetenec pulverised, and so brought into just th per state for the reception of seeds plants.

Double digging

This form of trenching is distinctly su to actual trenching where the groun been neglected or only dug one spit dee a series of years. To bring the subsoil surface in such cases is to ask for tr the inert mass never having had th vantage of warmth and air is quite un to plant life. It is then that double-d scores, for by this process the subs thoroughly broken up, mixed with m or garden refuse, and so made fit f elements to penetrate quite deeply. T thus two or three times the ground ca be trenched with full confidence.

Parsley in frames

Where a steady supply of this popula has to be maintained it is necessa periodically give the plants some little tion. Remove decaying foliage an weeds that may appear. Stir the soil and air well on every favourable occas

Violets in frames

These too, demand frequent attent the way of removing all dead f runners, and weeds, while slugs and lice must be caught if they begin troublesome. Give abundance of air occasions, day and night, when frost sent, and on sunny days draw ba sashes altogether. Gently stir th around the plants at fairly frequent int

Early pot bulbs

The "earliest" batches should now for removal from the "plunge," so be moved to a cold frame and gr inured to the light. This is better plants than if taken direct to a heated or pit.

Early-flowering Chrysanthemums

These border varieties are now qui for the season, so sufficient of the old should be lifted and potted or boxed ensure abundance of cuttings in After the plants have been boxed or they should be set in cold frames, abundance of fresh air, and only kep and matted during hard frost. Some ties are very shy at sending up cutti in this case quite a number of the old must be retained for fear of loss winter. C. B

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgo

Late autumnal flowers

possibly owing to the fine weather that terised the greater part of the month ober that many flowers have bloomed onally late in the season. I have seen beautiful Roses of late, including some finest of the Hybrid Teas and Austrian Briars in various gardens, including of Logan House, in this peninsular Almost the only variety in my own that failed to produce many flowers ober was Margaret Dickson, which is conspicuously prolific during that im- e month, whose woodland glories en- to be called the "Sunset of the Year." Emblem, Earl Haig, Norman Lam- Rose of great beauty and distinctive- also my supreme favourite among late s of a pure white colour, which are very fragrant, viz., Mme. Alfred e, have flowered quite marvellously the last three weeks.

latest Oriental Lily this season has Lilium speciosum var. magnificum, in the open garden has proved itself a cquisition. It had 22 flowers 8 inches though it was only planted in ry last. Even at the present period ber 7th) it is continuing to open on a d border its refined and fragrant L. candidum, L. longiflorum, and mpressive natives of Eastern climes also highly successful this season, coming into fruition much earlier e exquisite speciosum varieties, they abnormally from strenuous blasts essive rains.

wnshire. DAVID R. WILLIAMSON.

Michaelmas Daises

general requirements of nnial Asters are not difficult to vide. For preference choose a ler which is exposed to full sun, one that has been deeply dug or trenched, having previously been well manured.

useful and attractive are the various f these beautiful perennials, whether in separate beds or interspersed ther plants in the herbaceous border. vell grown they will contribute so the glory of the garden during the months until cut down by frost.

on of the roots should be done March and April, choosing the outer of each clump for replanting, dis- the old or inner portion. When re- sufficient space should be allowed each clump to give them an oppor- develop fully. A distance of 3½ feet should be given from plant to plant, eet between the rows of all the growing varieties. Plant from five shoots in each clump. Give a each shoot when about 1 foot high, ll out each shoot to form a well- even-balanced plant. These plants s feeders, and if good flowering re desired they should be given supplies of water during the summer. e ground well hoed between the ring the growing season.

rieties used in these borders are:— ows: Perry's Favourite, White ovely, Acris, Twilight, Coquette, , Charmer, Ophir, Bianca, Virgin olden Spray, Horizontalis, Chastity, rubellus, Ammaloides Riverslea, ht. Centre Rows: Rycroft Purple, . Wright, Nancy Ballard, Louvain, inus, Hon. Edith Gibbs, J. F. Cinderella, Ethel Ballard, Ringdove Bo Peep, Freedom, Goldfinch, and f Colwall. Back Rows: Purple Climax, King of the Belgians, Lavender Queen, Lil Fardel, Puniceus, Pulcherrimus, Louvain, Attraction, Blushing Bride, Anita, Ballard, Robinson, V.C., and Wm. Bowman. E. BAKER.

The Gardens,
Garston Manor, near Watford, Herts.

Lilium Willmottiæ

ONE of the newer Lilies of outstanding beauty, L. Willmottiæ, is rapidly establishing a reputation as a first-rate garden plant. It received a First-class Certificate, R.H.S., when shown under the name of L. Warleyense, and was later named in compliment to the gracious owner of Warley Place. Some few years ago a noble grouping of this fine Lily at the Chelsea Show by Messrs. R. Wallace and Co. elicited much admiration, and it was, indeed, a colourful and artistic spectacle. Since then L. Willmottiæ has proved amenable to our uncertain climate,

Lilium Willmottiæ

and, together with L. regale and L. centifolium, is making a bold bid for marked popularity.

This "Turk's Cap" produces from 10 to 15 flowers on a stem, and occasionally an extra vigorous specimen will bear upon its 4 feet of growth as many as 20 flowers. The blossoms are 3 inches across and of vivid orange-red colouring, the gracefully recurved petals minutely dotted with brown. The slender foliage is of rich full green coloration and the habit and port of the plant is extremely pleasing. Some support should be accorded the slender stems, especially where the plants are growing in windy situations.

This exquisite species is stem-rooting like many of its congeners, so that a mulch of leaf-soil or well-rotted manure is imperative. The bulbs should be enabled to pierce a low undergrowth, the lowly plants screening the Lily's roots and maintaining the soil in cool and moist condition, and, what is, perhaps, of even greater importance, acting protectively to the early growth.

We are indebted for this magnificent Lily to Mr. Wilson, by whom it was collected in Western Hupeh.

The bulbs enjoy a cool woodland soil and are also happily placed in Rhododendron or Azalea beds. L. Willmottiæ is an excellent pot plant for the cool greenhouse.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Lilium Candidum: A peerless Lily

It would, I think, be a difficult matter to point to a Lily more popular in a garden than Candidum, the well-known Madonna Lily, grown in all parts of the country. We know that June brings the peerless white blossoms, and also know that if the clumps are left undisturbed bulbs do better and increase. It is a Lily in which many readers take interest. Once understood, the culture is simple, and it is that when planting has to be done it should take place as soon as the flowering stalks have died down, instead of, as is so often the case, bulbs being planted in late autumn or spring. Before new growth appears in the bulb is the best time to shift them, but unless it is really necessary to do so it is better not to disturb them at all if they are doing well.

Soil for this Lily does not seem to be of very great consequence so long as the position is a sunny one, but if one wishes to give it the best chance to succeed, then plant the bulbs in September at the latest in a light, sandy loam. Failures which occur with Candidum can often be traced to late planting. The position for the newly-acquired bulbs should be selected with care and with a view to their permanency; when giving a good account of themselves it is well to bear in mind the golden rule "to leave well alone" and not disturb them.

W. F.

The Scarboro Lily: a favourite all the year round window plant

If asked to suggest a plant suitable for growing in a sitting-room window all the year round, valued both for flowers and foliage, I think I should name the Scarboro Lily (the Vallota), not only because of my own experience of it, but owing to my having met with it so often in various parts of the country. It is found everywhere, but is never seen to better advantage than when growing in some sunny cottage window. As is known, it is a bulbous plant, evergreen, and for this reason makes a nice subject for a window when not in bloom. July and August are the months when the flowers appear, and for several weeks one may count on them. Of the species under notice there are several varieties in addition to the well-known scarlet, such as V. purpurea maxima oculata, white and scarlet, and V. purpurea grandiflora with large flowers.

Autumn is the time when fresh bulbs may be obtained, and old plants can be repotted in spring. A suitable compost for Vallotas will be found in fibrous loam, leaf-mould, and sand, and to this may be added a little old manure. Clean pots and good drainage are essential. In potting the bulbs—one to a pot—it should be done firmly, the crown or the centre of the bulb only being seen. Vallotas need very little water during winter; indeed, not until the new growth appears in spring. Just before the flowers appear—say, in June—it will help the plants if liquid-manure is given once or twice a week, but this should be well diluted. The off-shoots which appear round the bulbs of old plants can be potted on in spring. It is a very showy plant for those who have no greenhouse.

W. F.

Answers to Queries

Questions—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent each should be on a separate piece of paper, the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*All who wish their plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. We have received from several correspondents single specimens of fruits for naming, these in many cases being unripe and otherwise poor. We undertake to name not more than four varieties at a time.*

TREES AND SHRUBS

Climbers for north, east, and south walls

(B. V. S.).—For the wall facing north the following would succeed:—Berberidopsis corallina, Vitis Henryana, Roses Reve d'Or and Mermaid, Jasminum nudiflorum, Crinodendron Hookeri, Clematis montana var. grandiflora, C. montana var. rubens, Tropæolum speciosum, Solanum jasminoides. East wall: Trachelospermum divaricatum, Sollya heterophylla, Abutilon vitifolium, Actinidia Henryi, Clematis Ville de Lyon, Clematis Henryi, Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, Roses Paul's Lemon Pillar, Lady Waterlow, Emily Gray, Wistaria chinensis, and W. multijuga rosea. South wall: Roses Climbing Lady Hillingdon, Climbing Mme. Abel Chatenay, Zephirine Drouhin, Paul's Scarlet Climber, and Lamarque, Vitis striata (evergreen), Magnolia grandiflora, Clematis La France, C. lanuginosa, C. Nellie Moser, C. Perle d'Azur, Sophora tetraptera, Vitis Coignetiæ, Pyracantha angustifolia, Tecoma grandiflora, Exogonum purga, Cassia corymbosa, Aristolochia sipho, Lonicera etrusca var. gigantea.

Raising a Fir tree

(Yonge).—It is quite impossible to say what your seedling is at this early stage.

GREENHOUSE

Mimosa and scale

(Seaborough).—Your plants are suffering from a bad attack of Scale. Spray thoroughly with a good nicotine insecticide, or use the following, which is very effective if properly prepared and applied:—Boil 1 oz. soft-soap in a little water until dissolved, then add a tablespoonful or rather less paraffin oil, stirring vigorously. Dilute to 1 gallon with luke-warm water and apply at once, churning the solution frequently with the syringe to prevent the oil rising to the top. You may have to repeat the dose in a few days.

Raising seed received from abroad

(Regular Reader).—The heps you send are those of a Rose, but it is not possible to say what Rose. Place those you have in a box or pan of moist sand and stand in a cold frame until the middle of March, when they should be taken out and the seeds separated from the pulp, which is usually decayed by that time. The seeds should then be sown in well-drained pans or pots filled with sandy soil and replaced in a cold frame. A few may germinate this year, but many Roses require 12 months before germination, during which time the pans must not be permitted to get dust-dry.

Increasing the Lemon-scented Verbena (Lippia citriodora)

I have made several unsuccessful attempts to strike cuttings of the Lemon-scented Verbena. Will you kindly tell me how and when it should be done? S. R. C.

[Cuttings of this Verbena taken early in summer strike freely if dibbled into sandy soil and kept under a bell-glass, or in a propagating case containing bottom-heat; indeed, cuttings will strike at the present time if plunged up to the rims of their pots in the latter. In each case, however, such cuttings must be kept airtight and shaded from bright sunshine until root-action is evident. If you attempt it at the present time use the tips of growing shoots about 3½ inches in length.]

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Chrysanthemum blooms with hard centres

(Mrs. L.).—Two things will cause Chrysanthemum blooms to develop like those you have sent in for examination. (1) If the plants have been fed with an unbalanced manure the normal development of the bloom is arrested and the hard centre often appears. When feeding Chrysanthemums great care should be taken that too much nitrogen be not given. (2) In a cold, late season like the present one the normal development of the bloom is too slow for growth to be evenly maintained. This is especially the case when one is dealing with well-fed plants. Growth, feeding, and temperature must work hand in hand for the normal development of any plant. If you can give us the cultural details we could, perhaps, say whether the feeding has been at fault or if the trouble is solely due to the season.

Chrysanthemum stake

(G. H. Townson).—The growth on your Chrysanthemum stake is a fungus, but it is only a Saprophyte, *i.e.*, a fungus which lives on decaying organic matter. The fungus is one that normally lives on dead wood, and we do not think it likely to cause any trouble with the plants. Keep the soil stirred around the collars of the plants and keep the house as dry as you can. If this does not stop the spread of the fungus try watering with a rose-pink solution of permanganate of potash.

ROSES

Roses for hedges and covering rocks

(Mrs. E. M. H.).—For moderate hedges and planting among rocks the following are desirable:—Fellenberg (rosy-crimson), Gruss an Teplitz, Zephirine Drouhin, the common China Hermosa, the common Sweet Brier, R. virginiana, Rosa arvensis var. Miss G. Jekyll. Among small rocks, R. pyrenaica and R. Wichuraiana (white). For training to supports and to form large hedges almost any of the rambling varieties are suitable, especially R. Hiawatha, Lady Gay, Anne of Geierstein (a lovely hybrid Sweet Brier), Climbing Gruss an Teplitz, Leontine Gervais, Excelsa, Alberic Barbier, Francois Juranville, Snowflake, and Shower of Gold. Any good Rose-grower would be pleased to supply any of the above.

Rose leaves for examination

(Regular Reader).—The Rose leaves you send are attacked by Red Rust, which is rarely troublesome before the month August, when it attacks some varieties than others, but causes no permanent in All that can be done to check the disea to burn infested leaves and shoots, and the plants with potassium sulphide (liv sulphur), using 1 oz. of the potassium phide to 3 gallons of water.

Marechal Neil Rose

Roots planted outside greenhouse, grown inside. Cool house. Kindly correct treatment for winter. Growt rampant. What growths should be cut " HORTU

[Cover the exposed part of the stem dry straw or Bracken and mulch ove roots with strawy litter from a stable. abundance of air on every occasion frost is absent. Without seeing the pl is difficult to say just what to cut awa if all the wood is young cut away a feeble growths, but retain all strong, h shoots that room can be found for. however, overcrowding, it being bet sacrifice an odd good shoot rather than all by having them too close together.]

Rose shoots for examination

(E. T., Surrey).—Your Roses are suff from a bad attack of Black Spot (Actino Rosæ). Collect and burn every leaf, also grub up and burn the bushes, they are so badly infected. It would th well to remove the top spit of soil a place with fresh from one of the veg quarters, and the more distant this fres is the better. Next season keep a watch for the re-appearance of the d and on its first appearance spray the b with Bordeaux Mixture. This may h be repeated at intervals should the d again show.

ALPINES

Making a rock garden without st

(M. S.).—We know of no satisfactor stitute for stone for the formation o gardens, although large clinkers are used, such as those supplied by gas panies, which are really part brick an clinker from the retort houses. Conc also used, but neither is capable of pro the same pleasing effects which follo use of well-chosen stone. Without details of your garden it is a little diff advise you, but if you devoted the sp dwarf Heaths, Daphnes, etc., no rocks be necessary. Gentians, Mossy Saxi Cranesbills, Lithospermums, and man alpine flowers might be planted in c in the foreground as these flourish q well on the flat as they do among ston

FRUIT

Grafting a Grape vine

Is it possible to bud or graft a Grap in a similar way to hardy fruits? want to do, if it is possible, is to Gros Maroc on to the rod of a Mad Court. I shall be glad of your advic M.

[Yes, it is possible both to bud an Vines, and where the rods to be dea are growing side by side inarching i adopted to bring two varieties upon on The grafting of the Vine has generall considered a somewhat difficult ope and it is actually so. The difficulty process lies not in the operation itse chiefly in getting the stock and th into fitting condition for each othe graft it as we should an Apple, jus the sap begins to flow, would be fatal case of the Vine, not only in the blee the stock, which might result in dea also on account of the great amount

n would continue to flow for days and prevent the union of the parts. The d which we have found to be the safest most successful is just after the first of sap has passed, when it is in a tive condition, and before it gets dried This is also about the time when the ew leaves are fully expanded and the s are in flower. A very good test for aining the correct period is as fol—Take the point of a knife and just through the bark. If a little moisture s, the stock is in condition for the if there is none, it is too late to at- it. This applies to both stocks and . Assuming both stock and grafts to ady, cut down the stock to any point ed, selecting some suitable part for fit- n the scion, not always an easy matter d Vine-stems, and at whatever part of ock it is decided to affix the scion it is sary to leave a growing shoot and some above this point for the purpose of ng off the superabundant sap and also rawing up nourishment to the scion until a union is formed. Common grafting is, perhaps, the simplest and method to adopt. The scion being d should be tied on tightly with broad ng and covered with grafting wax. In 10 or 12 days after grafting, if the ion has been successful, the bud will grown somewhat. The shoots left on ock beyond the graft should now be ed and kept in subjection to the graft, n about a month's time both matting vax may be removed and the shoot d as established. Vines grafted in this r on strong stocks will grow 20 feet feet the first season and produce the est possible wood.]

ng Peaches

Leslie).—We do not recommend pot of the Peach to the amateur, and ally you would find that to wait until reenhouse is erected is the better plan. ver, if you wish to experiment with a ave it perfectly clean and dry, and e a generous amount of drainage in ttom. The best compost consists of st procurable fibrous loam, some old -rubbish from an old building, a quan- dry wood-ashes, and some bone-meal. ilk should, of course, be the loam, say, proportion of three-fourths of the the other quarter being made up of her ingredients mentioned. Pot very ramming the soil down with a blunt -stick.

ard Pears

ld you kindly tell me if standard Pear uit as well as bushes or pyramids? I o plant some trees against a fence south, but wish them to be higher e fence, eventually to act as a screen, course, the tops would catch the north G. M.

ntually standard Pears fruit quite as do the others, but in their case you uch longer to wait for your return, ess you want the "screen" to be very "pyramid" would be the best form to select.]

ulphur spraying

you, please, state quantity of lime and for syringing Apple trees? Mine t a rust. The leaves all curl up and wn, and the fruit is small and some ummified, and the trees have made tle growth this year. F. Swain.

tions of lime-sulphur are used as les, and are applied during the winter mmer at different strengths. As a clean-up wash for the destruction of Moss and Lichen in the winter a strength of 1 in 12 is used, *i.e.*, 1 gallon of concentrated wash added to 11 gallons of water. A favourable opportunity should be taken at any time during the dormant period. The wash is also used at the same concentration at the "pink-bud" stage on Apples as a help in the control of Apple Scab. When all the petals have dropped from the Apple flowers lime-sulphur may be again used as a further control for Apple Scab, but at this period, because the foliage of the trees is young and tender, the strength of the solution is reduced and is used at what is known as summer strength, namely, 1 gallon of wash added to 29 gallons of water. For certain varieties of Apple with sensitive foliage, such as Cox's Orange Pippin, James Grieve, Wellington, Newton Wonder, and some others, half summer strength should be used—1 in 60. From your description of the Apple trouble we do not feel sure that spraying with lime-sulphur will help you. It reads to us as though the trouble is Brown Rot and not Apple Scab. If you care to send us along some specimens of fruits (mummified and normal), together with a fruiting spur and some of the affected leaves, we should be pleased to examine them for you and to tell you exactly what is the trouble.]

VEGETABLES

Celery Blight

(A. I. P.).—The damage to your Celery has been caused by Celery Blight. This disease has been troublesome in all districts this season, due probably to the fact that the season has been cold and the Celery plants have grown slowly in consequence. This fungus is normally present in the seed, and at present efforts at seed sterilisation are only partially successful. All the remains of your crop when lifted should be burned, and next year try and grow the crop as far removed from the present site as possible. When you raise your plants next year keep a sharp look-out for the disease. Pale green areas appear on stems and leaves at first, and they become studded over with very small black spots later. As soon as you detect the presence of the disease you should spray the plants with Bordeaux Mixture, using 4 lbs. of copper sulphate, 4 lbs. good quicklime, and 40 gallons of water. To keep the disease in check several sprayings at seven to 10 days' interval are necessary. If you only grow small quantities of Celery probably lime-sulphur would be the easier wash for you to make up and apply. Write us again if we can help you further.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manure for garden from refuse

I should be very grateful if you would let me know the best way to make manure for the garden out of refuse. Do you recommend "Adco" for the purpose, or, if I have difficulty in getting this, is there anything else would do as well? Must one only use things like surface weeds, cut grass, etc., or is it safe to put in roots, such as Couch Grass and Coltsfoot? How long must it wait before being used? Could you tell me the price of "Adco" and how to use it if that is what you recommend?

L. E. Crofton.

[Either a brick or concrete enclosure, or a deep pit sunk into the ground is necessary for converting garden refuse into manure. All kinds of decaying vegetation, such as Potato haulm (free from disease), leaves of all kinds, grass, Bracken, Cabbage stems, weeds, etc., but not woody matter, such as prunings, may be used. One cwt. of "Adco" will treat from 2 tons to 3 tons of material, and should be added to every foot or so of the latter, which should be pressed firmly together. Full instructions for the use of "Adco" and "Adco" Accelerator are sent with all consignments. The price is 20s. per cwt., and if you are unable to obtain same from your local seedsman apply to "Adco," Ltd., 70, Harpenden, Herts, who manufacture the article. It takes about six months from the date of mixing to decay sufficiently for general use in the garden. We do not consider it advisable to include Coltsfoot in your mixture. If you are unable, for any reason, to obtain "Adco" use freshly-slaked lime in the same manner and in the same quantity. This will provide you with very useful material with which to enrich your soil.]

Destroying troublesome weeds by deep trenching and the best time for transplanting Black Currant bushes

(Jobbing Gardener).—If you trench the border three spits deep as you suggest, taking great care to see that the top spit is placed in the bottom, you will suffocate all the weeds; even Couch Grass may be destroyed in this way. Over this first spit apply a sprinkling of freshly-slaked lime. As soon as the soil is workable, which is usually about the middle of March, fork the surface carefully over and remove any pieces of roots which may have escaped notice at the time of trenching, and your border could be planted with herbaceous plants by the middle of April. The fact must not be overlooked that Ground Elder roots will penetrate the roots of other plants, and to make sure of its removal such roots should be thoroughly washed out before being returned to the border. Hoe the surface frequently during summer. The present is the best time for transplanting the Black Currants, although it will be quite safe to do so at any time when the soil works freely during the next three months.

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the importance of sending only good typical specimens for naming, and not less than two or three fruits of each variety.

W. P., St. Boswells.—The smaller fruit is Mother and the larger Tyler's Kernel.

E. P., Hadleigh.—Braddick's Nonpareil.

"Pitmaston."—1, Annie Elizabeth (good sample); 2, Hormead Pearmain; 3, Calville Rouge Precoce.

A. H. F., Solihull.—5, Probably Sturmer Pippin; 6, Roundway Magnum Bonum; 7, Hubbard's Pearmain (fruits badly scabbed); 8, Stone's Apple.

J. F. R.—2, Old Winter Nonpareil; 4, Pear Cattillac.

H. J. M.—Pear Beurré Superfin; Apples: 1, Peasgood's Nonsuch; 2, Christmas Pearmain; 3, Maltster.

"Hamel, Glam."—Pear: Marie Louise d'Uccle; Apple: Stone's.

A. R. V., Braintree.—Probably Crawley Beauty.

F. C. F., Hants.—1, Bietigheimer; 2, Hormead Pearmain; Pear: Marie Louise (fruit squashed).

"Ardmore."—1, Lady Henniker; 2, Reinette Superfine.

E. P., Addlestone.—1, Waltham Abbey Seedling (fine); 2, Norfolk Beauty; 3, Cox's Pomona; 4, Ribston Pippin.

C. Pope.—Apples: 1 and 2, Cellini Pippin; 3, Werder's Golden Reinette; Pears: 4, Durondeau, probably; 5, Beurré Rance; 6, Winter Windsor; 7, Winter Nelis.

J. S., Horsham.—Cannot identify, probably Blue Pearmain out of character.

G. E.—1, Christmas Pearmain; 2, Schoolmaster; 3, Wellington; 4, Caville Malingre; 5, Sops in Wine.

NAMES OF PLANTS

Whitmore Green Price.—Clematis vitacella luxuriana alba.

A. F. K., Ely.—Tropæolum tuberosum native of Peru. Natural Order Geraniaceæ.

Mme. Lefebvre-Giron.—Asplenium fontanum, native of North Temperate Zone. Natural Order Filices.

F. S., Hampshire.—1, Schizostylis Mrs. Heggarty; 2, Abelia chinensis; 3, Escallonia Langleyensis; 4, Choisya ternata.

J. H. E., Tyrone.—1, Cotoneaster microphylla; 2, Cryptomeria japonica var. elegans; 3, Viburnum Tinus (Laurustinus); 4, Retinispora plumosa.

"Mum." — Chrysanthemum Cranfordia (golden-yellow).

H. O., Kirkcaldy. — Chrysanthemum Phyllis Cooper (large deep golden-yellow single); Bronze Cranfordia (sport from Cranfordia). The berried shrub is the common Butcher's Broom, the fruits are those of the Chili that have been cleverly attached.

A. J. L., Reigate.—1, Chrysanthemum Bronze Cranfordia; 2, Joan Edwards (single rose-pink).

Hitchin Chrysanthemum Society

THE show in the beautiful Town Hall, Hitchin, on Thursday, November 10th last, was very beautiful. Chrysanthemums of all types were represented by blooms of the highest quality set up in the many competitions, and most of the classes were well contested. The lay-out of the show left nothing to be desired. There was also a splendid lot of fruit displayed and vegetables also, of a high order of merit, many well-known gardeners of high repute competing in friendly rivalry for the leading honours. These notes refer more particularly to the Chrysanthemums set up on this occasion.

The leading class was for six vases Japanese Chrysanthemums, distinct, three blooms of one variety in each vase. Leading honours went to Mr. R. H. Hall, gardener to the Marquis of Salisbury, Hatfield, who had superb examples of Majestic, Mrs. B. Carpenter, Mrs. A. Holden, W. Rigby, Mr. T. Slack, and R. C. Pulling (best bloom in the show). Mr. Sherriff, gardener to Mrs. Hanscombe, Girton Hall, Hitchin, was close up for second prize, his best blooms being Louisa Pockett, Majestic (grand colour), T. W. Pockett, Princess Mary, Mrs. G. Drabble, and Mrs. B. Carpenter.

Mr. Chas. Carter, gardener to Sir Henry Whitehead, Stagenhoe Park, Welwyn, was third with a grand series of blooms.

Another interesting class was that for six Japanese blooms, distinct, shown in two vases. The fine exhibits made a brave show.

First prize was awarded to Mr. C. J. Mills, gardener to Mr. E. Martin Smith, Codnote Lodge, Welwyn. His varieties were Majestic, Mrs. Algernon Davis, Louisa Pockett, Thos. W. Pockett, Mrs. J. Palmer, and Princess Mary.

Mr. Hall was a good second, his blooms of Aquitania, Mrs. T. Fleming, and Mrs. B. Carpenter being especially noteworthy. Mr. Sherriff was awarded third prize.

The class for six vases singles, distinct, ran the whole length of tabling. There were five exhibitors. Mr. C. J. Mills won first prize with beautiful examples of Bronze Molly, Mrs. W. J. Godfrey, Mrs. R. Harris, Molly Godfrey, Gorgeous, and Nona. Mr. A. J. Hartless, gardener to Major J. F. Harrison, King's Walden Bury, was a good second. His blooms of Nona, Gorgeous, and Mrs. W. J. Godfrey were excellent. Mr. Hall was third, also showing well.

Not the least interesting class was that for six vases Decorative Chrysanthemums. There were no fewer than five competitors. Mr. Mills again led the van, showing beautiful blooms of Gloriosa, Blanche du Poitou, Cranfordia, Audrey Down, Iris Barnes, and Joseph Berners—an excellent lot. Mr. C. Carter was a good second. His flowers were so good that we must mention them. They were Scarlet Sunshine, Jean Pattison, Golden Glory (incurved), Cranfordia, H. W. Thorpe (incurved), and Lynette. Mr. Hall was placed third. He had a beautiful vase of the chaste blooms of Jules Valet.

A grand vase of large blooms of T. W. Pockett set up by Mr. Hall won first prize in a special class for an exhibit of this character.

VEGETABLES

Mr. A. J. Hartless won first prize and the challenge cup outright offered by Messrs. Jas. Carter and Co., Raynes Park, S.W., for the best collection of nine kinds of vegetables. He was first of four competitors. The better kinds staged were Autumn Giant Cauliflower, Exhibition Brussels Sprouts, Giant Pink Celery (grand), Carter's Sunrise Tomato, Scarlet Perfection Carrot, and Arran Comrade Potato. His Leeks and Onions were superb. Mr. Hartless also won first prize for Messrs. Sutton and Son's collection of six kinds of vegetables, showing Prize-winner Leeks, Ailsa Craig Onion, Prize Pink Celery, Arran Comrade Potato, Autumn Broccoli, and Sutton's A1 Tomato. Mr. Hartless further won first prize and the challenge cup for a collection of fruit.

Derbyshire Horticultural Association

The Twentieth Annual Chrysanthemum Show, staged at Derby in the Royal Drill Hall, November 3rd, 4th, and 5th, opened by Captain J. A. E. Drury Lowe, of Locko Park, was the finest exhibition yet seen in Derby, comprising five miscellaneous groups.

The first prize and gold medal, offered by H. T. Ann, Esq., Derby, was awarded to Mrs. Walter Evans, Darley Abbey (gardener, Mr. J. Maxfield), for group containing Cypripediums, Carnations, Nandina domestica, Liliums, Eulalias, and Kentia Palm; second prize going to A. Preston Jones, Esq., Mickleover (gardener, Mr. J. Bacon), for a wonderful colour scheme in Begonia Optima, excellent Cyclamen, Dracænas, Grevillea robusta, Eulalias, Nephrolepsis Todæoides, Adiantums, and Kentia Palm. The third prize went to a group from Captain J. A. E. Drury Lowe, Locko Park (gardener, Mr. A. E. Yallop), and embraced a Phœnix Palm, well-grown plants of Gloire de Lorraine, Blanche de Poitevine Chrysanthemums, Primula obconica, Eulalia, and Ferns. Sir William Bass, Bart., Berkeley Lodge, Burton-on-Trent (gardener, Mr. H. E. House), displayed a most charming arrangement in the centre of the hall, composed entirely of Cypripediums and Cattleya, Plumbago rosea and Grevillea robusta being used for effect. The remaining group was from G. H. Strutt, Esq., Belper (gardener, Mr. J. Tannock), where the finest Kentia Palm in the show was to be seen, the principal plants in this display being Lilium speciosum, Melpomene, Crotons, and Coleus.

A rare collection of Orchids, kindly sent by Captain J. A. E. Drury Lowe, was awarded a gold medal, while from the same estate were economic plants, viz., Cinnamon, Banana (Musa Cavendishii), India Rubber, and Derbyshire-grown Lemons.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS. — In the Japanese classes very marked advancement was noticeable for size, depth, and finish of bloom, many new varieties being shown for the first time in Derby: Cythia, Jap. reflex, bronze, gold reverse; Marjorie Woolman, red-chestnut; Mrs. A. Holden, red, yellow reverse; Mrs. Chas. Swaitland, reflex pink; Mrs. J. Gibson, pink, 13 inches deep; Yvette Lochot, purest white, 10-inch flowers; H. H. Tomlinson, Derby, winning two si cups with same. Single varieties were markable for the early date of the show, display arranged by J. A. Aiton, E Duffield Park, being awarded first prize silver cup presented by G. H. Strutt, Esq

Keen competition in the fruit collect provided a most difficult task for the jud and, pointing under Royal Horticult Society's rules, resulted in Lord Belper (dener, Mr. J. McCartney) winning first p with 42½ points, his opponent, Mrs. W Evans, gaining 42 points, A. Preston Jo Esq., being third. Muscat of Alexan Black Alicante, and Gros Colmar Gr were shown in fine condition.

Trade exhibits by Mr. H. Woolman, mingham, Messrs. William Lowe and Beeston, Notts., and Messrs. J. M. Ste and Son, Ltd., Derby, were awarded medals; Messrs. Vickers, Widnes, La and Mr. W. Gregory, Chilwell, Notts, g ing silver medals.

Unprecedented support was accorded show by the general public, and though hall is of large dimensions, it was taxe its fullest capacity.

The Secretarial duties were carried out year by Mr. W. Wardman, 5, St. Augus Street, Derby.

The dates of next year's show have fixed for November 8th, 9th, and 10th.

Taunton Chrysanthemum Sho

The thirteenth annual show of the Tau and District Chrysanthemum and Society was held recently. This year show was extended to two days, and pr the largest in number of entries and s occupied.

The staging of the exhibits was ad ably carried out, the main Territorial being occupied with the cut blooms, gro and effective trade displays, while the ad ing extension contained the fruit and v ables. The most successful exhibito Japanese cut blooms was James Webber Sons, Minehead, who took seven firsts three seconds, also a silver cup in each o premier classes for collections, and a medal for the best Japanese bloom in show (an R. C. Pulling).

Mr. Guy Turner obtained the Presid Challenge Cup for the best group of d varieties in pots. This was the only in its class. In a similar class for groups of single varieties, Mr. G. U. Far of Bishop's Hull, secured first place. awards went to Mr. Guy Turner in th succeeding classes, four of which wer single specimen plants, which the judg garded as a feature of the show.

Both in the open and the amateurs' sions Alderman F. W. Penny took prizes, and was the most successful exh among the amateurs, winning the challenge cup for the highest numb points obtained. The silver challenge in the same division for 12 cut blooms to Mr. C. E. O. Hemmel, of Langport.

As in former years, the show wa tremely fortunate in the matter of displays. Some difficulty was experienc placing the large gold medal, owing t uniformly good quality of one or tw plays, but the award eventually went t largest trade stand in the show, this the exhibit of Mr. H. Clarke, Gree Nurseries, Taunton, which was a m ficent floral display, occupying 250 s feet. A massive collection of single decorative Chrysanthemums, entered b R. J. Case, Staplegrove Nurseries, Tau secured a gold medal. The exhibit occ a space of 20 feet by 6 feet, and inc many new varieties.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Winter Spraying of Fruit Trees

URING the last 10 years a great forward movement has been made in the cultivation of hardy fruits by the pro- on of soluble tar-oil washes. For many s it has been recognised by most growers to use a strong caustic wash during the er was a distinct aid with regard to the ol of certain injurious insects. The old ic washes in general use were not ether satisfactory, but they were the we had at the time. They were ex- ely unpleasant to apply, but they un- tedly did much to reduce pests with arative little damage, pro- they were not used too . If these old caustic es were used too many years ccession bark injury some- followed. When tar-oil es were first introduced they liable to damage buds and but the makers of these es persevered, and have now ced a wash that is fairly nt to apply, will do the job sked to do, and also a wash an be used every year with- ny injury to bark or buds.

ter washes are necessary se many kinds of insects attack our fruit trees summer spend the winter in various positions on the parts of the host. Almost hole of the tree is liable to r some pest or the other. ous insects can be found h the bark, Moss, Lichen, ehind bud scales, or they e found exposed upon the *e.g.*, Codlin Moth can be beneath the bark, Mussel can be found exposed on rk, Aphis, Winter Moth, lottled Umber Moth eggs found around the buds of Plum, and other fruits. ntrol these pests winter g offers many advantages. A wash in the dormant period can be used r than could be the case during the g season. In winter we have no fruit ge to worry about, all we have to r is that the wash applied in winter t injure the bark or buds. Another ge is that the work can be done when e of work in other directions is, per- ot quite so pressing. Altogether win- aying is a better proposition than spraying, provided it can be relied control the pest.

our own experience we find that Plum, and Black Currant Aphis are controlled perfectly by using tar-oil washes in winter. Red Spider appears to be controlled under some conditions, but not under others. The eggs of Winter Moth are killed in some cases, but the control is not nearly so good as when dealing with Aphis. If the spraying is well done, Mussel Scale is kept under perfect control; Vapourer Moth eggs are killed if well wetted with the spray fluid. On the other hand, we have not been able to detect any control over Big Bud of Black Currants. Under our conditions this latter pest seems just as abundant on sprayed and unsprayed trees. If winter spraying is to be successful the work must be well done. The pest to be killed must be well wetted with the wash, and as the pests mentioned above are to be found all over the tree it follows that the whole tree must be wetted with the spray fluid; and also it must be driven well into the crevices of the bark.

We find in practice that the best time to apply the tar-oil wash is January, but certainly not later than the end of the last week in February. If applied later we find that damage may result to the buds. Favourable spraying weather is important, *i.e.*, fine weather with no wind. In January this year we sprayed a plantation of standard Plums; on the last day of the work it commenced to rain about mid-day; spraying was at once stopped. The next morning being fine, the few trees remaining were sprayed. This summer the only trees with Plum Leaf-curling Aphis in this plantation were those sprayed in the morning before the rain fell. The rain had washed off the spray before it had been on long enough to do its job, with the result that these trees later in the year had every leaf curled. In the rest of the plantation curled leaves could only be found with difficulty. It is results such as these that lead us to say that tar-oil washes are valuable.

Demonstration in winter spraying with tar-oil winter wash applied with a modern Knapsack pneumatic sprayer

It is generally recommended that a 5 per cent. solution is safe for Plums and that a 7½ per cent. solution is safe for Apples. We have used a 5 per cent. solution for Plums, Black Currants, and Gooseberries, and find that it gives a good control over Aphis on any of these fruits, but we have only obtained partial control over Winter Moth on Plums when using this strength. We have used a 7½ per cent. solution for Apples and have obtained good control over Aphis and Mussel Scale. Again partial control only has been obtained with Winter Moth, but we have killed most eggs of Winter Moth when using the stronger solution.

The cost of spraying with tar-oil works out expensive. Notwithstanding this, we are sure that when the work is well done, the work completed in January, and a good brand of tar-oil used, that the high cost is justified.

Notes of the Week

Soil cultivation

When the weather is favourable all vacant ground should be turned over to a minimum depth of 10 inches to 11 inches. If time permits to cultivate deeper better crops will result, but care should be taken when the second spit is subsoil to keep it in its correct position, *i.e.*, beneath the top soil. Efforts should be made to improve the subsoil by adding organic matter, which will improve it and enable plant roots to have a greater root-run. It is generally recognised that autumn cultivation is essential for heavy land, because if the work be done at that period the weather will have every opportunity to improve the soil during the winter and early spring. Cultivation of light land

is often deferred until spring, but we would like to point out that when light land is cultivated in autumn all the winter rains run into the land instead of running away as surface water into the drains. Light land often suffers during summer from lack of water, but if full use is made of the winter rainfall this is not so likely to happen.

National Dahlia Society

The annual meeting of the National Dahlia Society will be held on Tuesday, November 29th, 1927, at 4.15 p.m. in the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, to receive the Committee's report and balance-sheet for 1927, and to elect officers and Committee for the ensuing year.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

Hoheria populnea

ANY shrub which normally flowers in November in the open air is worthy of general cultivation, and it is curious that this fine Ribbon-wood from New Zealand should be so seldom found even in gardens where choice shrubs are appreciated. It is probably not a plant for cold districts, but it is quite hardy over a large part of southern England. The pure white flowers are produced in small clusters in the leaf-axils, each flower about ¾ inch across. The narrow petals are somewhat reflexed, and there are numerous stamens; in fact, the flower is not unlike a Myrtle blossom. The leaf is evergreen and very variable in shape and size, the edges deeply toothed. Several varieties have been named according to the width of the leaves, and the variety angustifolia is considered by Dr. Cockayne to be a distinct species inasmuch as it goes through a Coprosma-like stage in its youth. The form most readily obtainable from nurserymen has a moderately wide leaf. It does not flower freely until well established. A small plant placed in a sheltered border in November, 1923, is now about 8 feet high and covered with blossom. Last year it bore only an odd flower or two, and gave no indication of its real beauty. There is a very faint scent of Hawthorn, but it is not always apparent. It is a near relation of Plagianthus and Gaya Lyallii, all shrubs known as Ribbon-woods in New Zealand owing to their tough inner bark, used for cordage and for ornamental purposes.

The name Hoheria is derived from its Maori name of Houhere or Whauwhi, and

Hoheria populnea lanceolata
A fine Ribbon Wood from New Zealand with silvery white flowers

makes a pleasing addition to the seld euphonious names of cultivated shrubs.

N. G. HADDEN

West Porlock, Somerset.

Pruning Roses in November

I was pleased to note in your issue November 19th the remark by Mr. E. Ma ham *re* the pruning of all Roses in Nov ber. This I have practised for 16 years w the very best results; much earlier flow and a better autumn display. I have d it in various counties, Leicestershire cluded. I have had to stand a deal criticism, but the proof of the pudding is the eating, and I still carry on. One m bear in mind we do not get the severe w ters now that we did 30 years ago. I wo advise those who doubt the wisdom pruning in late autumn to try a few pl and note the result, and I am sure ano season they will do more.

CHAS. OAKFORD

Chippenham, Wilts.

Apple American Mother re-name

Some six years ago I bought for a big a wonderful new variety of Apple tree, ca Queen Mary, as it was spoken of so highly. Being a standard, and having sev years of drought, it is only this year it given me a small crop, when to my un disgust and dismay I recognised it as An can Mother. Thinking the nurseryman defrauded me I sent an Apple up for id fication to the R.H.S. Fruit Committee, this is their report:—"The Committe of opinion that the variety is prob American Mother, which is the proper n for Queen Mary."

Now, Sir, American Mother has bee the market for years and years. Wh want to know is what is the reason changing the name of this variety and the cheating, defrauding, hoodwinking British public. All the world over Englishmen are known for truth, hon and straightforwardness, and a person lies is fined, as we have just seen.

Can any of your readers enlighten us cerning this matter, which I call abominable horticultural fraud.

W. F. M. COPELA

156, *St. James' Road, Southampton.*

Chrysanthemums: A beautiful la flowered novelty

Many beautiful new varieties have exhibited before the respective Floral mittees of either the National Chrysa mum Society or the Royal Horticu Society during the present season, I question whether any excel in grace beauty the blooms of the new Jap variety named Chas. Davis (1927). It bloom of much refinement, having very florets of medium width that build a of great depth and drooping form. colour is a striking canary-yellow. I expect this shown well and freely nex son. It has been certificated by the N

D. B

Chrysanthemum: New incurved va

Like "D. B. C.," page 719, issue N ber 19th, I was pleased to see the fine tration of the new incurved variety, ment, in your issue of the 12th inst. correspondent is quite right when he that there is a revival of interest in t curved section. There are about a varieties belonging to it which are as "Decorative," and, truly, the decorative when well grown and staged in vases. The variety Monum seems, is a fairly large one, but refine have H. W. Thorpe, J. W. Streete

eral others, smaller, but very refined. l smaller the unbeatable pair Mrs. G. ndle and George Glenny. Associate these lecorative work and the general effect will most pleasing. A few more new varie- similar to Monument would be wel- ed both by growers and florists, as there some lovely reflexing varieties suitable associating with them.

am expecting a new section soon. Some he singles, Nona and Phyllis Cooper as nples, come quite nine rows of petals in h on early crown-buds. They are neither xed nor single in the true sense. Of se, we know that blooms of many varie- of singles develop into rather deep speci- s "taken" on early crowns, but some e extra deep. I hardly know whether I y like them or not in such form, but I v I like them immensely when they de- p on later buds. GEO. GARNER.

amnus Fraxinella (Dictamnus albus rpureus), Dittany or Burning Bush

HIS very old garden plant is a favourite with many, as it is associated with the story of the "Burning Bush." A re- xable feature of the plant is the fragrant r resin that exudes from the flowers. ng late evening after a hot, dry day, if hted match is held underneath, this will e. This should be done when there is ew on the plants and as darkness is fall- The result will be a remarkable bril- flame. The flowers of Dictamnus purpureus are of a pale purple colour; Ash-like foliage growing from 2 feet to t high. Being a plant of slow growth it d be planted in a nook on a sunny r, where it will not be disturbed for a ber of years. Propagation is effected by s of seeds, but quicker results will be ned from root cuttings. If the fleshy of the roots are cut into lengths in g and inserted in pots under similar con- s as for Anchusas they will form good s in a short time. R. F.

sley.

Nerine flexuosa

vonder if Mr. Mark Fenwick grows e flexuosa! It is very beautiful and well here, though not so striking and us as N. Bowdeni. Does anyone grow thergillii in the open? C. PRENTIS.

iers, Borden, near Sittingbourne.

Rhodostachys pitcairniæfolia

of the most striking exhibits at the on Chrysanthemum Show was a large of this remarkable Bromeliad in flower. lant somewhat suggests a Pineapple ong, narrow leaves armed with small ed prickles along the edge. When a is about to flower the lower half of rrounding leaves turns a vivid scarlet, forming a brilliant setting for the cluster of soft blue flowers in their The great interest and value of this stachys lies in the fact that it is a plant in mild districts, though, un- ately, it is a shy bloomer. It would st interesting if any of your readers ave succeeded in flowering this (or any species of Rhodostachys) outdoors report their experience with it. I was a single crown five years ago which w increased to a thriving clump with n crowns, but has shown no sign of ng. It is planted among stones in the f a sheltered border facing due south, slightly above surrounding ground- As the Rhodostachys species come e Andes they are evidently tolerably plants, but one wishes they would be rather more generous with their wonderful flowering display. Apparently November and December are the normal flowering months. I understand they flowered well a few years ago in the late Mr. Arkwright's garden at Wembury, near Plymouth, and also near Dublin. The plant exhibited at Taunton was growing in a pot, but I do not know what treatment it had received.

In the Kew Hand-list of Tender Monocotyledons, published in 1915, Rhodostachys carnea (= andina) is the only species given under the genus, Rhodostachys pitcairniæfolia and R. littoralis being referred to the genus Fascicularia. Can any species of the allied Dyckias be grown outdoors in southern England? N. G. HADDEN.

West Porlock, Somerset.

Dictamnus albus (Fraxinella or Dittany)
One of the oldest and best border plants of our cottage gardens

Fabiana imbricata

I think Mr. Stevens will find, before long, that he will have to thin out his very prosperous-looking planting of this very delightful shrub. He says it grows from 3 feet to 5 feet high, but I am told that in the late Col. Borton's garden at Yalding, Kent, there is a specimen planted against a wall which reaches 6 feet, while here in my own garden one of the plants in an open but sheltered position measures 9 feet 6 inches and 8 feet through all round. Doubtless in warmer districts there are bigger ones. We prune them as little as possible, but every two or three years we generally have to trim them in a little. They do not like it, and it takes them a year or so to pull round. I have never known them to be at all injured by frost, and they are never protected in any way. C. PRENTIS.

Posiers, Borden, near Sittingbourne.

Are Antirrhinums annuals?

I should like the opinion of readers on the following subject *re* staging of Antirrhinums. During the summer I attended a flower show, and Antirrhinums were included in three vases of annuals and received a prize. At a later show I noticed Antirrhinums in a collection of perennials, first prize being awarded. I was puzzled and made inquiries, and was told both were correct, and in regard to being shown as annuals the R.H.S. had been written to, and the reply received stated that Antirrhinums may be shown as annuals. If the R.H.S. gave this decision I see no reason why Pentstemons, Brompton Stocks, or any biennial could not be included in the annual class. In questions of this kind official information is often given, such as, stick to your schedule and you cannot go far wrong. The schedule states three vases of annuals, and if, according to R.H.S., Antirrhinums may be included, I certainly think Pentstemons should also be included. If I stick to the schedule and show Antirrhinums as

perennials I may be disqualified. I should be pleased to know readers' opinions on this matter. BIENNIAL.

[The Antirrhinum question is a frequent cause of confusion and disagreement at local shows, but it need not be so if schedule makers would watch progress and keep abreast of the times. Strictly speaking, an "annual" is a plant which completes its cycle of life, *e.g.*, grows from a seedling, produces flowers and seed, and then dies, all in one season. The Antirrhinum has always been classed as a biennial, but owing to cross-breeding and the introduction of new strains during recent years the plant has somewhat lost its biennial character and is now commonly sold and grown as an annual, and the majority of judges are now allowing it to be exhibited as such. When speaking of herbaceous plants a "perennial" is a plant with a permanent rootstock, the plant itself dying down to the ground each year and a new plant springing from the old root the following season. The Antirrhinum cannot be exhibited in this class. The real remedy lies in the hands of the local show committees, who should so frame their schedules as to avoid misunderstanding, and simplify matters for those more or less casual exhibitors whose knowledge of technical terms is naturally limited, but whose exhibits always help to build up a successful show. We would suggest that the class for "annuals" should be substituted by one called "garden flowers grown from seed during the present season," or that it should be made quite clear in the schedule what flowers may or may not be included.]

Early-flowering Gladioli

THE lighter and elegantly-disposed spikes of the early-flowering Gladioli are by some preferred to the denser and more massive ones of the later kinds. They form very pretty objects in the greenhouse during the late spring and early summer months, and if grown in a sheltered border they are very attractive.

When growing early-flowering Gladioli in pots the bulbs or corms should be set an inch deep in the soil, arranging some half-a-dozen of them in a pot 6 inches in diameter. Pot the bulbs this month or as soon as they can be procured. For a month at least they would be better placed in a frame and plunged in ashes, Cocoa-fibre, or leaves. The soil should be sandy loam of good quality, and the pots must be well drained. If the soil at potting time is fairly moist no water will be required, but when growth is active, then more moisture must be given. A temperature of from 45 degs. to 50 degs. is suitable. There is one of the early-flowered section grown to a greater extent than any other, viz., Gladiolus Colvillei albus, also known as The Bride, which is so extensively employed for forcing. Corms are sent to this country in considerable numbers during the dormant season, and disposed of at a cheap rate.

An interesting new race of Gladioli has recently been evolved by Mr. C. G. Van Tubergen, Junr., of Haarlem, who has succeeded in crossing certain varieties of his Herald strain of Gladioli with flowers of G. tristis concolor. The Heralds, which are yet so well known as they deserve to be sulted from crossing early-flowering sort G. ramosus and the so-called G. nanus some of the earliest-flowering varieties o Childsii. In making this cross the aim been to get a race of Gladioli which w bloom at the same time as the ramosus nanus varieties, but which would also duce upright stems that would show flowers well. This desideratum has achieved, while the spikes at the same are elegant and graceful, and the flowers expanded. Herald Gladioli flower in J and the side shoots produce further spik bloom in August. Here, then, we have of the parents of the new Tubergeni which show the habit and foliage o Colvillei and have large open flowers w open up just previous to the Heralds. should prove a valuable addition to the e flowering section. The accompanying tration depicts the first two varieties o Tubergeni. The upper variety is Glow, carmine-red with blue flakes, and the l one is Charm, which is a deep rose-kind. The corms of both races are pl in the autumn, and the raiser recomm their being well protected during the wi The Heralds have proved to be well ad for pot culture and for forcing, and doul their kindred will be equally suitabl these purposes.

The Herald strain of Gladioli

The corms of early-flowering Gladioli should be planted this month

Early-flowering Gladioli in pots

Should these be plunged in fibre i same way as Dutch bulbs in general, taken into the greenhouse when the 2 inches or 3 inches of growth have made, or should they be grown on i greenhouse from time of planting?

GLAD E

[The bulbs of these early-flowering Gl should be set an inch deep in the soil, a ing some half-dozen bulbs in a pot 6 i in diameter. It is now time that the were potted, and for a month at lea pots would be better if placed in a fram plunged in ashes, Cocoanut-fibre, or l The soil should be sandy loam of quality, and the pots must be well dr If the soil at potting-time is fairly mo water will be required, and the same ment will be suitable till growth be active, when more moisture may be A temperature of from 45 degs. to 50 is suitable in which to place them afte have been lifted from the plunging ma G. brenchleyensis is sometimes gro pots, but, generally speaking, it is o early-flowering Gladioli that are give culture.]

Gladiolus trials at Wisle

The following awards have been m undermentioned flowers by the Royal cultural Society after trial at Wisley.

A = Award recommended for garden.
B = Award recommended for exhibition purpo
C = Award recommended for cutting.

GLADIOLI.

AWARD OF MERIT.

LARGE FLOWERED.

L'Immaculee (A, B)	Sent by Messrs.
"	" "
"	" "
Imperator (A, B, C)	" "
Vesta Tilley (A)	" "
Etendard (A)	" "
"	" "
Madame Mounet Sully (B)	" "
Golden Measure (A)	" "
" "	" "
" "	" "
" "	" "
Sunspot (A)	" "
Sunset (A, C)	" "
Osalim (A)	" "
Hohenzollern (A)	" "

The new ivory-white Chrysanthemum Albion
Awarded First Class Certificate of the National Chrysanthemum Society

Carnation Cattleya Mauve
A large and fragrant perpetual-flowering variety of bright rosy mauve colour. Award of Merit, Royal Horticultural Society

of Wales (A, B, C)	Sent by Messrs. Dobbie.
,,	,, ,, van Zanten.
men (B, C)	,, ,, Konijnenburg & Mark.
Hanks (A, C)	,, ,, C. Salbach.
Sunrise (A, B C)	,, ,, van Zanten.
,,	,, ,, Unwin.
,,	,, ,, Dobbie.
(A, C)	,, ,, Dobbie.
, B, C)	,, ,, Webb.
	,, ,, Bath.
	,, ,, Morris.
Edison (A, B, C)	,, ,, Bath.
,,	,, ,, Dobbie.
,,	,, ,, Prins.
,,	,, ,, Morris.
Grotz (B)	,, ,, Bath.
nt (A)	,, ,, van Zanten.
n Glow (A, B, C)	,, ,, Unwin.
,,	,, ,, Bath.
,,	,, ,, Grullemans.
g Sword (A, B, C)	,, ,, Bath.
,,	,, ,, van Zanten.
,,	,, ,, Dobbie.
t (A, B, C)	,, ,, Dobbie.
	,, ,, van Zanten.
	,, ,, Bath.
ng (A, B, C)	,, ,, Bath.
,,	,, ,, van Zanten.
f Hillegom (B)	,, ,, van Zanten.
,,	,, ,, Dobbie.
press (A, B, C)	,, ,, Nieuwenhuis.
(A, B)	,, ,, Dobbie.
	,, ,, Unwin.
	,, ,, Bath.
	,, ,, van Zanten.
	,, ,, Morris.
h Kausleiter (A)	,, ,, Bath.
,,	,, ,, van Zanten.
Schneider (A)	,, ,, Konijnenburg & Mark.
,,	,, ,, Pfitzer.
Smith (A, B, C)	,, ,, Bath.
,,	,, ,, Unwin.
avender (A, C)	,, ,, Bath.
,,	,, ,, Churcher.
r (A)	,, ,, Dobbie.
Hulot (A)	,, ,, Morris.
,,	,, ,, Dobbie.
,,	,, ,, Webb.
,,	,, ,, van Zanten.
obe (A)	,, ,, Kelway.
Glory (A, B, C)	,, ,, Unwin.
B)	,, ,, A. J. Bliss.
a (A, B, C)	,, ,, Konijnenburg & Mark.

PRIMULINUS GRANDIFLORUS.

La Lys (A)	Sent by Messrs. Bath.
Joannjita de Castro (A)	,, ,, Bath.
,, ,, ,,	,, ,, Pfitzer.
Sunnymede (A)	,, ,, Churcher.
Revue (A, B, C)	,, ,, Churcher.
La Consance (A)	,, ,, Bath.
Favourite (Krelage's), (A, B, C)	,, ,, Prins.
,, ,,	,, ,, Bath.
,, ,,	,, Netherlands G. S.
L'Yser (A)	,, Messrs. Bath.
Butterboy (A, B, C)	,, ,, Kundred.
,,	,, ,, Bath.
,,	,, ,, Lowe & Gibson.
Gelyce (A, B)	,, ,, Churcher.
Ada de Poy (A, B)	,, ,, C. Salbach.
Ethelyn (A, C)	,, ,, Churcher.
Salmon Beauty (A)	,, ,, Amos.
,,	,, ,, Bath.
Rudolph Hertzog (A)	,, ,, Bath.

PRIMULINUS.

Souvenir (A, B, C)	Sent by Messrs. Morris.
,,	,, ,, Veitch.
,,	,, ,, Barr.
,,	,, ,, Dobbie.
,,	,, ,, van Tubergen.
,,	,, ,, Webb.
,,	,, ,, Dawkins.
,,	,, ,, Bath.
Zanthia (A, B, C)	,, ,, Amos.
,,	,, ,, van Tubergen.
,,	,, ,, Bath.
Orange Queen (A)	,, Netherlands G. S.
,,	,, ,, Messrs. Webb.
,,	,, ,, van Tubergen.
,,	,, Konijnenburg & Mark.
,,	,, ,, Dobbie.
,,	,, ,, Barr.
,,	,, ,, Bath.
,,	,, ,, Pfitzer.
Bernard Kuhn (B, C)	,, ,, Bath.
Nydia (C)	,, ,, Unwin.
Rosandra syn. Rosaura (A)	,, ,, Unwin.
,, ,,	,, ,, van Tubergen.
,, ,,	,, ,, Bath.
,, ,,	,, Netherlands G. S.
,, ,,	,, Messrs. Dobbie.

Sphinx (A, C)	Sent by Messrs. Bath.
,,	,, ,, Dawkins.
,,	,, Netherlands G. S.
,,	,, Messrs. van Tubergen.
,,	,, ,, Dobbie.
Athalia (A)	,, ,, Amos.
,,	,, ,, Bath.
Fire Queen (A, B)	,, ,, R. Veitch.
,, ,,	,, ,, Barr.
Scarlet Cardinal (A)	,, ,, van Tubergen.
,, ,,	,, ,, Nieuwenhausen.
,, ,,	,, Netherlands G. S.
,, ,,	,, Messrs. Dobbie.
,, ,,	,, ,, Bath.
Topaz (A, C)	,, ,, Barr.
,,	,, ,, Bath.

The following varieties were highly commended :—

LARGE-FLOWERED.—Painted Lady, La Lune, A. B. Kundred, Mrs. H. E. Bothin, Princess America, Venus, Panama, Mrs. Leon Douglas, Pink Perfection, Dr. van Fleet, Elizabeth Tabor, Karl Volkert, Aurora, Rose Ash, Cracker Jack syn. Gipsy Queen, Gipsy Girl, Heradæ. Plumtinte, Catharina, Faust, Paul Pfitzer, Duchess of York syn. Blue Bird, Restauration, Splendour, Anna Eberius, Mrs. Dr. Hauff, Czar Peter, Jacoba van Beieren, Johanna.

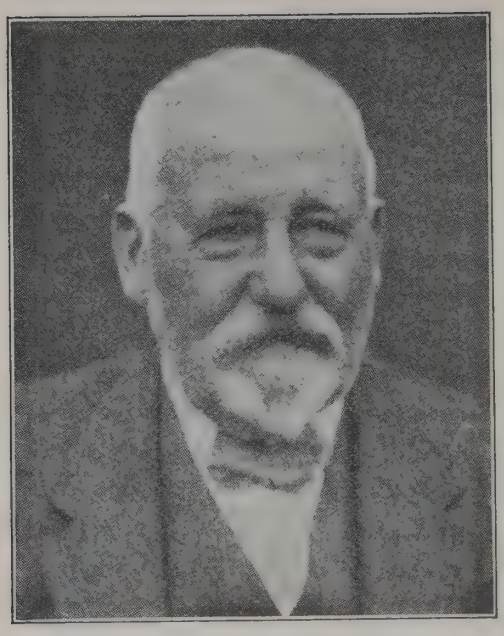
PRIMULINUS GRANDIFLORUS. — Enchantress, Myrtle, L'Ecaillon, Ming Toy, Anamosa, Copper Bronze, La Vezouge, Jewell, L'Orillon, Arden, Alice Tiplady, Midsummer Dream.

PRIMULINUS.—Yolande, Sedan, Marjoletti, Sunrise, Gold Else, Sylvia, Lascelles, Altair, Niobe, Clio, Arlen, and Icarus.

New certificated Chrysanthemums

QUITE an interesting number of new Chrysanthemums were submitted to the Floral Committee of the National Chrysanthemum Society at the R.H.S. Hall, Vincent Square, on Monday, the 14th inst. Some of the new varieties were distinctly good. The following were recognised by the Floral Committee :—

ALBION (see illustration).—A distinctly chaste and refined-looking Japanese decora-



Mr. Edwin Beckett, V.M.H.
The winner of 100 Gold Medals

tive variety having medium to broad florets evenly reflexing, building a beautiful flower about 5 inches across. Colour, ivory-white. Height, 4½ feet to 5 feet. Unanimous F.C.C. Shown by Mr. H. Shoesmith, Junr.

ENID.—A beautiful single having about three rows of broad florets neatly arranged, building a flower about 3½ inches to 4 inches across, with a well-proportioned disc. Colour, bright chestnut-terra-cotta. Height, about 5 feet. Unanimous First-class Certificate. Also from Mr. H. Shoesmith, Junr., Mayford, near Woking, Surrey.

ANNICE.—A pretty small-flowered incurved variety reminding one of Lady Hardinge and similar varieties that were so popular a quarter of a century ago. The florets are rather narrow and well formed, and build a neat flower of true incurved form about 3½ inches or rather more in diameter. Colour, silvery-lilac. Unanimous F.C.C. Shown by Messrs. Cragg, Harrison, and Cragg, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex.

DARK LADY.—A neat decorative flower of Japanese form having medium to broad florets, building a flower about 4 inches across. Colour, ruby-crimson with golden-bronze reverse. The stems are nicely clothed with small foliage. Height, 3 feet to 4 feet. F.C.C. Also from Messrs. Cragg, Harrison, and Cragg.

MRS. E. H. PEARCE.—A large incurved Japanese variety having long, broad florets that curl and incurve, and build a deep bloom of splendid substance. Ideal for exhibition and bold decorations. Colour, ivory-white, tinted green. Unanimous F.C.C. Shown by Mrs. Pearce, Long Sutton Gardens, Basingstoke.

LEICESTER.—A large exhibition Japanese with great possibilities. The florets are long and broad, reflexing in pleasing fashion and curling at the ends, revealing the beautiful bright chestnut colouring; gold reverse to the florets. Unanimous F.C.C. Shown by Mr. H. Woolman, Shirley, near Birmingham.

The Committee wished to see again two Japanese varieties suitable for exhibition, viz., Birmingham, a massively-built incurved Japanese (colour, deep crimson inside the florets and bronze outside); and Nottingham, a very large graceful Japanese bloom of drooping form with florets of medium breadth (colour, white, slightly tinted pink). A pretty little decorative Japanese named Pink Pearl, a pale pink, is a charming little flower and worthy of notice b who are on the look-out for a really u decorative variety. D. B. CRA

November Flowers and Ornamental Shrubs Vincent Square

A FEW weeks ago, when we congratulated Mr. Edwin Beckett on the magnificent gold medal collection of vegetables at Vincent Square, we asked him how many gold medals he had been awarded, to which he replied 99, and he added, "We hope to get one more this year." That he was successful in attaining this great ambition is a matter for sincere and heartiest congratulations. It is a record to be proud of. On this occasion the gold medal was awarded for a comprehensive collection of ornamental fruited hardy trees and shrubs, which filled one end of the hall and was beautifully arranged.

Edwin Beckett, V.M.H., is head gardener to the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, Aldenham House, Elstree, Herts, and the garden has long been famous for its collection of hardy trees and shrubs. Among the interesting fruiting shrubs noted in this exhibit were Hymenanthera crassifolia, Celastrus scandens, C. acuminatus, Viburnum Opulus xanthocarpa (yellow fruits), Pyracantha Gibbsii, Billardiera longiflora (purple fruits), Acanthopanax leucorrhizum (black fruits), Cydonia Wilsonii, Pyrus toringoides, Berberis in variety, Cotoneaster frigida Vicari, and the new C. aldenhamensis. Among the better-known shrubs in fruit were Hippophæ rhamnoides (the Sea Buckthorn), Pernettya mucronata, Euonymus europæus (the Spindle tree), Arbutus Unedo (in flower), Leycesteria formosa, Pyracantha coccinea and its variety Lalandei, and Symphoricarpus racemosus lævigatus, altogether a most extensive collection of berried species for winter effect.

Uncommon conifers, including Mexican Pines, Libocedrus Doniana, Athrotaxis cupressoides, Dacrydium cupressinum, Agathis australis, Phyllocladus rhomboidalis, and Taiwania cryptomerioides, were shown by Mr. G. Reuthe.

Flowering sprays of Acacia Cunninghamii shown by Mr. Lionel Rothschild were strikingly beautiful and the centre of admiration. This Australian plant is a robust grower under glass and exceptionally floriferous. The flowers are lemon-yellow and the leaves of a lovely, soft, silvery-grey.

An uncommon climber, Tacsonia mixtaquitensis, was shown by Mr. G. W. Blaithwayt, of West Porlock, who grows this tender plant on the wall of his house.

Sir Herbert Maxwell sent a collection of paintings of garden flowers that came in for great admiration. Among the subjects that were beautifully portrayed were Gentiana sino-ornata, Primula littoniana, Lilium monodelphum Szovitzianum, Cistus Loreti, Helleborus niger altifolius, and Rhododendron Augustinæ.

A good selection of grey-foliaged plants and dwarf shrubs suitable for the rock garden, including Raoulia australis, Othonnopsis cheirifolius, Cineraria maritima, and Teucrium aureum, was shown by Mr. F. G. Wood, of Ashtead.

A batch of the lovely Primula pterocephala with heads of violet-coloured flowers on tall, slender stems covered in farina, was shown by Mr. G. Whitelegg.

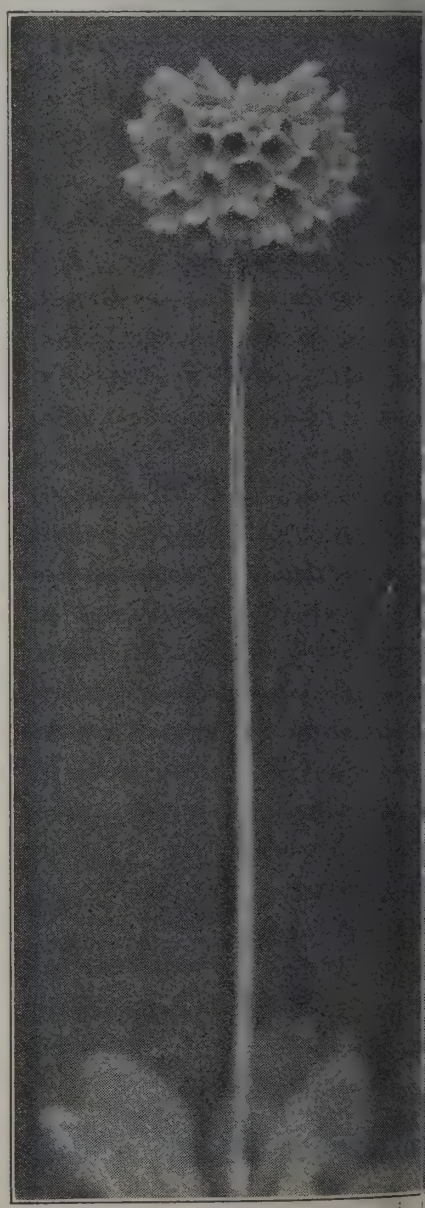
Messrs. Allwood Bros. showed two new Perpetual-flowering Carnations, both of which gained Awards of Merit, viz., Maud Allwood (golden-apricot) and Cattleya Mauve (rosy-mauve dusted with small carmine spots and very fragrant).

Chrysanthemums were again show quantity, and Mr. H. J. Jones gaine Society's Gold Medal for a large bold of admirable blooms.

A particularly good collection of w flowering Begonias was sent by Mrs. Whitburn from her garden at Ampor Mary's, Andover. It is all too seldom we see such well-grown winter-flow Begonias, which included the var Elatior, Pink Perfection, Dazzler, Optima.

There were several good groups of Or including one by Mr. S. G. Brown (gard Mr. Thurgood), Brownlands, Shepp which included a well-flowered plan Lycaste Imschootiana with 13 flowers which the culture commendation awarded.

The high award of First-class Certi was gained by Armstrong and Brow



Primula pterocephala, a head of vio coloured flowers on a long, slender st
Shown by Mr. George Whitelegg

A remarkable Lily, probably a form of Lilium nepalense, shown by Mr. Wm. van de Weyer
The large flower is sulphur-yellow with an almost black interior

Acacia Cunninghamii, a beautiful Mimosa with fluffy balls of bright canary-yellow flowers
Award of Merit, Shown by Mr. Lionel de Rothschild

pedium Chardmoore Mrs. Cowburn, a variety of wonderful size.
gold medal was awarded to Messrs. 1 and Sons for a fine exhibit of Pota- of 44 varieties. Most were immune ies, and two white round varieties, Favourite and Aberdeen Favourite, new introductions. Each basket con- perfect tubers in shape and size. g the varieties represented were the nown Dunnottar Castle, Arran Com- Great Scot, and Sutton's Epicure. It faultless and well-arranged collection. re were also several good collections of .

ew new seedling Apples were sub- , but no awards were made. H. C.

EES AND SHRUBS

Fuchsia reflexa

difficult to say what is the principal ering season of this delightful little ib, but it is generally laden with throughout November and December; it is seldom that one cannot find a ossoms at any time of year. It is a ardy shrub in south-western districts, seen at its best when allowed to through some old tree which gives to its long, slender, arching branches. the flower is almost the smallest of chsias, only a little larger than the arlet trumpets of F. Cottinghamii, a more tender shrub. They are pro- n pairs or small clusters at the leaf- d are rich rose-red with a protruding style and stamens. The general effect rge plant in full flower is extremely attractive. It is one of the last flowers of the year to be visited by honey bees, who come to it in numbers on sunny November days, although it is not a scented flower according to human ideas.

The leaves are evergreen, deep glossy green, about ½ inch long and slightly less in width, usually more or less serrated at the edges. Some of the flowers are succeeded by round, glossy, black berries, but, strange to say, the only self-sown plants which have appeared in my garden show the influence of a cross with F. Cottinghamii, having the smaller flowers of that species with the colour of F. reflexa. N. G. HADDEN.

West Porlock, Somerset.

Grevillea rosmarinifolia

This charming evergreen shrub should be planted by all who have a position to spare at the base of a warm wall, or as a bush in the open in the more favoured districts. It is a shrub with graceful Rosemary-like foliage, and in a sunny position there are few weeks in the year when it is devoid of its curious red flowers. The yellow variety, sulphurea, is also worthy of a place in large collections of shrubs. Some special attraction exists to queen wasps during spring on G. rosmarinifolia. On a quite warm evening during early May I noted over three dozen queen wasps on one large plant of this variety, yet on a plant of G. sulphurea a few yards distant none were to be seen. I have as yet been unable to determine what was the special attraction of this variety, as it was not confined to one plant, others of the same kind situated in different parts of the garden were visited in the same manner by these insects. It would be of interest to know if any other readers have noted anything special in connection with this.

Wisley. R. F.

Hamamelis mollis

One of the most interesting of our hardy shrubs during January is the Chinese Witch Hazel. Although this was introduced to this country as long ago as 1889 it does not appear to have become very popular, as it is seldom really good specimens may be seen. It forms a dwarf spreading tree of symmetrical form with stiff zigzagged branchlets. It is a deciduous shrub, handsome in flowers and foliage. The flowers are without stalks. Each flower has several thin, narrow yellow petals half-an-inch long, and produced in clusters on nude wood, which has a delightful perfume that is perceptible a few yards away. Opening as they do during the winter they make the shrub particularly attractive. It likes a good open position and a well-drained soil of moderate quality.

H. STEVENS.

Rose Covent Garden

This splendid dark-coloured Rose is good for either outdoor or pot culture. The flowers are of good shape with high centres and borne singly on stout, erect stems, while the foliage is a dark olive-green. It flowers most freely and continues to blossom until quite late in the autumn. It is a splendid decorative Rose, and I have found it one of the best dark Roses for forcing under glass. The colour is of a deep crimson shade with a slightly darker tint on the outside of the petals. Those who require a good all-round dark Rose cannot do better than plant this variety this autumn. F. H.

THE GREY GARDEN

By Gertrude Jekyll, V.M.H.

It is not the first time that attention has been drawn in the columns of this paper to the importance of grey and silvery foliage in the arrangement of flower borders for the late summer; but this aspect of gardening has of late aroused so much interest among amateurs, and such unqualified encouragement from artists, that some notes about its planting may be helpful to those who desire to make their gardens pictorially beautiful. The best season for such an arrangement is the six weeks during the months of August and the first half of September. It is unfortunate that these weeks coincide with the time when so many are away on holiday, and when the owners of large gardens are absent; afloat, or fishing, or on the Scottish grouse moors; but there are many good gardeners who are at home and able to enjoy not the grey garden alone, but all the splendid border flowers whose best effect seems to culminate at just the same season; for it is the time of Dahlias and Hollyhocks, Pentstemons, Snapdragons, Zinnias, Salpiglossis, the grand French and African Marigolds, and the rest of the good plants that are glorious in the late summer. Of these the most important in the grey garden are Hollyhocks and Dahlias; those whose colouring is right with the other flowers of purple, pink, and white; in the complete setting of silvery-white foliage that is the keynote of the grey garden's harmony. The Hollyhocks are the clear pink Pink Beauty, which is almost identical with the one known as Palling Belle; the Dahlias are white and pink of the Star class; the tall pink Queen Mary and Lovelight, the pale purplish Amethyst, and the full purple Porthos. Any Dahlias of this kind of colouring would serve equally well, but these have proved their value. Echinops ruthenicus is of use, not only from its abundant heads of purplish bloom, but also because the foliage is of so quiet a green that it goes well with the grey plants. Eryngiums would be of much use, but the best kind, E. oliverianum, the Silver Thistle, is just too early in season; but E. planum, though less showy, is just right in time, and should be included. There are not too many pink flowers available, but among the best are some of the Phloxes, especially the cooler of the pinks such as Antoine Mercier and Hodur, and the pale lilac Miss Willmott, a lovely kind. It is best to avoid any pink flowers inclining to the salmon tints; the cool colours are better with the purple flowers. A bush of Lavatera Olbia should be in the background, for though it naturally flowers a little too soon, yet if it is cut back early in June it makes a quantity of flowering shoots for the right time. Also in the background are some bushes of Sea Buckthorn, valuable not only for their own silvery foliage but also as supports for pur Clematises, which ramble over them in lightful fashion. This was a valuable h from an artist. Another precious bush the back of the grey border is Ceanoth Gloire de Versailles. Cut hard back, makes a quantity of flowering shoots for middle of August.

A good supply should be provided of Ch Asters and Ageratum. The Asters of eit the Victoria or the Comet classes, in colours miscalled blue, and the fine d purple Sutton's Black Prince. There sho be both kinds of Ageratum, one of the g dwarfs such as Swanley Blue, and the A. mexicanum. Snapdragons, white pink, will also be included, with a good sh growing one called Mauve Beauty, of a t mauve colour, a low-toned purplish pi Annuals, to be sown in place, are Godd double pink, and a fine violet form of L philium consolida. Campanula lactifl is useful, preferably cut over early to ret the bloom and to shorten those that wo grow too high. Gypsophila paniculata is dispensable.

It is useful to keep a reserve of stand Heliotrope to drop in as may be required, also Hydrangeas, but these should arranged so as to show as little as poss

Pink Hollyhock, white and pink Dahlia, with a tall bush of Althæa frutex (purplish blue) at back; China Asters, Artemisia ludoviciana (full height), Artemisia stelleriana quite in front

Aster umbellatus at back, with Hydrangea paniculata; Paris Daisies, Yucca filamentosa n in flower, Cineraria maritima, and Stachys lanata. Further, white and pink Dahlias, Aste acris, Ageratum (tall and dwarf), Clary, and at the end a bush of Senecio Greyii. In th background, a Loquat and a screening mass of Yew, with a hood cut over a stone sea

of the bright green foliage, which doe go well with the cool grey setting. This sists of Stachys lanata and Artemisia leriana at the front, with Cineraria mar and Santolina; the yellow bloom of the S lina is cut away. But the most effect the grey plants is Artemisia ludovician is a most accommodating thing, for a back it may be let grow to its whole leng 4 feet or more; in the middle spaces it back to any height required, and it may be reduced to 4 inches, when, as often

a plant strays to the front edge. It be transplanted every year, as it is gardeners call a very rooty thing; each throwing out sheets of roots all round. of the earlier of the perennial Asters also be in the grey garden; the tall ny A. umbellatus at the back, Aster lus in the middle, and, quite to the front, little known A. corymbosus, with its tities of starry white bloom and dark, stalks. The full titles under the pictures be a useful explanation of some of the ings.

len Rod for indoor decoration

e ordinary Golden Rod (Solidago), so non in cottage gardens and seen there so in an unhappy combination with a nta Phlox, is not a very desirable gar- plant. It has a heavy, displeasing y colour and the flower is crowded and

Pink Hollyhocks, white and pink Dahlias, Artemisia ludoviciana, and China Asters. At back, a bush of Althæa frutex with white bloom

Hollyhocks, White Star Dahlias, nisia ludoviciana, full height and cut arious heights; Gladiolus America, raria maritima, Echinops, and white dragon; a large group of Phlox Miss Willmott with Santolina

yellow in colour, open and graceful in form, reminding one of the feathery plumes of Spiræa Lindleyana. It is not only good in the garden, but is much to be recommended as a cut flower, standing high, with some upright branches of any rather pale green foliage, including some of the gold variegated Privet; a shrub which is so useful for cut foliage with any yellow and white flowers throughout the year. I should be grateful for the name of this species if it can be identified from the above description by anyone who is well acquainted with the genus.

G. Jekyll.

ess. There are several species of these American plants, but there is one that out as a really beautiful thing. It is est to bloom of any that I have tried e tallest in stature; the bloom is pale

he right: Clematis Jackmannii in Sea thorn (at the back), pink Phlox, tall ttum; a shortened Campanula lacti- coming over the path; China Asters. distant, White Star Dahlia, Gladiolus ica, Phlox Hodur, Gypsophila, and Santolina

he left: Purple Dahlia Porthos, and, d it, Dahlia Lovelight, pink Hollyhock, nisia ludoviciana, and the same short- to the front. Further, Pink Star as, China Asters, tall and dwarf tum. Phlox Miss Willmott, Artemisia telleriana, Stachys, and Santolina

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Late Grapes

A Grape room does not exist in every garden, but a very serviceable Grape rack can be erected in any clean office or other room where a temperature of 45 degs. to 50 degs. can be maintained. For such racks I strongly recommend the use of proper flat-sided and elevated-necked bottles, which are easily procured. A medium-sized rack will accommodate quite a large number of bunches of Grapes when nicely arranged, and can be fitted with dust-proof curtains, which may be opened or closed as desired. These late Grapes should be cut from the Vines with a good length of stem in order that the bunches may be suspended clear of any obstruction. Before filling the bottles with water a few pieces of charcoal should be dropped in to preserve sweetness, and when re-filling becomes necessary the bottles should be removed from the room, as dampness must be avoided. Treated thus the Grapes will keep as long, or longer, than they would upon the Vines, but the point gained is the clearing of the houses, allowing the work of pruning, cleaning, etc., to be brought forward.

Chrysanthemums

Among the large-flowered varieties damping is the greatest enemy at the present time, and much of this will be avoided if air is admitted carefully and regularly through both top and bottom ventilators, with just a circulation of warmth passing through the pipes at night and on dull, foggy days the cleanest flowers are usually those from plants which have been brought along in cool, airy structures.

Stove houses

Avoid excessive temperatures from this date, which may cause considerable trouble now that syringing must be confined to once each day, with less damping of floors and stages. Keep vaporising troughs filled and avoid anything approaching a dry, fiery heat, 65 degs.—allowing a drop during the night of 3 degs. or 4 degs.—being ample.

Azalea indica and Lilacs

Plants with plump flower-buds should now be selected for flowering at Christmas and placed in a warm, moist house. Syringe the plants once each day, especially the Azaleas, which are liable to attacks from red spider and thrip when grown in dry, overheated houses.

Gladioli

Those of the Colvillei types are very useful in providing cut flowers from May onwards, and if planted at the present time in a well-drained soil and on a sheltered site will bloom at that season. The bulbs should be planted 5 inches deep and protected from serious frosts by a mulch of leaves or strawy litter.

Ixias and Turban Ranunculi

These respond to exactly the same treatment, and as these may be obtained in quantities at the present time a number of each should be planted for cutting purposes.

Naturalising bulbs

These may still be planted in large colonies in orchard, wild garden, and woodland, and include Chionodoxas in five distinct kinds, Dog's Tooth Violets (Erythronium), which are very effective when carpeting the ground beneath deciduous shrubs, Grape Hyacinths, Anemones in variety, Scillas, such as S. campanulata, S. hispanica, S. amœna, S. siberica, S. italica, S. bifolia, and the graceful Hyacinthus amethystinus, Snake Lilies (Fritallary), Camassias, Hyacinthus candicans and Dicentra spectabilis are other very pleasing subjects which should now be planted.

Rhododendrons and Azaleas

This is an excellent time for planting these beautiful shrubs, the soil for which should be deeply dug, free from calcareous matter, and rendered friable by an addition of well-matured leaf-mould or peat. Allow plenty of space between the plants, otherwise they become crowded and spoil each other in two or three years' time. Vacancies between the bushes can be utilised for choice Lilies, which enjoy such positions and usually flourish better there than in borders where their stems are exposed.

Planting

Continue the planting of alpine and herbaceous flowers whenever weather permits of its being done, surplus material from the latter being transferred to the wild garden and waterside.

Climbing plants

These, including Roses growing on houses and other buildings, may now be pruned, with the exception of Jasminum nudiflorum, Winter Sweet (Chimonanthus fragrans), Forsythias, and Pyrus, which should remain untouched until after flowering.

Figs

Well-hardened trees may be planted out on well-drained and sunny borders into which has been worked a good quantity of old lime-rubble. Good varieties are Violet Dauphine, Dom Pedro, Brown Turkey, and White Marseilles.

Vegetables in frames

These must receive constant attention, all dead and decaying leaves being removed and the surface soil frequently stirred, air being admitted on all favourable occasions.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Forcing Asparagus

While it is doubtful whether "the game is worth the candle," still there is no doubt but that a few dishes of this esteemed vegetable in early spring is greatly appreciated, so with suitable accommodation at hand a start should now be made. Fresh light soil is necessary, and the roots must be carefully planted. A high, dry temperature is the worst possible for this plant, a moderate but moist, genial warmth being what is required.

Rhubarb for Christmas

Select some strong crowns of Royal Albert, dig them up, and leave on the surface for a week or 10 days, and then place in genial warmth, keeping soil and atmosphere moist, and very soon growth will start away strongly. This is a very rapid grower, but Victoria yields finer stalks, so to form a succession some roots of the latter can also be placed in heat.

Seakale

If possible maintain an unbroken supply of this delicately-flavoured vegetable by introducing the necessary number of roots to genial warmth every week or 10 days. To obtain fine heads, strong, well-ripened roots must be used, and these placed in total darkness and in a fairly high temperature. But with warmth, moisture is also necessary dry, arid atmosphere leading direct to failu

In the Peach houses

Even the latest trees have now shed th foliage, so they should be pruned, the hou thoroughly cleaned, and the trees ag neatly tied to the wires. It is also advisa to dress the trees with some suitable prepa tion, such as Gishurst Compound, and a necessary top-dressing with fresh soil carr out, all in readiness for a fresh start wh the time comes.

Work among the Vines

The bulk of Vines are now clear of folia and there being no object in passing over short dark days and inclement weather cidental to this season of the year with taking full advantage, the pruning, cleani and renovating of the vineries should rec due attention. Where "mealy" bug is p sent extra care is necessary so as to k this terrible pest at bay. The removal of loose bark, the painting several times of rods with suitable insecticides, the scrubb of glass and woodwork, and the lime-wa ing of all brickwork is very necessary helpful, and should all be carefully carr out.

Prune Apple trees

Bush and pyramid trees, now that foliage has dropped, may very well be prur It is desirable that the pruner be acquair with the different varieties, as it is necess to prune according to the requirements each and not all in one way. Varieties weakly growth should, as a rule, be h pruned, those of medium strength not q so hard, while the very strong growers sho be very lightly cut back.

Chrysanthemum cuttings

As the flowers fade or are cut the pla should be cut back to about 6 inches fr the soil, and the pots set in a light, su position and near to the roof-glass, so that cuttings thrown up may be sturdy and fi As soon as the shoots are 3 inches long t should be taken off and inserted in pots boxes of light, sandy compost. Unless se a close frame or box and so kept close are apt to "flag" or wilt a good deal, this does not matter very much, as t usually recover and make fine plants.

Tuberous-rooted Begonias

Even the latest of these are now pretty ripened off, so may be shaken out of t pots, laid on a sunny shelf to dry prope and then stored past for the winter in bo of perfectly dry sand. Pack them hol side down, and use plenty of the sand (si dry soil will do) between the layers of bul

Planting climbing Roses

It is not too late to overtake any arrear planting, and many beautiful effects ma had from the use of the various climbin rambling Roses now available. Amer Pillar is one of the finest of all single-flow Roses for covering a high wall, the l bunches of bright pink blossoms being attractive and lasting a long time in bea The climbing forms of some of the known bush Roses are also worth atten These include Mrs. W. J. Grant, Car Testout, Mme. Abel Chatenay, Chatea Clos Vougeot, Richmond, Mme. Mel Soupert, and Paul Ledé. Other good R for pillars, walls, and arches are:—Exc Lady Gay, Gruss an Teplitz, Gloire de D Reve d'Or, Mme. Isaac Pereire, and Dor Perkins.

C. BLA

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

ifting and storing Dahlias

N ANSWER TO A CORRESPONDENT.]

HLIAS are not hardy. Therefore to eep tubers from year to year one must ft and store them. The time for lifting soon as the tops die back. In cold s it is a danger signal that worse r is coming, and if the tubers are not up they will be frozen. Moreover, it isable for the general welfare of the After the tops die back they begin The rot does not always stop when es to the end of the killed tops and so loss is incurred. Also a wet early winds to rot the tubers even if the tops noved, and so we sometimes have no s where lots of Dahlias formerly grew. ifting the Dahlias care is necessary. ops should be cut back to about 10 from the tubers and removed and .. Then the tubers should be carefully rom the ground, care being taken that ts are broken or bruised. After lifting ould be carried to a shed or other dry nd left a couple of days upside down. urpose of this is to drain off any moishich may have gathered on the tubers, l, or on the stalk. As this treatment ely a removal of moisture the process be carried out under a bench that is d, nor should it be done in a greenwhere plants are growing.

ING DAHLIA TUBERS.—Different folk lifferent ways of storing the tubers. are good, most are satisfactory. The ng is a suggestion that can be used by eryman who has a few hundred plants, home grower who has a half-dozen It has been tried and found true. the tubers are lifted wrap them in per and have the right name on each —stock depreciates 50 to 75 per cent. amed—put the packages in barrels or with the stalks down, and store in a ar which stays above 40 degs. but does above 45 degs. The better the tubers more worth while it is to store them y. The better they have been watered tilised the more necessary it is to store orrectly, for they are more liable to

Œnothera pumila

by any means a showy plant, yet atin the eyes of many devotees of rock is the little Œnothera pumila, a farmmon plant which I first saw in the of an enthusiast in the culture of and afterwards grew for some years. orth noting, not only for its own sake, the fact that a sister flower, Œ. ovata, es it a good deal and one is sometimes l for the other. It is best fitted for garden, as it is only some 5 inches or s high, and has pale green leaves, hich rise a few little yellow blooms. als, perhaps, more to us on account liminutive stature and small flowers its attractions. It is well, however, aders should know something about ninutive plant, which is not in the even the second rank of alpine but is beloved by some.

S. ARNOTT.

Hardiness of Gazania

ay be worth reminding readers how hardy Gazanias are. The handsome Gazania splendens is one of the t of summer flowers, and we have y discarded the plants, only keeping struck cuttings. But during two reters some plants that were not taken escaped entirely, and we are profitthis experience by giving shelter to hat we specially wish to preserve. The natural habit of the plant is to spread all round so that a successfully-protected plant will occupy a space twice as wide as one made recently from a cutting; also it has a general aspect of greater vigour and well-being. There is a beautiful white variety; it opens a pale citron colour, but by the second day is of a soft white of good quality. We have this grouped with the Anazallis, commonly sold as Phillipsii, one of the true blues. This also, though not generally hardy, occasionally survives the winter. The group of these two kinds of plants together is being protected with a little dry Fern and some overhead Fir branches, and we hope they will stand the winter well, and also that, from being well established, an earlier show of bloom may be expected. G. J.

THE GREY GARDEN

Hollyhock Pink Beauty, Echinops, and Dahlia Queen Mary

The grey weather boarding of the building at the back forms a harmonious background

Ophiopogon Jaburan

This Japanese plant may be confidently recommended for any place where a small evergreen of neat habit is desired. The term evergreen suggests a shrub, but Ophiopogon is a tufty plant with a close mass of deep green, linear leaves from the root. The flower, which comes in autumn, may be described as looking something like a loose Grape Hyacinth, purple in colour, on neat upright stems under a foot high. It is useful as an edging to shrubs of moderate size, or for some distinct point in rockwork, or any place where a neat green plant is desired. One well-grown tuft, with its thickish roots, will divide into a quantity. A variegated form is often seen in greenhouses, but the typical plant does not appear so often in gardens as its undoubted merit deserves. There is another Ophiopogon, O. spicatus, with beautifully-shaped, pointed leaves of a lighter colour. This is also a neat plant, though less noticeable than O. Jaburan. But it is of much use in winter as foliage with any cut flowers. As it grows freely, in well-shaped little sheaves, we pull up one or two, including the rootstock, just trim off the actual roots, and use it whole, so having the advantage of the natural set of the leaves, which is better than any that can be artificially arranged. These useful plants may not be hardy all over England, but may be trusted anywhere within, or south of, the latitude of London. G. J.

VEGETABLES

Forcing Rhubarb, Seakale, and Chicory

THESE three garden products fill a big gap in the vegetable supply during the winter and early spring months. They are crops that can be grown and forced by all persons who possess a garden. We will presume that readers have these crops in their gardens and wish to force the growth by artificial means. Really, it is a case of shutting out daylight, ensuring a gentle heat, and thus securing new, nicely-blanched stems and leaves suitable for use in the household.

RHUBARB.—I will refer to this plant first. All the leaves have matured, and, owing to the beneficial action of the frosts, the stalks will come away from the crowns freely. After being frozen the crowns will grow more freely than if they had not been subjected to frost. The most general way of forcing, in every case, was by placing roots in a Mushroom-house or a specially-constructed room. The next was by covering the crowns and the pots and boxes over them with stable litter. The latter is not very plentiful now, and fire heat is rarely used for the purpose either. So we are obliged to fall back upon cooler cellars, positions in cold sheds, and under greenhouse stages. Outside, those who are fortunate to possess plenty of tree leaves may force the roots under them. A very clean way of forcing Rhubarb is to pack the roots in a cellar, tub, or large box, and then fill up all open spaces with Moss, the lower parts of the roots only being in finely-sifted soil. The Moss, being near the crowns, maintains an even state of moisture conducive to a free and healthy growth. Rhubarb is benefited by a generous heat and moderate atmospheric moisture. When the roots are forced under a hotbed there must be a small opening in the top of the box or pot and a wisp of straight straw fixed in such a way that any excessive gas can be easily let out, or the young stems will be tainted. This also applies to Seakale and Chicory.

SEAKALE.—This plant can be easily grown and easily forced afterwards. Really good cultivation in the garden border enables the owner to procure more satisfactory results when engaged in forcing the roots. Certainly it is a little more stubborn in starting into growth than either Rhubarb or Chicory. If lifted for forcing under the cover of any building care should be taken to extract, intact, as many roots as possible from the soil. It is a maritime plant, and dryness at the roots must be avoided throughout. In other respects the forcing may be carried out in the same way as applied to Rhubarb. On the foreshore of the mainland opposite the Isle of Wight there are hundreds of clumps of Seakale, or there used to be a few years ago, as I had charge of them for a considerable period. The blanching was done by simply drawing up shingle in sufficient quantity to cover the crowns about 1 foot deep. The resultant shoots were perfectly blanched and their flavour richer than that of any produce which I have known forced in a garden. Out of curiosity I have examined the roots of these huge plants, and found them penetrated to a depth of more than 6 feet through sand and shingle. In the summer some of the clumps would measure 5 feet through and 3 feet high.

CHICORY.—Large, well-grown roots, resembling nicely-grown Parsnips, should be selected for the forcing shed. These roots will respond to darkness and a mild heat sooner than the other kinds. The inexperienced cultivator would do well to confine his efforts to forcing the roots in cellars or sheds and not under hotbeds, as only expert treatment in the latter case can avoid the tainting of the tender Lettuce-like growths with gases arising from the hotbed. The tops should be cut off just above the crowns. The roots may be packed close together in fine, moderately moist soil. Unlike Seakale, the roots of Chicory do not require much moisture. As long as the new crown shoots retain their crispness water will not be needed.

GEO. GARNER.

The Potato crop

Where secured early in October the crop was harvested in fairly good condition, but in many cases fears are expressed as to the keeping qualities of the tubers. On the lighter lands they are fairly good, both as regards quality and condition, and are freer from disease than was anticipated, but some rotting has occurred on the wetter low-lying lands. On the eastern side of England and in Wales only slightly under average crops are forecasted, but in the south-western and northern counties the yield per acre is estimated at about ½ ton below the average of the past 10 years, whilst in the north-western counties the decrease is ¾ ton below average. Over the whole of England and Wales the yield per acre is estimated at 5·8 tons, or nearly ½ ton below average. The estimated total production of 2,982,000 tons is 219,000 tons greater than last year's crop, but 201,000 tons below the average of the 10 years 1917-1926.

FORECAST OF THE PROBABLE YIELD PER ACRE OF POTATO CROP.

The appearance of the Potato crop on November 1st indicated probable yields per acre as shown in the table below. This forecast is not based on detailed inquiries such as are carried out in connection with the final estimates of yields which will be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture at the end of November and therefore have not the same degree of accuracy.

Counties.	Potatoes.	
	Forecast, 1927.	Ten Years' Average.
	Tons.	Tons.
Eastern	5·8	5·9
North-Eastern	6·5	6·7
South-Eastern	5·8	5·9
East Midlands	5·4	5·7
West Midlands... ...	5·4	5·9
South-Western... ...	5·2	5·6
Northern	5·0	5·6
North-Western... ...	5·8	6·6
North Wales	5·2	5·4
South Wales	5·1	5·2
England and Wales	5·8	6·1

QUALITY AND CONDITION OF POTATOES WHEN HARVESTED.

Eastern Counties.—The tubers are of good size and quality on lighter soils, but disease is prevalent on wet, low-lying lands.

North-Eastern Counties.—Quality generally good. The tubers, though small, were clamped in fair condition.

South-Eastern Counties.—The crop is, on the whole, of average quality and was secured in very fair condition.

East Midland Counties.—Quality and condition variable. Only on the lighter lands were the crops lifted in good condition.

West Midland Counties.—Generally lifted under adverse conditions, and quality is often disappointing.

South-Western Counties.—The tubers were harvested in good condition, but quality is only fair.

North-Western Counties.—On the drier land the tubers are of good quality and were secured in fair condition, but on the heavi soils are unsatisfactory.

Northern Counties.—Quality modera A fair proportion of the crop was secured good condition.

North Wales.—Harvested in good con tion. Quality is moderate.

South Wales.—The tubers were secured good condition, but disease is prevalent nearly all districts.

FRUIT GARDEN

Fruit in small gardens in 192

THE past season has not been quite successful as usual for the fruit-grow so far as its cultivation in small garde is concerned, but, taken on the whole, c has had a fair return. The failures ha been with Black Currants, Strawberries, a Plums, and in all cases frost was responsi for the damage. I placed a double thickn of fish-netting on borders over my lit Strawberry plot, but it was not sufficient ward off the attack, and all the best of erect blossoms showed the black eye. have often urged on cottagers, both by ample and precept, the advisability of giv more attention to fruit culture, both in way of quantity and variety, pointing that in its way it was quite as useful in household as vegetables, and that a judici and careful selection on a small scale wo give a fair supply for many months in year. When I took over this little pl some 15 years ago I found practically noth in the garden in the way of fruit, and cided at once to remedy the defect, and the result has been quite satisfactory a sli record of things chosen may not be unin esting to those similarly situated. choosing the different things thought given to providing a long season in sev of the fruits, and certainly I may claim have had a fair supply from the time of fruiting of the first Gooseberries at Whits tide until the last of the Apples were o Half-a-dozen bushes of Red and Bl Currants were planted, eight of Gooseberr and two of Greengage for an occasio dish uncooked, the others being Whinha and Warrington. Two bushes of W Currants were planted, for I am rat partial to a thoroughly ripe bunch of W Currants when it has put on its amber ti All the above fruits have been occasion renewed with the aid of a small supply home-made cuttings. Two rows of Ro Sovereign and two of Sir J. Paxton Str berry were planted, and, the soil being go I found they held in good bearing for th seasons, when there were others to take t place.

Two Loganberries on a fence have vided a splendid lot of fruit to associate Gooseberries for preserving. The ab comprise my stock of small fruit and ha as noted, served us remarkably well. Plums I planted Early Prolific and Victo There may be others as good, but none m better for a small garden where a succes and cropping qualities are considerati They very seldom fail, unless an early sp frost comes to upset a promising outl There were two Apple trees in the gar Hawthornden and Mabbott Pearmain, was fairly well off for early cooking and eating, but something else was wanted, I added bush trees of Lane's Prince Al and Allington, space not allowing for fur variety. In a district where birds are ap be troublesome it is well to have a little tection at hand for bud and fruit, whic provided by a bit of cheap fish-netting; some home-made insecticide in the way preparation of soft-soap and paraffin.

Hardwicke. E. BURREL

Answers to Queries

eries—Queries and answers are inserted in ENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if corre-ients follow these rules: All communications d be clearly written on one side of the paper and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING TRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* SHER. *The name and address of the sender required in addition to any designation he desire to be used in the paper. When more one query is sent, each should be on a ate piece of paper; the name and address added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *o be sent to press some days in advance of queries cannot always be replied to in the immediately following their receipt. We do eply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*Readers who wish plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. Single, unripe, or deformed specimens are difficult to name. We do not undertake to name more than four specimens at one time.*

FLOWER GARDEN

asing Gentiana sino-ornata

hould be obliged if you would tell me est way to increase my number of speci- of Gentiana sino-ornata. I have about ants which are doing well in a border osed of soil, leaf-mould, and peat, and sh to get a larger mass of them. I e that after the flowers have been out me days and are beginning to fade, the r appears to bleach out of them, and a few weeks the spent flowers are a white. Is this normal or is it possibly to some cause or other? Should they t off as they fade? JOHN ADAMS.

he best time to increase this fine Gentian out the first week in April, when the s should be carefully lifted—the roots fleshy and easily broken—and divided. one of the easiest of plants to divide, a good specimen will, when so dealt make a large number, each little crown independent of the remainder. All that ins to be done is to carefully unlace the from each other and the plants are lete. Whereas a little peat or leaf- d and sand is desirable on heavy soils, fibrous loam is really the most im- nt, and the use of the above should be l times limited. The deterioration in r is probably due to frosts, and unless lesire seed from them we advise their val immediately they are past their Only a small percentage produce seed ally, and this should be sown as soon has ripened.]

tion of Cactus Dahlias

x).—The Cactus Dahlias to which we ed on page 616 in our issue of October ast can all be obtained of Mr. J. B. g, The Nurseries, Chingford, Essex. all appear in this grower's 1927 cata-

TREES AND SHRUBS

niphyllum macropodum

purchased a specimen of the above- d shrub last week on account of its very tive foliage, but the nurseryman could me no particulars of it as it had only ly come into his possession. Will you inform me as to its habit, whether it s, how propagated, etc.?

H. FRANKLIN TOWNSEND.

is is a remarkably handsome evergreen nded and bushy form, and there are ens in the south of England already 10 feet to 14 feet high with an equal ter. It is a native of Japan, and was uced to this country in 1879. It is hardy, but prefers a little shelter from winds and also a little shade. Its ome Rhododendron-like leaves, dark above, glaucous beneath, then attain a of 7 inches or 8 inches by 3 inches in This splendid shrub or small tree— ch it is said to be in its own country— to the greatest advantage during the winter months, after summer-leafing trees and shrubs have cast their foliage, when its red leaf-stalks, midrib, and young wood become conspicuous. Indeed, after rain it is one of the most attractive evergreens we possess. The flowers are inconspicuous, with the sexes on different plants. The fruits blue-black and about the size of a Pea, just interesting, but not important. This valued shrub fruits annually with the writer of this note, who, it may be interesting to remark, met with a very fine specimen in a Sussex garden on November 17th, fully 12 feet high, densely foliaged from head to foot. Cuttings made from the stout, moderately-ripened wood in July, and plunged in bottom heat strike freely. It may be mentioned that this shrub grows freely in any ordinary soil of good heart.]

Pruning Tree Lupins

Am I correct in a friendly argument I had with a fellow gardener? I have a Tree Lupin from 5 feet to 6 feet high, and I am told I ought to cut it back now, but I, myself, do not think it should be cut back at present, as I cut it very hard in the early summer after blooming. Since then it has made rapid growth, and the young shoots are very vigorous and look promising.

W. C. S.

[You did quite right when you cut your Lupins back after blooming, but you must not prune it again until all danger from severe frosts has gone in spring, generally about the second week in April, and then not severely. Tree Lupins often die during the winter months, and to prune your plants at the present time is to expose them unnecessarily to frosts. Plants which ripen such heavy crops of seeds are often short-lived, and it is advisable to raise a few seedlings every few years to replace them.]

VEGETABLES

Forcing Seakale in boxes

I will be much obliged if you will give me a few hints as to forcing Seakale in boxes through GARDENING ILLUSTRATED. I have good large boxes 14 inches in width. I forced the Seakale outside last year, and it is the same Seakale I want to lift and force in boxes. There are three crowns to each thick stem. Should I separate those or put them as they are in a box? Should I put manure in bottom of box or merely fill up with good soil, and should I cover the crown or leave it just above the soil?

A READER.

[There is no difficulty in forcing Seakale in boxes, providing a temperature of 50 degs. to 55 degs. can be maintained in whatever house or room the boxes are to occupy. The boxes should either be deep enough to enable the top covering to stand clear of the blanched heads, which usually reach 14 inches in height, or, of course, two boxes may be used, the one for containing the roots and the other for covering over the top to protect and keep out light from the shoots. A dark room is preferable, but boxes containing Seakale roots can be well covered over and stood in any warm room. The boxes containing the roots should not be less than 14 inches in depth. In these place a few broken crocks for drainage and fill up to within 1 inch of the top with ordinary garden soil—no manure is necessary or even desirable. Trim off all the roots to one main basal stem, but do not cut off the branching growths you refer to, as these should be sunk into the soil, leaving their crowns only just clear of the soil. After planting, water thoroughly, following which very little water will be required, a very fine spray applied to the inside boards of the boxes being usually sufficient. Too much water, with too low a temperature, will turn the young growths black. When trimming off the young roots cut the end adjoining the main root square and the other end on the slope, tie in bundles and place in moist sand, where they will develop crowns for planting out in April.]

FRUIT

Raspberry Beetles

I had trouble with my Raspberries this year. A lot of the fruits were infested with maggots. As I grow ½ acre this is serious. Can you tell me of a remedy for this pest?

S. TAYLOR.

[From your letter we take it that your trouble is due to the maggots of the Raspberry Beetle (Byturus tomentosus). This beetle is a common pest of Raspberries and Loganberries, and is very difficult to control. Your best plan will be to apply a good dressing of crude naphthalene to your Raspberry plantation at the rate of 2 ozs. per square yard. The naphthalene should be spread evenly on the top of the soil and worked in by forking as deeply as possible, but be careful you do not injure the roots by breaking them with the fork. Work the naphthalene into the soil as near to the Raspberry stools as you can. The adult beetles appear in June and July, and can be found in the Raspberry flowers. They are tiny pale brown creatures, and five or six can often be found in one flower. The adult beetles can be trapped by placing tarred boards beneath the canes and then giving the canes a vigorous shake. Trapping the adults, spraying with Katakilla, and using naphthalene as a soil dressing to reduce the winter stage of the pest will, if persisted in, reduce the trouble. Destroy by fire all the maggots found during the fruiting season.]

Apple blotch on Blenheim Orange fruits

(M. L. C.).—The trouble is due to a fungus known as Apple Blotch, which is much in evidence on the fruits of Cox's Orange Pippin and Blenheim Orange this season. The fungus causes the irregular black patches on the skin of the fruits. Spraying with Bordeaux Mixture in spring has been found to keep the fungus in check. Winter washing with coal-tar wash is also recommended (see special article page).

Apple Yellow Transparent

I have recently had some Yellow Transparent Apple trees given to me, and I cannot find out whether they are dessert or cooking Apples. Can you enlighten me?

M. LESLIE.

[Apple Yellow Transparent is better known as White Transparent. It is a delicious summer Apple, brisk and digestible. It is either culinary or dessert, in season in early August, and the fruits, of palest milky-yellow complexion, are fairly large. Of Russian origin, this variety was introduced over a century ago and is also known as Grand Sultan and Transparent de St. Leger.]

FERNS

Fern aphis

My South African Maidenhair Fern has black fly; my common Maidenhair Fern green fly. Can you kindly advise me of a remedy? Both are in a cold house facing south-west. H. ENDERBY.

[Fumigation with nicotine would be the best way of controlling the aphis on your Ferns. There are a number of nicotine preparations on the market, details of which will be found in our advertisement columns. You should measure up the cubic capacity of your house and use the nicotine according to the vendor's instructions. We should be inclined to use a light dose at first, increasing the dose if you find it necessary later. A still, warm night is generally the most favourable for nicotine fumigation. An occasional light fumigation with nicotine to prevent aphides becoming plentiful is better than waiting until the pests over-run the plants.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Liming a garden

I want to apply lime to my garden. Will you be kind enough to tell me when to apply it? My land is heavy and at present undug. Y. T.

[Your best plan will be to get the land dug as soon as possible, and, when digging, you should incorporate with the soil the supply of manure you intend to give for next season's crop. On your type of land the manure should be long straw horse manure, and it would help the land most if decay had not proceeded far. If you adopt the above plan your quicklime should be added to the soil about February. If the land is in good heart 4 ozs. per square yard will be sufficient. The lime should be spread evenly on the top of the soil and lightly hoed or forked into the surface. The quicklime should be added a fortnight before sowing a crop.]

Millepedes

In the matchbox are some voracious little creatures which eat young greenstuff, Potato tubers, and tender roots. The enclosed were caught under boards in a frame. My gardener and I will be much obliged if you will tell us what they are and how to deal with them. Our soil is heavy, but a good deal of lime has been worked into it. SHELDON.

[The specimens sent in for examination are millepedes belonging to the Polydesmus group. There are two groups of millepedes injurious to crops, namely, Julus and Polydesmus. The two genera differ a good deal in appearance. Julus is round, smooth, and composed of 30 or more segments. The common one is small, very slender, and, when fully grown, about ½ inch in length. It is variable in colour. Polydesmus, compared with Julus, is broad and flat, and the body has only 20 segments, and is not smooth. The specimens you have sent are Polydesmus complanatus, L., which is the common species found in English gardens. This millepede is about 1 inch in length when fully grown. The control measures under garden conditions are:—(1) Traps.—Pieces of Potato, Beet, and Turnip are placed in or near their hiding places. These traps are best prepared by cutting the vegetable in half and scooping out a portion of the middle, and then laid on the soil, cut surface downwards. The traps should be examined frequently and the millepedes collected and destroyed. (2) Powdered naphthalene applied at 2 ozs. per square yard, lightly forked into the soil, and then watered in would help to control the pest. (3) Superphosphate of lime applied as for naphthalene will make the surroundings distasteful to the pests. (4) Halves of Cucumbers, when available, laid down as described under Potatoes are very successful as traps.]

Horticultural Societies' News

Norfolk and Norwich Show

THE annual show of Chrysanthemums other flowers, fruits, and vegetables was held in St. Andrew's Hall, Norwich, on November 17th, 18th, and 19th. Taken generally, the show was a decided advance upon those of several former years. As might be expected, the predominant feature was the large display of Japanese Chrysanthemums both on boards and in vases. Numerically, however, singles are running the Japanese very close, but the writer thinks that singles should be meant to apply to flowers with one row or ray of petals, not with six, seven, or eight rows as one sees them exhibited to-day.

There were three circular groups of Chrysanthemums in pots with other foliage plants, that which took first prize for the Corporation Parks Department being a splendid array of well-cultivated plants with bold blooms and most effectively arranged.

The premier award in the class for 36 Japanese shown on the board was won by Mrs. H. Thompson, Middleton, King's Lynn, of varieties, it needs only to be said, that were of the latest and best, with colours bright and a good "finish" to the blooms.

In the class for six vases, three blooms in each, A. P. Rising, Esq., Ormesby, Yarmouth, was first. He had wonderful trios of Edith Cavell, Shirley Golden, and Majestic.

For 18 vases of singles the Lowestoft Corporation were first, whilst many noted local growers took prizes in other classes.

Hall vases and baskets arranged for effect made an artistic display. Miss McLintock, The Grove, Catton, was first for vase with an arrangement of bronze colour, whilst Mrs. Sandys Winsch took premier position for an effective arrangement of yellow and old gold, brightened up with red Acer foliage.

Berried shrubs were effectively displayed, the best coming from Norwich Corporation, who now own the collection which was got together by the late Mr. Sydney Morris, Earlham Hall.

Pot plants made a bright display, Begonia Gloire de Lorraine and the winter-flowering hybrids staged by J. E. Morey, Esq., Framingham Hall, being of exceptional merit.

Some nice seedling Nerines were exhibited by J. A. Christie, Esq., M.P., Framingham. Mr. Christie takes great interest in this flower and has done much hybridisation with them.

In fruit, Mr. A. J. Jones (successor to the late Mr. Wm. Allan), gardener to Lord Suffield, Gunton Park, showed some wonderful Grapes and Pears, and a word of commendation was due to Mr. S. High, gardener to J. A. Christie, Esq., M.P., for a wonderful dish of Pears, Emile de Heyst, the largest the writer has ever seen of this variety.

Apples made a bright display. The colour in Norfolk Apples is quite as good as those we see from our Colonies, whilst for quality and flavour they can compare with the best from anywhere.

Vegetables were abundant, and in this section we must say how pleased we were to see such a good display of excellent material staged by the allotment holders of the district.

The trade contributed largely to make the show both attractive and educational. Messrs. Daniels Bros., Ltd., Norwich, made a special show of fruit and vegetables. Sutton and Sons had a fine exhibit (all Pot toes), Carter and Co., Raynes Park, had most comprehensive exhibit of vegetable A. J. and C. Allen, Rose growers, Norwic had a fine display of Roses cut from the fields, so also had Messrs. A. Reeves and Co Old Catton, Bakers, Wolverhampto Clibrans, Altrincham, and Regd. Wind Ltd., Lingwood, Norwich, all display berried and other shrubs. Allwood Br and C. Englemann had their usual fine d play of Carnations.

The Commercial Fruits Growers of No folk made a huge display of Apples as pr pared for market in boxes and barrels. AYTCH PEA.

The Aberystwyth Chrysanthemum Show

The Aberystwyth Chrysanthemum Socic held their 24th annual show on Novemb 16th, and it proved the best since the wa the display of bloom being exceptionally fir The veteran, H. Austin, secured first pri for a group of Chrysanthemums 10 feet 6 feet, with blooms fit for the principal class of cut bloom. The group of miscellaneo plants (Chrysanthemums included) was w by Mr. R. Weller, of North Road Nurseri with a beautiful arrangement, Mr. H. Aust being a close second.

A beautiful group of Chrysanthemums w arranged for the Corporation of Aberystwy by their gardener, Mr. D. Davies. This w of such merit that the Society are presenti him with a special silver medal.

The chief class for cut blooms was for varieties of Japanese, and here Messrs. Austin and Son, of the Medway Nurseri were unbeaten. The display was so go that the judges had difficulty in selecting t best bloom in the show. Eventually a gra specimen of Nurse Cavell was awarded t honour. The second prize was won by M W. Hughes, Henllan, Edgehill Road. H is an amateur keeping no assistance. Th success was very popular. Mr. Aust carried off the first prize for 12 Japane blooms and three classes for three blooms white, yellow, and any other colour; also s vases of single Chrysanthemums and ni vases of decorative.

Trained plants were well represente especially by Austin and Son, who show three grand plants in the principal clas well trained, carrying nearly 70 blooms, t plants being nearly 4 feet in diameter. O of them was awarded the prize for the be Chrysanthemum plant in the show. Seco prize was won by Cecil Jones, Es Aberystwyth.

Dr. Roberts was awarded first pri for the best vase of singles, which were e cellent; also for best-arranged basket and s plants of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine.

Lord Lisburne was first for a grand va of Carnations, also for three dishes dessert Apples and three dishes of culina Apples in strong competition.

Competition among amateurs was ve keen. Mr. Ll. G. Hicks and Mr. H. Elenor were close competitors for t GARDENING ILLUSTRATED Medal for the mo points in the division. Eventually Mr. Hic won it by one point only.

Mr. W. Hughes won the silver cup for arrangement of cut blooms in this division

The Secretaries, Mr. H. Sheraton and M R. C. Williams, are to be congratulated up the excellent arrangements made, and t Committee, headed by their Chairma J. Paith Morgan, Esq., who supported the

Beverley and District Chrysanthemum Society

This Society held their thirtieth annu show on November 10th. Unfortunate

gh weather prevailed, and so affected the ndance. The quality of the exhibits was y high indeed, especially in the Single ss (one vase of singles, 12 blooms dis- ded, and six vases of three singles). anese varieties were well shown, but the w was lacking in numbers, due, of course, he season. Plants were scarce, but good. winning exhibit in the 6¼ pot competi- , for which there were three entries, ied over 30 blooms (Blanche Poitevine). e remarkable exhibits of fruit were vn, also a fine collection sent by Messrs. ers.

wport and District Chrysanthemum Show

he Newport (Mon.) Society held their show November 17th. This year's arrange- ts of syllabus and show details were well onded to by the public, and great credit ue to the officials for its success. The was opened by the Mayor of Newport, many fine exhibits were to be seen in larger hall, which was devoted to the l exhibits, the lesser hall being used by and table decorations. Amongst the ng honours were Dowager Lady Watson lener, Mr. F. Hammond) for group Mr. A. Davies. The Japanese Chrys- emums were a feature of the show, and est honours went to Mr. J. R. Poulton, showed R. C. Pulling, the best bloom in how. A fine specimen pot of Brilliant shown by Mr. S. D. Charles.

the bouquet, wreath, lady's spray, and 's buttonhole classes, the whole side of all being taken up for these exhibits, rs went to Misses M. G. Powell and is.

the fruit classes entries were not so as usual, but the fruit shown was of quality, amongst the best being Mr. C. r's exhibit and that of Mr. H. Westren.

NAMES OF PLANTS

more.—We have no doubt, from the ng, that it is the Wheatley Elm (Ulmus var. Wheatleyi). It is sometimes con- d to be the Guernsey or Jersey Elm, r. Henry thinks this is a different tree. Wheatley Elm always has this erect and can always be identified on sight. Wheatley Elm may be obtained from s. J. Cheal and Sons, Crawley, Sussex, m Messrs. Hilliers, Winchester.

rry Orchard.—Chrysanthemum Jessie le.

The ideal Xmas pudding

e ¾ lb. of flour, two heaped-up tea- uls of Borwick's Baking Powder, of breadcrumbs, 1½ lbs. of suet, 2 lbs. isins, 1 lb. of Currants, 10 ozs. of 2 ozs. of Almonds, 1 lb. of mixed d peel, salt and spice to taste. Mix gredients well together, and add six well beaten, and ¾ pint of milk; divide and boil eight hours.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

rior and Son, Ltd., Colchester.—New trees and shrubs, Dahlias, Gladioli, rdy and rock plants.

ls Bros., Ltd., Norwich.—Autumn ue of fruit trees, roses, shrubs, forest ulbs, and plants.

s Carter and Co., Raynes Park, .—Sweet Peas for autumn and spring special novelties for 1928, "Ptar- ' and "Blaze."

Power and Co., King Street, Water- reland. — Bulbs—Tulips, Narcissi, hs, Crocuses, Jonquils, Irises, es, Gladioli, Freesias, Sweet Peas, ed.

Winter-flowering Carnation

To ensure perfect blooms one of the first essentials in the winter treatment of the Perpetual-flowering Carnations is that of giving the plants the maximum amount of light. The glass of the greenhouse must be kept clean, as also the woodwork, and the plants must not be crowded. Whilst direct draughts must be avoided, air should be admitted freely except in severe weather. The top ventilators may be left slightly open all night.

Watering should be performed carefully, with a view to preventing the soil in the pots from becoming dry or getting water-logged. Now that the colder days are approaching, it is advisable to water the plants in the morning so that the floor and staging of the house may dry before nightfall. A damp, moisture-laden atmosphere is conducive to the appearance of rust on the plants. On the other hand, plants in a dry, overheated structure will soon be disfigured by red spider.

Artificial heat is not essential to the production of Carnations in winter, but if it is employed the temperature of the house should not exceed 45 degs. Many amateurs endeavour to force their plants into flower by maintaining a high temperature, and thus ruin the entire stock. The staking, tying, and disbudding of the growths will now take up much of the cultivator's time, and it is important not to neglect these details.

If aphis is noticed fumigate the house on the first calm night, or spray the plants with insecticide. Control red spider by spraying with rain-water, to which has been added salt at the rate of 1 oz. to each gallon of water. It is better to do this in the morning. In houses fitted with hot-water pipes the pest may be disposed of by painting the pipes with sulphur, as red spider dislikes the resulting fumes. Thrips may be controlled in the same way.

Rust causes brownish swellings on the foliage, but it is not likely to appear if the precautions already advocated are taken.

J. Bakewell-Smith.

ALPINES

Silene quadrifida

It is pleasant to see that this charming alpine is in commerce and that it is obtainable from dealers in such flowers. The writer well remembers how difficult it was to secure when he first became fascinated with the smaller gems of the Alps. I was one of a small coterie of alpine growers who were continually on the search for plants of which we had read and desired to grow, and our worry was, that however frequently we ordered S. quadrifida, or quadridenta as it was frequently named, we received the more common, but still charming, S. alpetris. Now, Silene quadrifida is what may be called an enlarged edition of S. pusilla and is only from 2 inches to 6 inches high, producing on elegant, slender stems when happy a cloud of little pure white flowers which have four small teeth at the margin, this feature giving this delicately lovely little Silene a specially delightful appearance. Happily, also, S. quadrifida is not difficult to cultivate. It delights in shade and coolness, and these are not difficult to supply in almost any rock garden. It is a native of the limestone regions, but a rosy-tinted form is said to occur on other formations. S. quadrifida does not, however, absolutely require lime, and the soil ordinarily supplied to alpines will suit its requirements.

It may be increased by division or cuttings, and can also be raised from seeds. S. A.

The Pearl Berry

Bearing the cumbrous botanical name of Margyricarpus setosus, which is far from attractive compared with the English title of "Pearl Berry," this little rock plant is an object of much interest at its fruiting season. Its small white flowers are of no practical garden value, being tiny and insignificant, but they are followed by exquisite white berries of shining appearance, giving a just warrant for the popular term of "Pearl Berry." These berries are not too apparent to the casual passer-by, and to see them properly one has to turn up the branches, when it is possible to appreciate the charms of these little fruits. The plant itself is quite a pleasing thing, with dark green, sharp-pointed foliage; and it is best employed as a small trailing subject in the rock garden. The only fly in the pot of ointment is the fact that in severe winters it may give up the ghost and leave us forlorn. A few berries may, however, be saved and sown in light soil, or cuttings taken in late summer and preserved under glass during winter. Many losses of the old plants may be prevented by placing a sheet of glass about 6 inches above the plant to throw off winter rains and by giving the Pearl Berry a well-drained soil and a sheltered situation. S. Arnott.

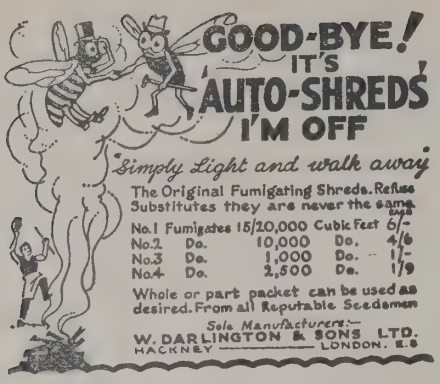
Origanum hybridum

The Origanums are choice little rock plants from the south, which require a warm place in light, dry soil on rockwork, and are seldom met with either in gardens or catalogues. All have a considerable family resemblance, so that those who desire one or two in their gardens may well purchase any one offered in reliable lists. All are dwarf rock plants with neat, generally rather woolly foliage, and tiny flowers in heads. These flowers are quite small and negligible in effect, but they have wonderfully beautiful bracts, generally of a deep mauve-purple, and the aspect of the heads is like that of coloured Hops. The one with which I am best acquainted is O. hybridum, which I grew for a number of years on a sunny ledge of rockwork protected from the north and east, but fully exposed to the south. Here it grew happily and flowered for many years, being eventually lost during my removal six years ago. It was originally purchased from Messrs. Barr and Sons, who still offer this charming little plant. Others in commerce include O. pulchrum, a delightful plant, and O. Tournefortii. Increase is effected by cuttings, and the plants flower in July and August. S. Arnott.

Sedum Sieboldi

This is a graceful plant, and a favourite among the old flowers, its slender stems, from 10 inches to 12 inches high, bearing clusters of rosy pink flowers. It forms a neat cushion of green foliage, its slender stems having a decidedly prostrate habit. The small oval-shaped leaves are arranged in whorls, and singularly beautiful with their vivid, steel blue tint. It is a splendid plant for a dry elevated position, for it will stand drought and heat with impunity. It will grow almost anywhere, but prefers open sandy soil on arid declivities with a sunny aspect. It may be planted on flat portions of the rock garden or to fall over the face of a rock. It may be grown as a wall plant. In fact, the most riotous growth is seen on walls constructed with the object of growing plants. This should be planted in a free way, and clumps look infinitely better than examples dotted here and there. The plant will flourish in a modicum of soil, and this need only be of the poorest nature. It is increased by division in autumn after cutting back.

H. Stevens.



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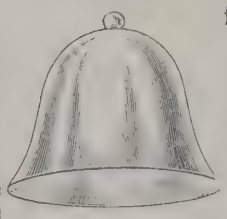

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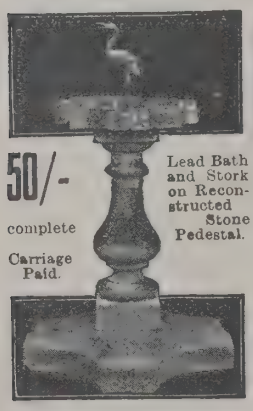

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Perpetual Carnations: Christmas Blooms

O flower is used for so many purposes as the Carnation, not only because it is the favourite flower of most people, but se it can be had every day in the year. e amateur grower as well as the market er is just now counting the buds which d be open at the season when flowers oubly welcome and very scarce. Only zed buds will be open for the festive n.

the United States, where the Perpetual ation was first developed, so enhanced is alue of the Carnation flowers at Christ- that market growers deliberately spoil plants by forcing them, despite the fact know that by forcing plants they weaken for subsequent crops wer. In the U.S.A., er, while it is possi- force their plants by heating aided by the winter days which panies their extreme of cold, in the British with our spells of s weather, it is futile empt to force Carna- even if we are pre- to pay the price of g our plants.

may, with little , increase the heat hat, but by only a legrees, say, to 55 with open ventila- or a short spell of two e weeks. It is, how- distinctly doing the an injury to force As the result of , stems become r, foliage soft, and an sed number of flowers vith split calyces.

great advantage of plenty of varieties is d about this season, e colours which so ed to us in the the yellows and shades, are less ul, while those which ed for less early in nmer, the full pinks, erise, and scarlets, more cheerful and r during the dull . This seasonable of taste is even re- in Covent Garden , where cut-flower ary from day to day.

At Christmas scarlets fetch more money than other colours, while in the spring they take a back seat again.

Seasonable work just now is propagation. There is no hurry for this, and only good healthy cuttings are worth while. Old hands, or at least many of the best growers, prefer to put these in after the turn of the year. Pure, clean, coarse sand has advantages over the sandy compost used by some, because cuttings root more quickly in it, have better roots, and can be potted into the first compost more readily. This compost for the first potting should be very open, and should consist of two-thirds sifted loam and one-third leaf-soil and sand in equal portions.

Young cuttings may not be potted safely to a greater depth than ½ inch, and a quite small pot is best. If this is only about 2 inches in diameter they establish themselves more quickly and receive less check, as root-action is so slow at this season. After potting, the position in the house in which they are placed is important. It should be a comfortable, airy position, free from draughts. The pots should not be stood "pot thick," *i.e.*, touching each other, but rather with the distance of an inch between each.

Present work is to see that those cuttings put in about six weeks ago are potted as soon as the roots are ½ inch long.

This year's new Carnations are now flowering, and we have a most interesting set to try. There are new shades and colours, and a development of variety which is making the Carnation-house a perpetual source of new pleasure from week to week as the new ones open. I propose to deal with these in future notes.

LAURENCE J. COOK.

Winter blooms of Wivelsfield Pink after disbudding
A bunch of buds takes longer to develop than disbudded flowers

Notes of the Week

Electric current aids Swedish crops

A REPORT just issued from the Experimental Field, near Stockholm, states that Strawberries and Potatoes have been raised to maturity in two months by means of planting electric wires at regular intervals in the soil at a depth of about a foot. The electric wire warms the earth, so that the soil in cold countries may yield as rapidly as in the tropics. Strawberry plants started under glass and planted in April were harvested in June. Their crop was prolific and as large in size as berries grown on two-year-old plants. Potatoes planted in April were, by June, as large and suitable for marketing as those

ordinarily dug in August. The success of this experiment, says the "Monitor," promises much to Swedish producers, though the cost of electricity makes the present plans only experimental.

Chrysanthemum Midge

Attention has been drawn to the appearance in certain glasshouses in the Lea Valley of the Chrysanthemum Midge (Diarthronomyia hypogæa, F. Low). The Midge has been known to exist in Europe on the wild Ox-Eye Daisy, but until this year it has not been known to attack Chrysanthemums in this country, though it has been a trouble to Chrysanthemum growers in the United States for some years. There is reason, states the Ministry of Agriculture, to believe that the pest was introduced from abroad in cuttings of the variety Monument, and all growers who have received cuttings of this variety from abroad or from the Lea Valley district during the last two seasons are asked to examine their plants, and if they find any suspicious galls on the stems or leaves to report the fact at once to the Ministry. The most noticeable feature of an attack by the Midge is the presence of small galls or growths on the leaves. The galls are cone-shaped, about 1-12 inch long, and project obliquely from the surface of the leaf. The chief risk of a spread of the pest is through the medium of infested cuttings, and it is hoped that with the co-operation of Chrysanthemum growers it may be possible to discover all existing cases and to exterminate the Midge whilst its distribution is still somewhat limited. In order that the Ministry may be in a position to require preventive measures to be taken, should occasion require, an Order has been issued adding the Midge to the list of pests included in the scope of the Destructive Insects and Pests Order of 1922, and requiring imported cuttings and rooted parts of Chrysanthemums to be accompanied by an official certificate of freedom from the pest.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents

Rhodostachys and Dyckias grown outdoors

REFERRING to Mr. Hadden's inquiry (issue November 26th, page 733), Dyckia rariflora has flowered here this year. It has been in the open for two or three years and seems quite hardy. The leaves do not colour as in Rhodostachys, and instead of sessile flowers it throws up a long flowering stem, bare of leaves and bracts, about 2 feet high, which seems quite out of proportion to the small flat rosette of leaves. The spike of flowers reminds one of a Gasteria, though, of course, it belongs to quite a different family. D. rariflora can be got from R. Hollis, St. Giles' Nursery, Norwich, under the name of D. rarifolia, and is the only species in his list, but F. A. Haage, Junr., Erfurt, Germany, catalogues D. sulphurea. This comes from Monte Video, and this and D. floribunda and D. altissima from Argentina ought to be also hardy in the warmer parts of the country, but do not seem to be in commerce.

Another interesting Bromeliad to grow out of doors is Bilbergia nutans. This has been out of doors here for several years and grows well on a warm, sunny slope. It gets no protection in winter and flowers every year in May or June.

Rhodostachys pitcairniæfolia is a very shy bloomer here, though it grows very freely. It appears to want a very hot spring and summer, and to be much restricted at the roots. C. M.

Salcombe, S. Devon.

[The illustration depicts a flower-head of Rhodostachys andina. This species forms a rosette of long, fleshy, white-powdered foliage with marginal spines like that of the Pineapple. The flower-heads are silvery-grey and pale soft rose, and are usually seen at their best in early autumn. The generic name is derived from Rhodon (a Rose) and Stachys (a flower-spike). It belongs to the Natural Order Bromiliaceæ. Seed of this plant was collected in the Andes of Chile by the late Mr. H. J. Elwes. The plant is subject to damage by frost. The best specimen in this country of which we have heard was 10 feet in circumference, and it had received no protection for at least six winters, but this was Rhodostachys andina splendens in the Rosemorran Gardens, Penzance.—ED.]

—— Having seen your correspondent's article in your issue of November 26th on the above plant, perhaps it may interest him to know that there is a fine specimen of Rhodostachys pitcairniæfolia here, about 25 feet in circumference, with approximately 60 crowns, which has been growing on a raised bed in the rock garden for about 30 years. It has never had more than one or two blooms until this summer, when it produced nine. The red colour at the base of the leaves first showed about June, the flowers appearing early in September. All the clusters have now faded, except one, which is also near its end. Whether the extra flowers produced this year are the result of two good summers in succession or are due to the ageing of the plant remains to be seen, but there is no doubt about its hardiness here near the sea, facing south. It has h no treatment of any sort, being far t formidable a subject, with its saw-like leav to interfere with in any way.

R. JAMESON.

Sutton House, Co. Dublin.

—— My experience of the Rhodostach pitcairniæfolia has been the same as that Mr. Hadden. Out of doors on a dry, sun slope the plant grows luxuriantly, but d not flower. Potted up in light loam with great deal of rubble and broken crocks t plant looks much less healthy, but flow freely in a cold greenhouse. The roots confined, and water is never given more th once a week. My original plant came fr the Cambridge Botanic Garden, where a f plant flowers freely in one of the bays of t glasshouses. The plant also used to do w at Mount Edgcumbe.

The two hybrids of Nerine Bowdeni, H and Aurora, may both be grown out of doo They flower rather late, however, wh points to the other parent being Ner Manselli. Bulbs are at present expensi but multiply rapidly when planted out.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE

Burford, Dorking.

—— I was much interested in M Hadden's letter on Rhodostachys pitcairn folia. I have a good plant of it about 2 f in diameter growing on the very steep sl of an old green sand pit in my wood here. faces south-west and the soil is almost p sand. It gets no shade between 10 a.m. 6 p.m. in the summer. I give it no p tection, and it was first planted in the e spring of 1925. It is now in bloom and been for a month past. It has made m new small crowns since it was first plante

H. L. P. BAKER

Wayford Manor, Crewkerne, Somerset.

The plough in the garden

In the interesting contribution in the is of November 19th, page 719, concerning use of the plough in the garden, the wr is quite correct in some of his remarks, in others I would not agree with him.

To begin with, he says a pair of horse required to work a moderately-sized gar that is, a garden of 3 acres to 6 acres in tent. In my opinion, one horse is q sufficient to work a garden of that size, I think it would be profitable for any kitc gardener to purchase horse and harness. for the maintenance, one feed of corn hay in the day is quite sufficient, and i kitchen garden the services of a horse nearly always required. There is w ground to be ploughed, manure to be ca in, and many other jobs which I do not th it necessary to mention here. As to the of the plough, I would not agree with that Celery trenches cannot be prepared it. For the past nine seasons I have pared Celery trenches with a plough cart farm horse, and have always got e lent results.

In the question of Brassicas I cannot un stand what the writer means by talkin the labour involved in thinning the seedli The seeds are not sown with the plo neither need they be bought by the po He also speaks of the hard pan undern the 8 inches of cultivated ground, but d my experience I have found that the pl softens that pan. Yet in some of his marks I quite agree with him.

AN IRISH GARDEN

—— It was interesting to read the artic issue November 12th *re* "Plough in Kitchen Garden," and the observation "Scottish Gardener," issue November I have had a deal of experience with plough in this garden. During the w was a market garden, and the plough

Rhodostachys andina grown in the open at Penzance

A Bromeliad with rose-coloured flowers from the Andes of Chili

until 1919. The land had got full of ds—Couch, Ground Elder, etc. In 1919 vhole of it was dug, and the weeds picked as digging proceeded until 1922, when, g to a reduced staff, the plough was n used, the headlands, etc., being dug—they took some digging after the horse trodden them—and I may say the whole vas a disgrace to any gentleman's garden. weeds were all left in the ground to out among the crops the following year, the chief trouble came when land was ed for sowing. It took more time to are ground for Beet, Onions, Carrots, nips, etc., than it would have taken to the ground in winter, therefore I say ghing was a waste of time. The land not worked and the garden was never factory, so now we dig. I should not to sow all the Brassica tribe and thin ggested, and I often look with envy at manure that is put in each row for ips and Mangolds by the farmer to get monstrous specimens that are men-l.

e writer states that gardens should be r, owing to no close cropping, but why vacant ground on a big area? It would good thing, both for the gardener and aster, if a lot of gardens were smaller he selling of surplus produce done away for that is what a big garden means in cases. A. M.

Apple Galloway Pippin

the present planting time the attention se who may be putting down Apples in ed situations may be directed to our cial Apple, the Galloway Pippin. The y will thrive almost anywhere, and, established, it is a regular and heavy r. Individual fruits are of medium hey are well flavoured, and are useful for the dessert and for cooking pur- Naturally late, the fruits keep well, have known them to be in excellent in the month of May. It ought to be d only on Crab. The variety is synony- with Croftangry, which, I suppose, is t-an-righ" in Gaelic, that is, "The Croft." W. McG.

Pear Durondeau

serve a note concerning this Pear in sue of November 5th, page 692, in the writer states that the variety was ctory during the present unfortunate It may interest intending planters n that in all save the very worst sea- urondeau may be relied upon to bear ly and heavily. Setting freely, the when considerably thinned, are large ndsome, and although by no means ss in point of flavour, of very pass- ality. Trees do well upon either the ck or upon Quince. They succeed in any kind of soil, and, as a matter of Durondeau will thrive where other fail. By the way, does anyone now ezi de la Motte? At one time I had trees of the variety, a good, useful r October and November use. The were yellowish-green with russet and the flavour was rich and sugary. lost sight of the variety of recent It must not be confounded with ii, a French variety, which is, I think, service as a cooking Pear than in sert. W. McG.

ng the Lemon-scented Verbena (Lippia citriodora)

years ago by chance I found an y of propagating the above. In late pril, when pruning this shrub, I eces the thickness of a Cedar-pencil ut 9 inches to 10 inches long of the son's growth into an earthenware tub in the open (to support things growing in said tub), and in summer, to my surprise, I found several of them growing (with fair shoots). Since then I have propagated them thus, or more simply in the open in light, gritty-fibry, open soil, with few or no failures. In a fibre or grit propagating box or frame there should be no failures.

Isle of Wight. C. M. B.

Grapes—heaviest bunches

FOR 51 years Scotland has held the honour of having grown the heaviest bunch or bunches of Grapes. Two bunches were shown in Edinburgh in, I think, 1876, both of enormous size. One of these was from Mr. Curror, Eskbank, which turned the scales at 26 lbs. 4 ozs. The variety was Trebbiano. The other was grown and shown by Mr. James Dickson, Arkleton, Langholm, and weighed 25 lbs. 15 ozs., and the variety was White Nice. Now, it seems Scotland's laurels are rudely torn from her brow, and that not by a newcomer, but by the venerable old Vine at Hampton Court. We have this on the authority of a popular weekly, which last week gave an illustration of a huge bunch of Grapes, stating that it had been cut from the Vine at Hampton Court and weighed 37 lbs. The bunch was sold for charity at £1 per lb. "ALBYN."

[Mr. A. F. Barron, in "Vines and Vine Culture," states what were believed to be record Grape bunches, viz., Trebbiano, by Mr. Curror, Eskbank, 26 lbs. 4 ozs.; White Nice, by Mr. Dickson, of Arkleton, 25 lbs. 15 ozs. and 19 lbs. 5 ozs.

The monster bunch of Grapes here illustrated was shown at the Royal Horticultural Society's Fruit Show in October of last year. It was brought over by aeroplane from Belgium by the grower. This bunch turned the scale at 37½ lbs., it was 15 inches across and over 2 feet long, and was taken from a Vine about 30 years old.—ED.]

This bunch of Alicante Grape weighed 37½ lbs. and was over 2 feet long

Schizostylis Mrs. Hegarty

In GARDENING ILLUSTRATED of November 19th a question was asked about the origin of this fine plant. This form originated in Mrs. Hegarty's garden, Co. Galway, Ireland. I have been told that Mrs. Hegarty believed it to be a sport. She found it flowering among a clump of S. coccinea. The late Lady Ardilaun was instrumental in introducing it to the gardening world.

It is particularly valuable, as its blooms are less injured by bad weather than those of the type.

I have found that it does better and flowers better in sunshine than in shade, but at the same time it must have moisture to its roots. In dry soils it is satisfactory to prepare a trench in March as if for Celery, giving a dressing of bone-meal as well as the farmyard manure. Fill the trench to within a couple of inches of the top and plant the Schizostylis bulbs about 3 inches apart. Grown in such a trench, and keeping the surface soil loose, watering during the summer ought not to be necessary, but one or two applications of weak liquid-manure after rain are well repaid by the increase in size and number of the flowers. It is worth trouble to secure good blooms of this form, as its colour, graceful habit, and lasting qualities make it invaluable for cutting in November and December.

Malahide, Co. Dublin. MAY CROSBIE.

[It seems well established that Schizostylis Mrs. Hegarty is variety rosea of the type, and though it is not so common as the latter, it is pointed out by a correspondent that it is often found growing with it in ditches in the Transvaal.—ED.]

Apple Queen Mary

In reply to Mr. W. F. M. Copeland (issue November 26th, page 733), he may or he may *not* have been defrauded. But just to try and clear the air a little the following is the history of the two Apples in question:—American Mother, Mother Apple, Queen Anne, and Gardener's Apple. These are all names applied to American Mother, which was raised at Boston, U.S.A. Now, the Apple called Queen Mary was raised by Mr. William Crump, who was head gardener to Earl Beauchamp at Madresfield Court, where, during the many years he was there, he raised several varieties of fruits. This

particular Apple was raised, according to Mr. Crump, from James Grieve x William Crump, and was shown and gained an Award of Merit at the R.H.S. Fruit Show, October 21st, 1919.

The two Apples are almost identical in colour, shape, and size, but the Queen Mary is better flavour. Mr. E. Beckett showed them together last year and the year before in collections of Apples at the R.H.S. Show, a dish of each, and it requires a good expert to tell the difference. I have a tree of each variety, but I do not put myself down as an expert.

The man who I believe exhibited it and afterwards sent it out was Mr. E. J. Parsons, a fruit nurseryman of Worcester, who also sent out other varieties raised by Mr. W. Crump, such as Madresfield Court, William Crump, and also sent out the Worcester Berry. Mr. Parsons, of Worcester, is, in my opinion, one of the finest and fairest men to deal with. I speak from experience, having bought about 20 Apple trees from him, also the Worcester Berry and other fruits.

Wimbledon. F. R. H. S.

—— Noticing Mr. W. F. M. Copeland's strongly-worded protest in your issue of November 26th on the subject of the Apple named as above, I have looked through my copies of the R.H.S. Journal, and, under the report of the Fruit Committee meeting on October 21st, 1919, I find the following:—

AWARD OF MERIT.

To Apple Queen Mary (votes unanimous), from Mr. E. J. Parsons, Worcester. This variety was raised by the exhibitor and is the result of a cross between James Grieve and William Crump. The fruit is of medium size, conical, even in outline, skin pale yellow, but deeply flushed with red on the exposed side. The eye is small, closed, and set in a very shallow basin. Stalk thin, set in a rather deep cavity; flesh very tender, crisp, juicy, and of excellent flavour. A very good dessert variety for use during October and November, somewhat resembling American Mother.

And an illustration of the fruit is given.

It will be observed that Mr. Copeland's letter to you casts a rather severe reflection on the whole of the members of the R.H.S. Fruit Committee (for, remember, the voting was unanimous).

In effect it suggests that this eminent and well-chosen body were "cheated, hoodwinked, and defrauded," and were the victims of what Mr. Copeland describes as "an abominable horticultural fraud."

It is a rather formidable indictment, but there I leave the matter for my friend Mr. Copeland to think out in his more sober and less ferocious moments.

F. HERBERT CHAPMAN.

Celery disease—a serious problem

I was interested in your reply to "A. I. P.," *re* Celery disease. I had considerable trouble with this "blight" while in charge of a garden in Bucks, where I sprayed with Bordeaux Mixture as you have now advised at the first signs of the disease. I found that while it did keep the fungus in check while spraying was practicable, it reappeared in November, or earlier if wet weather set in, spreading with great rapidity and causing a large proportion of the crop to be worthless. This year I decided to spray early, before any signs of the disease were apparent, and did so in July, through August and September, at intervals of a fortnight, on dry days, using "Strawsonite" at the rate of ¼ lb. to 1 gallon of water. The result is very satisfactory, and we have a fine healthy lot of Celery, as clean as could be desired. I thought, perhaps, these few remarks might be of assistance to others in coping with this serious problem.

Wrington, Somerset. J. H. BRAND.

Apple Gravenstein

If any GARDENING ILLUSTRATED reader has grown the above Apple in cordon or bush form perhaps he will kindly give us the benefit of his experience. In the course of my gardening career I have had to deal with two standards of this variety—big, old trees—and found them decidedly shy despite judicious treatment both above and below ground. It is a pity it has this failing, for it is a good Apple indeed. I always thought it one of its season, and if it is a success on a different stock I should like to try it in my small garden. An Apple of taking appearance, with a pleasant flavour, not too pronounced, and very juicy, not a long keeper, but if carefully gathered and stored it would last until Cox's Orange and Ribston were nearly ready. E. BURRELL.

Pear Nouvelle Fulvie

This is a Pear which, I think, is not generally planted as the undoubted merit the variety warrants. I admit readily t the fruits are by no means handsome, b "handsome is as handsome does," and regards flavour, Nouvelle Fulvie, wh thoroughly ripe, is quite in the first flig It is a reliable and consistent bearer, and best worked upon Quince. The fruits w keep until January is well advanced, i they must be permitted to hang on the tr as late as possible. As in the case of choice Pears, Nouville Fulvie must, in Sc land, be afforded wall space. W. McG

Blue Primroses

In response to an inquiry of mine in a cent issue respecting the above, I have ceived so many replies that it is impossi for me to reply to each writer individua much as I wish to do.

I particularly desire to thank M Fleming, of the Rectory, Timoleague, Cork, and Mr. H. C. Longford, of B Street, Abingdon, Berks. Mr. Longf brought to my notice the finest blue Pr rose I have ever seen. Flowers as large florins, texture perfect, and a really mag ficent blue colour. Mr. Longford tells he has not yet offered this for sale, but I certain that when this form becomes kno it will create a veritable furore.

W. LESLIE CARTER

Ellesmere, Bloxcidge Street, Langley Green, Birmingham.

Increasing Gentiana sino-ornata

Among the many excellent qualities of species the ease with which it lends itsel propagation is not the least. While I do doubt that the method prescribed on page for increasing a stock may be very effect I venture to recommend one equally sure more expeditious. When a clump of Gentian is in full growth, at any time tween midsummer and the end of Septem stems may be pulled out of the heart c without disturbing or defacing the pl Each stem will be found to have white r lets hanging from it. If set in a mixtur loam, peat, and grit, and not allowed suffer from drought, each such stem have grown into a flowering patch in following year. HERBERT MAXWEL

Monreith.

Apples in an Amateur's Garden in the South of England

By W. F. M. COPELAND

SOME years ago a horticultural journal had a competition to find out what their readers considered to be the best Apples. Among many others I competed, and also my family. The way I went about it was to peel and cut up various Apples, and, having handed the parts all round, to take a vote on the best and most delicious-flavoured ones.

Now, among those we voted for as the three best Apples was one called Parroquet, as we found it practically the most highly-flavoured Apple.

When the results were declared by the journal my voting for Parroquet, *plus* my family, was covered with ridicule by a well-known friend of mine, the point being that no one else had voted for Parroquet.

Now, what has this to do with an article on Apples? Why, just this, that very few people grow all the best Apples, and, further, very few people who contributed to that journal, including my deriding friend, lived in just that part of our native land where Apples will grow well and develop their flavours.

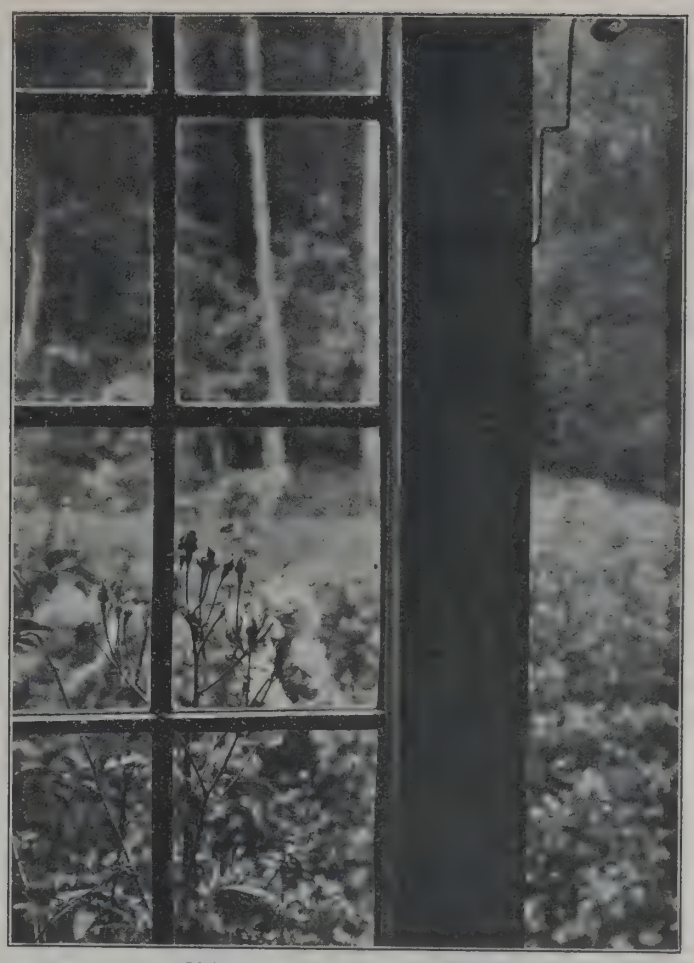
Now, I am sure there are a vast number of readers who, like myself, are passionately devoted to a good Apple, and they would far prefer to grow a few really good Apples in their own garden instead of buying imported ones, because there is something (possibly imaginary) about an Apple that you have grown yourself that makes it taste better than a bought Apple from overseas. But is it imagination? No, it is a fact. How can an Apple that has been shut up in a box or barrel for a month, and stuffed away in a ship's hold, when it comes out taste as good as yours from the garden?

Now to come to business. I have been living in the south of England for some 17 years, and growing Apples of various kinds, and, *note this*, the south of England is sunny, and that is a condition that is an absolute necessity in order to get really good Apples with the finest flavours. So I am anxious to pass on some of my experiences about Apples. But first let me say a few things. I am only an amateur, I have no axe to grind for any grower. I am not a walking dictionary, my garden is only a limited one, being surrounded with a wall, and I have not got every variety of Apple under the sun growing in my garden. But I do gro great many, including a good numbe American ones, and I want especially to you about these after we have consid the English varieties.

I can well remember my own perple years ago when I started to grow Ap I wanted to know what sorts of Apples the best, and I went to consult some nur man's catalogue, and there I read, and read, the marvellous flowery descrip (should I say fruity descriptions?) of A after Apple. Every variety was wonder flavour, keeping powers, and the like tip-top, and after some time of consu such a list I felt bewildered.

Possibly the same feeling has come you when you have visited one of the fruit shows in London, such as that o Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Sq on October 11th last. I remember goi such a show recently and leaving it mixed feelings. I do not mean feelin jealousy, because I could not grow Apples, but it was the size of the Apples Oh! oh!! In real life who wants an mous Apple to eat? When I put

From the sitting-room door



China Rose at the window

FROM INDOORS—LOOKING OUT

:s on my dessert table I can never get ıe to touch them, I am always told they ɔo big.

ıink the only time a really big Apple is ɜd is for baking, when the cook has ıg else to give you for pudding.

ll, I want to take the Apples in sequence ey ripen. I am going to bear in mind ɔu, my reader, may be either a market ɜr or a person with a tiny garden, or, ıly, you have a really big garden and ɔant to get some good Apple to add to collection.

v, the earliest Apples on the market better prices than those which come Beauty of Bath and Quarrenden are head still as early fruits. The latter is small, but is very brilliant in colour ired to Beauty of Bath.

t comes one called Emneth Early or Victoria. This is a seedling from enden crossed with a cooking Apple, ıe result of this cross is quite a good-Apple and very juicy, with a glorious skin, fairly sharp, but a lovely r and soft. I believe this is grown y some people in quantities for market. ornament in your garden when the s ripening in July it is perfectly lovely. Everard is a very new Apple and gets arly. I have had only a fruit or two tree, but it is certainly sweet, juicy, good flavour. A great deal is thought rcester Pearmain, as it is grown in uantities for market, but it loses its very quickly and is not a keeper. vice to you is grow a small bush of it r garden if you are at home in August herwise), and eat the fruit off the tree. , the next on my list is James Grieve. vas one of the three favourites in the which I mentioned before. It begins ripe the second week in August with yellow Apple, soft and very juicy, but you must eat it ripe or you will say it is a very disappointing, sour fruit. It seems to vary a good deal with me according to the season, but its flavour is first-class. I saw this doing well and getting ripe on a wall in the middle of September this year in Perthshire. Please note this, those who live in cold climates. This Apple does not keep with me. I do not mean that everyone grabs it to eat it as soon as it is put on the table, but it is practically over with me in September.

The next to get ripe, that is in September, is American Mother, or Mother as she is called. I see also that a variety called Queen Mary is identical with this, and is much thought of. One large nurseryman says that Queen Mary is synonymous with "Mother."

I wonder if this is only another of those abominable horticultural frauds that are sometimes perpetrated on the public, like someone bringing up an old Geranium and giving it a Russian name as something wonderfully new?

I think the prefix "American" might well be dropped now, as this Apple has been grown at home and in our colonies for some time. What is so nice about this Apple is its flavour. Unfortunately, when our English language was invented the inventor entirely forgot to give us any vocabulary about flavours, so that it is utterly impossible to define this in words or writing. All I can say is that it is "jolly good." The tree is a splendid bearer, and is of a much sweeter type than James Grieve. It will keep all through October, and will then begin to go off.

Next on my list as moderately early (that is, for September) are Ellison's Orange and Gwelph. I cannot say I am very enthusiastic about either of these, but they are very nice to have in your garden.

(To be continued.)

From indoors—looking out

THROUGHOUT the summer and in any sunny mid-season days, the door from the sitting-room to the woody side of the garden stands open. The ground rises gently to the south, and the shallow steps lead to a strip of lawn from the middle of which one of the main green walks goes up through the wood. There is a long range of lead-lighted windows to the right; the middle light centres the green walk, and the view ends about 200 yards ahead at a fine old Scotch Pine. There are no flowers on this side, except when the river of Daffodils in the slight hollow of an ancient packhorse track, whose flow ends just to the left of the two Birches, is a rippling tide of Horsfieldii in April, and when the Rhododendrons on the right of the green walk are in bloom in May, to be followed by groups of White Foxgloves to right and left just out of the picture. The intention was to keep everything on this side quiet and restful and a little mysterious, and Nature has kindly responded to this desire.

There is a narrow border close to the house where the treatment is a little gayer, for between a general planting of Rosemary there are bushes of Olearia Gunni and Hydrangeas, and plants of pleasant scent within easy hand reach; the Rosemary itself, Sweet Verbena, Myrtle, and that good old plant, of late much neglected and lost in many gardens, Balm of Gilead (Cedronella triphylla), hardy here (south-west Surrey) with slight protection. But just in front of the windows there are big bushes of the old pink China Rose, showing from within their bunches of lovely clear colour against the green of the little lawn, and some on taller stems still better displayed, because their background is the quiet and often misty effect of the more distant Birches.

G. J.

Chrysanthemums at Hesketh Park, Southport

Success with Border Chrysanthemums

THE early-flowering Chrysanthemum is a most accommodating plant, succeeding fairly well under any ordinarily decent treatment, and, like most other plants which fall into this category, it will respond generously to good cultivation. Cuttings may be inserted during January and February, or even in March, and the ideal place wherein to root them is a cold frame situated in an open, sunny position and containing a bed of sandy compost, loam, leaf-soil, and sharp sand. When rooted, the young plants should be "stopped" to encourage compact and bushy growths, abundance of air must be admitted on every possible occasion, and on fine days the "lights" may be entirely removed. Should severe weather supervene it will be well to afford protection.

Where the necessary requisites and time are at hand, to pot the plants is an excellent plan, for they will plant out so very much better from small pots. This, however, may not be practicable, and so the young plants may remain in the frame until about the middle of April, rather later in the northern counties, when they should be transferred to their summer quarters.

The ground intended to grow Chrysanthemums should be deeply dug and enriched with farmyard manure, and a dusting of soot may with advantage be worked in. The plants should be allowed 2 feet between the rows and a like distance from plant to plant, and firm planting is essential.

These operations will lay a sure foundation, but much will depend upon the treatment meted out to the plants during the summer months. A plan I have followed with great success is, during the early summer, to hoe in a light dressing of fowl manure, and at intervals during the season to use soot in the same way; and, at any rate, it is most advantageous to use the hoe at frequent intervals. This practice conserves moisture and, of course, tends towards cleanliness.

The second and final "stopping" should take place about the middle of June, and each plant must be neatly staked and tied. Copious supplies of water will be necessary during dry weather, and an occasional spray with quassia extract or some other approved preparation will promote good health.

An occasional application of liquid farmyard manure will be of the utmost advantage during the time the buds are swelling.

Judicious disbudding of the larger-flowered varieties is good practice and will represent the difference between ordinary blooms and blooms of solidity, good colour, size, and finish.

The plants may be allowed to grace the garden during the late summer and autumn months, or they may be lifted, potted up, and used for the embellishment of the greenhouse and the home.

If allowed to remain in the open air after flowering they should be cut back to within a few inches of the base and placed, for the winter months, in a frame with some light soil about their roots.

These garden Chrysanthemums may be propagated, if so desired, during the early autumn, the cuttings remaining in their quarters until spring, and an excellent plan to follow is to propagate in autumn and in spring, especially varieties that do not p duce cuttings any too freely.

For planting in the reserve garden cut-flower purposes, in the hardy flo border, in beds and borders, the ea flowering Autumn Queen is not easily passed. I shall not detail varieties, as t are legion and may be selected from specialised list of any reputable firm.

RALPH E. ARNOLD

What is a single Chrysanthemum

What constitutes a single Chrysanthemu I ask the question of Mr. Geo. Garner, in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED for Novem 26th, page 733, states he is expecting a r section soon. When singles were first in duced the blooms had one row of petals, instance such sorts as Mary Anderson, Harris, and Grace Darling, which I usec grow close on 40 years ago. Afterwa there sprung up a race having a double of florets, until now we have sorts Phyllis Cooper, Sandown Radiance, Am ment, and others with a good depth of pet with (in my opinion) less of the daintines varieties like Mensa, Laddie, Mrs. Thompson, and Myra.

It would be interesting to know exa what judges have to say on the point c single Chrysanthemum. It seems to from what I have seen and reports I h read of exhibitions, that more favour shown to flowers with several rows of flo than those having only one row. Woul not be more correct to describe a flo possessing more than one row of florets semi-double? I think so, and I submit the sooner a distinction is made the bet otherwise there is a fear that the true sin

l be neglected for those which are nothing s than semi-double.

grow both sorts—I was about to write sses—but for dainty effects the single pure l simple appeals the most to me. At pre- t it is very confusing to an exhibitor, and that matter the one who grows for home oration.

Ir. Garner refers to blooms of Nona and llis Cooper having had nine rows of als in depth on early crown buds. How h blossoms could be described as singles exhibited as such passes my comprehen- r. The bulk of present-day singles sesses a centre or zone, but in some varie- this is not so prominent, giving one the ression of an indifferent flower from a shoot. MIDLANDER.

Chrysanthemums for home decoration

When cuttings should be taken

here is no advantage, after plants have e flowering, in allowing the old stems to ain on Chrysanthemums, and the sooner are cut away the better. To permit n to remain not only makes the house untidy, but it is calculated to weaken stools and prevent light and air reaching suckers, which are now fast appearing. ysanthemums that are simply required nome decoration can be struck any time , and it is important to note that a sturdy cutting is preferable to a long and lanky one. Let the beginner in the culture of Chrysanthemums bear in mind that with little or no heat one may work up a stock of plants from cuttings, and that there is a gain in an early start. If one desires plants dwarf in habit there is no necessity to wait until March; let the cuttings which emanate from the stools be cut off and inserted around pots or in boxes of sandy soil, and keep them near the glass in the house or cold frame if no house is available. By April such plants will have well rooted and had their shift into small pots, and can then be cut back. From the lateral growths which follow, one may have dwarf bushy plants that will be serviceable for finally potting into 8-inch sized pots, or they can be shifted into 5-inch or 6-inch pots, plunged out of doors in ashes during the summer months, and will produce very nice-sized flowers if they are limited to one bloom on a shoot. Jean Pattison, a golden-yellow, is but one of the October and November flowering sorts which do well so treated, or it may be shifted into 10-inch or 12-inch pots and grown as specimens. It is one of the best for the purpose, as I found out when first I grew it. TOWNSMAN.

The Tulip Tree

Few trees have such outstanding merit in the garden as the Tulip Tree (Liriodendron tulipifera). It is not a quick-growing tree, but in course of time it will form a tall specimen. At all seasons of the year it stands out from all other trees, owing to the peculiar grey colour of its bark, which is striped with white and possesses a pleasant pungent scent.

The flowers are greenish-yellow in colour and shaped like Tulips, and cannot be called brilliant, but what they lack in this is fully made up for in the fragrance of their perfume. As to the foliage, this is divided into three lobes, green in colour, smooth in texture, turning in late autumn to a lovely orange-yellow. The tree is of very little good on dry, shallow soils, as it is a great lover of moisture.

If planted where it can enjoy a deep, moist root-run it will grow freely and make a splendid, handsome specimen. F. H.

Mespilus Smithi

Being recently asked to identify this plant, it occurs to me that it might very well be included among collections of flowering shrubs, or, rather, trees. The variety under notice is not, in my experience, very common, and it is, I think, also known as Mespilus grandiflorus. The flowers are purest white in colouring, and the plant is well adapted for specimen purposes for the outskirts of a lawn, the full, rounded head presenting a beautiful mass of foliage, while the gracefully-disposed branches sweep the turf. M. Smithi is as picturesque as the Medlar in such a position.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

WHAT LANCASHIRE IS DOING

Chrysanthemums at the Corporation Oak Hill Park, Acorington

Since the houses were opened three weeks ago about 10,000 people have been to see them

Bulbous Plants for a Small Unheated Greenhouse—I.

THE ideal subject for an amateur gardener's small greenhouse must be a plant which does not demand any specially great cultural skill, must not take up an undue amount of space, and must be of sufficient beauty to justify its inclusion in a limited and select plant circle. All these qualities are represented in a host of charming bulbous plants, many of which are just on the verge of being quite hardy, but at the same time are all the better for the protection from weather and slugs which they receive under glass.

I propose to mention a number of plants which are suitable for a house from which frost is merely excluded, no more heat being afforded than that supplied by a small oil lamp on very cold nights. Most of them are natives of South Africa, Peru, Chile, or Japan, and so appreciate all the sunshine our climate can afford them throughout the year.

Albuca Nelsoni is a handsome South African like a large Ornithogalum, with white flowers on stout stems. It may be kept dry in the winter and re-started in spring. There are several other species of Albuca, including A. aurea, but they are difficult to obtain.

Babiana is a genus of beautiful dwarf South African plants, in habit resembling Sparaxis, but smaller, and with the flowers usually some shade of purple, blue, or violet. There are several species, but the various forms of B. plicata are those usually obtainable in this country. B. stricta rubrocœrulea is a remarkably fine one and can occasionally be bought from English bulb growers. The Babianas are easily raised from seed; indeed, when grown in the rock garden self-sown plants frequently appear beside the original bulbs.

Bessera elegans is a particularly charming little red-flowered Mexican. It has been impossible to obtain it for a good many years, but this autumn it has again found its way into the trade.

Bravoa geminiflora is another red-flowered Mexican with narrow, tubular, pendant flowers in August.

Brunsvigia Josephinæ is a scarce and remarkable South African bulb which attains a large size. It is, perhaps, best known through being one of the parents of that lovely orange-throated cross with the Belladonna Lily known as Parkeri. Brunsvigia can be raised from seed, but apparently takes a good many years to attain flowering size.

Chlidanthus fragrans I include merely on its recommendation in a catalogue. I have grown it for several years and have not seen a flower, though the bulbs have increased well. It is a Peruvian plant, said to be hardy in warm corners.

The beautiful forms of Clivia (formerly called Imantophyllum) are really better when planted out in a slightly warm house, but still may be grown without any heat.

Cooperia Drummondii is the "Evening Star" of Texas, a dwarf bulb with a comparatively large white flower like a fully-expanded Crocus. It seeds readily, and seedlings are easily raised.

The Crinums are such gross-feeding, strong-growing plants that one hesitates to condemn any of them to the confinement of a pot. At the same time, such fine sorts as C. yemense and the forms of C. Moorei may well be kept under glass in their young stages, for slugs are terribly destructive to the young foliage in spring.

Crocosmia aurea is like a large-flowered Montbretia (it is, indeed, one of the parents of the splendid Montbretia seedlings recently raised at Earlham). It thrives well in pots in districts where it finds border life too strenuous.

The Cypellas are allied to the gorgeous Tigridias. C. Herbertii is rich yellow and very free-flowering, a point in which it compares favourably with the slate-blue flowered C. plumbea, one of the most evanescent blooms in the world. It is a charming thing while it lasts, but as its life is limited to about an hour the grower must be on the alert to catch it at the right moment. All the Cypellas hail from the Argentine.

Cyrtanthus is a small genus of South African bulbs, not often seen, but worthy of a place where choice plants are appreciate C. Mackenii (creamy-yellow) and C. parv florus (red) succeed in a cold house, and ve probably other species also which I have n tried.

The Tasmanian Diplarrhena Moræa (not bulb, but a fibrous-rooted Irid) is easi grown, and is like a rather small, delica Iris, white with yellow markings. Ea flower lasts about two days, but there w be a number of buds on each stem of healthy plant. It succeeds quite well in t open in mild districts.

Elisena longipetala is a white-flower Peruvian bulb akin to Hymenocallis a Pancratium, and requiring similar treatmen It should be dried off in autumn and r potted early in spring.

Freesias are now so popular and i dispensable that I will merely mention ther Some of Mr. Dalrymple's coloured seedlin are superior in vigour to our old favouri F. refracta alba.

Gastronema sanguineum is a singular beautiful scarlet-flowered plant similar shape to a Vallota, but slightly smaller a of a lighter shade of scarlet. It is a parently a good doer and enjoys the sar treatment as Vallota.

Gelasine azurea is a slender plant wi rather small flowers of a rich blue, but th last such a short time and are not too free borne that it is not likely to become a ve popular subject.

Several of the smaller South Afric Gladiolus species are excellent cold hou plants. G. callistus is a delicate pinkis mauve with rather the habit of G. prim linus. The aptly-named G. hirsutus is ve distinct, and, like most of the wild Gladio comes readily from seed. The sweetly fr grant G. tristis might well be given a pla in the house (though easy enough outdoor Its soft yellow flowers and curiously ribb foliage give it an air of distinction in a company. It must be remembered that t scent is scarcely noticeable until dusk, wh it is freely emitted, and no doubt attra night-flying insects. There are a great ma species of Gladiolus in South Africa wh have not yet been brought into cultivatio but which appear to be eminently desirabl

Hæmanthus multiflorus is, probably, t only species of a sub-tropical genus wh may be attempted in an unheated hou where it is said to succeed, but I have o recently acquired this fine scarlet-flowe beauty.

The large and gorgeous-flowered Hipp strums are not well fitted for a cold hou though they will flower with very little c taken to keep out frost. The species aulicum and H. equestre are said to succe in a cold house, but I have had too sh experience so far to recommend either them. There is, at any rate, no doubt ab the worth of H. brachyandrum—the t species is very distinct from and superior the form known as "Kew variety." It not unlike a greatly magnified Zephyranth of a curious shade of rosy-crimson. It l an odd way of dying down at irregular in vals and sending up a flower or a few slen leaves without any apparent order.

Homeria collina is a slender, grassy-lea South African after the type of Ixia, w soft apricot-coloured flowers. It produ quantities of seed, from which a stock sho be maintained, as the old bulbs do not pear to be long-lived.

Hymenocallis calathina, Harrisiana, Sulphur Queen are all very fragrant beautiful species of a genus, mainly tropi which flourish in a cold house in summ The bulbs must, of course, be kept dry free from frost while dormant in winter.

The lovely orange-throated Belladonna Lily (Amaryllis Parkeri)

Ismene festalis is a hybrid between H. thina and Elisina longipetala.

ypoxis villosa is a dwarf tufted plant hairy leaves and short sprays of starry w flowers. It blossoms over a con-rable period, but does not increase dly.

any of the small early-flowering Irises of course, ideal subjects for the cold se, where their charms can be better ap-iated than outdoors in a biting north-er. I. Vartani flowers before Christmas, is soon followed by I. hirstrio, histrioides, ulata, alata, persica, sindjarensis, arica, and orchioides. Where it cannot ersuaded to flower freely in the open the isite Iris japonica (Ledger's variety is best) should be given a large pot in the e. The wonderfully fringed soft lilac ers are borne with great freedom on a branching stem and the buds open well cut.

N. G. HADDEN.

(*To be continued.*)

Iris histrioides, an ideal subject for the cold house, and may be had in flower for Christmas

Wall gardens

NE has often gazed with admiration on some old crumbling wall begemmed with flowers, but it is only within recent years wall gardening has been brought into surroundings of the home.

admire the old ruined walls of Chepstow le, with its old Moss-covered walls and fect sea of flowers—Wallflowers, Snap-ons, Erinus alpinus, and Velerian, the obviously blown there by wind or, per-, carried by birds, because in some cases ocks are inaccessible.

e Velerian was developing too quickly had to be weeded out to afford the other s a chance of sturdy development.

toneasters and some forest trees, Yew, and Oak, although stunted and sque in aspect, are distributed among tones at the top of the wall, which seem e a natural winter clothing to the whole ture and hang gracefully down the y slopes, the cool grey of the stones ing out the full richness of the colour-

ll gardening is easily accomplished. is no reason why a wall garden, pro-the wall is constructed with the idea owing plants, should not give as much pleasure and impart as great a knowledge of alpine plants as a well-constructed rock garden.

The home of many beautiful species being on almost perpendicular surfaces of rock with their roots deep down in the natural crevices.

These dry walls are often desirable, especially in sloping or diversified ground, and may answer the purpose of supporting a bank quite as well as brickwork. A man with an artistic temperament will often make gently-battered walls in thorough keeping with the surroundings and provide a congenial home for a vast number of plants.

I know of no other way by which better results could be obtained in return for so little trouble and outlay.

The large majority of plants suitable for growing on wall prefer a sunny aspect, but we must have shady parts as well.

In some cool, moist recess the Ramondias spread out their dull green leaves and flowers abundantly in peaty soil.

Haberlea rhodopensis and the little Arenaria balearica are never seen to better advantage than in a moist, shady nook.

There should be no obstacles to success if the wall is constructed with the view to flowers having a place in the nooks and crannies left for this purpose.

Thoroughness is the keynote to success in wall gardens. A paucity of soil soon affects the plants, especially in hot weather, and then after the plants have been packed into position they should be watered in the cool of the evening.

There are two ways of planting some things, by seeds or plants, both of which are of equal advantage, and in each case the fissures should be well packed with good material for the roots to penetrate deeply.

Great care should be taken not to plant all the early-flowering subjects together; they should be arranged that a succession of plants more or less in bloom during most months of the year from one end of the wall to the other.

I will give a brief list of useful plants, feeling it is wiser to grow a few subjects well than to attempt a mere collection.

Aubrietia in variety, Alyssum saxatile, A. argenteum, Arabis albida, its double form. The above is a pleasing contrast in colouring, and, with the exception of A. argenteum, are all early-flowering.

Primula viscosa and P. auricula may be grown well in a sunny chink.

Tunica saxifraga, Hypericum humile, H. reptans, Cheiranthus alpinus, Erinus alpinus, and Saxifraga longifolia may be grown in the hottest places, for they will withstand heat and drought with impunity.

Campanula muralis and C. garganica are indispensable for summer display. Achillea tomentosum, Phlox in variety, Gypsophila prostrata, Veronica repestris, Polygonum vaccinifolia, and Dianthus in variety.

The above are all easily grown, and are only a few of the host of plants which are well calculated to adorn our structures.

H. STEVENS.

The beautiful forms of Clivia, formerly known as Imantophyllum, may be grown without heat, but are really better in a slightly warm house

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Stove plants

For the decoration of dinner-tables and other purposes small, richly-coloured young Crotons, Dracænas, Aralias, Pandanus, etc., are in considerable demand, and to meet this a fresh stock of plants must be propagated from time to time, as earlier-struck plants become too large for this purpose, and must be shifted into larger pots. In a well-heated propagating frame cuttings root freely if inserted at the present time, and by growing them on afterwards in a brisk temperature quite nice little plants are soon formed. I prefer to insert such cuttings singly in 72-sized pots so that when shifting time arrives no check is felt. It is even possible to use them in their cutting-pots. The propagating frame should be aired for a short time each day to allow of the escape of condensation, but no shading whatever is required.

Cleansing plant houses

Light is so important that every effort should be made to bring forward the washing and cleansing of these houses. It frequently happens that a film of green has been formed over the glass during the season, obscuring light, to the detriment of the occupants. A little carbolic soap should be added to lukewarm water for this purpose, and especial care taken to wash every inch of glass, while all woodwork and walls should be scrubbed. Gravel on stages must also be washed, and before replacing the plants their pots should be scrubbed and their leaves sponged, and to the walls a coating of hot limewash to which has been added a little skim milk should be applied.

Stove and greenhouse climbers

These must be taken down, pruned, and cleaned, and if it is not advisable to arrange the growths in their proper position for the time being they may be looped together and slung up temporarily to the trellis or wires.

Zonal Pelargoniums

Plants prepared during the summer for blooming in winter are now throwing up their flower-spikes, and these will be found very desirable both for cutting and for furnishing the conservatory. A dry and rather airy atmosphere is preferable for these plants, and whereas exuberant growth must be avoided, a little stimulating food may be given at intervals of 10 days.

Primula malacoides

A batch of this fine Primula may now be introduced to a house having a night temperature of 50 degs. to 55 degs., and during the time the flower-spikes are developing, the plants should be provided with a little liquid-manure, this being withheld immediately the first flowers appear.

Pot fruit trees

Attend to the top-dressing of these, first making sure that the drainage is in good condition, and, whether occupying pots or tubs, it is advisable to arrange these in rows as close together as their tops will permit, and pack the spaces between with ashes or leaves, otherwise pot-splitting will follow hard frosts, and if growing in tubs harm will come to the roots unless protected, especially during wind frosts. If birds are troublesome to Plum buds a net thrown over the trees until they are required for the orchard-house will provide the necessary protection.

Pruning fruit trees and bushes

Pruning claims daily attention, and must be proceeded with whenever climatic conditions permit, digging, manuring, and forking of the surface of borders and bush plantations being carried on both morning and evening when the task of pruning becomes impossible owing to the cold.

Pergolas and arbours

Plants used for furnishing these should now be thinned and pruned as far as possible. Vines, Roses, Wistaria, Honeysuckle, Polygonum, etc., and some of the Clematises may be dealt with at once, but large-flowered varieties of the latter should remain until later.

Planting

Continue to plant Roses of all kinds. Flowering trees and shrubs, herbaceous and alpine plants, and quite a variety of bulbous plants may still be got in, including several Lilies.

Tritomas and Eremurus

Protection of some kind should be given to these plants, such as a coil of straw or Bracken, around the crowns of the former. It is rare that the latter suffers from frost, but the present season was exceptional just when the flower-spikes were rising, and several left unprotected were destroyed above the ground-line.

Hedges

Whether of Yew, Box, Thorn, Honeysuckle, or Hornbeam, hedges may now be planted, care being taken to throw out the trench they are to occupy at least 6 inches wider than the roots at present require. The benefit of this will be felt during summer.

Vacant ground

Where crops have been cleared the ground should be manured and deeply dug or trenched, leaving the surface as rough as possible, thus enabling the frost to penetrate and render even the heaviest of soils workable in spring. During severe frosts manure and leaves should be wheeled upon the plots, and if some of this is spread over the surface digging can be carried on during severe weather.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

A fine exotic Fern

For a fairly warm house few other Ferns are more beautiful than are some of the varieties of Nephrolepis. They do not remain in beauty for a very long time, but, being very rapid growers, when once established it is quite easy keeping up a stock of young, healthy specimens always ready to take the places of those turning seedy. While the plants divide quite readily in spring it is always desirable to secure some of the young plants produced at the ends of the "runners," and which may often be found growing in the ashes or gravel, with which stages are usually covered. Lift with care and plant in 3½-inch pots of sweet, peaty compost.

Regal Pelargoniums

Even the latest batches of this gorgeous subject are breaking into growth, so water must not longer be withheld. Some growers advise repotting at this stage, but I think quite as good results are had by top-dressing with fresh rich compost in February. Only sufficient warmth to keep out frost should be given, this plant disliking artificial heat. Give water sparingly, but do not permit soil to get really dry again. Where there large numbers of buds breaking into gro rub some of them out, preserving, as far possible, a symmetrical plant.

Fig trees

If these were accorded proper treatm during summer little or no pruning will required, but as the Fig is badly addicte scale and other vermin it is well to dres thoroughly with some suitable insecti while the house should also be scrubbed do with soap and water, and all brickw limewashed.

Prepare for planting vines

While spring is the most suitable sea for the actual planting of the Grape Vine, present may very well be utilised for mak ready the border, and so save much valu time when the busy season arrives. Per drainage is one of the most important poi in making ready for the culture of Gra while the best procurable fibrous loam m be employed as the main ingredient in wh the roots have to work.

Protect Christmas Roses

If in solitary clumps place a hand-li over each, while if planted in beds a fr with a good whole sash should be used, that the opening flowers may be kept fr being splashed with mud and discoloured frost. When protected in this way flowers send up much longer stems, while blooms are really beautiful.

Training Morello Cherries

The tying, or worse still nailing, of th trees is a most unpopular job at any ti but in really cold weather is almost unb able. If at all possible, therefore, select mild spell that happens along for pushing this work.

The Loganberry

This does not succeed everywhere in S land, but where it does, great crops of va able preserving fruits are produced. treatment is similar to that required by Raspberry, but, of course, very much hig and stronger trellises are required on wh to train the enormous growths produced e season.

The Bramble, or Blackberry

When cultivated in a garden this fruit p duces tremendous crops, and everyone w can afford a little space for its accomm tion should plant a few. A stout wire fe about 5 feet high should be put up before plants are put in, as it is necessary to af such support if best results are to be loc for. Very rich soil is unnecessary.

Gooseberries

These can still be planted where necess Do not give heavy dressings of manur rank, gross wood and huge leaves will be only yield. Pruning of the old bushes be pushed forward when convenient un birds are troublesome, when it is wel defer until spring.

Currants

If not yet done, the pruning of Red White Currants may now be finis Currants of all kinds can still be plan providing the ground is in working or Manure liberally for Black Currants, sparsely or not at all for White and varieties. The two latter succeed admir planted against a wall or fence facing n where few other things thrive well.

C. BLAI

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Some more new Gladioli

WILD night in late November by a warm fireside is a fitting time and place to reflect on summer flowers and sum- weather, even if the mind has to step further than the present year of grace. ttle time ago I enjoyed "Smilax" in the es of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, expressive he new Gladioli of the year, and his les always set memory agog and stimu- speculation. But he is tantalisingly ise, and I, for one, should like a shorter of varieties with more discussion thereon, three or four articles instead of one. It ke reading the titles of books without g able to open the covers. Which re- ls me of a certain old bookshop beloved ibliophiles in the expansive years of ante- m, on whose window in Bishopsgate in (as it then was) a legend was dis- d, "Come inside and browse, you will e disturbed." Instead of inviting us in rowse on the new Glads, "Smilax" s us no more than a meteoric glimpse ch, not long enough to impress its pic- on the mind, and barely more satisfying to stand on the pavement side of the shop window. On the other hand, we him much for the big way in which he these new varieties and tells us of them, any of the new sorts that appear nowa- with such prodigality want both ring and censoring. The Gladiolus ment is a somewhat unstable setting for less new stars, lots of them waning to ird or fourth magnitude before one can is telescope on the range.

e of the finest of the novelties is, btedly, Marmora, mentioned by ilax." With me it was just beginning ow colour at the date of Holland Park and thus too late to exhibit, but it is a atisfying flower. Its colour is glorious, t lavender-grey with a big luminous of burgundy. The individual blooms mmense and excellently placed on the spike, but the latter is somewhat truncated and terminates rather abruptly on the 11th or 13th pip. This fault I am hoping may disappear with earlier planting and a longer season of growth when the sun is still powerful. Planted at the end of May, the corms did not get a reasonable chance of doing their best. Whether that be or no, Marmora is a great novelty and will get a warm welcome.

Quite a sensational flower is another antipodean—Hinemoa. The spike is tall and straight, amply furnished with large, well-formed blooms of brilliant rose, sometimes flaked maroon, with a big moon-like blotch of cream on the lower segments. My friend, Mr. Vasey, of Carter Page and Co., Ltd., saw this flower in bloom in our gardens last summer, and declared it the most striking thing he had ever seen amongst Gladioli.

This Juliet of the Maori epic romance has its Romeo in Tutanekai, rather an expensive luxury as yet, but a worthy lover to the great Hinemoa. Well grown, this Gladiolus ranks with the finest in existence, and its colour is uncommon and captivating. It is a peculiar ochre shade with an orange sheen flaked over with brownish ochre, and the centre is mottled purple on cream. The spike is tall and commanding, the individual blooms large, well formed, and beautifully placed, while the growth is vigorous.

Of the American novelties Wm. Booth and Royal Purple struck me as good, the former being after the fashion of Peach Rose, but of darker shading, being an intense purplish-rose with darker lower petals; a pleasing and handsome flower. Royal Purple is one of the red-violet-purples one sometimes sees in the Iris germanica tribe, not a very large or imposing flower, but it makes an ideal vase specimen. Violet Prince is not unlike the last, but tones very dark in the throat. Six flowers open at once.

A fancy Gladiolus of very attractive cast is last year's introduction, Tiger, which, I think, beats Red Copper, great favourite as that has been. The colour of Tiger is wine-blue breaking into flakes of salmon-red towards the edges of the petals, and the throat is dark red with a broad border of cream.

Metzner's Marietta is a real beauty and should soon become well known in this country. It is one of those flowers that you keep on looking at just to satisfy the appetite for loveliness. The Metzner Floral Company's own description is "a delicate shade of light salmon blended light orange, the lower petals shading to bright burnt orange." The blooms are large, roundly shaped, and poised well on the straight spike.

I consider the Lacinatus form of Gladioli, so far as developed, a much over-rated type. Lacinatus itself is not an attractive flower, and its offer to the public a few years ago at $1,000 a bulb would be considered a farce by most growers in this country.

This year I tried the new variety of this break Orange Delight, but was not captivated.

Another novelty that rather disappointed me is Garden Beauty, the raiser's description being rather wide of the mark. It reads: Large flowers, upper petals white, lower petals same, with very large and conspicuous blotches of violet. Now, that might be very nice, and worthy to be called what it is, but the description as it appeared when face to face with the unbiased grower would be, upper and lower petals milky-white with prominent purplish-magenta blotches on the lower segments. Still, in its proper environment it does not wholly prostitute its name.

J. L. GIBSON.

THREE NEW GLADIOLI

Above: The large-flowered E. H. Liddell, bright Orchid mauve

Left: Sunnymede

Right: Golden Swallow

The Roses of 1927

CLIMATE and weather influence crops more than anything else. Though much can be done by fertilisers, manurial treatment, and soil management it is not a tithe of what differences the weather can wield. This happened in a most remarkable degree to the Roses of 1927. Drought, late frosts, and drought again in the early part of the season did not prevent grand Roses in profusion being cut in July. No doubt this was in part due to good management during 1926, as the first Roses are mainly developed from the food made in the previous year and part to correct culture under trying conditions. The incessant rain, accompanied by insufficient sunshine, made the summer Roses come out poor, still good Roses were not scarce under suitable treatment. Then with less rain, more sun, and a most exceptionally mild October, with brilliant sun, the Roses in September and October were grand, smothering the bushes, so much so that they even put the hardy Chrysanthemums in the shade.

The wet summer enabled the bushes to develop fine foliage, and as soon as more sunshine prevailed an abundance of good quality food was manufactured, resulting in top-hole blooms all along the line. The key to this phenomena was that the rain allowed the fertilisers to be constantly supplied to the roots, even deep down. In many gardens where no fertilisers were used the autumn Roses were good. In this tiny town garden, with only 75 Roses, bushes, half and whole standards, 2,250 Roses were cut up to the end of the first week in November. Is there any other flower which can give such profusion of flowers, such quality, colouring, and perfume from the end of May to November 7th? The delicious rich perfumes of the Roses of 1927 have never been excelled. The national flower has reigned supreme, and established a record of the most tender rosy memories which time can never efface. Writing personally, my room has never been without Roses, which, by their beauty of form, scent, and colouring, have recalled su pleasant memories of France, Italy, and t East. C. A. JARDINE

Chiswick.

Roses of late autumn

The tall blooms are of a single spray of Mrs. Henry Bowles, one of the best of all pink Roses. Among the varieties represented on the table are Isobel, K. of K., The Adjutant, and Vesuvius

Rose Muriel Grahame

Muriel Grahame used to rank as an exhi tor's Rose many years ago, but only in wa summers could it be depended upon. It w I believe, classed among the Hybrid Teas very full Rose, flesh colour centre, with ou petals whitish, and very sweetly scented. have one tree still in my collection, but dur the past season, owing to so much wet, o one flower really developed. It is a m prolific bearer, however, has nice foliage, without sun it is well-nigh impossible for buds to come to anything approaching p fection. I think that is the reason why it been dropped, as I have searched in vain p sent-day catalogues for any reference to it.

As late as early in November the tree my garden was laden with buds, most them mildewed through the wet, but I able to gather a number, and brought th indoors, and in the warmth of a room t came out and gave of their exquisite p fume. I should imagine that for potting greenhouse work Muriel Grahame must b useful variety, and wonder whether am readers of GARDENING ILLUSTRATED there anyone who can speak a word in its favo I have been thinking that possibly in south-western counties it may be grown w more success than in the midlands. It ha vigorous constitution. MIDLANDER

Scabiosa caucasica

This is one of the most valuable of last mauve flowers. The colour of its bloom its vigour have made it one of the best kn plants. Few plants are capable of giv such bounteous displays over so long period, and cultivation is happily by no me difficult.

Scabiosas look particularly well plante a bold drift at the margins of borders, are of such remarkable beauty and grace they may be used with good effect near lower flanks of rockwork. They look ticularly well nestling between bould their symmetrical flowers of good subst creating a rich display. The plant has m to commend it, and its flowers are useful cutting. The governing principle to succ ful cultivation appears to be not to disturb plants until the end of February, then to divide, and remove all decayed matter. this time of the year new roots issue from crown, and planting now gives them a g opportunity to get quickly established.

Slugs play havoc with Scabious. Th fore a good handful of lime thrown over crown is advised. There are several varie which differ in shade, including a w variety which is by no means so orname though worth growing for house embel ment. H. STEVEN

The Wind Rose

Romeria violacea is a member of Poppy family and described as a h annual, but sometimes falls a prey to wea conditions. Owing to this, no doubt, is reason why it is so seldom seen in gar It is, however, a very pretty flower and worth any extra trouble. Those who see the flower and note its colour, a blue, always desire to possess specimen such a pretty flower. Unfortunately, are difficult to obtain, which no doul another cause of its being scarce. For work or edging it is very useful, as it is than a foot in height and, with care, ord cultivation will suit it. F.

Answers to Queries

ueries—Queries and answers are inserted in DENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correndents follow these rules: All communications uld be clearly written on one side of the paper y, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING USTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, : 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* LISHER. *The name and address of the sender required in addition to any designation he y desire to be used in the paper. When more n one query is sent, each should be on a rate piece of paper; the name and address g added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *to be sent to press some days in advance of e, queries cannot always be replied to in the e immediately following their receipt. We do reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*Readers who wish plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. Single, unripe, or deformed specimens are difficult to name. We do not undertake to name more than four specimens at one time.*

FRUIT

wn Rot of Apples

nclosed are some fruit spurs of the cted trees, also some of the normal fruit. ld you, please, tell me how long the trees e taken to get into this state? I may that they are trained over some wood s and have a border on which turtiums have been growing for five or years. Would these have anything to do the cause? F. S.
ampshire.

Your Apples are affected with Brown Rot, ch is caused by the fungus Sclerotinia tigena, Schroet. This disease is a very mon one and affects Pears and Apples, is more common on the latter. You ld destroy all the diseased material h you have in store and also go over your and collect any little "mummy" fruits you can find. Please see reply to C." *re* Bitter Rot of Pear. You should w the instructions given to him with rd to pruning and spraying. When pick-Apples care should be used not to bruise fruits, because when Brown Rot is pre-in a garden damaged fruits are attacked in store, and if a diseased fruit is rest-against a sound one that, too, goes r. We notice that Apple Scab is also nt on the fruits, but you will find that ime sulphur sprayings will reduce that From the specimens sent it would ap-that the Brown Rot disease has been nt on the trees for some years. You hat all your fruits are small, and from aterial sent we agree. It looks to us as trees require judicious feeding with a complete manure. The plants growing e border have no connection with the ses mentioned above.]

r Rot of Pears

ase tell me what is the matter with enclosed. Those that appear sound a bitter taste. F. C.

e specimens you have sent in for ex-ition are affected with Pear Bitter Rot, is caused by the fungus Glomerella lata, S. and S. This disease is not a on one, but is often confused with er-disease of the Pear, namely, Brown see reply to "F. S., Hampshire," in ssue). We should advise you to collect urn all affected fruits, not forgetting that lie under and also those that may l hanging on the trees. When pruning es care should be taken to remove all nd diseased tissue that you can find, issue will be found mainly about the After the pruning has been completed ould give the trees a thorough drench-ith either lime sulphur or Bordeaux re at winter strength, whichever is the convenient. Next year you should occasionally with lime sulphur, com-g just after the petals have all dropped he flowers. During the summer you use the lime sulphur at 1 gallon to 59 gallons of water. The destruction of all diseased material by fire, affected fruits and spurs is the best control for this disease.]

Vines for inspection

I am sending you a leaf and stalk of my Vine, which is affected by a kind of mildew. The Grapes crack when a little larger than Peas, and are covered with a white sticky substance. The leaves are covered with spots; the stem is also similarly covered. What is the cause and what is the remedy?
N. STEWARD.

[Your Vine is in a deplorable condition, caused, most likely, by faulty management. The leaves are so withered that they are of little use as a clue to help us to determine the cause of the trouble. They are small, thin, and unhealthy to a degree. Doubtless mildew has attacked them, and probably some insect has contributed to the general debility. It looks as if you had permitted the roots to get unduly dry and then gone to the other extreme and flooded them with water. This would account for the cracking of the berries. One thing you should do is to carefully remove some of the soil over the roots and replace with the best turfy loam procurable. The house should be vaporised with sulphur and then thoroughly cleaned, and the Vine painted with a strong solution of Gishurst Compound. Next season, with careful watering, airing, and other cultural details, an improvement should be noted.]

VEGETABLES

Making a Mushroom bed

I have lately acquired an unheated greenhouse at present full of plants (various). I am anxious to make the most of my house, and would like to take up Mushroom culture. (1) How to proceed in making a bed? (2) Would the fumes from the bed be detrimental to the other plants in the house?
E. FAULKNER.

[(1) Briefly, you would require a considerable quantity of fresh horse-droppings, some fresh fibrous loam, and some means of preventing drip from the plants falling on the bed. The manure has to be repeatedly turned and spread out until all noxious fumes pass away, and be then built into a solid heap not less than 15 inches thick. The spawn has to be inserted when the temperature of the bed has fallen to about 80 degs. (It will, usually, at first be much higher than this, which is too hot for the spawn.) After the spawn is planted, the bed must be covered with the loam, which should be well beaten down with a spade. (2) Providing the manure was properly prepared, any fumes given off could not harm the plants in the house. We hope to publish an article on this subject shortly.]

Soft Rot of Celery

I enclose two Celery plants and should be obliged if you could tell me what is wrong. What looked like two fine (one double, one single) plants have gone soft, like enclosed. I have read "Celery Decaying," in the November 5th issue, but it does not seem to be the case with enclosed. T. D.

[Your Celery is affected with Soft Rot, which is caused by Bacillus carotovorus, Jones. This bacterium attacks many kinds of garden plants and is, perhaps, more common on Celery than any other plant; but it is a serious trouble with Onions in some districts. You should lift and burn all the affected plants, and if the area be not too large it should receive a good soaking with a pale rose-coloured solution of permanganate of potash. Do not grow Onions or any of the root crops on the site next season. Your site for next year's Celery trenches should be as far removed from the present one as you can conveniently manage. We notice that both specimens sent had commenced to run to seed, and this may have weakened the plants and so allowed the trouble to make headway. The season may be responsible for this. After you have prepared your trenches for next season, but before you plant out your Celery plants, it would be wise to soak them with the permanganate solution mentioned above.]

Sowing Onions

About what date should I sow Onion seed under glass for planting out in April, Ailsa Craig variety? L. S.

[About the middle of January is the most suitable time for doing this, providing you can maintain a genial warmth of about 60 degs., otherwise wait a month.]

Forcing Seakale

(F. O.).—This is the season to attend to this work (see article, last week's issue, page 742, also reply to "A Reader," page 743. As you are able to maintain a temperature of 50 degs. F. no difficulty should be experienced in forcing Seakale.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Chrysanthemum sport

(T. E. Anxious).—There are many single yellows, and we doubt if there is room for this one. However, its habit is good, and it is apparently very free-flowering. It is a true sport from Sundown Radiance. The fact of the yellow variety Lizzie Adcock growing near had no influence on the colour variation. We suggest that you submit this sport, in much better form, to the National Chrysanthemum Society next autumn.

Indoor Chrysanthemums not true to type

Would you very kindly give me your opinion about some indoor Chrysanthemums we have grown which, although the cuttings were taken from perfect stock, have flowered quite a wrong colour, whilst some cuttings taken from the *same stock* which I gave to a friend are flowering *perfectly true to type*. The varieties are:—(1) Heston Bronze, which is flowering bright yellow instead of bronze. (2) Manor House, flowering a washy orange instead of deep red. (3) Vivian Morel, flowering pale lemon-yellow instead of salmon. (4) Rayanante, almost white instead of pink. I gave my friend cuttings of all these OFF THE SAME STOOL, and these are all perfect. Do you think we have given too much bone-meal in the soil in which the plants were potted on, or can you suggest any reason which should cause this curious condition? All my other Chrysanthemums so far are flowering true to type. The culture has been quite normal in every way. Would it be wise to take cuttings off these plants for next year? R. CRAWSHAY.

[The fact of the varieties named coming true to type with your friend points to some-

thing wrong in the treatment you gave them. It seems that the growth was not well ripened, or that in the case of certain sorts the roots were not in a good, healthy condition at flowering time; either of these two causes would lead to bad colour. Vivian Morel is mauve-pink in shade. The variety you have, therefore, is a form of it named Charles Davis. Certainly take cuttings from your stock; next season may be more favourable in summer to Chrysanthemums than that recently passed.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Butcher's Broom and Chili fruits

(H. O.).—The fruits, in yellow, orange, scarlet, and crimson, are attached to the foliage of the Butcher's Broom, and sold by hawkers in the streets of London and other large cities. Your local greengrocer could probably obtain these for you, or they may be obtained from any flower market.

Raising Veronicas from seed

(Henry H. C. Knox).—Veronicas come freely from seed, many beautiful hybrids having been raised in this way. The seed should be sown in sandy soil and the receptacles placed in gentle warmth in March or April. The plant sent for identification is Cestrum Newelli, a good climber for cool greenhouse and very favourable positions in the open air in the south and south-west counties.

Pot-bound Syringas

Can you, please, advise me how to propagate Syringa? I have a few pots which are pot-bound. Should I break them up and divide? E. FAULKNER.

[You can split up your plants and repot the best pieces, but a better plan would be to plant in good soil in the garden, so that the pieces could recuperate and be ready for again placing in pots a year or two after this.]

GREENHOUSE

Seedling Irises

(T., Oxford).—The little plants should be left in the pot undisturbed until the spring, when they can be pricked out into boxes or straight into a nursery bed of prepared soil. Presumably, the seedlings belong to a variety of the large Bearded Iris group, but Gloriosa does not appear to be a recognised variety in British or American lists. It is necessary to guard small Iris seedlings against slugs, which will destroy them wholesale. A strip of perforated zinc fitted into the rim of the pot will prove an effectual barrier.

Carnations in a mixed greenhouse

Could I grow Carnations with success in a small greenhouse along with Chrysanthemums, Cinerarias, Primulas, and Calceolarias? The house I am going to have heated just enough to keep out frost and damp. O. P. Q.

[The Carnation is never, really, a success when cultivated in the same house as other plants, and we could not, therefore, recommend you to go to the expense of trying.]

Injury to Cyclamen

Can you tell me what is wrong with my Cyclamen? The whole plant droops when there is the least bit of sun, although shaded. This has been going on, now, for two months. Is there a cure?

A CONSTANT READER.

[Your plants are, doubtless, suffering from an attack of the grub of the Vine Weevil, a most destructive pest in some seasons. The trouble is, there is no cure for plants, once attacked, nor can one guard against attack, as the damage is done before the presence of the destroyer is suspected, it burrowing under the bulb, devouring the roots, and then attacking the bulb itself. The only thing to be done is to pull up the plants affected (they come away at the slightest touch, in the later stages at all events), look for the grubs, and destroy every one found, while the plants and soil should also be burned or otherwise treated so as to ensure the destruction of eggs and any grubs that may have been overlooked.]

Cyclamen for inspection

Kindly name rust-like covering on Cyclamen leaves enclosed, also its cause and cure, if possible. Do you think plants will grow out of it, and will it be safe to trust them another year? J. T.

[Your plants are suffering from a bad attack of Begonia Mite, and this is caused by too dry and too warm an atmosphere, while a too liberal use of sand in the potting compost is a contributing factor. This little pest, when thoroughly established, is very difficult to get rid of. Vaporising with nicotine and dipping carefully in a moderately strong nicotine wash will, if persevered with, gradually eliminate it. If your plants are all badly affected it might be as well to burn them and start afresh next August, or seeds may be sown at once.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Phlox trouble

I find that some of my Phloxes in some cases, when approaching the flowering stage, die off, and on investigation I find that a small bug about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch has eaten out the sap in the centre of the stalk. Can you give me a cure for this?

ADMIRAL SIR WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

[We are afraid that we cannot help you very much with regard to your plants dying off. If you will be kind enough to send us in some specimens of the dying shoots, together with the creatures you have found, we should be pleased to examine them for you and report in due course. It sounds as if one of the Leaf Hoppers may be the cause of the trouble, and, if so, spraying the plants with a good nicotine wash would control the trouble, but we would rather wait and see the specimens before passing a definite opinion.]

June and July flowers

I have a long bed which is required for Dahlias. Could you, please, advise me in your next issue what I could put in to be in flower June and July? The idea is to have flowers the first few months of summer, as the Dahlias are rather late. FAN.

[The best plants for filling your borders in June and July will be:—For June, Irises, Pæonies of the albiflora section, the deep red form of Valerian (Centranthus), Oriental Poppies, Lupins, Gaillardias, and Œnothera fruticosa. Delphiniums will begin before the end of June, closely followed in July by Anchusa, Erigeron, Chrysanthemum maximum, Salvia virgata, Galega, Eryngiums (both the perennial E. oliverianum and the biennial E. giganteum), the tall Thalictrum flavum, Double Meadowsweet, Canterbury Bells, Alstrœmeria, and, towards the end of the month there will be the Day Lilies, Echinops, and Gypsophila paniculata. A selection from these should give a good filling till the Dahlias are in bloom.]

Pæonies unsatisfactory

Will you kindly give me some advice on my Pæonies, which I planted three years ago. They have very little flower (single crimson), are huge clumps, position go with Delphiniums, soil good, light, gra subsoil. As I am now dealing with t border will you let me know if I can do an thing to produce more flower. Each clun produced two or three blooms this summe which I think very poor. OLD READER.

Egham.

[It is difficult to give a helpful answ about your unsatisfactory Pæony as you not say what class of Pæony it is; but it evident from your description that it is n one of the June-flowering forms of P. al flora, now the best-known of gard Pæonies. Your plant would appear to one of the species of which there are nea 20 known in botanic and private garde mostly natives of Southern and Easte Europe, and Asia Minor. The next be known garden Pæony, after the albifloras, the double form of a native plant, officinalis, in three varieties, a deep crimso a rosy-red, and a white. If your plant w of any garden value after being in place three years in a well-made border it should now at its best, for any Pæony takes t time to come to its flowering strength. T most distinct opinion we can give you is t it has proved itself a worthless garden pla and had better be discarded altogether favour of one of the well-tried kinds, eit the double P. officinale of May or one of beautiful albifloras of June, such as the wh Duchesse de Nemours or the pink Mr Calot.]

Exchange in seeds and plants

(Belden C. Saur, Norwood, O.).—Th are, as far as we know, no nurserymen Northern India who deal in seeds or pla of their native flora, nor do we know of such firms in China, Siberia, the And Regions, or in New Zealand, apart from firm you mention. Your best plan would to get into touch with the nearest botan gardens to the regions you mention, an these fail you with the native flora they n be able to introduce you to local botani who may be willing to collect seeds or pla for you or to exchange with you. This mean a great deal of correspondence tact, as it is difficult to give a return to s of these excepting in kind, and your N American flora may not appeal to, or it r be impossible in the localities in which y correspondents reside. For a beginning might get into touch with our contribu Mr. W. E. Th. Ingwersen, who has a wo wide circle of correspondents interested the mountain flora. He has, himself nursery devoted to the culture of these pla He has already many American co spondents, but mostly in Oregon, Wash ton, Connecticut, N.J., and in Canada British Columbia. Plants from your trict, or seeds, may be of interest to Mons. Henry Correvon, of Floraire, Ch bourg, Geneva, Switzerland, issues a list of alpine flora, and you should writ Dr. Fritz Lemperg, The Sanatori Hatzendorf, Styria, Austria. For s from New Zealand write to Mrs. M Poulton, 86, North Parade, Shirley, Ch church, N.Z. The Botanical Gardens Dunedin, N.Z., may also be willing to change if you can retaliate with seed interest to that institution. You would to rely chiefly on seeds from all these, as sending of plants to the States is so he round with restrictions that few peopl England care to accept the trouble, eve you obtain a permit from your own Gov ment to import plants. It would visits to American Consuls and inspectio the plants by a recognised pathologist, people not easily available in out-of-the- districts.

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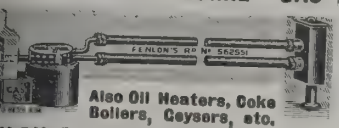

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SELECT PLUM TREES, Bushes, **2/6** each; **25/-** per doz. Half Standards, **3/-** each; **30/-** per doz. Standards, **5/-** each; **50/-** per doz.
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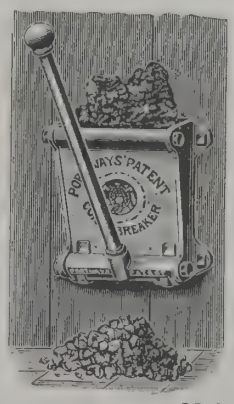

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("Muddled").—The aluminium label to which you refer, bearing embossed lettering, is known as the Helichrysa Label, made by the Helichrysa Permanent Label Co., 8, Rusthall Park, Tunbridge Wells. In addition to the Rose labels you may also use the same type of label for rock plants, herbaceous border, and for all trees or shrubs.

Bee flowers

I should be most obliged for information as to whether bees like the double or the single Arabis, or whether both are of use to them; also what other plants (annual or perennial) I could, with advantage, plant or sow near my bee-hives. J. C. WOOD.

[Bees are greatly attracted to the *single* Arabis, as this flower contains both nectar and pollen. From a beekeeper's point of view the *double* variety is useless. Amongst other flowers which can, with advantage, be grown in the vicinity of the apiary are Crocuses. These are invaluable to the bees in early spring as they supply large quantities of pollen, so essential for brood-rearing. Amongst annuals and biennials useful to bees are Alyssum maritimum, Borago officinalis, Centaurea Cyanus (Cornflower), Cheiranthus Cheiri (Wallflower), Clarkia pulchella, Erysimum Perofskianum, Limnanthes Douglasii, Nemophila insignis, Myosotis (all species), Nigella damascena, Reseda odorata (Mignonette), Schizopetalon Walkeri. The following perennials are also good for bees:—Primula vulgaris (Common Primrose), Sedum spectabile, Aubrietia, Teucrium chamædrys, Thymus (all species), Veronica Teucrium, Salvia nemorosa virgata. This latter should be planted in quantity near every apiary.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

A. W. E.—The plant is an Impatiens, or Touch-me-not, so named from the seed-pods, which discharge the seeds when ripe or when touched; but the specimen was hopelessly mixed up inside cotton-wool packing. Please send another specimen in a tin box.

A. R., Broadhayes.—Chrysanthemums: 1, Ceddie Mason; 2, Pink Profusion; 4, Red Sunshine; 6, Source d'Or; Nos. 3 and 5 not recognised.

Kynard. — The American Chestnut (Castanea dentata), an unusual tree in cultivation in the British Isles.

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the importance of sending only good typical specimens for naming, and not less than two or three fruits of each variety.

Inquirer, Bristol.—1, Ardcairn Russett; 2, Emperor Alexander; 3, Waltham Abbey Seedling.

E. H. Dewdney.—1, Fruit squashed, probably Cox's Pomona; 2, Scarlet Nonpareil; 4, Allington.

A. H. W., Horsham.—Apple Washington.

Ivanhoe.—Court of Wick.

A. Smith.—1, Hollandbury; 2, Bramley's Seedling; 3, Charles Ross.

Lt.-Col. Bunbury.—Apple Court of Wick.

D. White.—1, Beauty of Kent; 2, probably Washington; 3, Wellington; 4, Waltham Abbey Seedling.

GARDENING APPOINTMENT

Mr. CHAS. J. MEDLAND, recently at Stedcombe Lodge, Axmouth, now head gardener at Cockington Court, Torquay.

Norfolk and Norwich Show

Nov. 17th, 18th, 19th, 1927

The Chrysanthemum Show of the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society is always held at the same time as the Norfolk and Norwich Christmas Fat Cattle Show, in St. Andrew's and Blackfriars Halls. In collaboration and conjunction with this important show the Norfolk Commercial Fruit Show and the Norfolk Bee Keepers' Association Show was held in Blackfrairs Hall, in which the Norfolk Agricultural Committee contributed educational exhibits.

Though Chrysanthemums were magnificently shown, the show embraced every flower, fruit, and vegetable in, and some out of, season, of most exceptional quality. Norfolk, and Norwich in particular, as the centre of East Anglian horticulture, principally fruit-growing, is steadily rivalling, if not displacing, Kent as "The Garden of England." The quality of all the numerous commercial, nursery trade, and amateur fruit exhibits easily top the record for 1927 over any such shows held elsewhere in Great Britain. This appears a strange statement to make, but, nevertheless, it is the fact. East Anglia is a "sun-kissed" country, more favoured in this respect than any other part of the kingdom, with various types of soil most favourable to fruit-growing. The colour of the fruit rivalled those great exhibits at the Imperial Fruit Shows, which came from British Columbia and Canada. After this and many years' experience, and deep impressions at similar shows, the question arises, "Why should England immigrate to the Dominions in order to grow fruit when the finest soils and climate are to be found in our eastern counties?" Every exhibit, large or small, trade or amateur, demonstrates the same thing, "Quality," "Sun-kissed Quality," as seen nowhere else in England.

With a splendid past record the N. and N.H.S. is within two years of its centenary. It is due to the magnificent labours of this great Society that horticulture in East Anglia has attained such a high position. Similar to other like societies, the struggles have been most severe, and at times seemed insurmountable, yet it has had the courage to face and weather them, and now takes a leading place amongst provincial societies. While all its members have rendered yeoman service, it is due, in very large measure, to the present Secretary of the Society that success and such wonderful results have been achieved. The organising ability, tact, and courtesy tendered to the members by the Secretary and his Committee is an object-lesson which could be profitably followed by other societies.

"The finest autumn show ever held in Norwich." That is the unanimous verdict of all who visited the show. The quality was so good that the Committee were obliged to award five gold medals, and only escaped having to award a sixth by the merest hair's-breadth. The gold medal trade Chrysanthemum exhibit was certainly one of the finest staged at any show this year. Besides containing several of the recognised best varieties, it was replete with a number of new seedlings of great merit, among which Seedling Blush Pink, Seedling Pearly Rose, Ra (deep rich gold), Shera, Thalia, etc., etc., a number of Japanese Incurved, Anemone-flowered, singles, and pompons figured. Most charmingly arranged, the bright, refined colours blended in a study of harmony rarely met with. One half of the stage, devoted to vegetables, including Tomatoes, and the other to fruit, Apples, Pears, and Grapes, most artistically arranged in baskets, won for the leading local seed and nursery firm a well-merited gold medal. The quality and finish of every fruit exhibit was faultless.

The crowning glory of this show was t amateur fruit. Such wonderful colo quality, and finish could not be found outs Norfolk.

In Fat Cattle Show Week Norwich unrivalled attractions for the visitor whi unfortunately, are only too little known.

C. A. J

Report on condition of Horticultura Crops on November 25th, 1927

Beet.—Fair average crop.

Broccoli (autumn).—Average crop gen ally; curds reported to be small in Cornw

Brussels Sprouts.—Plentiful and of go quality.

Cabbage (autumn and winter varieties) A good crop.

Cabbage (autumn-planted).—Growth go but inclined to be soft.

Celery.—Above average generally; crop the best for several years in Lincolnshire.

Parsnips.—Fair crop; some disease ported.

Savoys.—Good crop generally.

Seakale (forced).—Crowns good; la quantities now in forcing quarters.

Spinach.—Fair supplies being picked Middlesex.

Carnations, Perpetual (under glass Good.

Chrysanthemums (indoor).—Blooms ple ful, but below average in quality.

Roses (under glass).—Good.

Exhibition of water colours

Commencing on Monday, December a unique exhibition of pictures—chiefly w colours—is being held at Bouverie Ho Fleet Street, E.C. 4, the canvases sh being entirely the work of members of timber trade. Altogether about 70 pict are being hung, and any of them will available for purchase by visitors, who be interested to know that in the majorit instances 25 per cent. of the receipts wil handed over to charity. In the other c the whole of the price realised for a pic will be devoted to that cause. A very co invitation is extended to our readers to the exhibition, admission to which wil free, any time between 10 a.m. on Mo next and 4 p.m. on Friday, December 9t

Catalogues received, Autumn, 1

Joseph Fison and Co., Ltd., Ipswich.— improvement of grass for games and dens; Fison's lawn guano; lawn s Tarbol, to destroy leatherjackets and wo Canary guano; champion fertiliser; sp fruit fertiliser.

Morse Bros., Melton, Suffolk.—A Roses (second edition), types, treatment,

Carter Page and Co., Ltd., 52 and London Wall, E.C. 2.—Dahlias and V for 1928; other catalogues post free.

Robert Veitch and Son, High St Exeter.—Bulbs, Hyacinths, Tulips, D dils, Anemones, Freesia, Gladioli, I Liliums, Ranunculus, Scillas, Snowd seedlings and plants; Rose catalogue; sp list of fruit trees.

J. Waterer, Sons, and Crisp, Twy Berks.—Hardy perennials and alpine p

Walter Blom and Son, Ltd., Hillegc Roses, bulbs, Delphiniums, Chrysa mums, etc.

Andrew Ireland and Hitchcock, M Tey.—Sweet Peas and bulbs.

Frank Cant and Co., Ltd., Colches Roses, labels, adjustable trainers, etc.

Chaplin Bros., Ltd., Waltham Cr Roses, fruit trees, trees and shrubs, etc.

Dawkins, 408, King's Road, Chel Hyacinths, Daffodils, Anemones, T Freesia.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

2544—Vol. XLIX. DECEMBER 10, 1927 [Prepaid Annual Subscription to any part of the World, 13/-

Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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A Tirade Against Double Flowers

recent years there has been a marked d growing objection to double flowers, d in the majority of cases the objection ood one, on the grounds of the sacrifice of natural character and of beauty. istils and stamens of a flower are not necessary to its perfection, but there e no question of the beauty they impart. ing either removes them altogether, or them up with petals which Nature to be redundant. The doubling of a , too, deprives it of its associations in cases. Take ase of the Pansy. The is simply s, and would a have given r thoughts"? ld past happy tions have it "Hearts- or "Love in s"? Would have used a love un- on sleeping laid"? d Herrick id of double :—

virgins once were,
oving living

in pity of
tears,
eir loss in
ing years,
eir restless
pent hours,
em Hearts-
turned to
s.

from the here would delight of in the fat, friendly open faces and lours of the Pansy if a double abor- e substituted for it?

I know the green and white inverted hat sweet harbinger of spring, the p? Yet some wretched florist has this lovely canopy for the bee—or on himself or for Ariel—into a sort l double petticoat, ugly to behold. f all flowers the Snowdrop might n left alone. Then we come to t, and here the result of doubling be confessed is not so hideous as Pansy or the Snowdrop. Still the aracter of the blossom is lost in the , and the graceful, modest Violet becomes a brazen-faced, shapeless flower.

Then comes the Tulip. What can be more splendid than a single Tulip? Truly the bridegroom of heaven, the sun himself, when rejoiced to have run his course, could not find more gorgeous colours for his tent. Yet the florist must give us a double, formless object in which all this splendour and glory are lost, and replaced by a flat, messy lump that the frosts oppress and the rain, happily, soon beats to the ground, after choking its petals with mud, as it deserves. A garden Hyacinth, till it has run wild again by being left alone for a year or two, is too stiff to be a really very beautiful flower, but it is simply ugly in its double form. Then we come to Daffodils, and here the chief offenders—Codlins and Cream, Eggs and Bacon, and the like—are old ones, as is evident from their names. Still they are neither things of beauty, nor are they joys for ever, for the first rain remorselessly levels them. The Pheasant's-eye Narcissus is certainly one of our loveliest flowers. Why, then, destroy it by turning it into a sham outdoor Gardenia, which in many gardens comes up blind year after year?

In recent issues pleas have appeared for single Chrysanthemums that *are* single, and for the common single Arabis. Double-flowered Lilies, Irises, and Rhododendrons are on the way. They are to be dreaded as a plague.

One of our revived old flowers is the Columbine, and most people delight their children by showing them the doves in the nectaries, in which the name originates. Yet someone has set to work to destroy, by doubling, this peculiarity of the flower and with it its beauty. The flower is no longer the "Columbine commendable," that fit companion of the "Jelofer Amyable," but a thing like ill-made dolls' underclothes. Many other outdoor flowers might be named did space permit, and among indoor plants there is no doubt that doubling spoils Begonias, Primulas, Cinerarias, Fuchsias, Bouvardias, and Geraniums. Also there are many heretics who prefer the single Camellia.

The Cherokee Rose (Rosa sinica Anemone)
A spray of single Roses is one of the loveliest things in Nature

This tirade against double flowers must not, however, be supposed to extend to all of them. The Rose in its double form has been the queen of our gardens for generations. We can now, however, find a space for and admire the single Rose also, or, if we cannot, we can see that a spray of our native wild hedge Rose is one of the loveliest objects in Nature. There has up to the present been still a certain free grace left to the double Rose, but if flowers like Frau Karl Druschki are to be the new race the line will have to be drawn. We do not want Roses of the form of the Savoy Cabbage, and that under no name could smell sweet, because they are devoid of odour. The double Thorn, too, is quite scentless, and that sweet "slug-a-bed," Corinna, would continue her slumbers, charmed her Herrick never so sweetly, rather than go a-Maying after such a plant.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Rosa sinica Anemone

THIS lovely single Chinese Rose, whose proper botanical name is R. lævigata, is of doubtful hardiness, though it may succeed in a warm, sheltered place such as against a south wall, but its striking beauty makes it well worth trying. The colour may be either white or pale pink; in the spray illustrated it is the faintest shell-pink, flushed and veined with deeper colour in the middle of the petal. Each single bloom is 4 inches or more across, with a widespread centre of yellow stamens. It is popularly known as the Cherokee Rose, an American name which is puzzling till we learn that it was known in the South American States as early as towards the end of the eighteenth century. But of how it came there from China 150 years ago there is no record.

The Rhododendron Association

The show committee of the Rhododendron Association met last week and passed the schedule for the third Rhododendron Show, which is now in the hands of the printers. It is hoped to circulate the schedule before the end of the year. A meeting of the council to elect members formally will be held on December 13th. Everybody joining before that date will be known as Founder Members, and although the application forms ask for proposers and seconders, the council will be pleased to arrange this, as a list of members has not yet been published.

The Cuckoo's secret

Following the Horticultural Club Dinner, to be held at the St. Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, on Tuesday, December 13th, at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m., a lecture will be given by Mr. P. F. Bunyard, F.Z.S., entitled "The Cuckoo's Secret Solved." The lecture will be illustrated by lantern slides.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents

A freak Helenium

FREAKS in flowers are not much favoured by good gardeners, though there is a certain interest in observing abnormal forms. It is not uncommon to find among plants of Helenium pumilum some blooms such as are the subject of the illustration, quite green and leaf-like, retaining the general form of the flower, but with the greater number of the petals narrower and more cut up. These leaf-like forms are not prominent enough to detract from the value of the plant, for they only occur occasionally, and make but little show among the grand masses of strong yellow that make Helenium pumilum one of the best of summer border plants. One may even say that it is the very best, for it may claim to have the longest season of abundant showy bloom of any hardy plant. It is well to remember, when it is making growth, to give it the support of some stiff, short spray, so as to keep the shoots fairly apart. If this is neglected it falls into thick sappy masses, difficult to manage when they have once taken their own way. G. J.

Are Antirrhinums annuals?

In your Correspondence columns, issue November 26th, page 733, "Biennial" asks a question about the duration of the Antirrhinum, and in your reply you state that "the Antirrhinum has always been classed as a biennial, but . . . the plant has somewhat lost its biennial character, and is now commonly sold and grown as an annual."

The varieties of the Antirrhinum (Antirrhinum majus), no matter how they are sold or grown, are neither annual nor biennial, but truly perennial plants. They cannot, of course, be shown as *herbaceous* perennial plants as they are sub-shrubby, but if they are *grown* as annuals (or biennials) they cannot be *shown* as "annuals," and if the R.H.S. said that they may be so shown, so much the worse for the R.H.S.

"Biennial" very pointedly remarks that "if, according to the R.H.S., Antirrhinums may be included [as annuals], I certainly think Pentstemons should also be included." And why not, if Antirrhinums are to be allowed? But—and here lies the difficulty—should any competitor do so, what guarantee has he that he will not be disqualified? Yet the two plants are identical in duration and character, the only difference being a cultural one. "Biennial" is quite right in his contention that if Antirrhinums are to be allowed as "annuals," Pentstemons cannot be excluded.

It is all very well to say that "the real remedy lies in the hands of the local show committees," but my experience of these committees is that they are, oftener than not, quite incapable of dealing with questions of this sort, and it depends on how the judges may view the matter.

In all the standard *Floras*, Antirrhinum majus is defined as a perennial, and I have seen a plant of an old variety which was over eight years old and over 3 feet in height, with a thick, woody stem.

I do not agree with the suggestion to define "annuals" as "garden flowers grown from seed during the present season." For protection of competitors against disqua cation, the only way is, as you suggest make it quite clear in the schedule v kinds are allowed and what are not.

19, *Joppa Road,* A. D. RICHARDSO
Portobello, Midlothian.

A freak Helenium

The plough in the garden

Having read over carefully the ar regarding the use of the plough in garden, in the issue of November 12, p. I must at once disagree with some of statements and suggestions. Many of best kitchen gardens were formed years and produce excellent results. The exp entailed in accommodating them to plough and the numbers of trees, etc., would have to be scrapped would be a g waste, to say nothing of turning an old revered profession into an agricul pursuit.

From the actual digging point it m save a backache, but a plough cannot sufficiently deep for all crops, neither c trench or make raised beds, essentials some instances for good vegetable produc

I agree with "Scottish Gardener" or question of upkeep of equipment and he for so short a period, but there is an consideration to be met. Horses canno cleaned at midday on Saturday and laid a till Monday like the spade, and the lo feeding, etc., would likely fall to the ma duty, who in many instances is fairly occupied with houses. To hand over vegetable production to the home farm w be depriving gardeners of a most intere branch of their calling. As stated, all crops, such as Broccoli, Cauliflowers, Sprouts, Cabbage, etc., have mostly t sown and transplanted. Quite so, an have only to visit the vegetable sectio shows to see that this time-honoured m brings good results in its train. Also, I mention, Peas are not generally transpla Transplanting, carried out in a p manner, except in few circumstances, not check to the detriment of the Bra family.

Generally speaking, private vege gardens are not kept up from a remu tive point, and market gardens gene present a very unkempt aspect. An u garden is an eyesore undoubtedly to pro tor and gardener, but I doubt where a horse plough, or even a single, woul much to the appearance or keeping cle any garden.

Sowing by means of the seed drill w give stimulus to the seed trade no doul we should require pounds instead of pa and the thinnings would have to be destr

I am not in favour of large veget but a depth of 8 inches of cultivated s not sufficient to grow Peas, Parsnip even good Carrots, although it may duce fair Cabbage or Turnips. Enough grown Vegetables are far more prof from a culinary point than a host o raff such as we too often see on the haw cart, bought for next-to-nothing and s a good profit.

Why, I ask, is there any necessity to the hothouses away in the pleasure gro From an economic point of view hous better situated as compactly as comp so as to economise in heating and wor Vineries, Peach-houses, etc., would extra work if placed in the pleasure gro At or near the glass structures one gen finds the potting, tool, and store sheds veniently placed for the work in conn with inside subjects. It would be pleasure for the proprietor and his g whom I feel sure would object to hav potting shed in the pleasure grounds o cent to the mansion, to take a stroll th

acco plant in its second year near the Niagara Falls

uses, than for the gardener or his staff ry plants, etc., from the houses in the re grounds up to the shed for treat- this as a rule being placed in the back- d as much as possible.

plough may serve in some measure arket gardener, but when the time s for private gardeners to turn their into ploughshares we will have com- d to play the part of agricultural ers or ploughmen. CLEEVE.

An amateur's Apples

n sorry to have again so soon to cross s with my friend, Mr. W. F. M. Cope- but I observe that he is upon the th, and does not wait for the replies subject of Apple Queen Mary, which from your correspondent "F.R.H.S." ledon), and from myself, in your last issue, but adds fuel to the flames by ting his charge of an "abominable ltural fraud."

ist on this occasion, too, take up the s on my own behalf. Mr. Copeland to an expression of opinion taken from ders by a horticultural paper some ears ago as to the best-flavoured , an affair which I had some hand in ing, in which I counted the votes, which I was asked by the Editor to ome comments on the voting. Among omments I felt impelled to write the ng :—

e fact that Parroquet, with 10 points, so comparatively high in the voting ot lead readers to think that it is a pular variety, as the votes all came ne household, and it is evidently a favourite."

was all the comment I made, and I see anything very aggressive or g there. But Mr. Copeland now "When the results were declared journal my voting for Parroquet, plus ily, was covered with ridicule."

I call this exaggerated language, but it is only on a par with Mr. Copeland's exaggerated language on the subject of Apple Queen Mary, as mentioned above.

However, if Mr. Copeland sees fit to make a sort of horticultural Joe Bagstock of himself for the amusement of your readers I have no complaint, but am ready to laugh with the others. If his bite were as bad as his bark his victims would by now, no doubt, be ruefully rubbing the sore places, and would regard him as a very truculent and pugnacious person. But to those who know him as I know him, when in the spring our fancies mutually turn to thoughts of Daffodils, he is, be well assured, not only a very likeable man, but perfectly innocuous.

F. HERBERT CHAPMAN.

Self-sown plants at Niagara Falls

I READ with much interest letters in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED some time ago on "Self-sown Plants." It may possibly interest some of your readers to know that here in Niagara Falls, Ontario, where our winters almost always go to 10 degs. below zero, or 42 degs. of frost, at some period of the winter, and frequently lower, and where we have the great disadvantage of sudden thaws and freezing again, a great many flowers sow themselves in our garden. Those doing so habitually are Cosmos, Nicotiana affinis, annual and perennial Larkspur, Mignonette, Shirley Poppies, Calendulas, Snapdragons, Campanulas of various kinds, Asters, blue Salvias, Matthiola bicornis, Pansies, and English Cowslips. The Cosmos, Matthiola, and self-sown Snapdragons are particularly good. The Cowslips are from seed brought here in 1913, and are a fine sight in spring under some oak trees, where also Scilla sibirica are naturalised. Columbines and Michaelmas Daisies also sow themselves, but as they grow wild around here I can scarcely count them. What is perhaps strange is the Cherry Tomato, which for two years has sown itself and fruited splendidly.

I enclose a photograph of a plant of Nicotiana affinis which did not flower in 1924, but was potted in September of that year and removed to the house, where it blossomed profusely from December to spring. In May or June we put it out, cutting it back severely. It then grew up again and blossomed as shown in the photograph. Unfortunately, when winter weather set in that year we were away, and it was killed by the first frosts.

WINIFRED FITZGERALD.
(Mrs. F. A. J. FitzGerald.)
1127, *Victoria Avenue,*
Niagara Falls, Canada.

Rhodostachys pitcairniæfolia

I AM enclosing a snapshot of what was described as "a most striking exhibit at the Taunton Chrysanthemum Show." It seemed only to be recognised by one visitor, and that I take to be Mr. Hadden, who wrote about it in the issue of November 26th. It is so wonderful and beautiful that it is surprising it is so uncommon, especially as it is by no means delicate, but it may be that, being so shy a bloomer, it is considered as "scarcely worth while." As described, the surrounding leaves of the flower crown turn a vivid scarlet, and the flower suggests itself to me as a cushion covered with bright blue beads, each pinned on with a golden-headed pin. This delightful inflorescence lasts barely a week, but the striking surround endures for weeks and months. It is so eminently artificial in appearance that I really believe it was regarded by some as "a fake." I cannot fancy it as a border plant, even if it could withstand the weather, as what would become of its very long, pendulous leaves on the ground? In answer to query as to the treatment my exhibit has received, it is grown in an ordinary flower pot in an ordinary greenhouse, and evidently requires little or no water.

E. A. H. HARTLEY.

Apple Bramley's Seedling splitting

I have been much interested in recent correspondence on the subject of splitting of Apples. My Bramley's Seedlings were very seriously affected in this way. A very large proportion of otherwise very sound Apples in the later stages of their development split their skins, looking as if they had been deliberately slashed with a sharp knife. My theory was that the unusually dry spell in May and early June had hardened the skin of the young fruits, so that when the excessive moisture in September caused the Apples to swell rapidly the toughened skin was unable to stretch as much as was required.

A. H. WILLIAMS.
Horsham.

The early Snowdrop

My first Snowdrop is out, poor shivering thing.

W.

Remarkable Potato yields

Do the following extraordinary weights lifted from single roots constitute a record?

They are the weights of good sound Potatoes actually lifted and weighed in the presence of two independent witnesses in each case from *single* roots which had been grown in well-cultivated soil without the aid of garden lights or frames.

24 lbs. 6 ozs. By T. Milner, Elmfield, Doncaster, Yorkshire.

22 lbs. 2 ozs. By W. H. Walley, Ponsanooth, Perranwell, Cornwall.

20 lbs. 6 ozs. By R. C. Beard, Llanwrtyd Wells, South Wales.

19 lbs. 11 ozs. By W. Wood, The Gardens, Holm Lea, Waterloo.

The Potato used was a new one named "Sefton Wonder," certified by the Ministry of Agriculture to be a new, distinct and immune second early variety.

That the enormous yield did not in any way depreciate the excellent eating qualities of the variety was demonstrated by cooking tests.

J. LYTLE.
Formby.

Rhodostachys in flower

What is a single Chrysanthemum?

The remarks of "Midlander" in the issue of December 3rd with reference to the abovementioned subject are of especial interest to the writer, who has been closely associated with the development of the Chrysanthemum since 1886.

In reply to the inquiry of "Midlander," What is a single Chrysanthemum? I would first like to quote the definition of a single Chrysanthemum as given by the National Chrysanthemum Society many years ago, but which was reprinted in the Jubilee Edition of that special Society in 1896. It is as follows:—

"The blooms of the single varieties may be of any size and form, but they should not contain more than a double row of ray florets or disc florets of sufficient length to form a raised disc or cushion, as in the case of the Anemone blooms. The florets, whether stout and rigid or long or drooping, should be arranged sufficiently close together to form a dense fringe. The single varieties differ so much in the form of the blooms that they could be readily divided into several sections, but for the present it has been thought desirable to make only two groups, viz., large-flowering varieties and small."

The foregoing definition was generally recognised at that time, and continued to be the generally-accepted definition until 1913.

I think it was in 1910 that the National Chrysanthemum Society was urged to reclassify the different types of the Chrysanthemum, as in the course of the development of the flower new and interesting variations of the different forms had been evolved that this work had become imperative.

A sub-committee of the Floral Committee was duly appointed, over whose deliberations it was my pleasure to preside. There were many meetings, as each type of the Chrysanthemum had most carefully to be dealt with, and in the early days of 1912 this committee's report was received, and after severe criticism and careful amendment the new classification, as shown below, was unanimously agreed to.

SECTION V.—SINGLES

Single varieties may be of any size and form, but the florets, whether short or rigid, or long and drooping, should be arranged sufficiently close together to form a regular fringe.

SUB-SECTION I.—Varieties with one or two rows of ray florets.

(*a*) Large-flowered, *i.e.*, with a diameter of 3 inches and upwards.

Examples.—Mrs. John Peed and Edith Pagram.

(*b*) Medium and small-flowered, *i.e.*, with a diameter of less than 3 inches.

Examples.—Miss Mary Anderson and Nellie Riding.

SUB-SECTION II.—Varieties with three to five rows of ray florets.

(*a*) Large-flowered, *i.e.*, with a diameter of 3 inches and upwards.

Examples.—Mensa and Merstham Jewel.

(*b*) Medium and small-flowered, *i.e.*, with a diameter of less than 3 inches.

Examples.—Mary Richardson and F. W. Smith.

SUB-SECTION III.—Anemone-centred varieties.

Example.—Kathleen May.

The advent of market growers on the Floral Committee was largely responsible for the original classification being seriously questioned. The market growers asserted that single varieties having only a single row of ray florets, or two rows as a maximum, were of little use to them for commercial purposes. Such flowers, they argued, failed to travel satisfactorily, as they invariably arrived at the market in a bruised and damaged condition, rendering them almost unsaleable. They therefore showed a distinct preference for flowers having more than a double row of ray florets. Hence it was that the definition of a single became changed, and this definition has since always been respected by the trade and marl growers. The latter hold very stro opinions, and state that what is good enou for market should be quite good enough the private grower.

There was a time when the disc was lar —too large in proportion to the ray flore but all this is now changed. The disc of a single now gaining a First-class Certific. will be found to be comparatively small in relation to the ray florets, and as such is much more attractive flower. I rememl about 15 years ago trying to induce one our largest market growers to take up cultivation of single Chrysanthemums market, and, by way of encouragement, before him a few blooms of the more popu sorts at that time. He turned on me m unkindly, and said: "All I can see is eye" (disc). His retort was, in a measu justified, as the size of the disc or cush was unduly large. He is now a grower an immense number of plants of the sin varieties, and his flowers are of the very be

I would like to point out that all sin Chrysanthemums that gain the First Cl Certificate of the National Chrysanthem Society are classified by that Committee the time the award is made, and the clas fication is done on the lines set out abo The colour is also determined by the sa Committee.

In conclusion, I would like to say t many single varieties, if grown too strong or the buds be secured at a too early peri invariably develop blooms much out character and with far too many rows of florets. A larger number of flowers sho be grown on plants of varieties of t character, they would then be all that grower could well desire. I have jud during the present season ideal blooms Nona and Phyllis Cooper, evidently produ on plants under a system of cultivation b suited to them, and to which not the sligh objection could be taken on account of unduly large number of rows of ray flore

D. B. CRANE

Apples in an Amateur's Garden in the South of England

By W. F. M. COPELAND

(Continued from page 660)

NOW we must deal with Apples that ripen in October and onwards. The first one that I must take is Cox's Orange. Even the most ignorant gardener, be he amateur or otherwise, swears by a Cox's Orange, and honestly nothing can touch it, though I know one Apple that comes very near to it, but of that anon.

Cox's Orange fulfils the ideal of an Apple, and to my mind there are three points for an ideal Apple. First, that it should be juicy; second, that it should have a good flavour; and third, that it should not be too hard or firm.

There are two other points possibly necessary for an ideal Apple, and those are that it should ripen quickly, and that it should keep well. Now I grow Cox's in various parts of my garden, and please, Reader, remember that I am living in the Sunny South, where at times it is very hot, and with me very dry, as we are on the gravel. I find, therefore, that Cox's do best in a partly shady place in a position not the driest nor the sunniest, and certainly not up against a wall. Having trees in different positions, I find that the fruit of one tree ripens a little before another, though it possibly may be something to do with the stock on to which it is grafted.

I have been told that Cox's will not do when grafted on to an ordinary Apple tree standard. Now I had one grafted on to a Mannington Pearmain standard some years ago, and it bears bigger apples than the other Cox's trees do.

You see, it is a double graft; first the Mannington Pearmain on to the wild stock, and then the Cox's on the top of that. I do not know whether this is the secret, but mine do extraordinarily well.

In days gone by we read of people approaching a monarch with the phrase, "Oh, King, live for ever," and this is naturally our wish concerning this Apple; but, alas, this lovely Apple will not keep far into the New Year, unless you keep it in a proper Apple room. Did I hear you say what is a proper Apple room? Well, I will tell you where the wrong place is to keep Apples, and that is where possibly you keep them—upstairs in the attic or loft.

Now, if you want them to keep, and to keep without shrivelling, it must be in a place downstairs, with an earth floor which must be kept damp, and there must be no ventilation, except for a week or two after putting the Apples in.

Next to Cox's Orange, I must now put Gascoyne's Scarlet. This to me is a most lovely Apple. It gets ripe at once and keeps good for months and months. It is exceedingly pretty. The ground work of the skin is cream and it colours up gorgeously, a lovely red crimson, if the fruits are exposed to the sun and the dew. The flavour of this Apple is quite distinct, and of a most in esting quality; it is also juicy and not ha

Next I must mention King of Tompk County. From its name you will see tha is American, but it has been grown for sc time here.

This is ripe in October, and also ke for months. It also is a huge Apple, if you like huge fruits this will surely you. It is a good one, therefore, for sl purposes. Its colour is yellow, striped over with bright brick red, conical, and a flavour on the lines of Cox's Orange, somewhat drier; a good keeper and a g bearer.

Ribston Pippin used to be considered Apple of Apples. In spite of its age it holds its own as one of the finest Apple existence. It is juicy, sweet, and a g keeper, also nice and firm, and, above this variety will keep its flavour longer t any other Apple I know. Always grov Ribston Pippin in your garden. I alw pick mine early in September, and find they keep as well as other varieties wl are allowed to hang longer. Be sure y tree is in a moist place, if your garde naturally a very dry and gravelly one mine. My Ribston is near to where the from the conservatory roof overflows, I think that is the secret of the wonde crop which I have had every year.

Should you have a large garden, put

ealthy and King Pippin; but I class both second-rate Apples which you can do thout; and also Scarlet Nonpareil. For arket growers Allington Pippin is a won-rful cropper, but it is also wonderful how ur this variety can be if the season does not it it.

Now come Apples for November. First, enheim Orange. Everyone swears by a enheim Orange, if they have a good big e, because of the fine crop; but a young e takes a long time to come into bearing. vely and juicy, a great keeper, flesh soft, t very delicate in this way—that if you ock this fruit about in putting it on your elves you will find what a number will go d from the rough usage. I consider this splendid Apple for cooking purposes. You y have observed that I have not men-ned cooking Apples as yet, and really I y much lean towards the view of the nericans. When they visit this country y are amazed at the enormous quantity d variety of abominably sour Apples that grow here. "Why don't you grow ceter Apples and throw away all these r Apples?" they say. "You will save end of sugar if you do." (I am told t an American never goes out of business.) erefore, to my mind, if you have a good enheim Orange tree you never need worry out having good cooking Apples or bakers, in a Blenheim you have everything.

Next comes Parroquet. If you do not live a sunny part of the world it is useless to to grow this. If it has plenty of sun-ne you will find it the most deliciously voured Apple that there is. Unfortu-ely, it rather lacks one of the conditions an ideal Apple; it is not juicy enough. ll, on account of the flavour, it is almost only Apple which my wife will eat. Its our is most attractive, it is crimson all r, and a bush of this in your garden der is a perfect picture. Mr. Charles ss, I am told, considered this the best ple that he raised.

Royal Russet is ripe in November for se who like this type of Apple. My tree es me gorgeous fruits, and, so long as it not picked too early, this Apple keeps a long time.

We now come to Apples for December. will bear in mind, of course, that if you e a proper Apple room you will still e in it such Apples as Ribston Pippin, nheim Orange, a few Cox's Orange, Gascoyne's Scarlet, all in the pink still. if you have room you should certainly w William Crump, which ripens in ember. Its flavour is good, it is juicy, the R.H.S. have given it a First Class ificate, so that seals its reputation. en I had this tree in my garden I found ery hard to get it to fruit, but I set to k, and with perseverance I now have a crop yearly. I wonder if you know every Apple and Pear tree ought to you a crop of fruit yearly, barring s, and if they do not it is your fault not treating them properly. Here is the edy:—

ppose your tree has shoots well over a long, this is a sign that it requires root ing. Take a spade and put it into the nd as far as it will go about a foot to ches from the stem, and continue to do in a circle round the tree. If the tree is big, you must dig down some 2 feet to t, half-way round the tree, about 3 feet the trunk, and you must do the other in late October next year.

en there is another remedy. Take a , strong knife, and in the month of h make a number of perpendicular s in the bark all down the trunk of the fruiting tree.

d yet there is another cure. I learnt it in this way. A gardening friend told me that one day, when visiting an old woman in her cottage, she had asked him why it was that her huge Pear tree never bore any Pears except on one branch. When taken to see the tree he observed that someone had hammered an enormous nail into the fruiting branch, to act as one end for a clothes line. My friend told me that he took several other big nails and hammered them into all the other branches, and the effect was magical, for the next year every branch bore fruit. I suppose the explanation is that the tree receives a shock to its growth from the nails being hammered in, and when that happens the fruiting roots take advantage of this, and fruit is the result.

So you are at full liberty to try my advice. Go to your old nail box, choose out all the rusty and oldest nails you can find, and hammer them into the stems or branches of your fruitless trees, and then await results.

But stop a moment. Do not forget the final reason why trees too often do not bear fruit. Let me give it you in the words of an old Staffordshire working man who said to me once, "Eh, Mister, yer canna' get it oot, unless yer fust put it in." So many people think they are going to get something for nothing, year after year, from their fruit trees. The trees need manure. Then give it them.

Let us pass on now to the next Apple—Lord Hindlip, which ripens in December and January. This is a wonderful keeper, splendid flavour, juicy, sweet, and firm, with a bright yellow flesh. By all means you ought to have a tree of this. Then, as the last Apple of all, we come to Sturmer Pippin, which gets ripe about February or March, and goes on till June. You would not recognise an English and a Tasmanian Sturmer Pippin to be the same kind if put side by side, because the latter is grown in such gorgeous sunshine. If you are to grow this apple you *must* have sunshine, and lots of it. Grow it in the sunniest spot in your garden, preferably on a wall if possible. A few days ago, before writing this article, I picked 92 Sturmer Pippins from one cordon tree on a wall of my garden. The tree is about 8 feet 6 inches high.

(*To be concluded.*)

A Fig in the stable yard

A well-placed Fig

THERE are often spaces about outbuildings where some well-chosen planting may redeem a place from dullness or even unsightliness. A Fig was planted in the angle formed by stable buildings that have a barn at the end with open doors. Now that the Fig is well grown the place looks pleasantly furnished. The common Elder, so usual near and among farm buildings, is a capital thing for the same kind of use. It is beautiful in its midsummer bloom and has a rich effect when loaded with its September fruit, and is a graceful little tree at all times. A Grape Vine, not necessarily for fruit, is always good to see, rambling over rough outhouses, and the wild Clematis, C. vitalba, answers well for the same use.

G. J.

Miltonia William Pitt, Dell Park Variety

THE outstanding Orchid at the R.H.S. meeting of November 29th was, undoubtedly, the Miltonia shown by Baron Bruno Schroder, Dell Park, Englefield Green; grower, Mr. Shill.

The flowers may be described as of a rich bright ruby-crimson, smooth but velvet-like in appearance, and as each of the two shapely flowers were over 4 inches in diameter the two flowers which the spike carried were conspicuous from quite a distance. The more so, perhaps, from the contrast of the disc, which broadened laterally and lighter red in colour on a white ground, the white more intense on the margin, but broken by finger-like extensions of deep red, so giving a strongly serrate edge. Similar but more suffused colouring is placed at the base of the petals.

The plant was acorded a First Class Certificate. Comments were many, but all agreed as to the extreme beauty of the flowers, and the general opinion was that of all the Wm. Pitt varieties so far exhibited, it was probably the most even and rich in colour.

The hybrid Wm. Pitt is not a production of Nature, but was raised by Messrs. Charlesworth, of Haywards Heath, from Miltonias Isabel Sander and Reine Elizabeth.

M. Isabel Sander was obtained from M. Hyeana crossed with M. Roezlii, the latter a true species, but Hyeana was raised from M. Bleuana and vexillaria. Bleuana, the first Miltonia hybrid raised, is the result of a cross between two pure species, vexillaria and Roezlii.

Reine Elizabeth is of continental origin and uncertain parentage. Several forms are known, and all are remarkable for the size of the flowers and the deep colouring.

It will be seen that two species only—vexillaria and Roezlii—have been used in the production of this rich-coloured form, and it is more than interesting to note how, when the results of their different combinations are again used, a wealth and intensity of colour is produced which is never seen in the natural parents.

A third species, M. phalænopsis, with flowers smaller than those of vexillaria, white, daintily marked in rose and purple-rose, has also given beautiful hybrids, but its inferior habit has a tendency to be reproduced in the result, so that in all probability it does not enter into the composition of Reine Elizabeth and through that into Wm. Pitt.

Miltonias are closely allied to Odontoglossums; in fact, vexillaria, the most popular of the species, was known as Odontoglossum, and under it was figured in the Bot. Mag., t. 6,037.

It may be distinguished from Odontoglossum by the large, flat, bilobed labellum and the absence of "teeth" on the labellum margin.

As the sepals and petals are also rather flat the general appearance is, in popular opinion, comparable to that of a Pansy.

Miltonia William Pitt, Dell Park Variety

Flowers rich bright ruby red of velvet texture. Awarded First Class Certificate. Shown by Baron Bruno Schröder, Dell Park, Englefield Green

The flower-spikes are produced from the base of the pseudo-bulbs, often one on each side, and carry five to nine or more flowers, each 3 inches or more across. Typically they are of a soft rose or lilac-rose, almost uniform, but the lip bears at the base a disc rayed with yellow on a much lighter—almost white—ground. Subject to colour variation, as all Orchids are, there is possibly no species which, within limits, exhibits more shades of rose than does M. vexillaria.

No two plants are quite alike, and many named varieties are grown, the colours ranging from pure white to deep rose, while in M. v. memoria G. D. Owen the flowers are not only of a richer tint, but the rayed disc assumes a butterfly-like shape and is of a deep crimson, almost black in certain lights. M. vexillaria was introduced from New Granada about 1870. A second Miltonia, not perhaps as popular as vexillaria, but certainly as useful to the hybridist, is M. Roezlii, which was also introduced from New Granada, but a year or two later than the preceding.

Though not producing as many flowers on a scape, the blooms are broader than those of vexillaria, and while resembling them in shape, differ widely in colour—pure white predominates. The base of the lip is yellowish, rayed or streaked with red-brown, while the basal portions of the petals are of a bright purple, which probably has been an important factor in producing the intensive colour of the Wm. Pitt forms.

E. COOPER.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Suggestions for a semi-shrubby border

SUPPOSING you have in your garden a piece of ground looked upon in a sort of a well-I-never-trouble-with-that sort of style, for the simple reason it is neglected to-day, to-morrow, and for ever, as the saying is.

Now, suppose we take this particular piece of border or ground in hand, transforming it into a glory and joy for ever, wouldn't it prove something attempted, something done? Now please follow my thoughts and pen for a few minutes. Assuming this piece of border is 30 feet long and 6 feet wide. We will thoroughly trench the ground and manure it, incorporating the manure well into the bottom spit. Our next duty must be to spread a dressing of soot and basic slag over the surface; a sprinkling to cover the ground will suffice. Should this border have two facing sides we must keep our tall subjects down the middle. Should it have but one face we commence by planting at the back.

At equal distances in the length we place three bushes of the Rosa family, viz., R. Hugonis, R. Moyesii, and R. omifera. These Roses will give beauty from the time they flower until quite late in the winter months. The first-named bears black fruit which hangs late in the season. The second-named carries sprays of deep reddish crimson-lake single flowers, followed with a crop of hips of a shape most decorative, rich scarlet in colour. Another charm of this species is its foliage.

The third-named Rose is one of great beauty in the autumn, having an abundant crop of beautiful crimson-orange fruit not unlike a small Tomato.

We now must proceed with the scheme by introducing shrubs of profuse flowering, with autumn decorative effects. There is room for about six to seven of these subjects, so proceed to arrange. Spiræa bumalda, S. confusa, S. arguta, Hypericum Moserianum, Cydonia Maulei, C. superba, and Philadelphus purpurea maculata.

These dwarf flowering shrubs embrace a colour scheme of white, yellow, pink, crimson, and white spotted rosy-purple, with a double effect of giving autumn tints in the foliage.

We now have to fill up the vacancies on the border with a showy and easy-flowering plant.

I want about three small clumps of the Tiger Lily arranged informal in the border, filling in the spaces to within a foot of the outside of the border with Iris germanica varieties, these costing from 6d. to 9d. per plant. Varieties I recommend to be planted about 18 inches apart are:—Mirage (pale bronze standards, large falls pale in colour, beautifully veined), Goliath (very large, with beautiful pale flowers), Darius (lilac, netted brown and white, yellow margin, a grand Iris), Blue Beauty (pale blue flowers, charming), Alcazar (standards mauve and bronze, falls purple, orange beard, very large), Crimson King (large, rich crimson-violet), Jacquiniana (bright bronze-crimson, falls

maroon, free-flowering and good, very wy), Her Majesty (a pink variety of great m, admired by all), Mrs. Neubronner (a golden-yellow Iris, very large and tell-, The Iris King (citron-yellow and dark vn, very fine and striking in colour), The ity (very large self-coloured pale blue with a charm of great admiration), Mr. the (a large flower of pale blue, very ce and charming), Innocenza (a grand e flower, pure white, and worthy of cul- as a cut flower).

e now have to complete the planting of border, and suggest a row of garden s be arranged along the edge about ches from plant to plant, Rose of May, Sinkins, Earl of Essex, and Excelsior. would complete a permanent border h should be, with a little attention, a and joy for ever. F. L.

he Traveller's Joy (Clematis vitalba)

any Kent and Surrey hedgerows and llands in these dull December days are ered peculiarly bright and pleasing by curious fluffy wreaths of this pretty e climber, with which, in not a few nces, they are so thickly draped as to lmost lost to sight. Disused chalk pits d seem to be the favoured haunts of Traveller's Joy, for there it is seldom ing, and grows with greatest freedom igst the dry chalky rocks, and where ly a particle of soil is to be seen.

w sights are at present more cheering summer-like than old and neglected ns and Guelder Roses wreathed and ed in the graceful festoons of this pretty , the silky, feathery carpels, which are iced in the richest profusion, appearing short distance away like bands of some l-flowered Rose, or big-growing Ameri- Bramble. The Traveller's Joy delights eep and twine amongst the branches e Hawthorn, and where its own slender s can find that support of which they ver in want. Not at all uncommon is see the curious silky carpels peeping rom amongst the branches of its sup- ng friend at fully 20 feet from the d; but this is nothing as compared the distance to which a plant will le about, for more than once have we l the stout cable-like stems of a single extending to fully 20 yards from where iarginal root-stock was situated. This ng character of the Travellers' Joy rs it a most valuable plant for covering iined walls, the sides of disused chalk or any similar object that may be d. It is of the easiest culture and one simplest to propagate, for by digging e rooted branches and severing them the main stem, stout plants after a n the nursery border are readily enough ed.

iough the Traveller's Joy is usually growing in chalky or limestone dis- yet a great quantity of either is by eans a necessity. By adding a small ity to the soil in which it is to be d it soon gets established and grows great freedom, the trailing branches g freely whenever they come in contact he ground. Chalky soil is not at all essity to this plant. It grows very usly in clayey loam, and it is sur- g that its beauties as a climber are not appreciated. If it were not so common ild be more treasured. The plant incredibly short space of time soon a large surface of ground, and flowers undiminished freedom from year to The best place to see this native itis to perfection, and where its full and value as a creeping plant are best set forth, is in close contiguity to a group of Thorns, and into which the long and lithe branches may ramble at will. Then the graceful habit of the plant is fully developed, for the drapery of foliage and flowers as they hang in graceful masses from the branches of the Thorn are peculiarly pleasing and attractive.

An old Thorn on the lawn festooned with wreaths of the Traveller's Joy is just now an ornament to any place, and we wish that such happy and perfect combinations were seen more frequently. Our northern friends have certainly little idea of how beautiful and interesting are many of the southern hedges and waste places during the dull winter months with the floral remnants of this native climber.

Protea mellifera, the honey-bearing species, native of South Africa

Shown before the Royal Horticultural Society by Sir William Lawrence, Burford, Dorking, on November 29th, and awarded a Cultural Commendation. Raised 1779. It is known as the South African Sugar Bush. The large cream-tinted flower, about 4 inches across, is tipped with rosy pink

Cercidiphyllum japonicum

This is a delightful deciduous shrub; the heart-shaped leaves, as they unfold in spring, display ravishing tints of pale rose and sea green, and scintillate brilliantly in the clear springtime sunshine. In autumn very few shrubs or trees may surpass this species for beautiful colouring; the leaves "pass out" in a fiery red, changing to orange, and persist long in beauty.

An isolated example or a group of three or four specimens should give a wonderful effect; the average height is 4 ft. to 6 ft., and C. japonicum grows easily in an ordinarily good loamy soil. In addition to their wonderful colouring, the leaves are of fine texture, and in a young state are semi-transparent. RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Hamamelis mollis

One of the most interesting of our hardy shrubs during January and February is the "Chinese Witch Hazel," as this shrub is generally called. Although introduced to this country as long ago as 1879, it does not appear to have become very popular, as it is seldom that really good specimens may be seen.

It is a deciduous shrub of spreading form, with stiff zigzagged branchlets, a characteristic of many Chinese shrubs, and during January and February is covered with clusters of yellow flowers, which last fully six weeks in beauty.

Each flower has several thin narrow yellow petals half an inch long. The delightful perfume is perceptible three or four yards away, a feature which should commend itself to many.

It is undoubtedly the finest Hamamelis in flower as well as foliage, and flowering as it does with us on New Year's Day, it is sure of a good reception.

It would associate very well with other dwarf shrubs in full exposure, and its fine form would provide a unique picture during the dreary season.

H. STEVENS.

Bulbous Plants for a Small Unheated Greenhouse—II.

(Concluded from page 755)

IXIAS are largely-grown and deservedly popular bulbs. They should be potted up early in September as they make growth early. Treated like Freesias they succeed well. Two of the most attractive are I. crateroides major, a tall, vigorous, cherry-red species, and the remarkable I. viridiflora, with sea-green, black-centred flowers.

Lachenalias are fast becoming florists' flowers, and are gaining fresh adherents annually. They also thrive under the same treatment as Freesias.

Lapeyrousia cruenta (better known, perhaps, as Anomatheca cruenta) is a lovely little scarlet South African like a miniature Gladiolus. It is excellent for pots, and not the least of its charms is the beauty of the blood-red seeds, which it produces in abundance and which germinate where they fall. There is also a delicately beautiful white variety.

It is unfortunate that all species of Lycoris should be so shy-flowering, for they are evidently beautiful plants, akin to Nerine, but hailing from Japan and China. The flowers are more twisted and slender than in Nerine, and are of various shades of yellow and red. They probably require a thorough sun-baking to ripen the bulbs sufficiently in summer.

The Maricas are such beautiful Irids, from Tropical American regions, that one is tempted to give them a trial even in a cold house. I have kept M. Northiana alive for three years, but have not yet succeeded in flowering it. Perhaps an extra hot summer will prove an inducement to it.

The Moræas may well be regarded as Irises hailing from south of the Equator; indeed, M. glaucopis is much more readily found in catalogues under the name of Iris pavonia, or Peacock Iris. This little gem has slender, grassy foliage and white flowers, with an intense blue blotch at the base of each segment. The bulbs are very small, and sometimes cannot be persuaded to flower freely, but I think they may then be left undisturbed in their pots for a second year.

M. iridioides is not a bulbous species, but has the typical Iris flower, white with mau and yellow markings. All the Moræas a easily raised from seed.

One of the few Narcissi which really co within the scope of cold house bulbs is t crystal-white N. Bulbocodium monophyll or White Hoop Petticoat, from Algeria. is rarely satisfactory in the open, and as flowers about the New Year it surely serves a choice position in the house. C lected bulbs often fail to flower the first ye but will pick up strength and flower w afterwards.

The genus Nerine is *par excellence* adapt for the cold house, and is especially valua for providing a feast of gorgeous colouri in autumn and early winter, when m bulbs are out of flower. It is comm knowledge that Nerines insist on a thorou drying and ripening in summer, and, wh active, they enjoy plentiful supplies of wa and an occasional stimulant. Many f seedlings have been raised in recent yea but are mostly too expensive for the major of gardeners; however, such fine species

A lovely Mariposa Lily or Butterfly Tulip (Calochortus Plummeræ)
A desert species. The large satiny soft lilac-coloured flowers are clothed at the base with hairs of golden hue

Tritonia hyalina, a free-flowering bulbou plant better known as T. Prince of Orang

A pan of the little Narcissus minimus grown in a cold alpine house

Nerines provide a feast of gorgeous colour in the cold house during autumn and early winter

From this one small pot full of bulbs arise five strong spikes with an average of ten flowers to each truss

Fothergilli major, N. corusca, N. Bowdeni its varieties, N. flexuosa alba, and N. ulata are reasonably cheap, and all very rable acquisitions.

rnithogalum arabicum is, probably, the of a not very distinguished genus. If oughly ripened off in summer the bulbs w up stout stems bearing a number of e pure white flowers with a black blotch ie centre. The South African O. lacteum O. thyrsoides are the species frequently over as cut flowers in ice and called iincherinchees." They are easily grown make an interesting addition to early mer-flowering bulbs.

ancratium illyricum and P. maritimum e from the regions bordering the iterranean and are something like much nified White Hoop Petticoat Narcissi. have large bulbs and require liberal ment.

chardia africana is the familiar Arum but its yellow-flowered kinsman, R. ttiana, should certainly be included in a house collection. The roots should be off in winter and re-started early in g.

e many named varieties of Sparaxis diflora and tricolor are popular bulbs for districts and make very attractive groups in pots. They are dwarfer than Ixias and the flowers are rather larger and more tubular in shape.

Sprekelia formosissima is the Jacobean Lily, a strangely-formed deep crimson flower with the habit of Vallota. If several bulbs are grown in the same pot they make a striking show when in bloom.

Tecophylæa cyanocrocus is a rarely-seen little treasure from the Chilean Andes, a small bulb with Crocus-like flowers in early spring of that wonderfully intense shade of blue seen in Gentiana bavarica. It is a reputedly hardy bulb, but is too scarce and expensive to risk in the open, where slugs could get at it.

In districts where the gorgeous Mexican Tigridias will not flourish in the open they well deserve greenhouse treatment. I find they suffer severely if lifted and dried off like Gladioli, so it is advisable to keep the bulbs in soil during the winter resting season. Once in full growth they appreciate plentiful supplies of water and an occasional dose of liquid-manure.

Tritonia crocata has been well shown at Chelsea the last two years, and is a beautiful orange-red flower akin to Montbretia. At the base of each segment there is a curious hyaline blotch suggestive of the "windows" on the wings of the great Atlas Moths of India.

A familiar favourite in cottage windows is Vallota purpurea, the Scarborough Lily, whose large scarlet flowers never fail to appear in early autumn. It seems to be tolerant of a good deal of neglect, and certainly enjoys being left alone without repotting for a good many years.

The Veltheimias are grown more for the beauty of their curiously pink-marked flower-stems rather than for their flowers, but in some seasons the stem markings are much more pronounced than in others.

Several of the South African Watsonias are very desirable bulbs for a cold house. The best-known is the large white W. Ardernei, which is one of the stronger-growing representatives of the genus. Some of the forms of W. Meriana are very beautiful, but most of these must be obtained direct from South Africa. Luckily seedlings are easily raised.

Zephyranthes is a small genus of grassy-leaved Crocus-like flowers which succeed admirably in pots (Z. candida is the only really hardy species). They are mostly natives of the United States, Argentina, and the West Indies, but at least one species (the pink Z. carinata) has become naturalised in Ceylon, parts of India, and South Africa, whence it is frequently sent home as a "Pink Crocus." Z. macrosiphon, Z. tubispatha, and Z. rosea are other pink-flowered species, while Z. Atamasco and Z. verecunda are beautiful white ones. Z. Ajax is a pale sulphur-coloured hybrid—not easy to keep, I fear. There is a small tawny-coloured species which I have received under the names of Z. lutea and Z. texana, free-flowering and very distinct. A rich golden species called Z. aurea was at one time in cultivation, and there is reported to be a violet-hued one in the Andes which would be a welcome addition to our greenhouses. N. G. HADDEN.

Sparaxis tricolor Lemon Queen makes an attractive subject when grown in pots

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Sweet Peas

The positions intended for spring-sown varieties should now be prepared, in order that the soil may settle down before the time of sowing or planting arrives. The site, whether for individual groups among hardy flowers, clumps, or rows by themselves, should be deeply trenched and enriched with well-decayed manure, to which—in soils deficient of same—a little freshly slaked lime should be added. It is not advisable to leave the manure in layers, as this tends to sicken the plants, and much better results arise when manure, lime and soil are thoroughly mixed throughout its depth. A few wood ashes and bone meal should be added to the top 9 inches, and if mixed thoroughly will give the plants an excellent start.

Rambler Roses

Those used for furnishing arches and for clothing slopes and other positions in a semi-wild or natural way should now be overhauled and have all old spent wood removed, and in the former case sufficient only of the very best well-ripened growths should be retained to furnish the arches in a light, airy manner. In the latter case a little more freedom may be permitted, although the best effects are realised where each variety—though a large and spreading bush in itself—stands just clear of its neighbour. Easy slopes, when planted three or four deep on either side, with grass paths through the centre, are remarkably beautiful during their flowering season and are by no means difficult to keep in order. Most of the Ramblers make large and attractive bushes when permitted to do so.

Michaelmas Daisies

Because these plants grow so freely, increase so rapidly, and live in almost any kind of soil, they are often neglected and given positions where many other subjects refuse to grow. Such treatment is unworthy of the lovely, graceful varieties at our disposal to-day, which in point of beauty hold their own with any other flower. The present is a good time to make new plantations and to lift, divide and replant existing ones, always choosing a fresh site and fresh soil when such is possible, and replanting with quite small portions. There are varieties to-day to suit every taste, from miniatures 3 inches high to those which attain 6 feet and 8 feet, but good cultivation is essential to them all.

Garden furniture

All seats, tables, covers and playing tackle should now be under cover, and if the various articles are washed beforehand any repairs, painting, etc., required can be carried out during inclement weather.

Hardy Heaths

Most of these may now be planted, but on no account should the soil be unduly enriched, otherwise growth will be prolific for a short time, following which the plants will become leggy and bear the appearance of exhaustion. If grown hard from the beginning they will retain a healthy appearance for many years. Where such plants are raised from layers, seeds and cuttings on the place a few of the best may be potted up and flowered under glass, such varieties as E. arborea, E. lusitanica, E. australis and E. Veitchii being excellent for this purpose.

Plants in frames

The great enemy in cold frames at the present time is damp, and both plants and recently struck cuttings which now occupy them must be repeatedly looked over and decaying leaves removed. Any necessary watering must be carried out on fine mornings, when air too should be freely admitted. The hardiest of plants suffer from damp when enclosed in cold frames at this season.

Propagating bush fruits

These may be increased by cuttings taken now, which make quite nice plants in two or three years. Gooseberries, Red, White and Black Currants are selected from strong, clean shoots, which should be from 1 foot to 18 inches long; and whereas a single stem is desirable in the case of Gooseberries and White Currants, necessitating the removal of the lower buds, it is unnecessary in the case of Black Currants. Plant these in lines 1 foot apart with the cuttings in the rows about the same distance, and take especial care to see that the base of the cutting rests firmly upon the bottom of a 4-inch trench.

Paths and edgings in the kitchen garden

Repairs should be carried out on those occasions when the working of the soil has been rendered impossible, and where this implies the carting of stone or other material it is advisable to get this delivered beforehand.

Potatoes

Tubers required for early forcing must now be stood on their ends in suitable trays, the base of which have been covered with well-seasoned leaf mould or spent mushroom bed, which has been passed through an inch sieve. A light position where a temperature of 50 degs. is maintained will be suitable for sprouting them, after which they may be either planted in frames erected over newly made-up hot beds or potted up and grown in early vineries or peach houses. May Queen, Webb's Express, and Witch Hill Early are desirable varieties.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Chrysanthemum cuttings

It will now be necessary to secure all suitable cuttings, especially of the later varieties, as they become ready. Sturdy, but not gross, suckers make by far the best cuttings, and should be secured when from 3 inches to 4 inches long. Some varieties, of course, seldom throw up these ground suckers, so must be propagated from shoots growing on the stems of the old plants.

The Amaryllis

Very soon now these gorgeous subjects will begin to push up their flower stems, and as soon as the point is visible the pots should be set in a light position and a little more water allowed, although saturation of the soil must be avoided, especially at first. A stove temperature is unnecessary until after the flowers have faded, a genial warmth of 55 degs. to 60 degs. giving the very best results during the flowering season.

Forcing bulbs

From time to time introduce further batches of these, so as to maintain an unbroken supply of bloom. A gentle warmth, especially at first, is necessary if best results are to be looked for. Strong heat very often causes the plants to "go blind," or else they draw up spindly and feeble.

The cold frame

Not infrequently this useful structure is kept far too close, the owner forgetting that the occupants are practically hardy, and that to coddle and try to keep them warm only causes them to become enfeebled and an easy prey to both cold and damp. Whenever frost is absent, and even during wet weather, the sashes should be tilted at the back, the best of all methods for airing these structures, as it permits the fresh air to circulate all round the plants, and yet sheds off rain.

Cuttings of fruit bushes

While the pruning of Currants and Gooseberries is being carried out, some of the best of the shoots should be selected, tied into bunches, and then heeled in, until it is convenient to make and insert them as cuttings. Black Currant cuttings should have all buds retained, but Gooseberries and Red and White Currants should have all but three or four at the top of each cutting carefully cut out with a sharp knife.

Protect Celery

It is usually excess of stagnant moisture rather than frost, that destroys Celery, so it is advisable to provide some means for shedding off heavy rains. A few sheets of old corrugated iron suit admirably, and are easily put on, and also removed, when necessary.

Liming the kitchen garden

All garden soils that are annually given a dressing of farmyard dung eventually require an application of lime, to correct sourness and other troubles incidental to this method of culture. Light open soils seldom require a dressing of this mineral, but stiff, retentive gardens must have a fair dressing at fairly short intervals, especially in the sections occupied by the Brassica family.

How lime is applied

Lime has a natural tendency to work downwards. The method by which the best is got out of its application is to first dig, double-dig or trench the piece to be treated and then apply the lime to the surface and lightly fork it in. Lime should be applied some three weeks or so before cropping has to be done. While freshly burned builders' lime in "shell" form is probably best, good quality ground lime is excellent and very easily applied.

Jerusalem Artichokes

While these keep all right in the ground they are just as well lifted now, so that the site may be manured and dug, ready for replanting early in spring, it being possible to grow this vegetable for quite a number of years on the same quarter. Store the roots in a cool and not too dry a place, for they shrivel badly when exposed to warmth and dryness.

Manuring and digging

Take full advantage of a frosty morning to get manure wheeled on to the vacant quarters, and as soon as the soil is in working order push on digging and trenching, early working of the soil being beneficial in many ways. Ground that is thrown up roughly secures the full benefit of the elements, being sweetened and pulverised, while by getting such work carried out before Christmas the spring work is greatly lightened, and there is more time to spare for some of the more particular jobs incident to that busy season.

C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

lew certificated Chrysanthemums

SEVERAL excellent Chrysanthemum novelties were submitted to the meeting of the National Chrysanthemum ociety's Floral Committee, on Monday, ovember 29 last, and those selected for vards well merited the recognition they ceived. They were as follows :—

TOM ABBOTT.—A very large Japanese oom that should have a good future. The orets are fairly broad and numerous, and uild a full deep bloom about 8 inches in ameter and in depth. The colour may be escribed as light canary yellow with rather ler reverse. Unanimous First Class Cerficate. Shown by Mr. H. J. Jones, Ryeoft Nurseries, Lewisham, S.E.

GAIETY.—Quite one of the very best new ngle-flowered Chrysanthemums of the curnt season. The florets are broad and of ood substance, and they are evenly ranged around a well-proportioned disc, uilding a flower nearly 5 inches in diaeter. Colour, brilliant chestnut, with olden-yellow zone round the disc. Unanious F.C.C. Shown by Mr. H. Shoesmith, n., Mayford, near Woking, Surrey.

JOHN HALL.—A large exhibition Japanese oom, having florets of medium breadth, ightly curling and twisting, building a full ower of promise. Colour, light purple. C.C. Shown by Mr. B. Carpenter, West all Gardens, Byfleet.

MRS. E. PAGE.—Another beautiful addition the single-flowered section. The florets e of medium breadth, very evenly arranged ound a golden disc of proper proportions, uilding an ideal single bloom, about 5 inches diameter. Colour, golden-yellow centre, ading off to bright chestnut, a most effecve arrangement of colours. Unanimous C.C. Shown by Mr. H. Woolman, Shirv, near Birmingham.

There were a few varieties that the Comittee requested to see again. They were :—

SHOREHAM SPRAY.—This is a free-flowering ray variety, having chaste pure white blosms. Should it flower quite naturally a eek or two later it would prove to be a eful variety for market.

HUGH MITCHELL.—Those on the lookout r a really promising novelty for exhibition ould make a note of this variety. It is a rge, full, heavy flower, having innumerable rets of medium width, and the colour is rich velvety crimson, with a bronze rerse. Flowers developed from a different d selection should see this variety in ideal rm and condition. Shown by Mr. Woolin.

Two large single-flowered varieties that re shown are certainly deserving of notice. ey are H. W. Warwick, a ruby crimson gle-flowered variety, the blooms of which riety are fully 7 inches in diameter withit being coarse; and Byfleet Crimson, a gle, 5 inches to 6 inches across, having rly broad florets of good substance. Under ificial light the colour appeared to be a h purplish crimson. These two were own by Mr. Carpenter.

D. B. CRANE.

rysanthemums: Seven of the most popular Japanese varieties for exhibition

Of the various shows at which I have ged during the season that is now clos, some half a dozen Chrysanthemums Japanese origin have been more often in dence than others. The mention of their nes may be helpful to those who are king up their list for next season. Mrs. Carpenter, the well-known deep rose rt from Mrs. Algernon Davis. Over and r again superb blooms were shown. Majestic, golden amber, and Red Majestic, rich terra-cotta red sport from Majestic, were both seen in magnificent form and condition; they are two very dependable varieties. The best blooms of these two that I have seen this season were shown at the Hull Show. They were superbly fine, and were most comfortable when staged on boards in which a space of 12 inches was allowed for each bloom. Julia, the beautiful rosy bronze sport from Mrs. B. Carpenter, is another variety that has been freely and well shown, not only in the South, but in the North too. Mrs. A. Holden bounded into popularity this season, probably because of its pleasing form and beautiful bright crimson colour. It was shown in grand condition at the "National" and at many other shows also. For its colour the blooms of Mrs. Peter Murray have often been shown; the colour may be described as rich purple amaranth, and as such was very useful in stiff competition. In the big vase class at the "National" this was a conspicuous variety. Victory is the last of the six, and well deserves inclusion in this restricted list. It is a very large drooping flower, of splendid quality, and is a white that should be included in all collections. At the N.C.S. great show I think it was the most noteworthy Japanese bloom in the exhibition.

D. B. CRANE.

New Exhibition Chrysanthemum Tom Abbott (Award of Merit R.H.S., First Class Certificate N.C.S.)

The colour is bright canary yellow. Note the great depth of the bloom

VEGETABLES

Mushrooms

VERY few Mushrooms were obtainable from the open fields this season, a showery summer having evidently destroyed the spawn. On the other hand, the autumn appears to have been more than usually favourable to the growth of Mushrooms on beds, both in the open and under cover. With us they have been plentiful and good in quality, and I believe this is the general rule. Too much fire-heat is the great bane to beds in the ordinary Mushroom house, but this season there has been no necessity whatever for turning it on or starting the fire, as the case may be. The house being quite close, the thermometer ranged from 65 degs. to 50 degs., the difference in the temperatures being caused principally by the heat generated by the successional beds. In reality a temperature of 55 degs. to 60 degs. is quite high enough for Mushrooms, and I would prefer to keep the house 5 degs. lower if this can be done without admitting much air. High temperatures, especially when brought about by fire-heat, have a very weakening effect upon the Mushrooms, as it causes them to become spindly, dry, and thin, and also dries up the beds unduly. To counteract this drying

influence it is a common practice to have recourse to daily dampings down, the beds also being very frequently moistened with the syringe. In some instances no ill effects result from a judicious use of the syringe, this being when the heat lasts well in the bed, saturation also being avoided. When the manure happens to become cool soon after spawning, being perhaps either too moist or too dry when formed into a bed, a careless use of the syringe is liable to end in the loss of the best portion of the crop. Whole clusters of quite small Mushrooms are apt when too much moisture is applied to turn brown and soft, making no further progress. There ought to be no necessity to water a bed in order to bring up the first crop of Mushrooms; it is unwise to do it in fact, nor should it be given till the first crop has been cleared and signs of exhaustion are apparent. A mulching of soft strawy litter applied when the bed is spawned, or as soon as it may be put on without unduly confining the heat, conserves both heat and moisture, and quite obviates the early use of the syringe or watering-pot. When it is found that water is really required, then enough should be given to well moisten the bed, but not sufficient to saturate it. It ought to be fairly warm, and if slightly impregnated with salt so much the better. Prior to using it remove a portion of the litter only and apply gently and evenly. When it is found that the bed is moistened to a good depth remove the damp litter, replace with a good depth of fresh drier material, and do nothing more till the successional crops appear.

GATHERING MUSHROOMS.—There is a right and a wrong way of doing this even, more depending upon the way it is done than many growers are perhaps aware of. Too often Mushrooms are cut when they ought to be either twisted, roots and all, clean out of the bed, and it is advisable also to twist off the large Mushrooms from a cluster when it is thought desirable to leave the rest to further develop. The old stumps are liable to decay badly in a few hours, and in the course of this decomposition a destructive mildew-like fungoid growth is generated, which overpowers the Mushroom spawn and literally poisons the beds all round. The removal of the old stumps not only prevents this untoward occurrence, but also breaks the strong thread-like roots, which should be very abundant in a good bed, and causes them to develop Mushrooms much more freely. A careful gatherer can twist out or break off Mushrooms without injuring those growing near them, and if he does his duty he will scoop out all old stumps as they are cleared of their produce.

SUCCESSIONAL BEDS.—Our first bed in the house has been in good bearing order for about three weeks, the second will shortly be covered with Mushrooms, a third is just spawned, and the materials are being prepared for a fourth. Very small beds I do not believe in, at any rate, not if larger ones can be made, nor is it wise to rely exclusively on one or two extra-large beds. There are so many causes that lead to failure that it is always advisable to make as many successional beds as possible, or as fast as the manure can be procured in order to keep up the requisite regular supply of Mushrooms. What I would term a fair-sized bed would be about 8 feet long and 4 feet wide, the depth varying according to circumstances and from such many good punnets of Mushrooms can be cut. The greatest pains ought always to be taken in preparing the manure, this detail being perhaps the most important and the least studied of all. Droppings that have absorbed much moisture are difficult to prepare properly, and any allowed to become very dry are also somewhat difficult of preparation. The former ought to be thrown into a conical heap to ferment rather violently, the heap being turned inside out before the centre attains a white heat. In this way much superfluous moisture can be got rid of by evaporation without all its heating power being destroyed. Manure that is dry at the outset ought to be slightly watered when the heap is formed, and if necessary each time it is turned, which process should take place every two or three days. Much the same remarks apply to droppings in a fresh, moderately moist state when thrown into a heap to ferment, the aim in each and every case being to gently get rid of noxious gases with the more violent heat without greatly impairing its subsequent heating power. When made up into a bed the droppings ought to be moderately hot, moist to the touch, and comparatively sweet to the smell. Unless they continue steadily to decay no heat will be generated, and no suitable home for Mushroom spawn be provided. Never allow a heap to become saturated by rainfall; on no account allow it to remain a week or longer without turning; and, above all, do not be in too great a hurry to form a bed with it. If the materials are hotter just inside the heap than the hand can stand when they are formed into a bed, compressing them together under cover of a shed, house, or cellar will most probably cause them to attain a white heat, this leaving the best portion of the bed in a dry, musty, and useless state—it is spoilt, in fact. W.

(To be continued.)

Answers to Queries

Queries—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent, each should be on a separate piece of paper; the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*Readers who wish plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. Single, unripe, or deformed specimens are difficult to name. We do not undertake to name more than four specimens at one time.*

FRUIT

Figs in the open

(W. Gibson).—The Fig should not require pruning in winter, as by proper management during late spring and summer in the way of disbudding and pinching, the shoots are so regulated as to be uncrowded in autumn. Should your tree or trees be much crowded you can, of course, remove all the weaker and worst-placed shoots, or even branches, but we would defer this till spring. Meantime you should mulch thickly all round the roots with dry litter, and cover the trees with mats, to prevent damage by frost. See note and illustration, page 767.

Apple trouble

(Constant Reader).—Your Apple tree is affected with Woolly Aphis. This pest lives by piercing the bark and sucking out the juices. Because of these injuries the tree tries to heal itself by producing the canker growths such as you send. To take up the tree and destroy it is rather drastic treatment, but if you have many others which are clean it would, perhaps, be the easier way. Woolly Aphis can be controlled by using a good tar oil wash during the dormant period, and by spraying with various insecticides during the summer months. On the main stem of a tree colonies of aphides can be killed by using methylated spirit and water in equal quantities. This mixture should be well worked into the crevices of the bark with a stiff paint-brush.

Big Bud of Black Currants

(H. M. Speirs).—The specimens sent in for examination are badly affected with Big Bud, caused by the mite Eriophyes ribes. If all your bushes are as badly infested as the specimens sent your best plan would be to grub and burn the bushes at once. If only a few shoots are so badly affected you could obtain control by cutting away the shoots and hand-picking isolated Big Buds. Spray the trees next spring when the foliage is about the size of a shilling with lime-sulphur, using 1 gallon of concentrated wash added to 12 gallons of water. Lime-sulphur at this strength will damage the foliage, but the trees recover later on, and appear not to suffer at all from a fruiting standpoint.

Apple canker

(H. L.).—If you would like to send us in a specimen of the Apple trouble in your district we should be pleased to examine it for you and report in due course. There are several diseases which produce cankered growth on the Apple, and, as the controls differ somewhat, we should be in a better position to advise if we knew exactly what disease is the cause of the trouble. Pack your specimen in a little tin box, because the material will keep better under these conditions.

VEGETABLES

Celery trouble

This season, wishing to get a few extra good sticks of Celery, I picked out a few dozen of the best plants at planting-out time and put them in a special trench with an extra dose of farm manure beneath them. They grew well, were blanched with brown paper, never allowed to get dry, and usually watered with soot-water, but on digging them the first week in November all the plants were so pithy the stems utterly collapsed, the whole lot being worthless. The remainder planted and earthed-up with soil in the ordinary way are quite solid and sound. The variety Pink, from a reliable firm, was sown the second week in April and put out on June 18th. I should be obliged for your opinion on this matter, having treated this crop in the same way other seasons with success. T. M.

[We are of the opinion that pithy Celery is due to over-manuring in some cases, but in most cases to unbalanced manuring. We can find nothing wrong with the methods of cultivation mentioned in your letter. If the manure used for the trenches was good and a liberal dressing given it may be that nitrogen was present in excess. Further, the use of soot-water would be likely to increase the nitrogen and still drive the plants the wrong way. We have found in practice that an over-dose of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia will, under certain conditions, pro-

pithy Celery. It is possible that good ure *plus* soot-water could do the same g. Another season you should dress your ches with sulphate of potash one part, rphosphate three parts; apply at the rate ozs. per yard of trench before soot- r is given, or, if preferred, 4 ozs. of sul- e of potash and 12 ozs. superphosphate it be added to 30 gallons of soot-water.]

den lime

.R.H.S., Co. Donegal).—We have ex- ied the sample of lime sent, and it ap- s to be slaked lime which has been sed for some time and has taken up a in amount of carbon dioxide from the sphere. However, plenty of slaked lime ill present, and we consider it to be a sample to apply to the soil as a control Club Root. Lump limestone when burnt lime kiln loses approximately half its ht and becomes quicklime. The loss of ht is due to the fact that the heat of the expels the carbon dioxide from the lime- e. Quicklime is a very unstable product, unless it is enclosed under air-tight con- ns it very gradually extracts moisture the atmosphere and falls down into a powder, and is then slaked lime. There hen two ways of obtaining slaked lime quicklime, viz., adding water to quick- and leaving quicklime exposed to the vill both produce slaked lime. A further ge takes place if slaked lime is placed the soil, or more slowly if exposed to atmosphere; gradually carbon dioxide is n up and the slaked lime becomes chalk. sample appears to have been exposed to atmosphere, and, in consequence, a very chalk is present. Both slaked lime and are useful to reduce Club Root, but it 1 lb. of chalk to do the same amount of as ½ lb. of slaked lime.

TREES AND SHRUBS

ing large Yews

September last year I removed and ed some large Yews to form a series of es. They are living at the end of the , but, of course, are very much larger the younger ones that complete the es. Would you advise me to cut them now, or let them remain another year t more vigorous? T. W.

e advise you not to cut the Yews at season. It will be better to leave them July or August, which is the best time lipping Yews. Moreover, this would the plants to retain their present form ghout the winter and spring months. newly planted Yews clipping is better even earlier, say, in June, with a d shortening back of the stronger hs in September.]

a buds disfigured

Reader).—The disfigurement of your flowers would appear to be due to oil and dryness at the root, or through being kept in too high a temperature. the pots in a pail of water until the ceases to bubble; the hard ball of will then have been soaked thoroughly. t when water is again required. A reenhouse temperature is desirable for plants, such as 45 degs. to 55 degs. t stand them in front of open living- windows at any time, as such a posi- detrimental to them. When re-pot- the new soil should be rammed very otherwise the ball of roots may be quite ven though the new soil may be quite

Hazel coated with lichen

hard H. Hutton).—If you spray your Hazels with Alkali Winter Wash without delay the lichen and any insects upon them will be destroyed. The best formula is 1 lb. caustic soda (98 per cent.) to 10 gallons of water. As this solution is injurious to hands and clothing, rubber gloves and old clothes should be worn where spraying is at all extensive. Lichen is most injurious to the welfare of plants, and generally denotes badly drained soil.

Flowering shrubs in a windy place

(B., Devon).—In a very windy spot you could not do better than plant Tamarix pentandra. Another suitable shrub for a very windy situation is Hippophæ rhamnoides, for its berries in autumn, winter, and spring. The hardy Fuchsias should succeed there, especially Fuchsia gracilis. The following interesting and beautiful shrubs should also succeed:—Forsythia spectabilis, Plagianthus Lyallii, Sophora vicifolia, Eucryphia pinnatifolia, Berberis stenophylla, Halesia tetraptera, Myrtus Luma, Enkianthus campanulatus, Leptospermum Nichollsii, Viburnum Carlesii.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Chrysanthemum caterpillar

(C. H. A. Robson).—There are several caterpillars capable of doing the damage which you report. If you will send us a specimen packed in a little tin box, with a little Chrysanthemum foliage, we will try and name the caterpillar and give you its life history. With this knowledge we should be in the position of being able to advise you as to the best control measures.

Book on Chrysanthemums

(Mr. W. Skelton).—The "Culture of Chrysanthemums," by Harold Wells, price 3s. 6d. in cloth, 2s. 6d. in paper, will probably answer your purpose. It is published by Country Life, Ltd., 20, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. 2

ROSES

Rose Bedford Crimson

("Attar").—This crimson Rose received the Clay Cup for fragrance in 1924. It is very free-blooming and makes a splendid garden Rose. The flowers are pleasing in all stages and possess very leathery petals. It was raised by Messrs. Laxton Bros., Bedford, and we recommend it with confidence.

FLOWER GARDEN

Scented Climbing Vine

Last autumn I noticed a reference to Scented Climbing Vines. I have put up a number of rustic arches, also a rustic fence, and am now wishful to grow attractive climbers on these. Could you furnish me with the information about Climbing Scented Vines? Failing this, would you kindly suggest something suitable for the purpose? I am not specially struck on Roses; would rather favour Clematis if there is a perfumed variety as well as others. The arches are facing south, the fence south-east. We are well protected north, east and west by large belts of trees, only the south being open, but no part of the grounds are overshadowed with the trees. The soil is deep and loamy. I had all well trenched and the turves buried over 2 feet; the soil now in good condition for planting. S. Hall.

[We have been unable to trace the subject of your inquiry, which probably referred to a plant of climbing nature, but not a true Vine such as we understand them. The word Vine may be, and often is, correctly, applied to any plant which climbs or supports itself by winding round a fixed object; but after an exhaustive search we have failed to find a Scented Climbing Vine. We therefore suggest the following fragrant plants as an alternative: Clematis Flammula, and its variety, rubro marginata, white, and reddish violet, respectively; Clematis Jouiniana, C. montana var. Wilsoni—this var. is deliciously scented; C. Rehderiana, flowers primrose yellow and borne in profusion; Wistaria chinensis, Lonicera japonica, L. etrusca var. gigantea, L. flexuosa, and Late Red Dutch Honeysuckle, Jasminum affine, J. officinale, and Actinidia arguta.]

Planting a bank facing north

(F. W., Exmouth).—Such a position is unsuitable for Annuals of any kind, as these flowers love the sun. We suggest the following as being most likely to give satisfaction, although the draughtiness of the site is by no means ideal for them: Tropæolum speciosum, planted where it can fall over a yard or more of space; Tropæolum polphylum, Campanula muralis, C. garganica var. hirsuta, C. carpatica, C. turbinata, Primula Juliæ, P. rosea grandiflora, P. Purple, Splendour, P. denticulata, Meconopsis Baileyii, M. Wallichi, M. cambrica, Ramondia pyrenaica, Mimulus cupræus, Helxine Solierolii, Cotula squallida, Parochetus communis, Viola gracilis, Fratia angulosa, Arenaria balearica, A. montana, Mossy Saxifrages in variety, Hepaticas triloba and angulosa in variety, Cyclamen Coum, C. neapolitanum, C. repandum, Linaria aquitroloba, Mazus rugosus, Lysimachia Henryi, Veronica filiformis, Vinca acutiloba, V. major, Trollius Lemon Queen, Tiarella cordifolia, Sedum spathulatum rubrum, S. Sieboldii, Ranunculus amplexicaule, Lenten Roses (Hellebore) in variety, Geranium lancastriense, Omphalodes Lucilæ, Oxalis enneaphylla rosea, O. floribunda, Lily of the Valley (Fortin's Variety), Ficaria grandiflora, Calceolaria polyrrhiza var. John Innes, and Aubrietias in variety. Many, though not all, of the above may be raised from seeds sown in a closed frame in March. Yes, Cineraria maritima would probably succeed, and, of course, there are many very pretty Ferns which would do in this position.

GREENHOUSE

Primula maggot

(C. Y. K.).—The specimens sent are the larval stage of the Black Vine Weevil. This pest is a common one on many plants grown under glass. The maggots such as you send feed throughout the winter on the roots of plants; in the spring the maggots are fully fed, and pupate in the soil; shortly after the adult weevils emerge from the pupal state. The adults feed upon the aerial portions of many plants, but are very fond of Vine and Peach foliage. The adults deposit their eggs in the soil, thus completing the life cycle. The plants attacked would be best shaken out and the maggots destroyed. We are experimenting during the next few weeks with various materials to see if we can kill the maggots by watering the plants with various solutions. Look for the result of these experiments in a later issue. Traps should be laid down in your houses during next summer, and all the weevils collected by these should be destroyed.

Cyclamens and Vine Weevil

(W. Gibson).—Your Cyclamens have been attacked by the grub of the Vine Weevil, and there is really no remedy, the damage being done before the presence of the pest is discovered. It eats the roots, and also burrows into the corms eventually. To lessen the evil another season, carefully search among

the soil in which the attacked plants are growing and destroy all the grubs. They are easily seen. So far as we have been able to note, these grubs are not responsible for the damage to the Primulas. This is, usually, caused by the soil becoming soured, and is almost certain to follow, if the plants have been given the final shift before being ready for it. That is to say, young plants growing in 3-inch or 3½-inch pots should not receive the final shift until these little pots are well filled with roots, are, indeed, almost pot-bound.

MISCELLANEOUS

Earwigs

Have you any new recipes for trapping or destroying earwigs? I have never in my life seen so many as in this district. Have killed thousands by hand at nights on Chrysanthemum blooms and small pots with Moss, but still they come. A. WAGG.

Notts.

[Trapping in one form or another seems to be the best method of controlling earwigs. We have always managed to keep the numbers down by using the stuffed pot method. Earwigs are rather fond of damp places, and we think that sometimes gardeners are liable to keep the trap pots too dry. The pots should be examined each morning and the pest destroyed. In America much work has been done in connection with the control of earwigs, and it appears that the most successful control has been obtained by attacking the nymph stage in spring by giving them poisoned bait. The recipe is 4 lbs. of stale bread and 4 ozs. of Paris Green. The bread should be free of crust and rubbed up fine through a sieve; the poison is then thoroughly mixed with the powdered bread. Enough water is now added to make a good crumbly paste. The poisoned bait should be placed near to the haunts of the earwigs, covered in such a way as to give the pest access, but to prevent birds and domestic animals reaching it. It may be necessary to repeat the poison bait several times during the spring months.]

Pine needles

Will you kindly tell me if Pine "needles" are of any value to the garden in the same way as decayed leaves? I have always been careful not to mix them with the latter when throwing them together to make leaf-mould. Is this a mistake? F.R.H.S.

Co. Donegal.

[It is not advisable to mix these with leaves, whether for making leaf-soil or for digging direct into the garden, as they contain too much turpentine to suit the majority of plants. The only place in which they may be used is among members of the Ericaceæ, which certainly thrive better when lightly mulched with them. This includes Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Kalmias, Arbutus, Leiophyllum, Andromeda, Gaultheria, Sedum, and Heaths. Where mulchings of this kind are applied it is advisable to scatter a little soil over them to keep them in place and assist in their decay.]

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the importance of sending only good typical specimens for naming, and not less than two or three fruits of each variety.

G. H. Furness, Somerset.—1, Tyler's Kernel; 2, Hoary Morning; 3, Frogmore Prolific; 4, not recognised.

L. G. S., Bray.—1, Gascoyne's Scarlet; 2, Hubbard's Pearmain; 3, Emperor Alexander; 4, Golden Reinette.

A. H. Pittam, Essex.—Golden Harvey, an Apple of the finest quality, but seldom seen. When grown against a wall it should be well watered occasionally during the season.

E. Ettridge, Herts.—1, Bramley's Seedling; 2, Adam's Pearmain; 3, Lord Burley.

NAMES OF PLANTS

F. S., Hampshire.—1, Winter Heliotrope (Petasitis fragrans); 2, Cotoneaster frigida; 3, a Plum; 4, appears to be a Cherry, but the material is scrappy. If you will send specimens Nos. 3 and 4 next spring when in flower we shall be pleased to try and name them for you.

Miss E. D. Hume, Dublin.—Senecio tanguticus.

SHORT REPLY

(J. H., Clevedon).—(No. 1) Overcrowding of the plants, and keeping the house too warm and closely shut, would account for this condition. (No. 2) Very much withered, so cannot be certain, but it looks like "Rust." Pick off all the worst leaves and burn at once, then spray with 1 oz. (to 3 gallons of water) of liver of sulphur. (No. 3) This condition is often caused by the foliage being wet over a long period, especially if the house is not properly ventilated.

LATE NOTES

Southport Flower Show

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York has consented to become a patroness of the Southport Flower Show. The National Sweet Pea Society have accepted the invitation of the Southport Flower Show Committee to hold a Northern Provincial Sweet Pea Show, in conjunction with the 1928 Southport Flower Show, on August 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. The total income at the 1927 Southport Flower Show was £10,474 14s. 7d., and the total expenditure £9,157 6s. 6d., showing a credit balance of £1,317 8s. 1d.

Synthetic nitrogenous fertilisers

It is being much impressed upon farmers nowadays that a greater use of nitrogenous fertilisers would be very much to the advantage of their farming. Let them consider the matter broadly. Since the crash in farming in 1921 they have been using every endeavour to cut down expenses. The cost of labour, generally speaking, cannot be reduced, and there are other items of expense which are high and must be incurred. The question for them now is this: Is there any ready means they can take at a comparatively small expense to increase their output? The answer given by the advocates of the increased use of nitrogenous fertiliser is: "Yes, they will find it worth their while to buy and use a larger quantity of nitrogenous fertilisers of the new kind at their present price." It is to be remembered that the price of nitrogen to-day is a good deal lower than pre-war, whilst the price of agricultural produce is certainly much higher. The reduction in the cost of nitrogenous fertilisers has been brought about by the invention of these synthetic fertilisers, of which industry the large plant erected at Billingham-on-the-Tees for fixing atmospheric nitrogen forms a part. Large quantities of sulphate of ammonia are being manufactured there, and it is foreshadowed that other fertilisers, such as nitro-chalk, urea, white nitrates of lime and ammonia, as well as nitro-phoska, will before very long also be made. The opportunity thus afforded for the farmer to obtain high-grade synthetic fertilisers at a price low in comparison with pre-war should be carefully considered by all farmers who are anxious to weather the storm of existing agricultural depression.—*From the Ministry of Agriculture.*

Chrysanthemums from seed

At the last fortnightly meeting of t Royal Horticultural Society—held on Nove ber 29th—Messrs. Sutton & Sons arrang on a Mossy bank, with much skill and go taste, a very big display of autumn-floweri Chrysanthemums grown from seed, sov during February, 1927. The exhibit, whi was 80 feet in length, occupied the whole one end of the Royal Horticultural Societ hall. The flowers in the main were of t single and semi-double type, but Star var ties and the modern round petal bloom we also included. They showed an almost er less range of colour, from pure white, yello rose, pink, to crimson, as well as many c lightful bronze shades. This system growing Chrysanthemums as annuals po sesses not only the advantage of saving t labour of wintering the plants, but a ensures a great variety in form and colou The exhibit afforded a fine example of t usefulness and decorative value of seedli Chrysanthemums.

Prepare things for next season no

To have the vegetable and flower pl manured, dug, or trenched early in the seas is always an advantage, but unless time taken also by the forelock in placing ord for seeds, plants, etc., the work of sowi and planting may, perhaps, be delayed wh the spring is here.

Seeds and plants should be selected w care, and the keen gardener would not be p off with other than the best. Good resu can hardly be looked for when the cheap of seeds and plants are bought.

Manures should also be delivered in go season. Most artificial fertilisers can kept in a dry shed or similar place of stora for several months without deterioration.

Potassic manures are apt to cake or set hard lumps if stored in bags. If emptied a put in a loose heap on the floor of a dry sh this trouble will be averted. Superphospha are liable to burn the bags they are contain in if allowed to get damp.

Lime and basic slag need not be stored, b applied to the soil in course of the win months. Lime should not be dug in, b spread over the dug surface and raked forked in lightly. Basic slag should also forked into the surface soil. It can forked in more deeply at time of planting sowing.

Farmyard manure is best dug in as work of digging or trenching proceeds. may be wheeled on to the plots and put up tidy heaps, covered with a layer of ea during frosty weather. J. W

Aberdeen.

TRADE NOTE

Hampson's shoulder cultivator and ho

This is a new invention, and one wh saves a great deal of time and labour, es cially in large fruit and vegetable garde where there are long rows to keep cle The tool is adjustable and interchangea for hoe or cultivator in different widths. is extensively used in market gardens, ow to the great saving in time and the ease w which it is used. It is obtainable from ir mongers and implement dealers everywhe or from the Hampson's Shoulder Hoe C Ltd., 3, Hills Place, Oxford Circus, Lond W. 1. Demonstrations in the use of Shoulder Hoe are given at the Smithfi Show, also at Birmingham and the Brit Industries Fair.

Catalogues received, Autumn, 19

H. Prins, Wisbech, Cambs.—Hyacint Daffodils, Tulips, Snowdrops, Crocuses.

Dobbie and Co., Ltd., Edinburgh.—Bu Roses, Sweet Peas.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Christmas Decorations

WITH the advent of the festive season our thoughts naturally, as of yore, turn to the embellishment of our ms, either with evergreens, berries, or wers, usually the combination of three, be n the more palatial houses or the humble tage of the manual worker, each one ious to commemorate this great festival, nded down for bordering on two thou- d years, it has lost nothing of its est," nay, rather it appears to increase as h anniversary comes nd, and in one se not all-important, assists in no small ree the nurserymen florists who provide wealth of material t go to beautify our nes for a few weeks ing the shortest s of the year. rches and chapels all denominations brightened for the reatest of All s," while those o arrange for ity balls, fêtes, and ars early in the New spend lavishly on events, which from ndustrial standpoint l to the good.

regards pot plants, s take precedence e space and means allow. These, with of the lightest n b o o s, Junipers, coloured Dracæ- and Crotons, with sual variety of tall- ing and the ever- red Maidenhair provide ample e to draw upon; the dazzling ettia, early white a, the latest of the anthemums, Bou- s, Perpetual Car- ns, Cyclamens, las, Solanums, s, early Hyacinths, ssus, and in many ces Orchids in y, notably Calan- afford a wealth of lants for inter- ng and finishing ups where such are ed for big events.

The time has gone for formal groups like a clipped Laurel bank from back to front; lightness should be the aim of the decorator, and, to break the monotony of anything approaching stiffness, each plant should be allowed to show itself, irrespective of whether it is a few inches taller than its neighbour. Good effects are produced by a Poinsettia standing out prominent, a Calanthe with its arching sprays, Odontoglossums with noble spikes, or Euphorbia jacquiniæflora towering well above the groundwork. There are other Orchids and flowering plants suitable, but the few noted appeal to all, and are at their best, or should be, just now. In filling baskets, hallstands, or fire-places, let the colours blend, and, above all, lightness should be the prevailing order. In the arrangement of cut flowers lightness is necessary if a pleasing effect is to be produced. It is said that women have better taste, as well as a lighter hand, for this work, but some men decorate well, while others are a dismal failure in this respect. We must not trust to the hand alone; the eye must work with it as regards lightness, also in the blending of colour, as with the grouping of flowering plants.

Early Single Tulip Rising Sun

A very beautiful sport from the well-known Duchesse de Parma, producing very large and well-formed oval flowers of a rich deep canary yellow of clear colour tone. Height 16 inches on sturdy stems. A fine variety for either pots or bedding

At this season we should endeavour to make the most of our flowers, whether purchased or home-grown, using a good percentage of light, graceful foliage, such as many of our warm-house Ferns provide: Asparagus Sprengerii and plumosus, long sprays of green Box, Azara microphylla, the Alexandrian Laurel (Ruscus racemosus) — what a pity it is not more frequently met with—not omitting the ever-welcome Smilax, depending from trumpet vase or large epergne.

There are some flowers that are best kept to themselves, such as Arum Lilies, with their own foliage —in fact, all Lilies—although a head or two of Poinsettia would look bright if one could depend on their not drooping so persistently. Chrysanthemums should also be kept to themselves. Pink and yellow, white, and dark crimson or bronze go well together; while Orchids of all kinds

should not be mixed with any other flowers to mar their beauty. The white Roman Hyacinths, with a bloom or two of Duc Van Thol Tulip, are suitable for small glasses, intermingled with Maidenhair Fern; so with Christmas Roses, Lilies of the Valley, with a little of its own foliage, and Freesias, as well as Paper-white Narcissus, show to better advantage when kept distinct, likewise the earliest Camellias, all of which are in season at this time of year where a little fire heat has been afforded to the more backward ones. There is a wealth of flowers to be had where the purse will allow, all rather costly just now, but if only a little is invested they tend to brighten our rooms at this the greatest of all festivals; and by frequent change of water and a little shortening of the stem of the flowers it is surprising the length of time many of them will keep fresh and presentable. J. M.

Cutting evergreens

The time is at hand when, as is customary at this season, there will be a demand for evergreens for decorative purposes in rooms, in churches, and in village halls and schools. A word of warning may not be inappropriate to those who are responsible for the supplying of such material. Somehow or another the cutting of evergreens appears, generally, to devolve upon the gardener, and he as a rule generally delegates this work to one or more of his subordinates. Now, I submit that this ought to be, in every case, supervised by the responsible person, for very often those who are sent to cut the evergreens are either careless or have but a hazy idea of what and where to cut. Their job is merely to cut such and such a quantity of material, and in the majority of instances they select that which is most easily got, and without considering the effects of haphazard cutting. I speak feelingly on this matter because some years ago (and owing, I confess frankly, to my own lack of supervision) I had several fine specimen shrubs, including variegated Hollies, hopelessly mutilated. *Experientia docet*, and since then I have personally supervised the cutting of decorative material. The point appears to me to be worth mentioning, for it is certainly provocative of heartburning when the owner of the shrubs or trees observes the result of what, after all, is more the effect of lack of thought, or of carelessness in selection, than of deliberate purpose. It is one of life's little ironies, too, that the most effective and the most suitable pieces for decoration are invariably those which at once strike the eye, and which are without fail in the most prominent positions and the most easily missed when they are cut.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

A useful Christmas gift

THE subscription notice on page iv. should remind readers that one Christmas gift welcome to all garden lovers is a year's subscription to GARDENING ILLUSTRATED. Readers who are at a loss to know what to purchase their gardening friends for Christmas would do well to follow this suggestion. For the sum of 13s. GARDENING ILLUSTRATED will be stamped, addressed, and posted from the office each week for the whole year. Such a present would be a useful and constant reminder of friendship throughout the coming year.

Aalsmeer Spring Flower Show (Holland)

The new monumental auction hall of the Co-operative Society, "Central Aalsmeer Auction," covering 2,500 square metres, will be opened with a flower show on April 17th, 1928. The Aalsmeer florists and exporters are allowed to send in, and novelties from all countries are welcome. The show will be international with regard to the committee of honour and the jury. Florists who intend to send in novelties are requested to write to the Secretary, J. C. M. Mensing, Aalsmeer, Holland.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents

Rose pruning and Rose trials

REFERRING to the correspondence on Roses which has recently appeared in your columns, may I be allowed to make some comments?

Although autumn pruning has been advocated, it is strange that not a word on the subject is to be found in the latest edition of Mr. William Robinson's "English Flower Garden," to which many of us look for guidance. The idea of autumn pruning of Roses is not new, as on consulting Loudon's "Encyclopædia of Gardening," published in 1826, I found the following: "A very good time for performing the operation (pruning) is immediately after the bloom is over; cutting out old exhausted wood, shortening shoots which have flowered to a good bud accompanied with a healthy leaf, but leaving such shoots as are still in a growing state untouched till October." Again, in Johnson's "Cottage Gardeners' Dictionary," published in 1857, it is said: "Only stop these (the branches) at first, and wait until the autumn before you cut them clean off." Quoting these authorities leaves me open to the remark that the Roses referred to were not Hybrid Teas, which had not been "invented" then. Just so, but the result would be the same with both classes of Roses, especially in a mild autumn like the present, viz., the dormant buds would be encouraged or forced to break, with dire result probably, if followed by severe frost. The risk attached to autumn pruning of Roses is in my humble opinion too great.

I am wholly with "W. R." in what he wrote as to Roses unworthy of the honour being awarded the Gold Medal. It is not, in my opinion, fair to the public that awards to Roses should be given solely on exhibited blooms, as these are generally the products of plants which have been abnormally treated. Whilst the correspondence as to Roses was appearing in your columns you announced that awards had been made to certain varieties of Dahlias which had been sent to Wisley for trial. I had hoped that an abler writer than I am would have suggested that exhibited Roses should be treated in like manner. I do not know, but I think that the National Rose Society hasn't a trial ground of its own. If this is the case why should not all new Roses put up for award, either at shows of the R.H.S. or N.R.S., be sent to Wisley for trial? There they could be grown in a normal way and adjudicated upon under number by a joint committee of the R.H.S. and N.R.S. Someone may suggest in reply that by adopting this method the trade would be injured, but no injury has been inflicted on growers of Dahlias, Carnations, etc., by trials at Wisley. "Once bitten twice shy" buyers of new Roses can well be; and surely there are few who have not bought Roses on the strength of blooms exhibited at shows. Anyhow, I have been a victim, although I admit that I ought to have known better. Last year I took a strong liking for some exhibited blooms of Wilhelm Kordes—the name is forbidding, but what's in a name?—and, having it recommended to me, I planted a bed of it carefully. The result was very disappointing, as no plant produced two flowers alike, and those were so indifferent in quality that I have dug up the 36 I bought, and I am a sadder, poorer, and a wiser man as a result. Amateurs are groping in the dark as to the value of new Roses, and the time has surely come when they should have the opportunity of knowing which Roses have been judged *in situ* by an impartial tribunal and the result.

I hope I may be forgiven for the length of this letter, but I feel that I ought to write in the interests of many would-be buyers of new Roses, which should bear a hall-mark of, say, Class 1 for the equivalent of F.C.C., and Class 2 for the equivalent of A.M. in R.H.S. awards, the present G.M. award of the N.R.S. being treated as Class 1.

OLD HAND.

[Our correspondent, who prefers to remain anonymous, is a well-known amateur, and his views are worthy of very careful consideration. With regard to trials of Roses we have pleasure in announcing that the National Rose Society is now making arrangements for a trial ground in the neighbourhood of Haywards Heath, Sussex. This trial ground will be under the personal supervision of the Secretary, Mr. Courtney Page, who will reside there. The trial ground is, we understand, now in course of construction, and we hope to refer to the subject again in the near future.—ED.]

Pears Nouvelle Fulvie and Durondeau or De Tongres

The notes anent these two Pears from "W. McG." (issue December 3rd, pages 749 and 750) should prove of service to intending planters of the Pear, and especially so to those who felt any hesitancy as to the inclusion of these two varieties in their lists. I agree in the main with all that "W. McG." has to say about them, but should like to be permitted to add a few general remarks, as I have had a long acquaintance and experience of these two varieties, amongst many others, and I consider no collection of Pears to be complete without them. Both are indispensable for the table where the demand is large and continuous, also for exhibition purposes. Before ceasing to be an exhibit one or both of these varieties were usually selected for the making up of a collection consisting of a certain number of dishes. The first-named is a valuable late Pear, attaining a good size in a favourable situation and warm soil. It assumes a good deal of colour which renders the fruits very attractive.

According to my experience, I think its cultivation should be confined to a wall facing south-west or west. Durondeau, which is a November-ripening variety, also succeeds remarkably well when grown against walls of similar aspect. It is very prolific also as a pyramid, and from the latter I usually obtained the best and most highly coloured specimens. It was from such a tree I gathered the dish of Durondeau which, with other varieties, I exhibited at the Pear Conference held by the Royal Horticultural Society at Chiswick in 1885. A striking characteristic of the variety is the smallness of the foliage. It is a healthy, free grower, and produces an abundance of fruiting spurs. With me the quality and flavour was always first-rate, a circumstance, doubtless, due to a warm site

ıd situation. Both of the varieties under view are of Belgian origin, and have been commerce a considerable number of years. With respect to the variety Bezi de la lotte, mentioned by " W. McG.," I have, I gret to say, never met with it, but find, ı looking through the descriptive list of ears issued with the Report of the Pear onference, it is there listed and briefly de-ribed. The name of Pragnell in brackets ppears against it, so it was presumably hibited by Mr. Pragnell, of Sherborne astle, Dorset. A. W.

Magnolia stellata

ENCLOSE a photograph taken this spring of a Magnolia stellata in bloom in my garden here. It is 12 feet high and oing strong, and I fancy must be one of ıe best specimens about. This Magnolia enerally spreads out, and does not go up ıuch over 8 feet, I fancy.

You can imagine what a lovely sight it is ı full bloom, with its dead white blossom, ı a sunny spring day before any leaf is out. It is well, I think, to reproduce things like ıis in the planting season, to encourage eople to plant good things. For a moderate-zed garden I consider this Magnolia one of ıe very choicest of trees or shrubs. It lways blooms as freely as this, but occa-onally it has been cut by a hard frost; ven then it recovers and more buds open. eedless to say, it should never be cut or uned.

My soil is coarse sand, with plenty of leaf ıil added, but I have never top-dressed the ee. (Rev.) Clements G. O. Bond.

Furze Hills, Churt, near Farnham.

Rose Muriel Grahame

In reply to " Midlander " (issue December d, page 758), re Muriel Grahame Rose, I ell remember this Rose many years ago at ıe Crystal Palace Rose Show, when hybrid erpetuals used to be so well shown, and it as in conjunction with Catherine Mermet, larie Van Houtte, and Cleopatra, by the te Mr. Prior, who used to show the finest ea Roses I ever saw. If " Midlander " ıds Muriel Grahame or any Tea on Brier ock about 2 feet high he will find a great nprovement in colour and size of flowers. have proved Muriel Grahame a most use-ıl variety for pot work, but I am doubtful many can be found to-day. B. N.

Are Antirrhinums annuals?

I adopt the heading given by your corre-ıondents to a query and reply on this sub-ct, but it is not a good one, since there ın be only one answer to the question of ct, which is in the negative, as Mr. Rich-dson points out. The question should ther be worded: " How should Antir-ıinums be classed for show? "

An annual is a plant which germinates ıd produces its flower and seed within a ar (not necessarily the same year), and then es. A biennial germinates and produces its aves in one year, but does not flower until e following year, and then dies. A peren-al may or may not flower the first year om seed, but it differs from annuals and ennials in flowering more than once, often any times before it dies. It will be observed at the definitions of annuals and biennials e not mutually exclusive, but I am unable supply better ones, unless it be that ınuals flower and die within twelve months, hile biennials take more than twelve onths.

But the point must not be lost sight of at many plants under different treatment conditions may behave anomalously. Thus ıtirrhinums in our garden soils behave as ınuals, though in their native haunts they e perennials of several years' duration. Quite old plants may be seen on chalky railway banks or on old walls.

Other perennial plants are too tender to survive our winters, so have come to be treated as annuals. For example, the Castor Oil plant is annual with us, but forms a shrub in South Europe. Eschscholtzias are grown by us as annuals, but are true perennials in the Western States, and so for many other species—*e.g.*, Salpiglossis.

To define an " annual " as a " flower grown from seed during the present season " does not meet the case, since some perennials—*e.g*, Delphiniums, Phloxes, and, I think, Dahlias—will often flower the first year from seed.

Magnolia stellata, mid-April, 1927

Height, 12 feet; planted autumn, 1907. In the garden at Furze Hills, Churt

It is not to be expected that every gardener, or even every nurseryman, will know the duration in their native countries of every plant they grow, and the question is not an easy one to answer. I can only suggest, as has already been suggested, that the committees of horticultural societies must define their classes and name the doubtful plants which may or may not be exhibited in them; but this is not a complete removal of the difficulty, since it still leaves them to determine which are " doubtful plants," and to print lists would seriously add to the cost of preparing the schedules. Perhaps a class might be made of " Annuals (or biennials) or plants usually grown as such," but even this may give rise to discussion.

A. H. Wolley-Dod.

Gooseberry buds and birds

Under the heading " Gooseberries," page 756, your correspondent says: " Pruning of the old bushes may be pushed forward when convenient unless birds are troublesome, when it is well to defer until spring." The advice given really amounts to this: Let the birds clear out all the upper or well-placed buds, on the most exposed and best-ripened wood. Then in spring cut those twigs or branches away, and content yourself with what the birds have seen fit to leave.

It is quite true that with the exception of some of the dessert varieties, which they seem to prefer, the birds will often leave enough for a crop; but the fruit is more likely to be towards the centre of the bush, and no pruner can shape the latter as he wishes; he must be guided by what buds the birds have left, and prune accordingly.

In many gardens the difficulty does not arise, the bush fruit quarters being covered with fine wire netting; but where they are unprotected it is wise when birds are likely to peck out the buds of Gooseberries and Red Currants to prune early, close up the bushes somewhat with a circle of string, and cover with small pieces of old fish netting, useless for other purposes. When this is unobtainable, Furze (Gorse) or evergreen boughs will prevent wholesale destruction.

The bushes can be freed just after the

buds have burst, and will quickly regain their natural shape.

The advice to prune in spring has been so often given in the gardening Press, and is so misleading, that I am sure so courteous a writer as Mr. Blair will not object to my criticism. J. COMBER.

Rose Covent Garden

I am glad to see the appreciation of this Rose on page 737, in the issue dated November 26th, and can endorse all "F. H." says about its good qualities, unless, indeed, his claim for freedom of blooming. In this I do not find Covent Garden anything but fair, and it is not an early variety, but produces fine flowers right up till the frost stops further development. This year I cut some really good, finely coloured blooms on November 15th, and only hard frost prevented other buds opening. The variety is a very strong, upright grower, not really ideal as a "bedder," but still one of the very best dark Roses for cut-flower purposes, as the stems are quite stiff, and it is easy to secure plenty of length when cutting, while the foliage is ample and beautiful. It is unfortunate that the blooms, of fine size and form, are practically scentless.

C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Apple Gravenstein

I have grown this as a Cordon, and found, as Mr. Burrell has (issue December 3rd, page 750), that it is a shy and uncertain bearer. I concluded that it is not suitable for the restricted habit a Cordon involves, so I have thrown it out. It would possibly bear better if it were allowed freer habit of growth that I have not room for.

Moyheelan, Willaston, Near Birkenhead. J. M. SMYTH.

Apple Queen Mary

I must publicly reply to Mr. Chapman's letter about my suggested aspersions and "strong" remarks concerning the Apple Queen Mary, that the said remarks should apply to members of the R.H.S. committee who gave the Apple the award. Such thoughts never entered my mind.

I also thank your other correspondent for the information as to the origin of the Apple Queen Mary, and its likeness to American Mother. It is a most remarkable coincidence that two Apples raised in different parts of the world should come almost identical in every respect.

Some time ago I raised a very pretty outdoor Chrysanthemum, and, having named it and given cuttings to friends locally, I learn that someone else had given it another name, taken it up to the R.H.S., and it received an award. Here, again, I do not imply anything against the R.H.S. experts.

I know also of a Blackberry and another Apple which have been deliberately renamed and have been put on the market. I have also seen at an R.H.S. Show a Geranium as old as the hills (metaphorically) shown with a wonderful name, and called new. In this case it is quite possible that it was raised by the exhibitor and shown in all honesty as new, but it was identical in colouring with a very old variety. W. F. M. COPELAND.

December Roses

This extraordinary year seems to be carrying on its reputation to the last. I have just (December 9th) picked some quite good Roses from Lady Waterlow, and the other bushes are still covered with buds. Lady Waterlow is really wonderful; she has been covered with lovely blooms the whole summer, growing as a pillar, and they are beautiful in water, too. I really think she is one of the best pillar Roses, and very hard to beat.

Ross-on-Wye. M. A. PILKINGTON.

The Cherokee Rose

Surely it is incorrect to call the beautiful shell-pink Rosa sinica Anemone the Cherokee Rose? The latter name was originally given to the single white species, Rosa lævigata, or Rosa sinica, which is one of the parents of the much hardier and better-known R. sinica Anemone. The true Cherokee Rose is undoubtedly tender, but I have seen flourishing specimens on sunny walls in South Devon and in West Somerset. In the South of England R. sinica Anemone makes rampant growth and flowers profusely in any sunny position, not necessarily on a wall. I should like to call attention to a little-known Rose of fairly recent origin which much resembles R. sinica Anemone—that is, Mrs. Rosalie Wrinch. I do not know its parentage, but its rich pink single flowers resemble sinica Anemone more closely than any other Rose with which I am acquainted. It is a strong grower and flowers early in the season, excellent for walls or pillars. N. G. HADDEN.

West Porlock, Som.

—— Surely an error has crept in by adding "Anemone" to the above Rose's name? I have grown both of these Roses for years, and when I bought Rosa sinica x "Anemone" it was *said* to be a hybrid of sinica and "Mrs. Sharman Crawford." My original plant of R. lævigata (or sinica) was a cutting from a plant obtained from one brought home from India more than 30 years ago, and grew on a house wall at Kingswear, S. Devon, where it bloomed freely—a lovely white flower. R. s. Anemone is a freer bloomer and very beautiful. Both in S. Devon and in the Island I have found both Roses quite hardy, and they cover large spaces of wall when well grown. The original plant had only three leaflets to the leaf—later specimens seem to have five, sometimes—perhaps from the effects of the stock plant when budded. C. M. B.

Isle of Wight.

Stately Mulleins in open woodland

Viburnums fragrans

For the last three weeks Viburnum fragrans has been in full bloom. January and February are usual for the flowering of this cheerful shrub in this district. T. W. B.

Chepstow.

Single Chrysanthemums

I wish to support "Midlander's" very able and timely article on what is a single Chrysanthemum. There are many amongst them with six or more rows of petals, and yet termed singles. As "Midlander" suggests, why not semi-doubles, which to my mind is much more appropriate? I think we should have some proper definition as to how many rows of petals really constitutes a single "Mum." I have no desire to belittle the present so-called singles of to-day, because to my mind they are amongst the very best of the Chrysanthemum family for decorative purposes. In Roses we have single Roses, and termed as such, also Dahlias and many other flowers. B. NASH.

Mulleins or Verbascum

THE Mulleins are stately, hardy plants for the flower border or shrubbery, for which they deservedly hold a high reputation for value and distinctive beauty. They are equally as attractive and useful growing in openings between shrubs in the shrubbery as in the flower border. They do not mind a little shade, so are suitable for north borders, and are quite at home growing irregularly among hardy Ferns on banks and borders. In company with Foxgloves they are useful to fill temporarily bare spaces between shrubs. Mulleins grow and thrive in nearly all soils and positions wherever the roots can get sufficient roothold to obtain food. Self-sown seedlings are common in many gardens, particularly the common Mullein (Verbascum phlomoides). The plants grow along the sides of gravel paths and come up in the crevices between the stones of paved walks.

Seeds may be sown any time from April to August where the plants are to flower, or on a spare strip of ground from which in autumn the seedlings can be moved to their flowering positions. The earlier dates for sowing are preferable, as some of the Mulleins are biennial, and it is desirable to have as large plants as possible by the season of flowering.

The common yellow Mullein, with its stately spikes of flower up to about 6 feet in height, is a biennial, and readily raised from seeds. The variety Miss Willmott is another biennial of vigorous habit, with handsome spikes of white flowers averaging 5 feet to 6 feet in height. Harkness Hybrid is another yellow-flowered biennial, the flowers being freely produced on 6 feet high spikes from June to August or September. Caledonia, with its coppery-buff flowers shot with purple, is very showy, the spikes averaging 4 feet high.

V. densiflorum is rightly named, for the closely-packed spikes of golden-bronze flowers are a great attraction from June to October. This is a true perennial, as is also Phœniceum, one of the prettiest and most distinct of the Mulleins. It is quite a dainty little plant with very slender flower-spikes from 2 feet to 3 feet high. The normal colour of the flowers is violet and red, but a packet of mixed seeds usually gives plants with pale blue, mauve, purple, pink, and white flowers. All are easy to grow and readily raised from seeds.

J. BAKEWELL SMITH.

Tennyson's garden at Somersby
The poet's birthplace is seen in the background

Tennyson's Garden at Somersby

LOVERS of the writings of Alfred Tennyson will be interested in seeing a photograph of the garden at Somersby, with he birthplace of the poet in the background.

It will be remembered that Tennyson's first oem was on "The Flowers in the Somersby iarden," and many of his poems make refernce to the beauty and fragrance of the arden.

What more charming word-picture of the oral beauty of the garden can be wished for nan that portrayed in the following lines :—

A garden bower'd close
With plaited alleys of the trailing rose,
Long alleys falling down to twilight grots,
Or opening upon level plots
Of crowned lilies, standing near
Purple spiked lavender."

In "The Gardener's Daughter," too, we atch many delightful glimpses of the abode f the goddess Flora, where

The daughters of the year,
One after one, thro' that still garden pass'd,
Each garlanded with her peculiar flower,
Danced into light, and died into shade."

The song, "Come into the garden, Maud," eathes the aroma of the pleasaunce where the woodbine spices are wafted abroad, and ie musk of the rose is blown."

That Tennyson passionately loved the garen at Somersby there can be little doubt. was there he enjoyed to the full the comanionship of Arthur Hallam, the man he eemed to be half-divine.

All the changing scenes from early spring late autumn were noted by the poet, and voiced his regret, in the following lines, when the fall of the year effaced the splendour of the garden :—

"My very heart faints, and my whole soul grieves
At the moist rich smell of the rotting leaves,
And the breath
Of the fading edges of box beneath,
And the year's last rose,
Heavily hangs the broad sunflower
Over its grave i' the earth so chilly;
Heavily hangs the hollyhock,
Heavily hangs the tiger lily."

H. WALKER.

Gayton-le-Marsh, Alford, Lincs.

Some interesting and beautiful Pentstemon species

Although one seldom sees the many species of Pentstemons, they are, nevertheless, as showy and as interesting as the garden hybrids. The collection in these gardens has created a great deal of comment and genuine surprise. The attraction is mostly with the blue ones, some of which are delightful. Where space is no object these Pentstemons grown in masses are a great feature in any rock garden or herbaceous border, and even in small gardens one or two of the best colours should find a home. Pentstemons are of easy cultivation and quite hardy. They are propagated from seed or root division either in the autumn or spring and like a rich soil with a fair amount of sand in the compost. We find very little difference between the plants which are planted in the autumn or those wintered in boxes and then planted out in March. The following are 12 of the best out of others grown here.

P. CŒRULEUS (sometimes known as Chelone cœrulea).—A lovely blue species growing to 1 foot in height, flowers in June and July, has a nice spreading habit and long spikes of flower.

P. GLABER.—Purple, strong in foliage, and blooms in August. We have a white form of it also.

P. ALPINUS.—One of the best, light blue, 9 inches in height, and most suitable for rock gardens.

P. SCOULERI.—A nice shapely shrub with mauve flowers 1 foot high. This species is best propagated by cuttings in the autumn.

P. MENZIESII.—Only 4 inches to 6 inches in height. An evergreen shrub, foliage densely matted, flowers like P. Scouleri only a lighter shade of mauve.

P. CONFERTUS.—Grows to 18 inches in height, has spikes of very small yellow flowers.

P. GRANDIFLORUS.—A splendid, handsome species, lovely foliage, and grows to 3 feet. Flowers are shades of mauve.

P. CYANANTHUS.—Another pleasing Pentstemon of a blue shade. Grows from 2 feet to 3 feet high.

P. BARBATUS.—Often known as Chelone barbata. Is 3 feet high, flowers in July and August, red in colour.

P. PUBESCENS.—Violet, 1 foot high, in bloom in August and September. There is also a white form.

P. RICHARDSONII.—Another violet-coloured Pentstemon 1½ feet high. Flowers in June and July.

P. OVATUS.—One of the tallest of the group, reaching 5 feet. Flowers are shades of blue.

R. MOORE.

Thorpe Hall Gardens,
Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex.

ALPINES

Yellow-flowering Saxifrages

THERE is perhaps no genus of plants more useful, certainly none more beautiful, than the Saxifrages, whether on border or rockery, in sun or in shade.

Easy to grow, requiring only to be planted according to the nature of the growth, as a general rule—*i.e.*, soft green-leaved species in shade, and those with hard, encrusted, or leathery leaves in the sun, thus rendering the Rockfoils adaptable for all purposes.

Of variety, especially in form, there is no lack, and white, rose, crimson, yellow, and spotted flowers in plenty.

Every rosette of leaves has a bright gift for the spring, and every flowery contribution is perfect and beautiful. Most of the varieties of their different sections are of the easiest culture, if planted in rocky crevices in a gritty soil.

Saxifraga Elizabethæ, a very lovely hybrid, with narrow leaves and sulphur-coloured flowers.

S. flavescens, encrusted section, with pale-yellow blossoms.

S. lutea, choice pale-yellow flowered form of the encrusted section.

S. aizoides, a native variety with yellow flowers.

S. Paulinæ, a beautiful Saxifrage with large lemon flowers and pretty glaucous foliage.

S. lutea viridis, a beautiful hybrid with yellow blossoms, the stem and calyx deep green.

S. aretoides, an alpine plant, with golden flowers rising from small spiny rosettes; a splendid acquisition.

S. Faldonside, a lovely hybrid, with large primrose-yellow flowers in February and March.

S. brunoniana majuscula, a very distinct and remarkable Saxifrage, forming little round cushions of slightly hairy pointed narrow leaves, with yellow flowers and interesting crimson thread-like runners, whilst the terminal tufts root quite readily.

S. Boydii, an interesting and charming hybrid. The stems rise from cushion-like growths and bear yellow flowers; a charming variety.

Saxifraga Faldonside
A well grown pan of primrose-yellow flowers

Saxifraga Fortunei, flowers of late autumn

S. Kotschyi, a densely tufted species from Asia Minor, bearing leafy cymes of bright golden flowers, with encrusted foliage. The flowers on first opening are yellowish green, with age becoming golden yellow.

S. luteo purpurea, a very attractive hybrid from the Pyrenees; red stems and sepals and yellow to apricot coloured blossoms; very attractive.

S. dalmatica, a splendid acquisition, perhaps the finest of all the yellow flowering sections. Pretty rosettes, with grey foliage, and fine, deep, large yellow flowers; it is free-flowering, and ought to be in every collection.

G. L.

Saxifraga Fortunei

THIS Saxifrage brings up the rearguard of the family, coming into bloom after the rank and file have passed for the season. Indeed, in some seasons, S. Fortunei is almost too late—just coming into flower in time to be caught by the early frosts. The blooms are large and showy, while the foliage, until frost arrives, is very ample and fresh-looking. A few degrees of frost, however, will dispose of its effectiveness in a few hours, yet it is a very charming Saxifrage, and is well worthy of inclusion even if, at times, its period of display is of the briefest.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Gentiana Parryi

This has all the pleasing characters, and vies with other species in colour and density of bloom.

It is also precious for its hardiness and use in all sorts of places.

It is a capital little plant for the lower ledges of rock in a sunny position, as in such a place the shoots fall down some 9 inches and become masses of rich blue bloom.

Given a light, sandy soil of good depth and a sunny position, where its branching flower stems may spread themselves out, carrying a succession of flower, it is a plant that we may expect to see appearing with renewed vigour year after year. This quality is sufficient to warrant its planting on a large scale.

Frequent top dressings of loam and leaf mould well rotted are the keynote to successful cultivation. This should be well worked in and about the plants. If they are planted in groups a few bits of rock placed among the plants will do good by preventing evaporation, and also act as a protection to the plants, which never outgrow their position.

In consequence of its exceeding brilliancy of colour and spreading habit, it is well suited for fissures on the exposed faces of rocks, the colour telling a long way off, while it is also a gem for association with the smallest alpine flowers.

Nothing is more lovely than a patch of this plant in full bloom and healthy on a bright July day, and it should form carpets on every rock garden.

This plant is best increased by seed sown as soon as it is ripe in well-drained pots of light soil. I usually cover the surface of the soil after sowing with a little moss to ensure uniform dampness and place in a cold frame. As soon as the plants begin to appear, which may be in a month, the moss should be gradually removed. As soon as the first leaf is developed they should be potted in tiny pots of rich, light soil and encouraged to grow as long as possible, being sheltered in a cold frame with abundance of air at all times.

Plants usually flower in two years from seed. This, however, is entirely determined by the health and vigour of the specimen. If the plants grow as they should do, and develop from the outset a sturdy, robust habit, they should be expected to throw out a flower shoot or two at that age.

A handful of sand placed round the crown of the plant will guard against the predatory slug, which shows a decided liking for Gentians.

Being grown in pots, they may be planted out at one's convenience when strong enough.

H. STEVENS.

Rosemary growing in masonry

WHEN a plant gets its seeds into the joints of stonework it is interesting to see how little it seems to need to give adequate sustenance. The illustration ows how Rosemary, no doubt from seeds m a bush at the foot of the steps, is urishing in the mortared joints where a gh stone stair, giving access to an outside or of a loft, meets the back of a stable lding. The original mortar may have tly come out of the joints, but no soil other n natural dust, and perhaps a little dried l decayed Moss, is there to sustain the dling Rosemaries, which have already wn to a height of 4 feet 6 inches and are king good young shoots at the top. They growing more or less flat against the ll as if conscious that they must not en-ach on the space required by those who s up and down the steps. A rock Pink l a tuft of Alyssum are also growing well, arently in nothing. In Italy Rosemary is netimes used, trained close, to cover low lls. It should more often be grown in this y at home in places where a good wall ering up to a height of about 5 feet, and a fairly warm aspect, is wanted. The mon pink China Rose trained just over among the Rosemary would make a still re enjoyable wall veiling.

ome other examples of shrubs and even s, rooting apparently in nothing, have urred in the same garden. The tall, ubby Spiræa Lindleyana is growing in the arently sound joints of brickwork. About year 1913 a seed of Scotch Pine lodged in top of a cottage chimney; it grew and le steady, short-jointed increase for eight rs, and had become a bushy little tree over et high, when it was killed by the long ght of 1921. Another chimney on the e cottage has now on its top a thriving e Birch tree, whose ultimate fate is as yet nown. G. J.

A useful annual

Statice Suworori

his beautiful easily-grown annual is not n seen in the amateur's garden, yet it is of the best annuals we have. It is not a plant, but it has become very popular ng the past few years. It was intro-d from Turkestan as long ago as 1883.

may be sown outside where it is in-led to flower in April or May, but in sed late districts better results will be ined if the seed is sown under glass. planting in beds or borders it is ex-ely useful, and continues flowering for greater part of the summer. As a pot t for the greenhouse it is excellent. Any ts that have not flowered in the borders ld be lifted and potted. These will hten the greenhouse during the early er months.

hen well grown it produces spikes 2 feet ven 3 feet in length, of deep pink flowers. re is also a white form. The spikes of the white and pink are very much ched.

the spikes are cut when in full flower hung upside down in a dry room they come in very useful for winter decora-This Statice does well in a deep, sandy and where it is exposed to the sun.

"SOLWAY."

The Oriental Poppies

e large flowered herbaceous plants n under the general name of Oriental ies form one of the brightest and most esting features of our borders during month of June, the display sometimes ; prolonged well into July.

The old scarlet flower, with its boss of black anthers, has for many years been a familiar plant to us all, and there are few cottage gardens which are not adorned with this noble plant.

There are now a number of other varieties, differing chiefly in the colour of their blossoms, which make good border plants, for they possess that clearness of colour that is essential in plants suitable for adding beauty to the garden.

Poppies are delightful as a cut flower, and should be cut just when the buds are bursting. They will then open freely in water, and reveal to the fullest extent the beauty of the papery petals. H. STEVENS.

Rosemary, Alyssum, and Rock Pink in stone steps

Window plants in December

Hyacinths of the Roman type make splendid table plants in December, when there is not a very wide range of flowers in blossom. These will now be in fine bloom, if they were put in early. Other bulbs in pots will follow, and, if brought gradually to the light, they will be kept from blanching.

Good natured foliage plants of Aspidistra, Aralia, Farfugium, India Rubber, Centaurea, and Dracæna make useful plants for window or table. One advantage which these foliage subjects have over many of the more delicate kinds of flowering plants is that they will thrive well in almost any atmosphere indoors. They are greatly improved by an occasional sponging, as it helps to keep the foliage clean and healthy. No plant can thrive if its leaves are coated with dust. Watering must be attended to, but at this season it is better not to give too much, especially during frosty weather. If frost is severe some sort of protection may be needed during the night. A sheet of newsprint or tissue paper placed between the plant and the glass will do.

Chrysanthemums are still highly prized as winter flowers. Those now in bloom should not be kept too close. Unless they enjoy plenty of air they will not remain very long in full bloom. They must, however, be kept free from damp and frost; but they must not be allowed to get too dry, or the lower leaves will begin to fade and turn brown or yellow. Nothing spoils the appearance of a house plant so much as unhealthy foliage, fading blooms, or the like. Pick off all dead leaves, and clip off the fading blooms, and the plant will remain in bloom a good while longer than when neglected. Do not, however, finger the healthy foliage or the inflorescence.

Aberdeen. J. W.

Apples in an Amateur's Garden in the South of England

By W. F. M. Copeland

(Concluded from page 767)

I NOW come to what are called American Apples. These are possibly quite strange to most of my readers, although I have had all these that I enumerate growing for some years in my garden.

But, first, I must protest against calling them American. True, some were raised in the States, but not all. Besides, we import vast quantities of these Apples into our markets from Canada, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, and even from South Africa.

Now, I have on my list before me some fourteen varieties. I have found them as a rule to fruit freely, though one or two have been rather obstinate, and have run to growth and had to be checked, root pruned, or transplanted, and so I have not had time to test all properly.

Practically all these Apples flower late compared to our own Apples; this is an advantage both as regards frost and in escaping from those abominable moths which lay their eggs in the flowers of our earlier Apples, and which hatch out into maggots in the fruit.

I propose now to give a description of these Apples in the order in which they ripen with me in the South of England.

No. 1, Pumpkin Sweet.—A fine grower, good fruiter, ripe the end of September. It makes a huge Apple, as green as grass, as sweet as sugar, soft, and very juicy. It does not keep much past the middle of November, when its flavour is lost. I do not see why this Apple should not do well a good way further north, as it ripens so early.

No. 2, Wolf River.—This Apple is a good bearer and grower, and produces enormous Apples. Why do people grow that abominable Apple Peasgood Nonsuch, when Wolf River is far preferable? It is not attractive as a dessert Apple. It is soft and juicy, and has not much flavour, but it is exceedingly pretty to look at, brick-red on yellow ground, and is a splendid baker.

No. 3, Opalescent.—A good grower, heavy fruiter; very big Apples, brilliant red where exposed to the sun, soft flesh, very juicy, but flavour nothing very striking compared to others. I would prefer to grow this to Worcester Pearmain or Ellison's Orange.

No. 4, King David.—This ripens in November, and is a perfectly gorgeous Apple. Talk about colour! Scarlet crimson, flesh yellow; splendid flavour, keeps well for quite three or four months, and the tree bears a colossal amount of fruit. I took a photograph of my small tree on my wall the other day bearing some three dozen Apples; last year it had more than double the crop. Its flavour is different from other Apples, which makes it, of course, interesting. I now come to

No. 5, Delicious, and I cannot speak too highly of this Apple. It more than deserves its name. Don't you remember buying this Apple at the Empire Exhibition in the New Zealand stall for threepence each? And they were Delicious there. The trees always bear a big crop, and I personally consider it rivals Cox's Orange Pippin. It has every quality for a perfect Apple. It gets ripe at once, it will keep five months and keeps its flavour; its name describes its flavour, which is quite different from others. It is very juicy and crisp. What more can you want in an Apple?

No. 6, Macintosh Red.—Now, what I said about Delicious I can almost say about this Apple also. It gets ripe about the middle of November, and has a wonderful flavour of its own, which I think develops after it has been picked a month or two. What makes it so striking is that, when you come to peel this very juicy and soft Apple, most of the flesh is suffused with a sort of pink tint, somewhat on the lines of Pear Conference. These two apples—Delicious and Macintosh Red—I put at the very tip-top, not only of American Apples, but of all other English Apples also, bar Cox's Orange! I would far rather have these than Ribston Pippin.

No. 7, Rome Beauty.—I grew this as a bush for a few years, and found it required a good summer to ripen the fruit and to bring out the flavour. Now I have it on a wall, and doing well. When ripe in November this Apple is very juicy and very crisp, with a sweet sharpness and a flavour which again I cannot describe. It has a texture on the lines of a Ribston Pippin, is a splendid grower and keeper, and a regular fruiter.

I hope that I am not making my account like a fruiterer's catalogue, but what am I to do? The next on my list of American Apples is

No. 8, Spitzbergen.—What a name! It suggests that it grows in the Arctic regions! I have a couple of trees growing on my garden walls; they began fruiting well as soon as they were established, and I was perfectly thrilled one day when I went into my Apple cupboard and put my teeth into a Spitzbergen —juicy, and such an unexpected flavour. Keeps? Of course it does, well into the New Year. The Apple has a queer yellowy buff tint with streaks of red. As I said, both my trees are on a wall, and I think they need a good deal of sun. Anyhow, I have a few nice Apples from them this year, which is saying a good deal.

No. 9, Grime's Golden.—I have had a lot of trouble with this tree. As a bush it would grow and grow like mad, huge leaves, very bushy, but at last I have had a crop off it, and have great hopes for next year. All the same, I intend to run a good nail into it in the spring, to help things on! On the other hand, I have one of this sort on a wall, and it fruits well. The fruit is rather like a Russet, and if you attempt to eat it before the New Year you will be disappointed. It is a magnificent keeper, rather like the Duke of Devonshire, and its flavour excellent.

No. 10, Crawley Beauty.—Please note, this is an American Apple; in the States it has got another name. When I bought my house in 1910 I found this Apple tree growing in the garden, and it appeared that it had been planted there by some predecessor quite five years before. This Apple flowers extremely late, and bears the most colossal crop of fruit imaginable. It is soft in flesh, juicy, and attractive in colour, streaked red on yellow. It is ripe from January to March. It ripens at the time of the year when nearly all the Northern Hemisphere Apples are over, and before the Southern come in; therefore, if you have room to keep this Apple and have a ready market near by, you can get more for this Apple than for any other. I sold a lot one year for ninepence a pound.

No. 11, Stayman's Winesap.—This ripens in the New Year, and is a vivid crimson and very juicy.

No. 12, York Imperial, is a bright yellow Apple, and gets ripe in the New Year. A good flavour and juicy.

Both these above varieties are imported in large quantities, and you can easily buy them from your fruiterer. Ask your local man for the names of his Apples, and you will be astonished how few know the names Our American cousins always like names i full and as long as possible. For instance we speak of a Lift; they call it an "Eleva tor." We speak of a Car; they speak o an "Automobile." Hence in this countr you may only recognise these last two Apple by one of their two names, *i.e.*, Winesaps an Imperials.

No. 13, Winter Banana.—I have bee growing this as a standard, and it fruit well but wants a great deal of sun. It has good flavour and is a good keeper. I ough possibly to have put this earlier on the lis as it really is ripe in November, but keep for months.

Finally I come to No. 14, Ontario. cannot say much about this personall because I have my first Apple still on th tree! I was certainly amazed, however, th spring to see a small tree of this sort in pot at a show with some of the previou year's Apples still sticking on to it. Th catalogue says it is either for cooking dessert, and does not get ripe till May; thin of that! The proof of the pudding is th eating; as I have not done the latter I w leave you to surmise whether it is sweet otherwise.

So there is my list. I do hope that as result of the perusal of what I have writte it may induce others to grow a lot of the lovely Apples that they have never heard before. Don't forget the new slogan, "E more fruit from your own garden."

Staking fruit trees

In mild, open winters many fruit trees a always planted, as the ground cannot alwa be got ready so as to allow of getting t trees in at the best date—the month November. I think, however, that plante incur great risk in very wet winters like t present—that is to say, where the soil is clined to be strong and the subsoil cold, should very severe frost set in, as it son times does, in January, the roots are ve liable to suffer. In such positions it is better to let the ground remain rough throu the next summer, scuffling it well to ke down weeds, or even cropping it with sumn vegetables, and then to plant the trees following November. This is a gain in end. Much, however, depends upon circu stances and how the trees are planted. have lately been planting on land nev acquired by my employer trees of Lan Prince Albert, Charles Ross, and Bramle Seedling, three Apples that do well in t district, and I do not apprehend any ha even should severe weather set in, as the is a light loam resting on a whitish sand b In this medium I hope for early fertility, should the roots descend into the sand fibrous condition would be the result. In t case I did not adopt the mound princi which I usually do when planting fruit tr on a cold, retentive bottom or subsoil. St ing is often left until high winds work m mischief. Stakes should really be in re ness when planting takes place, in wh case they can be inserted previous to fill in the compost, firmness thus being t more easily secured than when the stakes driven in after planting is completed. H often do amateurs make the great mist of mulching newly planted trees heavily w pig or cow manure, thereby adding fue the fire, should copious rains and f follow. The best material to use is ro short litter, and, failing this, leaf ref Protection also from the ravages of hares

bits must be given as soon as planted, as se pests often ruin a whole lot of trees a single night. Various methods are re-mmended, but I think nothing is better n encompassing the tree with wire net-g. Even amateurs nowadays seldom plant unturned ground, and it goes without say-that the cost of trenching and preparing plot in the first instance is soon atoned not only by the extra vigour of the trees mselves, but by the chance afforded of wing between the trees such things as h fruits, Strawberries, or vegetables for ood many years, at least, in cases where trees are given sufficient room. C. P.

Some good late Pears

ate Pears of good quality are ever wel-ne. One becomes enamoured of the erb qualities of such Pears as Doyenne Comice and Thompson's, and naturally hes to prolong the season of such delicious ts; and although perhaps Josephine de ines cannot quite compare with the ex-ite varieties mentioned, it is a fine fruit, possibly the best in the season January-il; the fruits are rather small, greenish-ow, flesh juicy and of delicious flavour. tree succeeds in trained form, as a bush as a standard; it is a good and regular per, and was raised in Belgium in 1820. lickling, December-January, has small ts, greenish and russety, the flesh of fine our. It grows admirably on a west or h wall, and will make a good pyramid. ewhat resembling the earlier Comte de ny, this is an old variety, but has been troduced in comparatively recent years. ouvelle Fulvie, December-February, re-es a position on a south wall, except in warmer counties. The fruits are rather e, conical, and uneven; green, changing ellow, and dotted with russet. The flesh nely flavoured. This variety is of very growth and fertility, and is of Belgian in.

ther good late Pears are President ibi, March; Olivier de Serres, February-ch; and Ne Plus Meuris, February-ch; but I would strongly advise all ld-be planters who are connoisseurs to t largely of Josephine de Malines, a re-e Pear, and one of great all-round excel-. RALPH E. ARNOLD.

REES AND SHRUBS

Erica carnea

F all the dwarf hardy Heaths this is perhaps the daintiest and most pleas-ng. With the exception of Erica terranea hybrida, syn. E. darleyensis, has been in bloom since early December, is the earliest to flower. Just now the dwarf tufts, thickly studded with the and scarcely open flowers, are very y. The white variety (alba), frequently n as Erica herbacea, is rather more nced. Both these Heaths may be em-d in a variety of situations; they are ys charming either as isolated tufts en-ed in little nooks on the rockery or in der of dwarf shrubs. For making an g to beds of taller ericaceous shrubs also prove useful. Only once have we d the species to suffer from cold in t years, and this was only in the South igland. In more northern districts, e a covering of snow remained during whole frost, the plants sustained no ge at all.

Trees suitable for screens

e of the first conditions that most people s in a garden is privacy; whether the n be that usually attached to a small villa residence, or of a more pretentious character, one of the first things ordinarily looked to is the planting of the boundary lines to, as far as possible, exclude the sight from outside except at such points as it is desirable to leave open to afford views from the interior of objects more or less in the distance, as local circumstances may determine. In the case of large places, this is easily managed where there is sufficient room to introduce a belt of deciduous and evergreen trees, which should be skilfully arranged so as to effect the object without making the intention more apparent than can be avoided; but with amateurs' gardens of an ordinary size there is more difficulty in making an effectual screen without its occupying too much land. Erect-growing Poplars, from the limited space which they cover, and their rapidity of growth, are most frequently used, yet these are unsatisfactory, inasmuch as divisional lines of this sort should be as impervious to the eye during winter as they are in summer, a condition which cannot exist when deciduous subjects are used. Much better every way, both by their ability to thoroughly answer the purpose in view winter and summer alike, as well as thriving well in most soils and situations where not exposed to too smoky an atmosphere, are such things as Pinus cembra, P. austraiaca, evergreen Oaks, and Hollies; these, by a judicious arrangement in not planting them in exactly straight lines, with a few dwarfer-growing subjects in front, such as Rhododendrons, Portugal Laurels, and Aucubas, will make an effectual screen in a short time if the plants be sufficiently attended to, and the soil fairly enriched. It is a prevalent, though very mistaken idea, that such plants as these do not like an enriched soil in which to grow; this, however, is anything but the case. Green, rank manures do not suit them, but a fair admixture of that which is well decomposed stimulates their growth amazingly. In the case of all plants required for screens, it should ever be borne in mind that they must always have enough space to keep the lower branches in a healthy, thriving state, otherwise they get naked below, which completely defeats the object in view. With trees so grown for such a purpose a moderate use of the pruning knife is admissible in order to prevent their unduly encroaching upon each other, and to encourage and direct growth where it is most required. Not only is the boundary line of a garden, composed of evergreen subjects like the above, much more effectual for the purpose intended, but it has the additional advantage of looking well at all seasons, and affords much more protection to everything requiring shelter during the winter and spring, at which time it is most needed, than can possibly be effected by trees and shrubs that cast their leaves.

Erica carnea, one of the daintiest flowers of December

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Perpetual flowering Carnations

The earliest batch of cuttings should now be rooted sufficiently to admit of their being potted up singly into small pots. The soil for this purpose should be fine and contain a good percentage of sharp sand, the whole being brought to the same temperature as that containing the cuttings before potting commences. As these are mostly rooted in pure sand, great care must be exercised in handling them, to prevent the tender roots from becoming broken. Pot firmly and keep the plants in a closed pit, and close up to the glass, for a week or so, when they may be transferred to cooler and slightly more airy quarters. Secure all the cuttings possible, in order that the work of propagation may be completed before the cases are required for other subjects which must be taken in hand early in the new year. Plants now flowering may be assisted every ten days with a little stimulating food, and air should be freely admitted through both top and bottom ventilators on all favourable occasions, failing which the plants will become drawn and spindly.

Primulas and Cyclamens

Plants introduced to gentle warmth recently are now developing their flower spikes, and will benefit from applications of weak liquid manure. A little moisture sprayed among their pots—but not upon their leaves—will prove beneficial, but excess in this matter will set up damping of the foliage.

Bulbs for forcing

Introduce Narcissus, Golden Spur, Dwarf Tulips, Roman Hyacinths, Snowdrops, and other small bulbs to gentle warmth, but avoid excessive forcing of these plants, and with a little careful management there should be no difficulty from this date in keeping up a constant supply of these flowers.

Flowering shrubs

Those which have been grown, or procured, for the purpose of forcing, may also be brought into contact with gentle heat, as these will be required for maintaining a display of bloom, both in the residence and conservatory. These should, however, be brought along gradually. Staphyleas, Prunus, Mollis Azaleas, Lilacs, Forsythias, Clematises, Roses, etc., respond freely to gentle forcing.

Lilies

These should be potted up immediately they are received, using a mixture consisting of three parts good turfy loam and one part made up of well-decayed leaf mould, peat, and sharp sand, to which has been added a little soot and bone meal, the latter at the rate of a 5-inch pot full to each barrowload of compost. When potting, leave plenty of space for the addition of a good top-dressing later, when the plants are in free growth, especially stem-rooting kinds. A cool frost-proof frame will suit these bulbs.

Lily of the Valley and Spiræas

A number of the former should be introduced to the forcing house every ten days, in order that a constant supply may be obtained during the next two or three months. Spiræas, if less important, are extremely decorative, and useful for indoor furnishing, and a few roots should be introduced at frequent intervals to provide a succession of blooms.

Winter flowering shrubs

Where early outdoor flowers are desired, whether for cutting or garden decoration, no time should be lost in getting a few of the following planted, which bloom before their leaves appear: Chimonanthus fragrans (the Winter Sweet), Jasminum nudiflorum, Hamamelis mollis, H. japonica, H. Zuccariniana and its reddish form, rubra; H. arborea, Parrotia persica, a small tree with crimson blooms in February; Stachyurus præcox, Rhododendron præcox, Cornus Mas, Corylopsis sinensis, C. pauciflora, C. Willmottiæ, Forsythia spectabilis, Pyrus japonica, a Clematis alpina, and two beautiful evergreens, Garrya elliptica and Sycopsis sinensis, in addition to the important winter blooming Heaths.

The Algerian Iris (I. stylosa)

I gathered the first bloom of this welcome Iris on November 22nd this year, and, as we may now expect a succession of these choice blooms, it is advisable to place a little shelter, in the form of spruce branches, over the plants at night, as frost destroys the blooms.

Digging and trenching

Vacant plots call for daily attention in the kitchen garden, and it is advisable to set up the soil in as rough a condition as possible, in order that frosts may penetrate and cleanse the surface of slugs, etc. Lime should be freely used, even in preference to manure, on very heavy, tenacious soils.

Rhubarb and Seakale

Maintain a constant supply by introducing a few roots into a warm, dark Mushroom house or other room every ten days, cutting the latter before the seed head becomes visible.

Fruit trees

Pruning must receive daily attention if the trees are to be ready for spraying early in the new year. Peaches and Figs growing on warm walls should remain until last.

E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Planting bulbs

Owing to the long spell of wet weather in autumn, the planting of bulbs, especially on retentive soils, was sadly delayed, but, rather than waste them entirely, it is well to plant, even yet. It is hardly likely that the results will anything like approach those planted at the proper time, but it is better to have some small flowers, rather than none at all.

Planting biennials

As with the bulbs, it is unfortunate to have to set these out in their flowering quarters at this time, but with a little care in lifting, so as to preserve a good ball of soil to such things as Wallflowers, the check will be but slight. It is disagreeable work at best, and when the ground is cold and clammy much worse, of course.

Transplanting shrubs

Sometimes it is possible to prosecute this work when the soil in the garden is too sodden for digging or pruning. The bulk of shrubs (Azaleas, Hollies, and hybrid Rhododendrons are not included) can very well be planted at this time, providing frost and snow are absent.

Hedges

Where it is necessary to plant new or re pair old Privet and Quick hedges, the pre sent is quite a suitable time for proceedin with the work. Especially where gaps ar being filled, it is essential that some littl preparation of the soil be carried out. I should be well dug, and some thoroughly de cayed farmyard manure incorporated with as the work proceeds.

Look over Rose beds

If at all exposed, some of the bushes ar almost certain to have become loosened little at the neck, which is not at all goo for them. Some fairly dry, old potting so should be passed through a half-inch riddl and a handful or two of this trickled int the holes, and rammed firm with a pottin stick. This is better than treading in ver wet soil, as is sometimes advised. Strong short stakes should be provided for plants i extra-exposed positions, and will great benefit the bushes.

Rock garden

The bulk of the leaves have now falle so there will be less trouble with these blow ing in among the plants and stones, so general clean-up should be carried out durin mild and calm weather, for to permit quan ties of leaves to remain, smothering t plants, is certain to cause trouble, not mention the untidiness involved.

Prune and clean Vines

As soon as the leaves drop the annu pruning of the Vines should be carried ou while rods and houses must be thorough cleansed in every part. Where mealy b is present a very large amount of labour entailed, so as to keep this dreadful pest check. Every particle of loose bark mu be removed, all cracks "puttied" up wi Gishurst Compound, and the canes carefu painted, at least three times, with a stro solution of the same insecticide. All gla woodwork, etc., must be thoroughly scrubb with soap and water, all loose debris swe up and burned, while all brickwork must lime-washed. It is a good plan to add so paraffin oil to the lime-wash, so as to destr the eggs of the vermin that may be posited in cracks and corners.

Rhubarb

The forcing of this becomes easier as winter advances. Introduce, to suita warmth, a further batch, so as to maint the supply unbroken. Total darkness is necessary, unless pale, insipid stalks are sired. Although growth is rather less rap when the crop is exposed to the light colour and quality generally is very mu superior.

Seakale

This must have absolute darkness if heads are to be of finest quality. Like Rhubarb, the more the season advances easier are the roots to coax into grow Fresh batches of crowns should be introdu to heat about every 10 days or so, if an broken supply has to be maintained.

Continue pruning

If not yet finished, the pruning of f trees and bushes should be pushed forw whenever suitable weather conditions vail. It is very uncomfortable to carry this work in really cold weather, while progress under such conditions is necessa slow.

C. BLAI

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

INDOOR PLANTS

Brunsvigia Josephinæ

WOULD be much obliged if you could give me information of Brunsvigia Josephinæ. It makes fine growth every year, r being rested, and is grown in the stove. nperature is 65 degs. to 75 degs. Com- t is peat, loam, and sand, equal parts. I e never seen this variety of Amaryllis ore, and would like to know if the flower produced at a different time from the es, and also if it is rare.

umbartonshire. THOMAS DILLON.

The bulb of this South African Amaryllid to attain a large size before flowering, is never a very free-flowering subject. e flower stem is produced in summer, ore the leaves push up, after the plant has n rested. It is fully 3 feet high, terminated a huge candelabra-like umbel of deep- nson flowers. It received a First Class tificate from the R.H.S. as long ago as gust, 1895. Like most bulbs of this class, equires full exposure to the sun for rough ripening. Water should only be en when the leaves are in active growth; p quite dry as soon as they turn yellow. vill probably flower more readily when the ts are somewhat pot-bound. A summer perature of 65 degs. to 75 degs. should quite suitable, the winter temperature ut 10 degs. lower. It is still a rare plant private gardens, although introduced in 2.]

Celosias

he Celosias are interesting annuals, pro- ing very conspicuous flowers, and possess- good lasting qualities when cut. They all suitable for growing as pot plants in cool greenhouse or conservatory, and st of them are well adapted for growing beds and borders under the same treat- nt as other half-hardy annuals.

Unknown to many gardeners, they are ex- ent subjects for winter decoration if they cut with long stems and dried quickly in sun. When treated in this way they rival best of the Everlastings.

eed should be sown in pots of light sandy in moderate heat in March, and care st be taken that right from the time the ds germinate the soil does not become dry. e young plants should be kept near the ss, and should be potted on as they re- re it, using a mixture of equal parts of dy loam and well-decayed hotbed manure, h a liberal dash of sharp sand. Extra-fine cimens can be procured under glass by ting moderately firm in 6-inch pots, and ing twice weekly applications of liquid nure.

here are several very useful species which erve to be better known, and which might grown alongside, or sometimes in place the well-known Cockscomb (C. cristata). ese are certainly most showy plants, with vers of unusual shape, but it is not every- who likes their somewhat heavy appear- e.

he Chrysanthemum Flowered Celosia (C. ysantheflora) is somewhat similar to the ve, but grows much taller and has flowers embling large Chrysanthemums. Some y bright colours are included in this type, if planted out in a mixed border they e a very fine effect.

he Plumed Celosias (C. plumosa) are en- ly different in form. The plants are neat compact, growing from 2 feet to 3 feet ; on the end of each stalk is produced a g pointed head of bloom, which broadens as it develops, until it finally appears as ose, fluffy plume of intense colour.

he Spike Flowered Celosias do not em- ce such a wide range of colours, but the light lilac-pink of the type is very pleasing to the eye, and the graceful elongated heads of bloom are carried on long stiff stems which make them admirably adapted for cutting.

The Chinese Wool Flowers are the latest and most unique addition to this class of plants. They are happily named, for when fully developed they resemble nothing so much as a large loose ball of wool. These are perhaps best treated as greenhouse annuals, although they may be bedded out in summer; in either case the balls of feathered inflorescences are bound to create an added interest in the garden. R. K.

St. Albans.

Berried Solanums

These useful plants have done well with me this season, in spite of the unfavourable weather which prevailed just at the time the berries should have commenced to colour. It was raining every day for several weeks, but, instead of allowing the plants to remain out of doors, as I usually do till the middle or third week in September, I housed them in a sunny greenhouse a fortnight earlier, and the berries coloured up in good time, giving the house a bright and cheerful appearance. The cuttings were rooted earlier in the year than many people consider necessary, and in this district, if late propagation is practised, the berries, though they may be plentiful enough, do not swell to the normal size, nor do they colour well unless placed in extra heat, which makes the plants tender and unsuitable for general winter decoration in cool temperatures. My practice is to select several forward plants that are past their best, and in January to dry them off somewhat and prune back a little, rubbing off all the leaves from the remaining shoots, and finaly placing the plants in a moist, warm temperature, syringing occasionally. Under these conditions young growths will soon start from every joint, these forming the cuttings, which will be quite long enough for inserting by the second week in February. They strike readily if plunged in a brisk bottom-heat, and when potted into small pots an intermediate heat is most suitable until a shift into a 4½-inch pot is needed. This given, a cool house near the roof glass suits them well, and by the first week in June a sunny, sheltered position out of doors on a hard ash bottom. If a frame can be spared so much the better, as then protection from beating rains and rough winds can be given. A 4½-inch pot will be found sufficiently large the first season, assistance being given in the shape of diluted farmyard liquid when roots are numerous. Clarified soot water several times a week is good for a change, and is used by the market growers to impart a dark-green hue to the foliage. A fibrous loam, with a little leaf-mould, horse manure, and coarse silver or river sand added, grows Solanums well, being careful to give ample drainage. Market growers have fresh plants every year, but private gardeners will find a few plants grown on a second season and potted into 8-inch pots very useful for indoor decoration. I thin out in spring the weaker growths of the plants kept for potting on, leaving only the strongest growths and shortening these to about one-half their length. I sometimes have to net the early plants over in September, as blackbirds are very partial to the berries when colouring. C. J.

Brunsvigia Josephinæ (the African Umbrella Lily)

VEGETABLES

Mushrooms

(*Concluded from page* 774)

WHEN breaking up an open-air ridge-shaped bed last July, and which had done us good service, we found all the upper half of it completely overrun with good mycelium. It was in a dry, mouldy state, few or more of the coarser thread-like roots that form just prior to Mushrooms appearing being apparent; consequently we had a large heap of good virgin spawn. This was placed in large lumps in baskets and stored in a dry, cool place. A portion of each of the beds formed in the open air and under cover was spawned with this home-saved spawn, and in each instance it proved much quicker in action than the ordinary brick spawn, good as the latter undoubtedly was. Mushrooms were produced from the home-saved spawn in rather less than a month from the time of spawning; whereas the brick or manufactured spawn was fully two weeks later. The latter, however, yielded the best Mushrooms as regards quality, but there was no appreciable difference in the size of clusters. Much good spawn is often wheeled out from sheds and houses—the beds being apparently exhausted—and from this Mushrooms spring up in all sorts of odd positions, including the soil in flower-pots in which old Mushroom bed manure had been used to cover the drainage.

OPEN-AIR BEDS.

These, as a rule, do not find much favour with gardeners, one of the principal reasons for this being the fact that moles and mice are so troublesome. The former, if not checked in some way, soon honeycomb and spoil a bed, while the mice clear off Mushrooms in a wholesale manner, the gills being the greatest luxury to them. One-half-inch mesh galvanised wire netting, let a little way into the ground and disposed so as to effectually enclose the mulching over the bed, will usually keep off these intruders, and cannot be considered an expensive remedy. There is only one fault to be found with Mushrooms gathered from open-air beds, and it is this—they are frequently much too thick and require more pains to be expended in their preparation for use. In other respects they are much superior to those obtained from Mushroom

houses and warm sheds. If not relied upon to maintain a regular supply of Mushrooms, there is no reason why, if manure be plentiful, one or more should not be formed by way of a supplement to the ordinary successional beds. It is useless, however, to form them with droppings only, but with them must be retained short stained straw to the extent of at least one-third of the bulk. In other respects the preparation is the same as in the case of the material for flat beds. The site ought to be well drained and the beds firmly put together. After they are spawned and soiled over, they should be covered with a depth of about 12 inches of strawy litter, so disposed as to effectually ward off heavy rains. If the beds require to be moistened, as they sometimes do, especially near the ridge, leave a portion of the mulching on the bed and apply tepid water gently through this, repeating the operation in a day or two, if necessary. It frequently happens the mulch next the soil becomes too wet and cold, and this, unless replaced by other drier material, may work much harm. Abundance of dry litter ought to cover the beds in frosty weather, cold air being excluded from them as much as possible. Do not be in too great a hurry to break up apparently useless beds, as these sometimes bear well in the spring, though not if allowed to become saturated by rain or snow-water. W.

Broad Beans

Is there any real advantage in sowing in autumn?

Discussing the question of sowing Broad Beans with a gardener one day last spring, the point came up as to whether there was ever any real advantage in sowing seed in November over that sown in February, and his reply was that, so far as the North and Midland Counties were concerned, there was no gain whatever. It is a subject that years ago used to be debated in the horticultural Press, but in the majority of instances where I have seen Broad Beans sown in late autumn there has never been any great difference in the time of gathering the crop. In the Southern Counties it used to be largely practised, but even there it is one which has fallen away, and a February sowing is made instead. The last occasion on which I made a late autumn sowing the winter following was very severe, and as a consequence the plants were crippled to such an extent as to be of little good; certainly the spring-sown seed turned out better. It seems to me, if the ground can be prepared in the winter by trenching, and a liberal quantity of manure and vegetable matter worked in, one may reasonably anticipate quite as early a crop if the seed is sown in the second month of the year. At one time the autumn sowing was looked upon as a preventive of the fly attacking the plants, much in the same way as autumn-sown onions are said to be immune from the onion fly, but on this matter I have my doubts. In any case there are methods to-day by which the fly can be frustrated, as, for example, by syringing the plants with quassia liquid. W. F.

A hotbed of leaves

A slight hotbed should now be made up for growing Seakale, where this is wanted by the end of the year. If it is made of leaves alone all the better, as these are not liable to get too hot, in the way that stable manure frequently does. Make it about 2 feet 6 inches in thickness; it may be soiled at once, and the crowns put in 6 inches apart. Any ordinary garden soil or old potting material will do, keeping it fairly moist, but not too wet. A small garden frame will answer to place on the top, covering it with boards or shutters, so as to keep the inside quite dark, which is better than using the glazed lights, as it would be necessary to put over them mats or litter, which in a wet state naturally cause decay.

Iris Society Annual Meeting

Satisfactory progress of a new Society

THE annual general meeting of the Society was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, on November 30th. The meeting was preceded by a dinner, in which some 30 members participated.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. N. Bunyard, presented his report. The Society, he said, had made considerable progress during the year, a large number of new members had been added to the roll, and enthusiasm for the objects of the Society was decidedly increasing. The show organised and held in June last was in every way an unqualified success.

The membership of the Society was now more than six times its original foundation, and more members were constantly coming in from all parts of the world.

The Iris trial garden was now an accomplished fact, and much useful information was being compiled which would be published in due course.

Much as he regretted it, he was compelled, owing to the pressure of business, to relinquish the position of Secretary that he had held since the foundation of the Society. He felt he could do this the more comfortably as the Society was now on its feet and its future was assured.

Mr. Wallace, in moving the adoption of the report, said there was not the slightest doubt to whom the success of the Iris Show was due, and, indeed, to whom much of the success of the Society generally could be attributed, and that was to Mr. Bunyard. He possessed an organising capacity that had proved very valuable, and he was glad that, although they were losing Mr. Bunyard as a Secretary, he had consented to be nominated for the committee, where they would still be able to make use of his services.

The Hon. Treasurer then presented his statement for the year, and said the cash balance in hand was nearly £50. This, in consideration of the very expensive year, was quite satisfactory, as the cost of the show and medals were very heavy items.

The meeting then proceeded to elect the officers for the year, as follows: President, Sir Wm. Lawrence, Bart.; Secretary, Mr. G. L. Pilkington; Treasurer, Major Geo. Churcher; Editor, Mr. George Dillistone; Auditor, Mr. L. Caldicott. The vacancies on the committee were filled by Mr. G. N. Bunyard and Mr. B. R. Long.

The President then called upon Mr. Geo. Dillistone to move a resolution with reference to the question of Iris nomenclature.

The resolution was couched in the following terms:—

"That this meeting of the Iris Society is of the opinion that the time has arrived to take steps to regulate the nomenclature of Irises, and to appoint a special committee for the purpose of evolving a scheme of operation. That the committee shall communicate with the American Society with a view to gaining that Society's effective co-operation and endeavour to arrange that the decisions arrived at in unison shall be binding on both Societies. That such committee shall report to a general meeting to be held not later than March next, and that in the meantime the committee shall ascertain as far as practicable whether the decisions of t Society are likely to prove acceptable to raise and distributors generally."

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Dil stone said: The members of this Society a divided broadly into two classes—those w sell and those who buy Irises. Let us imagi for a moment that three purchasers had not in a friend's garden an Iris that appealed them, and were given the name as eith Diana, Clio, Mars, or Penelope. Each these three purchasers is in the habit of de ing with a different nurseryman. So o writes to Wallace and orders a dozen I Penelope, another to Bunyard, and the thi to Murrell. Now, each of these nurserym would undoubtedly execute the order to t best of their knowledge and belief correct and yet one purchaser might receive a dw bearded Iris, another a Japanese, the thi a bulbous, and none of them get what th really wanted—a tall bearded variety. The are at least ten cases in which this mig happen, and yet each vendor would ha faithfully carried out his obligation to sup an Iris true to name.

Now, there are at least ten names that ha been used for four different Irises, there a nearly eighty that have been used three tim and over two hundred that have been us twice. The duplication and triplicati sometimes occurs in the same section—i. there may be two or even three tall beard Irises bearing the same name. In ma cases, however, it is a case of two, three, four Irises in different sections beari similar names.

This brings me to one of the most imp tant points, the success or failure of a effort that may now be made lies principa in the hands of the raiser and distributor new Irises. It is useless attempting to form late any system of regularisation of I nomenclature unless it receives the who hearted and loyal support of those in wh hands lies the naming and distribution new varieties. Moreover, that support mu be nearly, if not entirely, unanimous. Th must be so obvious that it is unnecessary enlarge upon it. But unanimity among English raisers alone will not achieve object. We may make all the rules we lik but unless the American, French, and G man raisers agree to collaborate with us t results will be, to say the least, unsatisf tory. We know we shall have the Ameri support. The American Iris Society h already gone a very long way towards p ducing order out of the chaos that has exist If the joint Societies let it be known that a Iris emanating from such country would, the event of its name conflicting with t check list, be renamed so far as England a America are concerned and circulated in t United States and England only under su name as is agreed upon by the Nomenclat Committees of both Societies, it would go long way towards preventing the duplicati of names, and rendering it impossible.

The resolution having been seconded Mr. Pilkington, a warm discussion ensu in which Mr. R. W. Wallace, Mr. P. Murr Mr. A. Perry, Sir Wm. Lawrence, Mr. Cuthbertson, Mr. P. R. Barr, Mr. G. Pilkington, and others took part. It was cided to interpolate the word "garde before the word "Irises" in the first pa graph. Lt.-Col. Durham pointed out that International Congress on Horticultu Nomenclature would be meeting in 1930, a any progress the Society might make in t respect before then would be valuable.

The resolution was carried.

The committee appointed were Mr. P. Barr (Chairman), Mr. Amos Perry, and M Geo. Yeld.

Answers to Queries

Queries—*Queries and answers are inserted in* RDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correondents follow these rules: All communications ould be clearly written on one side of the paper ly, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING USTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* BLISHER. *The name and address of the sender required in addition to any designation he y desire to be used in the paper. When more n one query is sent, each should be on a arate piece of paper; the name and address ing added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *s to be sent to press some days in advance of te, queries cannot always be replied to in the ue immediately following their receipt. We do t reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*Readers who wish plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. Single, unripe, or deformed specimens are difficult to name. We do not undertake to name more than four specimens at one time.*

GREENHOUSE

incherinchees

W. P. A., Transvaal).—The flowers are se of the Chincherinchees of South Africa, ., Ornithogalum lacteum, a beautiful plant the cool greenhouse, bearing elegant emes about 1½ feet high of satiny milkite flowers with primrose-yellow anthers. ch year the flowers are imported from uth Africa, and it is reported that the ite Star liner "Ceramic" has recently ught to this country a large consignment these flowers. The flowers have the merit remaining fresh in a cut state for several eks, or even months. Many of the Ceramic's" passengers also brought vate supplies of the plant, and on numer- Christmas dinner tables this year South ica will help to supply the floral decoras.

t back Pelargoniums

Vould you advise me what to do with a ch of Pelargoniums? They flowered in é, and in late August I cut them hard k and stood them in a cold frame. In tember, after they had started to break, hook all the old soil off them and put m in smaller pots, using a compost of pped loam, leaf mould, and sand. I then them in a cool greenhouse, but they ted to flag, in spite of syringing, so I put m back in the cold frame. After a while y recovered a bit, so I left them till it not safe to leave them. I then put them a heated pit, where they still are, but ig percentage are hardly breaking at all, spite of syringing with tepid water every . Do you think they will come round?

HARRY MAYER.

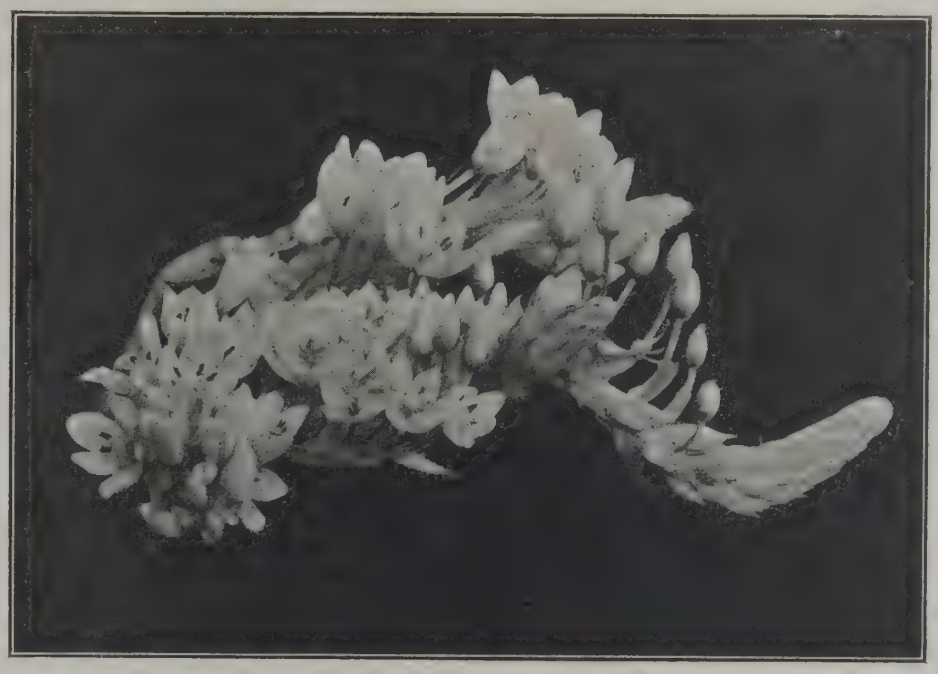
The treatment you gave the plants after ering appears to have been quite correct, if you had left them in the greenhouse would probably have been well with them a few days; the flagging—in our opinion ig due to the drier and more airy condis of the greenhouse—would have disapred. From your account we should say are overwatering the plants, which, until wth is quite active, should be kept on the side. Place the plants on a shelf near glass in the greenhouse. Water only n absolutely dry. Cease syringing them, those not already gone too far will probcome round.]

for Amaryllis (Hippeastrum)

indly advise me as to the treatment of aryllis. I have some bulbs, but cannot get n to bloom. They are perfectly solid, and healthy. They have no foliage. I have d them off from September, withholding er gradually. Will you also tell me the post to use for them?

righton. REGULAR READER.

The soil should consist of rich, fibrous n, lightened by a little sharp river sand, ch will ensure thorough drainage. A compost is essential, as these bulbs nt frequent re-potting. Keep the pots dry from September till February; water liberally when growth has commenced. They require full exposure to sunlight in summer, preferably with a temperature not less than 65 degs., and not much below 45 degs. in winter. They will tolerate a considerably lower temperature, but it is not to be recommended for obtaining high-class flowers.]



Ornithogalum flowers known as Chincherinchees, imported from South Africa for Christmas decoration

Treatment of Amaryllis (Hippeastrums)

I have over 60 Amaryllis, which I potted up last February. About 20 flowered; the remainder just threw up foliage. Lately I have withheld water because the foliage has been dying down. Now, on looking over them, I find some that did not flower in spring are sending up spikes. As I would rather have them in flower in the spring, is there anything to prevent the others starting? I have got them on a staging, in a rather dark place in a greenhouse, in a temperature of 55 degs. to 60 degs. HENRY MAYER.

Altrincham.

[The flowering of your bulbs out of season may be accounted for by the unavoidable disturbance to their roots when re-potted last February. The bulbs which come into bud at this time of year will not flower again at their normal season next spring. Try keeping the non-flowering bulbs in a slightly cooler temperature—say, 45 degs. to 50 degs.—keeping them dry until February, when there should be signs of fresh growth. Do not re-pot unless absolutely necessary; the offsets should be removed without disturbing the parent bulb. Once they have started into healthy growth water liberally, and give weak liquid manure now and then. Growers of Amaryllis Belladonna are familiar with the blind deformed buds which appear along with the foliage if weather conditions have been unafvourable at the normal flowering season.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Propagating Cytisus

I have a number of good Brooms (Cytisus). Some of the plants produce seed freely, and I have raised many plants by this means. Other plants produce very little seed. Would you be kind enough to indicate if I can propagate these latter by any means other than seed? H. P.

[The common Brooms produce seed freely, and raising such from seed is the usual method of propagation. Plants which do not seed freely can be propagated by means of cuttings, layers, or grafting. Cuttings should be taken in August and inserted in a cold frame, using good, sharp, sandy soil. Half-ripened wood about 5 inches to 6 inches in length is the best for the purpose. The cuttings should be inserted two-thirds of their length in the soil, and should be made firm. If a cold frame is not available the cuttings might be placed under a hand light or bell glass. Layered plants are produced by pegging down branches firmly into sandy soil. The formation of roots is often assisted by cutting a tongue or notch on the lower side of the branch layered. Brooms should be grafted in spring, using either seedling stocks or Laburnum stocks. The stocks should be lifted and placed under glass a fortnight before they are required, so that the sap moves freely when the grafting operation is carried out. The scions should be left outside until required. After grafting, the plants should be placed in a close propagating case until the union of stock and scion is effected. Brooms should be planted out into their permanent quarters as young as possible, because old plants do not move well.]

Leaves of Stauntonia and Bignonia disfigured

(M. C. H. B.).—The Stauntonia has either been allowed to become too dry at the roots or subjected to too much artificial heat, both of which would account for the condition of

the leaves. We suggest soaking the roots thoroughly and maintaining a temperature not exceeding 55 degs. at night, rising slightly by day with sun heat. In the case of the Bignonia Capreolata (the Cross Vine) excessive heat and dryness is again suspected, and we advise you to treat the plant as recommended for the Stauntonia. In this case, however, the leaves are infested with red spider, which thrives on plants growing in overheated houses or near hot-water pipes. This plant should be syringed a few times at intervals of five days with insecticide, of which "Spidacide," sold by Messrs. Joseph Bentley, Barrow-on-Humber, Hull, is effective. The Stauntonia is a native of Japan, and the Bignonia hails from the Southern United States, and both may be grown in the open air in this country, providing favourable positions are chosen.

Barberry Rust

Several of my Chinese Barberry seedlings were affected with Black Rust this summer. The affected shoots were cut off and burnt some time ago. Do you advise spraying the bushes with Bordeaux Mixture this winter? As no wheat is grown within many miles of this place, I do not feel that it is necessary to destroy the bushes if spraying will get rid of the disease. L. BIGG-WITHER.

[We do not think that spraying during the winter would be of any use against the Barberry Rust. Spraying is only a protective measure, and it would therefore be best for you to spray as a preventive during the growing season. If the foliage is coated with a fungicide spores of the Rust are less likely to be able to enter the plants. We should like the opportunity of examining a specimen of your "Black Rust" on the Chinese Barberry, because, as far as we are aware, Black Rust of Wheat (Puccinia graminis) has not been recorded upon this host. If you would be kind enough to send us in a specimen next year it would be of scientific interest. If one plant was left unsprayed the Rust would be almost sure to reappear.]

Excessive growth of Poplars

I have a narrow avenue of pollarded poplars. I have the strongest shoots cut out every year, but even so the branches shoot out so far, especially the side of the favourable aspect. Someone spoke of the way these trees were bleached on the Continent. I should be very grateful for any hints.
C. UFFORD.

[We suggest that, as a check to the exuberance of these trees, you cut a trench along the outside of each line and leave it open during the summer. You might also stop the growths in midsummer, by pinching out the tops when they have reached about half their average height.]

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Yellow Sport from Julia

I should be glad of your opinion on the following: I have a plant grown from a cutting taken from Julia (show Chrysanthemum). It has been grown in an 8-inch pot to carry one bloom (second crown). Instead of coming Julia colour it has come a lovely deep soft yellow. Do you think it is a genuine sport, coming in this way? One of the petals had a tiny speck of Julia colour on one tip; otherwise the colour is as stated. I know it is valuable if I can get it fixed.
YELLOW SPORT.

[It is not unusual for the variety Julia to give blooms of the soft yellow named; this has, indeed, been about the most variable of recent varieties. Crushed-strawberry shade, salmon-pink, crimson, and old gold—these are among the shades differing from the type that have been heard of. Their value would not be great commercially, because of the likelihood of these "sports" cropping up anywhere. They would be interesting to a grower, and you should therefore try to fix yours by rooting cuttings obtained as near as possible to the bloom. A good way is to lay the branch on moist earth without severing it from the plant. This should cause it to produce cuttings.]

Leggy Chrysanthemums

Could you tell me why my Chrysanthemums grow so tall and are badly furnished at the stalks? Please give me names of some new Chrysanthemums. M. S.

[It is, of course, not easy, without seeing the plants, to tell the reason of unsatisfactory growth. The cause, however, would appear to be want of space in summer time; light and air were evidently excluded to make them leggy and scant of leaves. The following are the names of a dozen varieties to furnish a supply of decorative bloom on plants of comparatively short growth: Blanche du Poitou, Delicata Gloriosa, Golden Marvel, In Memoriam, Jean Pattison, Mayford Yellow, Miss Ada Brooker, Mrs. R. F. Felton, Primrose Poitou, Scarlet Sunshine, White Ball.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Kniphofia seedlings unhealthy

I have some clumps of Kniphofias (hot pokers) that I raised from seed. The foliage is very good, but the spikes never develop properly, and all the blossoms (which are very sparse) die off. A few plants of the variety Etna, which I have in the next clump, also failed in the same way, while other plants of this variety gave a splendid show. Do you think it is a disease, and would it be better to destroy seedling plants?
C. UFFORD.

[It might be advisable to transplant the Kniphofias to fresh ground, into which has been worked a little freshly slaked lime. April is the month in which such planting should be done. It is rather unusual for seedlings of these fine flowers to behave in this way, and we should feel inclined to give them this trial on fresh soil, following which, if no improvement takes place, it will be advisable to destroy them.]

FRUIT

Woolly Aphis on Apple

(Miss E. L. B.).—Your Apple twigs are affected with Woolly Aphis. You should cut away and burn the more badly affected shoots. Please see reply to "Constant Reader" re Apple trouble, on page 774 of our issue for December 10th. Please note that we do not reply to queries through the post.

VEGETABLES

Using Swedes

Can you please tell me what to do with my Swedes? Are they ready for eating now, and should they be stored or lifted as required for use? They have had some frost, but not very much. D. B. W.

[These may be used for cooking at any time from October to April. They should be pulled and stored in a cool shed after removing the roots and tops, which are best cut off close to the bulb. If no store is available a pit may be made in the open, lined with straw or other dry litter, and the roots placed therein and piled up. Following a coat of the straw, 6 inches of soil should be placed over the whole pile and beaten slightly to run off the water. In this way they will keep plump and fresh for several months.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Pigeon manure

I have a quantity of pigeon manure. C you tell me how best to use such manure f garden purposes? S. D.

[We can find no records of the compositi of pigeon manure, but we assume that it similar to poultry manure. This class manure is very valuable if prepared c rectly. It should be taken from t dropping-boards and stored dry; it is of lit use if allowed to get wet before it reach the garden. The best way of storing poul manure is to place it in barrels, or, faili these, a compact heap. When the manu is taken from the dropping-boards it shou be placed in the barrel and covered with equal amount of dry garden soil. T method is repeated until the barrel is f The manure should be stored six mon before use. The manure or, rather, the c tents of the barrel should then be rubb through a sieve. The material is impro as a well-balanced manure if 10 lbs. of s phate of potash and 20 lbs. of superphosph of lime be added to every 100 lbs. of s dried manure. A manure prepared as in cated above should be applied to grow crops and used as a top-dressing at the r of 4 ozs. per square yard.]

Soot and lime

Is it correct that soot and lime mi together in equal quantities make a g insecticide? If so, for what class of ins is the mixture useful? L. H. J

[Soot is used largely as a deterrent agai such pests as slugs, caterpillars, and ward off root flies when they are search for host plants upon which to deposit th eggs. In good garden practice old soot always used, because when old it has some of its burning properties, and hence not likely to damage foliage. Lime, too very largely used against some pests, esp ally slugs and snails. The best form material for this purpose is quicklime, care has to be used or scorched foliage is result. Both soot and lime are used as c tact insecticides, that is, they kill either burning the pest or blocking up its breati pores. We are inclined to think that b soot and lime are overrated by garden and that better insecticides are availa When soot and lime are mixed togethe chemical action is set up and the ammo contained in the soot is liberated as monium gas. So that when soot and l are mixed together, in addition to acting contact insecticide it continues to give ammonia as long as there is any ammo left in the soot. No insect likes ammo so that the mixture, when used, makes surroundings distasteful to most gar pests. It should be remembered that and lime mixed together may be a g insecticide, but it is a very bad manure, cause the ammonia is lost to the atmosph instead of going to the soil to supply plants with food.]

Wireworm

Can you advise the digging in of G Mustard as a certain cure for wireworm garden? N. D.

[There are few things which are certai garden practice. The growing of Mus and digging it in is a great help in trolling wireworm, because the wirew do not feed readily upon the roots of Must and therefore, with the plot wholly crop with Mustard and no weeds being pres the wireworms are starved; at least, tha the theory. We consider that the practic growing this crop as a control for wirew

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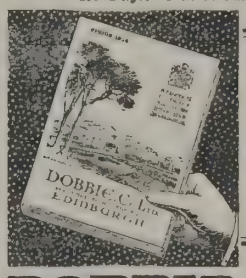

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is of more use on a farm than in a garden. The usual practice on a farm is to sow with Mustard and then afterwards the crop is folded off and fed to sheep. This method certainly reduces wireworm considerably. Not only are the wireworm partially starved, but the constant trampling and the effect of the urine from the sheep kills most of the wireworm. A good soil insecticide applied during the winter months and dug deeply into the soil is, in our opinion, the best control for wireworm under garden conditions. Rough grass paths and weedy hedge bottoms are factors which attract the adult wireworm for egg-laying purposes.]

Garden rubbish

Are green leaves—*e.g.*, Cabbage leaves—any use as manure dug into the soil in autumn? INTERESTED.

[All green garden waste material is of use as a source of organic matter, if turned into the soil. One frequent cause for complaint is that such material encourages slugs in the soil. To a certain extent this is true, but only if the material is not buried deep enough. Some gardeners make all their garden rubbish into a compost heap—*i.e.*, a layer of rubbish sprinkled with lime and a layer of soil alternately. This heap is left to rot and then chopped down and used in place of, or to supplement, manure. Another excellent plan is to treat all garden rubbish with Adco, a preparation which assists in the breaking down of the plant food materials contained in garden refuse. All garden refuse which is free from disease should be treated in one of the above ways and returned to the soil. With short supplies of organic manures it is the only means of keeping soil fertility up to the required standard.]

NAMES OF PLANTS

M. S.—Cotoneaster Simonsii.

J. A.—1, Arbutus Unedo (Strawberry Tree); 2, probably Salix magnifica; 3, Phillyrea latifolia. Pear: Catillac.

M. A. Pilkington, Ross-on-Wye.—Mentha gentilis, a rare and good plant. The best-scented of all the Mints.

Miss Q., Co. Down.—Cupressus macrocarpa. The flowers are monœcious, the hard spherical bodies being the female cones.

"*Orchid.*"—The Orchid sent for identification is identical in appearance of growth with plants received recently from Upper Burma. You may safely say that it is Cymbidium pendulum, a species from Assam and Upper Burma. It has tufts of leathery ensiform leaves and long, hanging racemes of not very showy yellowish flowers in July and August, and lasts long in bloom. An intermediate or Cattleya house temperature is required, and a compost of loam, fibre, and moss, with good drainage.

Hugh Black, Dumbartonshire. — The Cypripedium seedlings are a very good set. 1, Mons. de Curte x leanum. This is the best of them; the heavily-spotted dorsal and delicate colouring is highly decorative. 2, C. insigne x Spicerianum. There is a good demand for this type of flower for decorative and cut-flower purposes. 3, Charles Canham x leanum, a graceful and well-poised flower. We like this type of flower, although it may not be of commercial value. We do not think that any of these would gain awards, as the standard among new Cypripediums is now very much higher than it has ever been; nevertheless, the flowers sent are very decorative and are preferred by many to the large and massive productions now so much in favour. We hope to refer to new Cypripediums shown at Vincent Square in our next issue.

Mrs. D. Gorton. — Chrysanthemum Rayonante.

"*Orchid.*"—The fine-leaved shrub is a species of Diosma and smells of Mace. We have tried it on friends and it is said to smell like smoked ham, luncheon sausage, a savoury, and Myrtle.

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the importance of sending only good typical specimens for naming, and not less than two or three fruits of each variety.

J. O., Camberley.—1, Newton Wonder; 2, King of Pippins; 3, Russet (see next week); 4, Lord Burley.

E. N. Balcombe.—Probably Newton Wonder; fruits not typical.

B. W. J.—1, Pear Catillac; Apples: 2, Queen Caroline; 3, Betty Geeson (resembles Bramley's Seedling); 4, the small orange-brown fruits are Golden Knob syn. Old Maid and Old Lady.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

"Webster's Foresters' Diary and Pocket Book for 1928." An attractive and indispensable diary for all connected with forestry. Published by Ernest Benn, Ltd., 154, Fleet Street, E.C. 4, price 4s. including postage.

The British Gladiolus Society's Calendar, 1928. Hon. Secretary, A. E. Amos, 10, Bergholt Road, Colchester.

"R.H.S. Gardeners' Diary."—This useful little pocket-book is used by thousands of Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society. The 1928 edition is now ready, and contains, in addition to the seasonal reminders throughout the Diary, a great deal of information of use to gardeners, be they amateur or professional. The Diary is published at 2s. each and is published jointly by Charles Letts and Co. and by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Foul ground

A NEIGHBOUR of mine who last autumn took possession of a considerable area of market garden land, which had been much neglected and become full of weeds, has just found out that he has committed a serious mistake. There is much to learn in the management of foul ground so as to clean it without its being laid fallow, and hardly a more expensive course could be adopted than was followed in this case. A crop of early Potatoes was taken off in the summer, the ease with which Potatoes are cleaned and the season's drought serving in combination to keep the weeds in check; but after the Potatoes were removed the ground was, as is usual for seeds, ploughed, harrowed, rolled, and harrowed again until a very friable surface was secured, then sown with Lisbon Onions and Winter Spinach. Alas! for the gardener; he sowed good seed, but seems to be reaping Tares. Still, these are minor troubles and soon got over, whilst my neighbour's case seems to be that the cost of labour required for keeping his Onions and Spinach—but the former especially—clean will eat up the prospective profits of the crop long ere it is assured. The previous tenant has fully reaped the results of his shameful neglect in dismal failure, but his neglect seems to have a very prospective operation, thus seriously compelling successors to suffer for the sins of their predecessors. This case only serves to illustrate how enduring are the evils which result from neglecting land.

Certainly here was found soil in a most tempting condition for the seeds as put into the ground so largely, and they so far justified the sowing, because there were good plants in each case. Some two or three times have these breadths been hoed, me going down between the rows with sma long-handled hoes, and women following b hind—almost on their knees—with the litt hand hoes so useful in market garden work and should the winter keep the weeds i check there can be little doubt that the sprin will furnish a new crop, and the costly wor of hoeing and cleaning will have to be gor over again. Ground so foul as this will pr bably take several years to get moderate clean, and with a knowledge of the danger involved probably the present crops of sma seeds will be the last sown on it for som time to come. Without doubt there is n more useful and profitable method of clean ing weedy soil than in cultivating it wit coarse-growing crops. If the Potatoes ha been followed by Brussels Sprouts, Autum Giant Cauliflowers, or Drumhead Savoy the weeds would have had no chance onc the plants got good hold.

Cleared of these green crops in the sprin manured and reploughed, the land wou have done admirably for Scarlet Runner which, if sown in rows 3 feet apart, wou in a few weeks have covered the ground wit leafage. Runner Beans hold on late, usuall indeed, till the end of October, and too la for a successional crop the same year, b the soil would be amply rich enough to car a crop of Potatoes, and thus three years i succession the soil would be covered wi foliage, smothering weeds entirely. Th Potatoes might be followed by a sowing Tares, which could in the spring be shee fed or ploughed in with a light dressing manure, and a sowing of maincrop Pe made 3 feet apart, and between these cou go out later Cauliflowers or Brussels Sprout so that the weeds for another year would entirely checked. The crops named being sown or planted in rows wide apart, and a mitting of the free use of the horse as we as hand hoe would be easily cleaned. Poss bly at the end of the fourth year the so would have become fitted to receive sma seeds, but it is obvious that much judgme is needed in a matter of this kind. De burying of the surface-soil by trenching on aggravates the evil, for the weeds will found thick enough even from a low stratum, whilst the buried seed will spri into life later on. Smothering by growth the safest method to cleanse foul soil.

C. P.

Catalogues received, Autumn, 192

Anthony Roozen, Ryksstraatweg, Haarle—Dutch bulbs, Tulips, Daffodils, Crocuse

R. H. Bath, Ltd., Wisbech, Cambs. Bulbs, Roses, Pæonies, Carnations, fr trees.

R. Wallace and Co., Ltd., Tunbrid Wells.—Bulbs, Irises.

T. Smith, Daisy Hill Nursery, Newry. Roses.

Barr and Sons, King Street, Covent Ga den.—Gold Medal Daffodils, Narcissi.

W. J. Unwin, Histon, Cambs.—The Swe Pea and Its Cultivation.

J. Cheal and Sons, Ltd., Crawley, Susse—Fruit trees, Roses, hardy flowers.

The Barton Nurseries, Boston, Lincs. Roses, herbaceous plants.

Mrs. Dykes, Bobbingcourt, Woking. Irises collected and raised by the late W. Dykes.

Sutton and Sons, Reading.—Lawn reno tions, bulbs, bulb bowls, fruit-stori cabinets, garden requisites.

A. Luff and Sons, Wimbledon Park. Roses, Apple, Pear, Plum trees, Peache Nectarines, Strawberry, Currants, Cherri Grapes, Evergreen trees, hardy plants, bul and forcing plants.

W. E. Th. Ingwersen, Ltd., East Gr stead.—Hardy and alpine plants.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Variation in Roses

A KEEN judge of Roses recently remarked that many amateurs know Roses better than professionals, and there is a lot of truth in the statement, paradoxical as it may sound.

A nurseryman judges a Rose in the same way as an amateur—as he sees it, but he sees it as a maiden and less as an old bush as an amateur does. There is a vast difference between the old type of Rose, some varieties of which were better on a one-year tree, and the modern Roses, many of which are better on mature and developed bushes than on young ones.

Many of the modern Roses are not seen in their best form on one-year bushes. That very sweet and at times gorgeous Rose, Wm. Cordes, is a very ordinary pink on the young tree, but as a cut-back in the amateur's garden it much improves, for while the first flowers to open from the mature wood of the previous season have still not developed their best "setting sun" shades, these gorgeous colourings come on the young wood with the second and third crops of flowers. There are few many Roses like this.

Again, the seasons much affect the shades and colours of Roses. The past cool and rainy summer did not bring out the best in many varieties. Those who are so fortunate as to possess that Rose with a strikingly foreign name, Elvira Aramayo, will find that this, during a hot summer, will come a tendrous shade of orange terracotta like only one other Rose on earth, the equally little-known variety, Princess Marie José. There are many of these southern-bred Roses which are only seen at their best in a hot summer, and some of the American-raised are similar. Those who have the well-known Hadley and Chateau de Clos Vougeout know how these two lovely crimson varieties develop their best shades during hot weather and only "blue" during cold, wet spells.

These instances are, of course, the reverse to the usual run of Roses, for it is the sun which blues most in this colour, and their best shades come in damp, cool weather.

There is no rule by which one can judge the effect of sun or otherwise in effect on the variation of Roses, although it may be admitted that those with orange shades are better as the result of sun, while the pinks, as a rule, come deeper in cloudy weather.

The stock on which a Rose is budded also influences its colour and behaviour. Both in Europe and America Rose specialists have for many years been continually trying out new stocks with a view to secure something better. For this country, at all events, I must confess that I do not believe that a better thing than our so-called English Briar (the Rosa canina) will be secured. Many of the American stocks may suit their climate, but this is their affair, not ours.

There are reputable firms in this country who use other stocks and recommend them because they have found them satisfactory, and I should be prepared to accept what they say so long as they do not claim superiority over the English Briar. In other words, for their own districts these stocks may be suitable; they may be less so in others.

Last, but not least, soils affect Roses, not only in growth, but also in colour to an immense degree.

The ideal Rose soil is one of loam as deep as possible. If this rests on a clay which is not waterlogged, or, better still, on a brick earth, the Rose root has all that it can desire, for it can penetrate its 4 feet into such soil and give a maximum of vigour to the tree, and which further adds lustre and colour to the flower.

Yet splendid results may be obtained on a great variety of soils. Take the sandy, black, and poor in plant food soils around Bournemouth. With the aid of slaked lime and chalk, bone-meal and other suitable fertilisers and manures, Roses succeed quite well in this district. Of course, the majority of Rose beds in this district have been deeply dug and trenched, and the best gardens have had heavier soil added.

Again, what wonders can be done on a hot, shallow soil such as the late Dean Hole made famous at his place in Rochester, Kent. There, with a shallow soil resting on chalk, with the aid of liberal manuring and top-dressings he produced wonderful results. I have not a record of the depth to which he dug his soil, but he could not go deep. There is a compensating feature about chalky soil which, poor as it is, repays a hundredfold for manuring; manures and fertilizers are much more effective on such soils.

Rose-growing amateurs enjoy one good fallacy. It is thought that trees planted early in November are more successful than those planted in the other months of the dormant season, whereas the reverse is sometimes the case.

As will be known, a green autumn often results in Roses growing merrily until well into November. I myself cut a beautiful bunch of Roses in November this year. Until, through climatic

The Oast House and Loggia at Old Buckhurst, Sussex

This charming manor house and garden have been carefully restored, and the old English character of the garden is in keeping with the ancient dwelling

condition, these trees become dormant, there is at least no advantage in digging them up in order to get them planted, for these soft, growing shoots are sure to die back.

The nurserymen themselves plant the majority of their Rose stocks after the New Year, and, as an expert has truly said, "the planting season extends from November to March"!

Late-planted Roses enjoy this advantage that, the later, within reason, that they are planted, the more backward are the growths, and so there is less risk from late frosts cutting the shoots, which are sometimes forward with earlier-planted Roses.

A. SWALLOW.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

To Readers Old and New

We have added to our numbers quite recently many new readers, and our post-bag has increased at an alarming rate that we have difficulty in keeping pace with correspondence. These are lively and healthy signs, imparting a feeling of seasonable optimism for the future. To our many friends at home and abroad, and to the wide and ever-increasing circle of readers unknown to us, but who, we are proud to think, are our friends, we take this opportunity of expressing cordial greetings for Christmas and sincere wishes for happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

A New Year's gift

This little note is to remind readers that there is one New Year's gift welcome to all garden lovers—*i.e.*, a year's subscription to GARDENING ILLUSTRATED. Readers who are at a loss to know what to purchase for their gardening friends would do well to follow this suggestion. For the sum of 13s. GARDENING ILLUSTRATED will be stamped, addressed, and posted from the office each week for the whole year. Such a present would be a useful and constant reminder of friendship throughout the coming year.

Renovating old walls

A gardener sometimes finds himself in a place where walls neglected for many years and full of nail-holes harbour insects of many kinds and give a lot of extra trouble in spring and summer. Pointing the walls and wiring is, of course, the real remedy, but this is often considered too expensive, so one has to do the best he can to remedy the evil if time permits and the necessary labour is available. Trees, of course, have to be removed from the wall and so secured that wood and buds are not damaged. Hot water, soft-soap, and paraffin, with sufficient clay worked in with it to form a mixture that can be applied with a brush and yet of sufficient thickness to stop all holes is what is required, and sufficient time is taken over the process to see that this is thoroughly done. A thinner mixture of similar character can be applied to any trees troubled with scale if time permits, and Pears and Plums will often be found so affected on old walls. If a fair amount of flower of sulphur is added to the mixture it will help to ward off aphis and red spider when trees and walls are thoroughly sprayed in early spring. I can write with experience on all the above matters, having had to deal once with walls that had been built about 1820 and neglected for many years.

E. BURRELL.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents

The plough in the garden

THE views of your correspondents on this subject are extremely interesting, and in the first article there is undoubtedly much to think about. But there are also the difficulties to be encountered, as enumerated by other correspondents. It would, I believe, be difficult to induce any owner to scrap the paths and borders, as well as many fruitful trees, to make room for the plough, for even when only one horse is used much space is necessary for the turning, and in most of the smaller gardens, where the need for economy is usually greater, there would be far too much short work. But I certainly think that where a new place is being made provision might well be made for many of the main crops to be grown on agricultural land adjoining the garden, where the possibility of getting a pair of horses, or even one horse, were possible. I have had experience in growing vegetables on land which was never used previously for such crops, and in many cases the results were very satisfactory. I have grown Peas, Broad and Runner Beans, Strawberries, Lettuces, all plants of the Cabbage tribe, as well as Onions, Carrots, Parsnips, Potatoes, and plants for sale as transplants. That, however, was on what might be called agricultural land. It was never my practice to sow seeds of most of the Cabbage tribe and thin them, but rather to prepare the soil and plant them out at the proper distances. I once had an especial break of Brussels Sprouts, Savoys, Cabbages, Broccoli, and Kale, on land prepared in the following manner: The soil, being rather foul, was ploughed and cultivated several times till late in May, when it was ridged up, as is done in some parts of the country for Mangolds and Swedes. Instead of putting dung in the furrows, I used a mixture of sulphate of ammonia and superphosphates, and then split the ridges so that other ridges were made right over the manure. A roller was then run over them, as is done in preparation for Mangold sowing, and the plants were set out centrally down the pressed ridges, no line being needed. After the plants began to look up the "Cottis" hoe was run through them, cutting fairly close to the plants, and at the next time, after hand-hoeing between the plants, the hoes were extended so as almost to touch the plants. This practically brought the surface level again. During their growth the hoeing between the rows was all done with the horse hoe, so that it was a small matter to do the hoeing between the plants. Although the rows were spaced at 30 inches apart, the plants well met by the end of the season, and the crop would not have disgraced any vegetable garden. I have grown some good Runner Beans in the same way, as regards preparation of the soil, planting the seeds in pairs at a foot apart along the pressed ridges. They were, of course, stopped to dwarf them. My plan with Peas was to plough two or three times so as to get the soil in good order. Then, when sowing the seeds, I followed the ploughman and sowed the Peas in each third furrow, so that the rows were about 27 inches to 30 inches apart. A very thin line of Peas was produced by running a Planet Junior seed drill along the bottom of the furrow. I had a good crop of Strawberries by planting on ridges over manure. A plan I used to adopt in order to increase the depth of soil was to get two pairs of horses when ploughing such soil, and to remove the breast from one plough. Then the horses with the breastless plough followed the other pair in the furrow made by them, and this broke up the pan below, so that it was easy to thrust down a full-sized fork without reaching the hard soil.

The Planet Junior seed drill is a very useful implement, and will sow any seeds up to Broad Beans, but I have not been able to sow these with it. I have sown Lettuces and Wallflowers with it, and these, as well as Onions, can be sown quite as thinly as is usually done by hand. Where it is possible to get a horse between rows, such as the Cabbage tribe, Potatoes, etc., the use of the horse hoe is a great saving of labour, and the moulding of the Potatoes can be well done with the plough. Even in existing gardens it is surprising that the small-wheeled Planet Junior hoe is not more frequently used. For the information of those who do not know the working of the seed drill, I might mention that it will make the furrow, sow the seeds and cover them as fast as a man can walk—all at one operation. If the plough is properly used there need not be such foul land as described by one of your correspondents. What makes much agricultural land so foul is that cleaning crops, such as root crops are usually regarded, are not grown so extensively as corn crops. Where time and labour are available there is no excuse for having foul breaks or any crop where it is possible to work a horse hoe.

WILLIAM F. ROWLES.

The Gardens, Wroxham Hall, Norwich.

—— Only one or two points in the note concerning the plough in the garden, from "An Irish Gardener," appear to call for comment. Single-horse ploughing is a delusion and a snare—to plough ground effectually requires the services of a pair of horses; and I ask my Irish friend to believe that I know what I am talking about in that respect. I have what may be termed rather a large garden, yet I would by no means undertake to keep even a single horse in constant work. It cannot be done. Regarding the feeding question, if "An Irish Gardener" considers one feed of hay and of corn daily to be sufficient in winter, when there is no green forage, he and I must differ; for my part I would be eternally in dread of a visit from the local inspector of the P.C.A. Society. As to the sowing of Brassicas, the writer of the article on which I commented (and which "An Irish Gardener" has patently overlooked) says that Brassicas generally succeed best when the seeds are sown where the plants are to grow. This, as my friend must know, would involve much thicker sowing; in fact, seed of Brassicas would require to be sown almost as thickly as those of Turnips. Hence no allusion to the work entailed by the necessary thinning, and to the fact that we would require to purchase our seeds by the pound instead of by the ounce. If "An Irish Gardener" will read the note in the same issue as that in which his note appeared ("A. M.") he will there find my own idea as to the value of the plough in the garden not only corroborated but amplified.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Prunus Miqueliana

A Japanese variety which cares nothing for frost and comes into blossom generally about this time, and remains in flower for at least six weeks. I have now two trees each about 15 feet high, covered with blooms a light pinkish colour. This Prunus generally blooms either just before or just after the Hamamelis arborea, a very curious

fact, for I never know which is going to bloom first. The trees apparently arrange this matter between themselves.

CHARLES E. SHEA.
The Elms, Foots Cray, Kent.

About double flowers

Your contributor who dislikes double flowers so strongly (issue December 10th, page 763), has allowed himself to be seduced by the Rose, and I feel that if he could forbear from comparing double flowers with single he might (I do not say that he would) come to see that doubleness in flowers is not always and wholly abominable.

The late Mr. Clutton Brock pointed out that some flowers, especially those with a chalice- or bell-shaped corolla, are spoiled by doubling, while others, especially the composites in which the process has already begun, may be actually improved in garden value by doubling. And to this last category I should be inclined to add those flowers whose attractiveness (both for insects and ourselves) depends more upon their massed effect than their individual design. Such flowers are the Stocks, the Lady Smock, Arabis, and Aubrietia.

Double flowers quite forego the beauty of design and the distinguished grace which is peculiar to the wild species, but they give us instead another kind of beauty, which comes out most clearly when they are brought indoors. Here the wild flower is often out of place, but the heavily emphasised formal design of the double flower harmonises with the strong lines of our rooms and furniture, holding its own where the refinement of the pure species is overwhelmed.

Double flowers have the positive advantage over the single that they last longer, just because they are abortions, and have more scent. Monstrosities they may be, but this is hardly in itself a reason for disfavour, since Nature, always so unreliable in the court of appeal, has already set the florist an example by doubling the Trollius and the Water Lilies.

I cannot help feeling that your contributor is a little unkind to the florist who doubled the Columbine; he has been dead so long. His handiwork appears already in the illuminated manuscripts of the fifteenth century in happy companionship with the "Jelofer Amyable" (a double flower, by the way, to John Skelton) and a little white counterpart of our most double Daisy, "Dresden China." If double Lilies, Irises, and Rhododendrons are already "on the way," that way, I hope, is leading to the bonfire; but I hope, too, that gardeners will remain sufficiently catholic to appreciate the old-fashioned formal beauty of double Roses, Carnations, Daisies, and Marigolds. F. A. HAMPTON.

P.S.—If the double thorn has really lost the stale, fishy smell of Corinna's May, should we not congratulate rather than blame it?

—— Most garden lovers will agree with the tirade against double flowers (page 763), but it is doubtful whether any "wicked florist" had a hand in producing the double snowdrop that probably had its origin as a freak of Nature, an exaggeration of the scheme whereby, for purpose of display, certain outer members of the staminal whorl assume the form of petals. A double Snowdrop is a monstrosity, as ugly as a double Lily. Nobody should perpetuate either by giving it a place.

Something far more exasperating has happened here among a batch of seedling Eucryphia pinnatifolia. Fifteen years we had to wait before the first of these bloomed, and lo! it produced double flowers devoid of all the grace peculiar to this shrub or tree. No florist had manipulated the parent plant,

Modest single Snowdrops

Their pendulous white flowers, with the "heart-shaped seal of green" dear to Rossetti, hold a unique place in the affections of all garden lovers

yet what should have been a crowd of delicate filaments, each with its tiny dot of pollen, had aborted into rather stumpy white petals. The plant is now 8 feet high and retains its position in virtue of its barren flowers long outlasting the fertile flowers of the others. HERBERT MAXWELL.
Monreith.

"Most popular Apple"

With reference to the correspondence in recent issues on the subject of an Apple audit, it is interesting to record the result of the "Most Popular Fruit Ballot" at the Imperial Fruit Show. The number of persons who recorded their votes was 3,150, and the result of the ballot shows the following order of popularity:—

1. Cox's Orange Pippin.
2. Blenheim Orange.
3. Worcester Pearmain.
4. Allington Pippin.
5. Golden Russet.
6. King.
7. McIntosh Red.
8. Jonathan.

It is not clear from this declaration whether No. 6 is intended for King of the Pippins or King of Tomkins County. C. T. K.

Apples in an amateur's garden

I am very much amused at Mr. W. F. M. Copeland's article *re* "Apples in an Amateur's Garden." He says: "Stick a spade all round tree about a foot from the stem and hammer plenty of rusty nails into the branches. The effect will be magical." He also says he is living in the sunny south and in a hot shop, so perhaps his article does not apply to Scotland. W. A. BALDWIN.
Berwickshire.

Apple Gravenstein

This Apple, if allowed to grow freely and is not pruned, will bear well and without missing a season. I have only one tree of it, planted about 20 years ago, and now reaching the height of about 30 feet. The tree this year, as is the case with most varieties with me, has not produced its usual crop. Still, from this one tree I have gathered ¾ bushel of fruit. The flesh is juicy and very pleasant, and the aroma of the fruit extremely good. The variety requires open space for its development. It is said to be the ex-Kaiser's favourite Apple, the only thing in which he has shown good taste. CHARLES E. SHEA.
The Elms, Foots Cray, Kent.

Garden poems

"Constant Reader" writes:—Thank you for Tennyson's lines and the picture of his birthplace (issue December 17th). I am wondering if this is a fitting place for the beautiful words of Dorothy Frances Gurney:—

The Lord God planted a garden,
In the first white days of the world,
And set there an angel warden,
In a garment of light unfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,
The Hawk might nest with the Wren;
For there, in the cool of the Even,
God walked with the first of men.

And I dream that these garden closes,
With their shade and their sunflecked sod
And their Lilies and bowers of Roses,
Were laid by the hand of God.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the bird for mirth;
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

Cercidiphyllum japonicum

Why does Mr. R. E. Arnold describe this species as a shrub of the average height of 4 feet to 6 feet (page 769)? It is reckoned the largest deciduous tree of Japan. Mr. J. H. Veitch has recorded one near Sapporo with a trunk 21 feet in circumference ("A Traveller's Notes," page 131), and Wilson found one in China with a girth of 55 feet. Awkward denizens of an English shrubbery!
Monreith. HERBERT MAXWELL.

Scented climbing vine

I notice an inquiry about this and your reply at p. 775. I expect your correspondent saw the same advertisement as I did a year or two ago. It emanated from Dublin, I believe. I bought some of the so-called "scented Vine" roots, and they turned out to be Yams (Dioscorea). I did not regret it, as grown as climbers on a trellis or wall with wire or twine they were extremely ornamental and the veined leaves very handsome. They grew rapidly and to a great height, and, of course, died down each year. Few knew what it was. It had no scent, but it was at least edible. It is well worth trying as an unusual and ornamental climber. Cows and horses eat it. R. S. B.

Hoheria populnea

I was very much surprised to read in your issue of November 26th, page 732, that November was the normal month for the Hoheria to flower in Somerset, and would like to know if the particular plant referred to has suffered any disturbance during the year. Here in South-west Scotland the Hoheria is well known, and flowers with unfailing regularity during July, so that I cannot understand why it should be so belated when growing 400 miles further south. Another point of interest arises from the splendid illustration of this plant in flower on the same page, where it is depicted as flowering right to the tips of the shoots. Here it does not flower in that manner, and the current year's growths are always fairly well advanced when the flowers are produced on last year's growths (as your correspondent states, in small clusters at the axils of the leaves). The rapidity of growth referred to is also rather abnormal—viz., from a small

plant in 1923 to 8 feet high in 1927—as an old plant put out here about 20 years ago is now about 10 feet high and nearly as much across, so that its annual increase has been less than 6 inches per year on the average.

A. T. HARRISON.

Culzean Castle Gardens, by Maybole.

—— There is a difference in the time of flowering between the type Hoheria populnea and the form H. p. lanceolata. In Sussex the former flowers in November and the latter in late July. We have submitted this inquiry to our contributor, Mr. N. G. Hadden, who kindly replies:—

The plant referred to as flowering in November in my garden in West Somerset had not been moved or interfered with in any way since it was planted in 1923. November is certainly the normal flowering season for this individual tree and others of its particular variety. I first saw it in flower at Kew in the temperate-house at the end of October some years ago. The plant known in gardens as Hoheria populnea lanceolata is distinct from the other form in its much narrower foliage and also in its habit of flowering much earlier. Hoherias are very variable plants, and no doubt when raised from seed in quantity varieties with comparatively large and small flowers, early and late flowering, bushy and upright forms may be obtained. Dr. Cockayne, in "The Cultivation of New Zealand Plants," distinctly states that Hoheria populnea flowers later than H. angustifolia, which is apparently the plant grown here as H. populnea lanceolata.

N. G. HADDEN.

West Porlock, Somerset.

Gold medal Roses

In support of the remarks of "W. R." and "Old Hand" concerning Gold Medal Roses, I would like to make the two following suggestions for those amateurs who, perhaps, have neither the time nor the opportunity to go very fully into the matter before selecting their Roses:—

(1) Never buy a new Rose simply because it has obtained a gold medal, an Award of Merit, or a very glowing description. Wait a year. You will then be able to glean up reliable information.

(2) Obtain your Roses from one of the small but increasing number of nurserymen who now give in their catalogues a list of many of the new Roses with a perfectly candid opinion of them after a year's trial, and refuse to be gulled by the nurserymen who persistently use the most absurdly extravagant words to describe *every* new Rose they raise.

One has to remember, of course, that Roses behave very differently in different seasons and under varying cultural conditions. For these reasons a definite opinion of a new Rose is sometimes not given until after a second year's trial.

G. E. D.

An improved hedge clipper

Some year or so ago I wrote to you upon the subject of the Little Wonder Hedge Clipper, and sent you a photograph showing it in use, which you kindly published.

In that letter I pointed out what a boon it was to us here, and also drew attention to certain defects which I considered it had.

Mr. Joh. Hansen, of Astor House, Aldwych, wrote to me the other day and said that he had improved the machine, and if I would send him mine he would convert it. I have now received it back from him, and, in my opinion and that of my gardener, all the objections which I pointed out seem to have been perfectly met.

I understand that the new machines sent out will be like the one I have, and that anyone who wishes may have his old machine converted. I think after my adverse criticism of the machine that it is the least I can do to give your readers this information.

THACKERAY TURNER.

Westbrook, Godalming.

Lilium tenuifolium, found in Siberia and Northern China

One of the daintiest of Lilies, with brilliant scarlet Turk's-cap flowers and fine grassy foliage on a slender, graceful stem. It is one of the parents of the variety Golden Gleam

Are Antirrhinums annuals?

In answer to the above query I would say, emphatically, no. With regard to remarks in brackets on page 734, I cannot agree that the question should be left in the hands of local show committees. These committees are formed by, and consist of, members belonging to a horticultural society. They are usually keen horticulturists and look forward to their favourite gardening periodical for information and guidance. The above question is raised, and up to date the correspondence leaves them in the position to classify the Antirrhinum either as an annual or a perennial. This business does not help the keen exhibitor "of the more or less casual class," and I think it is a pity that some judges have allowed the Antirrhinum to be exhibited as an annual; they are mainly responsible for the confusion. They have allowed Antirrhinums, will they admit Pentstemons, which appear by the correspondence to be demanded

COMMITTEMAN.

New incurved Chrysanthemums

The views of your correspondent "Geo. Garner," in which he concurs in the views expressed by me on page 719 of your issue of November 19th last, regarding the revival of interest in the incurved type of the Chrysanthemum, are timely. It was my pleasure to see the products of his cultural skill many years ago, when he was a most successful grower and exhibitor. I am glad to see that he is keeping abreast of the times and is still able to appreciate the progress of events in so far as they relate to the Chrysanthemum. My object in the present instance, however, is to call attention to a dainty little new incurved Chrysanthemum named Annice, raised, I believe, by Mr. Percy Cragg, of the firm of Cragg, Harrison, & Cragg, Heston-Hounslow. This charming little incurved variety was certificated quite recently by the Floral Committee of the N.C.S., and rightly so. It is small-flowered, about 3½ inches in diameter, with rather narrow florets, and the colour is silvery lilac. When I first saw this novelty it took me back to those years when Lady Hardinge and other varieties of that character were so popular. I am glad, therefore, to think that flowers of this new sort will be seen in the markets as well as at the Chrysanthemum Shows of the future. Mr. Cragg has other pretty incurved seedlings regarding which we shall probably hear more later.

D. B. CRANE.

Lilium tenuifolium Golden Gleam

NOT for some years have I seen this exquisite little Lily, and have retained memories of an unusually beautiful flower; bulbs are still offered, although, apparently, they are not plentiful. Hybrid Lilies are notoriously short-lived subjects, and perhaps Golden Gleam partakes somewhat of this character. Many hybrids have been raised, but few remain, the best of the latter category being, possibly, the well-known L. testaceum. Golden Gleam is a hybrid between L. tenuifolium and L. Martagon album, and bears exquisite bright golden-orange flowers with considerable freedom. It is stem-rooting, and surpasses L. tenuifolium in freedom of growth and flowering. Three or four bulbs placed in a pot of moderate dimensions will create a pleasing display, and this little Lily should also do well in well-drained soil—loam and leaf soil—in the open. It flowers June to July, and grows 1½ feet to 2 feet high.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

Ligustrum japonicum

The Japanese Privet is one of our most precious evergreens, almost, if not quite, unrivalled in the rich quality of its darkest green, highly polished leaves. It is a prosperous-looking shrub, anything up to 10 feet high, it grows quickly, and every year throws out long leafy shoots that are useful as accompaniments to indoor flowers. As it bears vigorous cutting back much of this material can well be spared. It has also another indoor use, for the leaves are so much like those of the Orange, except for their deeper colour, that we arrange them with Oranges on the dessert dish, so pleasantly recalling the custom in southern countries of cutting Oranges with a few inches of stem and leaf attached. The only defect of this handsome shrub is the heavy, unpleasant smell of the flowers in the late summer, a smell which is only too liberally given off and which carries far and wide.

G. J.

The Modern Stone Age

By Herbert G. Longford.

DEEP down in the heart of Dorset, past and beyond the shady groves and rolling plain of the New Forest, lies the so-called Isle of Purbeck, famous for centuries for the quality of its hard grey stone. Norman warriors respected its durability, the builders of Westminster Abbey, Wells, and many another cathedral gave it pride of place in their stately structures, modern architects and municipal authorities rely with confidence upon its granite strength, and now, after centuries of working, the vast natural resources of this famous land of stone have found yet another outlet in the production of garden ornaments, sundials and birdbaths, hollow troughs for "sink gardens"—a perfect natural setting for nestling Alpines. Frost proof and practically unbreakable, quickly vegetating and mellowing with exposure, they are in perfect keeping with the charm and repose and quiet beauty which is the true aim of all good gardeners. Vases and pottery of concrete are cold and meaningless ornaments, which by comparison with hand-wrot natural stone are as the glass-covered china wreaths which offend the eye amid the quiet floral tributes of a country churchyard.

The choosing of a good and suitable stone for garden ornaments calls for the exercise of considerable knowledge and judgment. In the first place, it must be of a quality which will not scale or split during frosty weather, but rather must harden with exposure. Yet it must not be flint hard or vitreous, but porous, or otherwise it will not mellow by exposure.

In the Isle of Purbeck there are between 70 and 80 named and recognised commercial varieties of stone. Probably the best variety for garden ornaments is known as "Thornback." It consists largely of conglomerated fossil shells, which give "figure" and character to its surface. The most easily worked and undesirable grade is called "Thomsons"; it is soft, and scales badly in frosty weather. The bulk of the work is carried out in what is known as "freestone"—a hard and good grade, but lacking the fossils.

The cool grey Dorset stone

The rights of the quarrymen are inherited; few, if any, outsiders are ever admitted to the trade, which is conducted exclusively in the old-fashioned way, by master craftsmen, raising their own stone with implements of prehistoric simplicity, and fashioning it for its destination at the quarry mouth.

Long ages ago the quarrymen of Dorset claim that their forbears rendered yeoman national service in fiercely repelling an attack by an invading horde of Danes (so 'tis said), and they were rewarded (legend says by Queen Elizabeth!) by a Royal Charter, securing to them and to their descendants for ever the *sole* right to quarry the minerals of the district. Be this as it may, it is an indisputable fact that father and son have been engaged continuously on the same work—yes, and with similar tools and implements—since the days prior to the Norman Conquest! I wonder how many arts and crafts in England—with the sole exception of the flint workers, who claim direct descent from the arrowhead makers—could lay claim to such a record?

Century after century the same families have clung to their industry, working their craft with wonderful skill under conditions little, if any, better than slavery. No more than a generation ago—within the memory of the older men—a skilled masterman with a family to support "earned" no more than a few shillings a week—barely enough to keep body and soul together—paid not in money but in kind, yielding the product of his labour to middlemen with hearts of stone, who sold to consumers throughout the kingdom at enormous profits. Happily, these days are past, but even now you may talk to men who started life at 1s. a week of 60 hours or more, working by candle light in dripping caves or "quarries," as they are called, bent double for want of headroom, frequently 100 feet or more underground employed all day hauling great stones to the light. Time rings her changes, and in this instance they are all for the better. By co-operation and mutual goodwill, a craftsman to-day is able to earn a fair day's pay. Hard-working, kindly spoken, courteous, and highly skilled, here surely is a craft, mellowed with history, product of Mother Earth, worthy alike of our gardens and our generous support. There is an old-world sense of rest and quietness in cool grey Dorset stone.

Thornback stone from the Isle of Purbeck is suitable for garden ornaments

Summer plants for tubs and boxes

WHERE space is limited for flowers in beds and borders quite a nice display can be provided by the use of boxes, tubs, or vases. The materials for filling the same are ample, and can be varied in height and colour to harmonise with situations in which they are placed. Tubs are offered for sale by different firms, but they are rather expensive, and substitutes can be found in the shape of barrels sawn asunder, butter boxes discarded from factories, and so on. In preparing these for the reception of the plants it is a great mistake to use too much drainage; just a thin layer of crock will be sufficient, or the plants dry out so quickly, especially in hot summers and in exposed situations. I found it a good plan to put a small layer of dry cow manure over the crocks, so that when the roots penetrated to that depth they had something substantial on which to feed. The compost for the majority of plants should be mainly a good loam, with just a little leaf soil and a sprinkling of sand, and as a stimulant there is nothing better than cow manure and soot water, to be applied when plants are well established and bursting into flower; not too soon, or one gets leafage at the expense of bloom. In choosing plants for the purpose one must give the preference to those things that with good treatment will give a long-sustained display with clean, healthy foliage. Thus in scarlets there is probably nothing better than Salvia Pride of Zurich, with, if a trailer is required for the edge, Ball of Fire Tropæolum, and for white one of the best Marguerites, although the latter must be carefully watched to guard against the attack of the fly causing the leaf-boring maggot. Fuchsias are splendid plants for the purpose, and there are several of natural drooping habit, as General Roberts and Cloth of Gold; and if a few twigs are placed in the tubs for the benefit of some of the shoots and others are allowed to drop over the sides quite a depth of flower and foliage is obtained, remarks that also apply to Miss Willmott Verbena, which under such conditions forms a pyramidal mass of pink with touches of greenery between. Well-grown shapely plants of the Speaker or Galilee Heliotrope will supply a shade of these and an always welcome scent. These may be edged with Campanula isophylla. If a touch of yellow was required I found nothing better than Veronica Thompsoni variegata with Tropæolum canadensis or the old Creeping Jenny as trailers. There are, of course, several hardy herbaceous plants than can be used for the purpose, notably Phloxes, early and late Œnotheras, Geums, and others, but they have not such a long-sustained flowering season as the more tender things named earlier in the note, and it is not pleasant to have to clear out and renew before the season is half over. Antirrhinums are sometimes used, but if so the first spike showing should either be pinched out, or if allowed to flower promptly removed directly there are signs of seed pods at its base, otherwise it will be a long time before the side spikes develop.

E. Burrell.

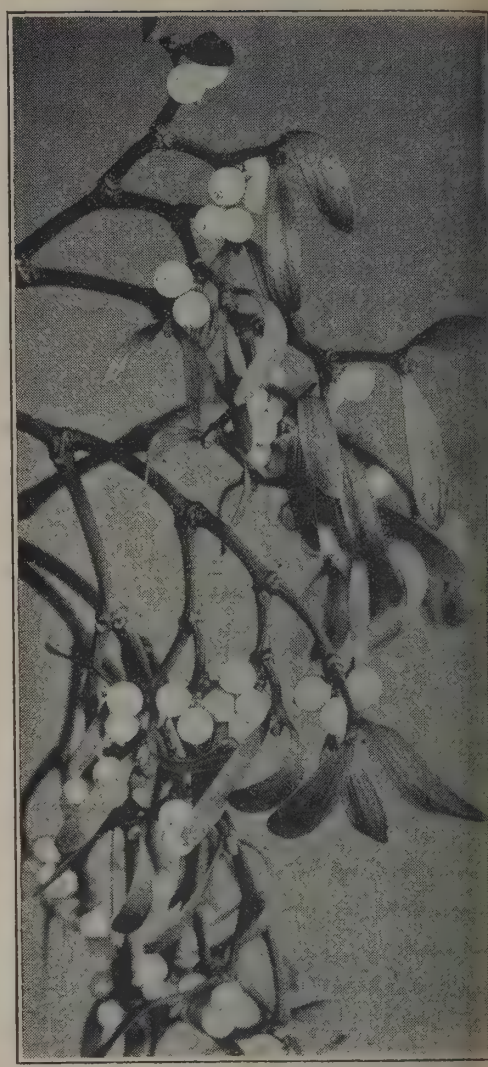
The Mistletoe

" Lord, I am like the mistletoe,
Which has no root, and cannot grow
Or prosper, save by that same tree
It clings about; so I by Thee."

HERRICK.

THE Mistletoe, or the Viscum album of the botanist, was held in reverence in ancient times, probably owing to its parasitic character. It was held to be a protection against evil spirits and bodily ailments, and our custom of hanging it in our houses to-day appears to have descended from those early days when its presence was regarded as a shield. The Monkish herbalists named it Lignum sanctæ crucis, the Wood of the Holy Cross. Decoctions of it were taken inwardly and small pieces of it were worn upon the breast. In more modern days " the Kissing Bush " has doubtless come to the rescue of many a bashful lover, and the favour which it enjoys at the festive season of Christmastide in our homes has no doubt placed it under the ban of the Church, or at any rate to have kept it from use as a decorative plant in places of Christian worship. Some people, however, like to trace the ecclesiastical ban to its close association with pagan, and particularly Druidic, rites. It has been supposed that the Druids held the plant in such high esteem because, unlike others, it existed above the reach of all the defilements of earth. Even when the greater part of our land was covered with vast forests of Oak it was but rarely, it is said, to be found growing upon this tree. Some writers maintain that this Druidic Mistletoe was not the true Viscum album, but an allied species which was ruthlessly extirpated by ecclesiastics at the downfall of the old Druidic worship. I wonder if the true Viscum album has ever been found growing upon the Oak? In the course of many inquiries I have only got as near as discovering a man whose father had told him he had heard of it growing in a wood near. I have also heard of it growing upon the Elm, but have never met with it, though I have seen it growing plentifully on the Lime trees close to Elms. In the Botanic Garden at Oxford it is to be seen growing on many different trees, but not on one allied to the Oak, I believe. There it flourishes on Pyrus malus, P. Aria, Cotoneaster Lindleyi, Juglans niger, Robinia Pseudacacia, Cratægus Orientalis, C. tanacetifolia, Æsculus octandra, Ostrya carpinifolia, and Acer monaspessulanum. On the Æsculus and Cratægus the Mistletoe is of a dark Holly-green colour, and the leaves are smaller than those of the type. On the Ostrya it was noted the plants all exhibi their peculiar golden-green tinge.

The Mistletoe (Viscum album, female form) growing lustily on a young Crab Apple



The Common Mistletoe has been associated with many superstitions from the most ancient times, and has been highly extolled for its medicinal virtues

Ecclesiastics of all ages have been fon of symbolism, and they have likened th white berries of the Mistletoe to the drop of sweat and the berries of the Holly to th drops of blood shown at Our Lord's Passion perhaps striving to wean their followers fro belief in pagan superstition and to mak these plants the instruments of bringing wit them thoughts concerning the Christia faith at this great winter festival.

Brighton. H. H. W.

Eupatorium Weinmannianum

This South American species is a very fas growing, autumn-flowering evergreen shru of great merit. Opening its white flowe usually in August, and continuing more o less until December, the fluffy seed vesse which follow continue to make the shru attractive, as they contrast so beautifull with its evergreen foliage. This Eupatoriu is tender, and is not recommended for th Midlands or the North. I know of no shru which propagates so easily by cuttings; thes are best taken in early spring.

This Eupatorium likes a good rich con post, with plenty of leaf soil and sand adde It makes an excellent shrub for pot cultur and is sometimes known as E. odoratum.

R. MOORE.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

ligh-class flowers for November and December

REALLY first-rate blossom may be had from open ground plants up to the end of October, but in the production of later es pot culture becomes the better plan. aybe lifted plants—I mean those grown in open and then placed under glass to bloom are managed by the thousand for late wers by those who market the produce; t still, however well the thing is done, the ality of the flowers is some way behind it of pot-grown, and it is good quality that ants.

Decorative Chrysanthemums are the most pular of all in these days, and cultivators being educated to the fact that just as ich care is needed in growing them as in case of the giant show bloom. In the st it was not unusual, in being guided ough a collection of plants, to be pretty ll informed as to peculiarities of the big w blooms; but when it came to the turn the others a wave of the hand was suffi- nt—these are merely grown for cut blooms. t so in these times, when owners of gar- s are more interested in the style that is ful. The handsome, medium-sized flower, h a long stem of equally good-looking iage, provides the ideal for vase and other oration of the home.

The principal item in respect to rooting tings at this dull period of the year is sh, sweet earth. Loam that has been kept the dry and coarse sand is all that is ded. If old soil be employed, and espe- lly that which has had manure in its mix- e, it will be found that the cuttings linger; y are a long time in making roots. We lect grit from a river bank to mix with turf and find this better than silver sand getting a quickly rooted cutting. Anyway, manner of striking—that is, in boxes no per than 2½ inches—is preferred to that of ng pots. Nor is fire heat advisable—only keep away frost.

When rooted, some of the plants are potted small pots in pairs, others singly. The ner are ultimately to go in the larger size; , indeed, above 8-inch diameter. And all ough early spring we try to keep the infant cimens as sturdy as possible by the use of enhouse shelves near the glass; then when rch is here a cold frame is sought. One rmediate shift into larger pots is neces- y before the final size is reached, using se of 5-inch diameter for the smaller plants a size larger for the pairs.

Potted turf through all the stages is the nstay as regards compost. The nature of , whether light or heavy, determines the ntity of opening material, broken mortar ble, that shall be mixed with it. Then e meal at the rate of a couple of pounds the bushel makes up a capital rooting lium for the plant in question. Sound ing—this is the soil rammed in in a firm with a stick—is essential to success; as good open position to stand the plants ummer time.

The training in the case of plants to fur- the decorative bloom consists in making ushy. The nature of the great majority varieties is to provide such branching nation without topping the point of the lt. We prefer not to touch these points n growing the single sorts, and only in ptional instances is the practice desirable n the sorts bear double blooms. An nple of a variety the better for topping Mrs. R. F. Felton. Grown naturally, the n stem goes up a considerable height re branching; it thus presents a leggy appearance. Later in these remarks, in dealing with varieties, any like the above will be indicated. On the general question, however, one can produce the higher quality bloom the more surely when a plant is allowed its own way of growing, but thin the branches, of course.

This thinning may be done the moment side branches appear, after first making up the mind how many a plant shall perfect. The character of the flower, too, is influenced by the bloom bud that is selected. Generally we set the first one that comes on the side branch—this termed the crown bud—and, of course, it is set, or retained, by taking away the small growths that surround it. The matter of buds is important, because the last or terminal bud is that which shows in a cluster, and by these we obtain the spray or branch of bloom on a stem. The high-class flower must have considerable time for development, and the crown bud, giving one bloom to each branch, is what the grower should aim at, removing every other side shoot of stem and branch as being superfluous.

A dozen good varieties bearing double blooms from end of October would be: Aldyth, crimson; Atalanta, pink; Blanche du Poitou, white; Gloriosa, golden amber; H. W. Thorp, white; In Memoriam, maroon; Jean Pattison, copper bronze; Mrs. R. F. Felton, crimson; Mayford, yellow; Romance, yellow; Uxbridge, pink; The Wizard, bronze. A dozen for December are: Balcombe Beauty, yellow; Baldock's Crimson; Delicata, pink; December Bronze; Dr. Enquehard, pink; Enfield White; Exmouth Crimson; Omega, amber; Percy Dove, white; Rosalind, bronze; The Favourite, white; Winter Pink.

A choice selection of single varieties, the first nine of which flower the earlier: Bronze Molly, Red Molly, Susan, Molly Godfrey, all four alike save colour; Catriona, old-rose shade; Grenadier, scarlet; Golden Seal, yellow; Rita Chestnut, suffused yellow; Dorothy Capp, white; Fusilier, crimson-scarlet; J. Barrell, chestnut-red and yellow; Lavinia, orange colour. The last three named may be had up to Christmas in a fresh condition. H. S.

New certificated Chrysanthemums

The Floral Committee of the National Chrysanthemum Society met at the Royal Horticultural Society's Offices, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W., on Monday, the 12th inst., and made the following awards:—

WINSOME.—A large-flowered single variety about 5 inches in diameter, having regularly-arranged broad florets slightly incurving at the ends, building a flower of good form. Colour, deep pink with narrow white zone round a golden disc of proper proportions. This new sort reminds one of the flowers of the one-time popular Edith Pagram. First-class Certificate. Shown by Mr. H. Shoesmith, Junr., Mayford, Woking, Surrey.

YELLOW STAR.—A most welcome addition to the spray sorts because of its late period of flowering. The sprays of blossom, in the opinion of several market growers, are not unlike those of Winter Cheer, with this difference, that they are borne on long, elegant stems, and are more graceful in consequence. Colour, pale yellow. The flowers are of reflexing form. F.C.C. Shown by Mr. P. Hulse, Shoreham Place Gardens, Shoreham. The exhibitor said the plants were twice stopped, once in April and again in June, and the sprays shown on this occasion were the result of plants treated in this manner. Height, about 6 feet.

The next and final meeting of this Committee of the present season is fixed for January 8th, 1928. D. B. CRANE.

A cure for mildew on Chrysanthemums

I am sending a recipe for mildew on Chrysanthemums which I have found most effective. Boil for 1 hour in 5 gallons of water 1 lb. each of soft-soap, soot, sulphur, and lime, allow the mixture to settle, and strain off. Use ½ pint of mixture to 2 gallons of water. Before housing plants, thoroughly wet the foliage of all varieties subject to mildew, such as Mrs. A. Davis and sports, Queen Mary, Princess Mary, and Rose Day. I have never seen any traces of mildew after this treatment, and the plants certainly look nicer than being sprinkled with sulphur as is often recommended. A. W. K.

Chrysanthemum Blanche Poitevine in a 5-inch pot and carrying eleven fine blooms

This type of plant is much favoured by modern cultivators

The magnificent Cypripedium H. T. Pitt, which gained a First Class Certificate
Shown by Miss A. B. Moore, Chardwar, Bourton-on-the-Water
Note the breadth of the massive dorsal sepal

The Cypripedium Show

TO attempt to give a brief description of the Orchid groups at the meeting held at Vincent Square on Tuesday, December 13th, is well-nigh impossible, and I feel sure exhibitors and friends will forgive me if I have overlooked some of their favourites, for my notes on the show would take up much more space than has been allotted. The outstanding exhibit was that shown by Miss Moore, Chardwar, Bourton-on-the Water (grower, Mr. Page), and was composed entirely of Cypripediums. Some 200 mammoth-flowered plants comprised the group, and with the exception of about six species all were raised at Chardwar. Many of these plants have previously received certificates, and on this occasion C. Windrush Memoria G. F. Moore and C. H. T. Pitt were both awarded the F.C.C. Other plants of special merit were Cypripediums Cappa Magna, Memoria F. M. Ogilvie, Chadmore, and several plants of the nearly perfect Cypripedium, The Great Mogul. A Gold Medal was awarded for this wonderful exhibit.

Another amateur, Mr. E. R. Ashton, of Tunbridge Wells, showed a small mixed group of well-grown plants, including Masdevallia tovarensis, which had about 20 spikes of bloom and received a Cultural Commendation. Sir J. Colman's exhibit always attracts the attention of those interested in botanical plants and rare species. The group at this meeting was no exception, and included Epidendrums, Masdevallias, and Bulbophyllums that one hardly knew existed.

An interesting exhibit was shown by Messrs. Sutton Bros., Hassocks, containing Cypripediums Sir Redvers Buller, Our King, Dreadnought, and Leeanum Chikuburyanum. Cattleya Ariel and the recent pure white hybrid Cattleya Mrs. J. Sutton were exhibited, and several well-flowered plants of Odontiodas, including O. Madeline, carrying a fine spike of 18 scarlet flowers edged with white.

Mr. Harry Dixon staged a mixed group containing Cypripedium Vulcan, very dark dorsal sepal relieved with a white edge, two plants of the rare species C. Schlimii, and a very dark form of C. Beechener; also Cymbidiums, Odontoglossums, and Cattleyas. Messrs. Cyphers' group contained only Cypripediums. C. Golden Wren was of outstanding merit, also several seedlings flowering for the first time.

Mr. J. Evans had an attractive group containing several well-grown plants of Vanda cœrulea (The Blue Orchid), Calanthes, Cypripediums, and Odontoglossums.

In the group from Messrs. Armstrong and Brown Cypripediums Gwen Hannan, Mrs. W. Pickup, Perseus, and Mrs. Ely were shown to advantage.

Messrs. Charlesworth and Co. showed mainly Odontoglossums, and a new seedling was shown in Odontonia Olga and received an Award of Merit.

An attractive group was that of Messrs. Cowan and Co. The centre plant, L. C. Hilary (C. Fabia x L. C. Soulangea), contains the best points of both parents, and received an Award of Merit. B. C. British Queen and several Masdevallias attracted attention.

Messrs. A. J. Keeling and Sons showed C. Arachne var. Charm, a well-named plant, and C. Chrysostom and the F.C.C. variety of Perseus. An interesting plant shown by this firm was Phaiocymbidium Chardwarense. This, as its name implies, is a hybrid between a Phaius and a Cymbidium, but I fail to find any trace of the Cymbidium parent.

Cypripedium Westminster, a flower of good shape, obtained an Award of Merit. Shown by Messrs. Black and Flory.

In Messrs. H. G. Alexander, Ltd.'s, group the blue of the Vanda cœrulea made a pleasing contrast to the yellow of the Oncidium varicosum, and several nice Cypripediums of the Westonbirt variety were also included.

As usual, the scarlet of the Odontiodas was the predominating feature in the group of Messrs. J. and A. McBean. Several charming Cattleyas and Cypripediums were also shown.

Messrs. Sanders' was chiefly interesting on account of the many genera shown. The F.C.C. variety of C. Perseus was the best of its kind, and the natural hybrid, Oncidium Mantonii will be described in a future number.

GROWER.

Making cuttings

WITH many subjects which are propagated during the spring months it is quite unnecessary to spend valuable time in trimming them. The blue Lobelia, which is still grown extensively for the London markets, is propagated from cuttings. The growers use shallow boxes, which hold from six to eight dozen cuttings. The first batch, which is propagated from the old stock, requires some care, as the cuttings are usually rather weak. Taken off carefully, without any of the old portion of the stem or bad leaves, they are put in without any making.

With a moderate bottom-heat and sufficient atmospheric heat to keep them fresh, they soon make a start. With these early cuttings damping is liable to occur, and the safest remedy for this is to sacrifice all those cuttings which are near those affected, for, if once allowed to spread, it will cause trouble throughout the season. After a good start is once made the tops will give good cuttings; if these are taken off short and put in without bruising them or allowing them to get withered, they start away freely enough. Harrison's Musk is another popular plant which is treated in a similar manner but requires more room. When a healthy stock is once started it is astonishing how little trouble it gives; but, once get damping or thrip among the stock, and all the care and attention that can be given will rarely eradicate the pests or secure satisfactory results. With Verbenas, the old-fashioned mode of taking off the bottom leaves is quite unnecessary. If cut off just above a pair of leaves, there will be sufficient stem to go into the ground deep enough to keep the cutting firm. Short cuttings are best, and these root much quicker than the long cuttings with a hard base. The most important points are to keep them from withering, clean, fresh soil, a good bottom-heat, and a cool surface. I should also add that for all of these and other subjects of a similar character plenty of light is essential. Although cuttings may flag a little, they will be none the worse if not allowed to go too far. If a little shading is necessary, it should always be taken off early in the afternoon. With regard to keeping them in a close frame, I find that if they are started from the first on an open stage they will do well enough, but if they have once been shut up in a close propagating pit they must be kept there until rooted. Where the surface heat is too high, some subjects, such

Petunias and Verbenas, will run up and e the sap from the base of the cuttings, h the result that they look well for a few s and then die off from the base. This is haps one of the greatest puzzles to those o have not paid careful attention to the ject.

Vith regard to the damping, it is gener- known that it is caused by a very fine, ead-like fungus, known to gardeners as damping-off fungus, which, when once ets a start, spreads with great rapidity, roying everything it touches. It gener- spreads over the surface of the pots, and cuttings will have the appearance of ing been scalded at the base. If left, the gus will soon spread over the whole sur-

ove: A lovely spike of Odontoglossum crispum Xanthotes

owers pure white, with a touch of gold on the lip

Shown by Messrs. Cowan and Co.

low: A well-flowered pan of the pure ite Masdevallia Tovarensis, which eceived a Cultural Commendation

wn by Mr. E. R. Ashton, Tunbridge Wells

I have frequently seen pots of cuttings n at first sight appeared quite healthy, loser examination totally destroyed by leadly enemy. The use of hot sand will its progress to some extent if the cut- that have suffered are removed and the shaken over the surface of the pots. ashes may also be used for mixing with plunging material. A close, stagnant sphere is most favourable to its develop- particularly if there are any bruised or decayed leaves or other vegetable r about. H.

Cinerarias

se are not usually required until later, or this reason should be grown in cool s or frames from which frosts are ex- d. Very little heat is required or desir- and the same applies to Herbaceous olarias, Humea elegans, Francoas, and r subjects. Any Calceolarias throwing spikes at this early date are best de- d, as they rarely come to anything.

Unheated glasshouses

THERE are hardy flowers, some very beautiful, which will bear a certain amount of frost, but which cannot resist the combined influence of cold and wet, which not infrequently characterises our English climate. In an unheated glass structure the conditions favourable to their well-being are fulfilled; it is not only that they get shelter during the winter months, but they also enjoy better conditions during the growing time. In a wet and sunless summer, such as we have this year experienced, some bulbous flowers, such as those from South Africa, do not ripen as they do in their native land, and are therefore in a weakened condition, and less able to withstand the vicissitudes of an English winter. A prolonged frost when there is no snow covering, and the ground is hard frozen, will much lower the vitality of some bulbous flowers, and will sometimes destroy them. I once had a good collection of Montbretias. A frost came that lasted three weeks, the earth being frozen as hard as a brick, with the result that nearly every bulb was killed. Had there been a couple of inches of snow no harm would have been done. In how many gardens shall we see those beautiful South African bulbous flowers, the Sparaxis, Babianas, and Ixias, well established and in a flourishing condition? They may bloom well the first year after planting, but it is very rare. How seldom do we see those beautiful South African bulbous flowers in good condition and well established? In very favoured localities they may sometimes be found leading a happy life, but the rule is that, although they may bloom very well the first year after planting, cold and wet affect their vitality to the extent of depriving them of their decorative value, and not infrequently of life. The consequence, naturally, is that the first attempt to grow them is the last. Our summers are not as a rule hot and dry enough to ripen bulbous flowers that are natives of Africa, and they cannot, therefore, withstand the heavy rains, melting snow, and severe frosts that more or less distinguish our English winters. It is the same with the early flowering Gladioli, such as The Bride, Rosy Gem, etc.; they would undoubtedly be much grown were they more reliable. In an unheated glasshouse they would undoubtedly be as happy as in their native land. Although in the warmer districts of England the Belladonna Lily is hardy, and blooms very well where the soil and position suit it, in the Midlands and North and Scotland it is wiser to give some protection. It is curious that this bulbous flower will sometimes not produce a flower for several years, this period of sterility being followed by a big show of bloom. It is one of our most charming garden flowers, more grown and valued fifty years ago than it is at the present time. An unheated glasshouse would be worth building, if only for the sake of seeing Camellias in perfect condition. The Camellia is hardy in the warmer counties, but it does not exhibit the luxuriance which characterises it in a normal condition, except perhaps in some of the most highly favoured districts in Cornwall and Devonshire. Those I have seen in Surrey gardens looked as if they needed something more to make them happy. Even if they bloom, the flowers are so weather-sick that they seldom yield the full measure of their beauty. The shelter of a glasshouse gives them all they need, and planted in suitable soil they are a joy for ever, and the cost of culture is reduced to a minimum. Lapagerias, red and white, can be associated with Camellias, as they enjoy the same conditions. They are hardy in the warmer counties. I have known them to live and bloom very well for years in a Surrey garden, but the young shoots which annually push up from the crown are almost sure to be eaten or

Cypripedium Sir Redvers Buller
Shown by Sutton Bros., Hassocks

Calanthe Harrissii, flowers white
Shown by Mr. J. Evans, Colwyn Bay

damaged by slugs, which, of course, robs them of their decorative worth. In a glasshouse they can be easily watched, and vermin dealt with. Well-cared for they will make shoots 15 feet long, and nothing can exceed the floral beauty of Lapagerias when their blooming powers are fully developed. They should be planted in a compost of peat leaf-soil, with some crushed charcoal and about one-tenth of silver sand, which with reasonable care in watering will remain sweet indefinitely.

There are many hardy flowers that can be sheltered in an unheated glasshouse. The glories of spring can be anticipated by utilising the earliest flowering Narcissi, Tulips, such as Van Thol and the Pottebaker varieties. Coloured Primroses, when the plants are healthy, will in a fairly open season produce flowers throughout the dull months, but they are liable to be damaged by frost and rain. Under a glass roof they remain as fresh and good in colour as when blooming in their natural season in the open. That pretty little blue flower, Omphalodes verna, the creeping Forget-me-not, will expand its first blooms early in February; in a cold house it would be in full flower in March. Some of the tender species of Rhododendron, such as Falconeri and Edgworthi, and that very distinct death-like plant, Fabiana imbricata, only needs a little protection. There are many other things too numerous to mention which are not quite hardy in our uncertain climate, but which would be quite happy if simply protected by a glass roof. An unheated glasshouse is capable of giving as much pleasure as one filled with tender things, the cost being reduced to a minimum. Many amateurs who would like a glasshouse cannot afford the expense of heating apparatus and the fuel necessary to maintain plants in health throughout the winter months. They do not care, and sometimes cannot undertake the labour involved in maintaining the temperature necessary for securing tender plants from the effects of frost and damp. In the case of the unheated house there are none of these drawbacks, and the pleasure derived is quite as great as where tender plants are grown. J. CORNHILL.

Strawflowers

These are very easily grown annuals, known under the name of Helichrysums, and probably the most useful of all Everlastings. They are mostly natives of Australia, and in the South of England may be treated as hardy, although in the North they are best raised in the same way as Asters and other half-hardy annuals.

Seed should be sown either in pots or boxes of light sandy soil in slight heat in March, or at the end of April in the open ground where they are to flower. This will germinate in about 14 days, and when about 2 inches high the young plants should be thinned out to 12 inches apart. When well grown they will easily fill this space, and give much better results than when left much closer.

The plants make strong upright growth from 2 feet to 3 feet tall, and bloom profusely during late summer and autumn, especially if planted in fairly rich, moist soil where they get full sunlight all day long.

Being Everlastings, they not only give a long and distinctive display in beds and borders, and as fresh-cut flowers, but they may also be dried for winter use. Th should be cut when partly open with the d still on them, and be hung heads down in cool, airy place until thoroughly dry. Ma beautiful strains of self colours are offer in seedsmen's catalogues, a few of the b being Silverball (excellent for bouquets a wreaths in winter), Fire Ball, Copper Ki Salmon, Rose, and Violet Queen. R. K.
St. Albans.

Tropæolum tuberosum

This is a handsome, slender, climbi plant, eminently suited for those garde where the soil is poor and dry.

The tubers may be planted about 4 incl deep in April or May, taking care to sel the hottest position in poor gravelly soil.

If planted in rich soil the plants fail flower profusely, as noticed in a lesser deg in the annual Nasturtium.

The plant grows from 2 feet to 4 feet hi and for support should be given some twi over which it will ramble freely.

It would be difficult to find anything m worthy of a position where its flower-la shoots may fall over or climb up the f of a rock in full sunshine, while it is sui for an open spot in the garden, where peculiar beauty may be well seen.

When covered with its scarlet and yell flowers this plant is one of the most pleas climbers, and never fails to arouse intere Few plants flower so constantly as this wh grown on poor soil. It is seldom with flowers.

The tubers may be lifted in autumn a stored away from frost for the winter.
H. STEVENS

VEGETABLES

Making an Asparagus bed

WILL you kindly oblige by informing me the best way to make a new Asparagus bed? Would faggots do drainage as well as brick ends and other aterial? I should like to know the best ne to plant two or three year-old plants. ould lime be hurtful to Asparagus, as beds have not cropped well since some ne was used on them?—F. G.

Much depends upon the constitution of surface and subsoils in Asparagus cul- e, and those who require information on subject ought always to fully describe se, as well as the position of the garden, whether high or low ground. This F. G." has neglected to do, and our reply ist, therefore, partake somewhat of a con- tural character. Presumably his subsoil of a heavy clayey nature, or otherwise re would be no necessity for any extraor- ary drainage measures. When the sub- l is of a clayey nature it is much too reten- e of moisture to suit Asparagus, many of roots perishing during the winter, while infrequently numbers of the plants die right. In all such cases it pays well to e extra trouble in preparing the sites, and system of planting in raised beds is also be commended. The orthodox width of l is 5 feet, this holding three rows of nts, but those formed 3 feet wide, holding rows of plants, are usually the earliest produce shoots in the spring, as they are most quickly affected by the sun's rays. eys 2 feet wide should divide the beds, se, in addition to serving as pathways, o admitting a fair amount of light and air the plants as they advance in growth. e bed being duly marked out with four ut corner stakes and the lines cut, the t proceeding should be to throw out all surface soil down to the clay right and of the wide trench thus formed. At least good spit of clay or clayey subsoil should n be dug and wheeled clean out, and if s can be at once burned so much the better, coarsest of this ballast being good mate- l for returning to the bottom of the trench l the finer for mixing with the surface soil. he position is somewhat low and not par- larly well, or it may be too deeply, ined, it is advisable to make the bottom the trench with a dip to the centre, along ich a 2-inch or even a larger common in should be laid, this having a good out- In any case a layer of coarse stones, k ends, or clinkers may well be placed he bottom of the trench, this being faced r with mortar rubbish or the finer stones l brick ends. As it happens, this kind of terial is not generally available, and where ubstitute has to be found it may consist of gots, as suggested by "F. G.," or old bage, Cauliflower, and Broccoli stumps l any other slowly perishable substances, ng over with leaves or strawy manure. oundation will now be ready for the soil. t thrown out from the trench and pre- red will not be either sufficient or light ugh, and with it therefore should be ed plenty of fine mortar rubbish, burnt den refuse, leaf soil, common sand, old ing soil, old Mushroom bed material, trimmings, and a moderate quantity of ed manure, the whole being thoroughly l turned and mixed with forks. The least t can be done is to add abundance of light soil procurable and horse stable ure well decayed with the ordinary gar- soil, in order to both increase the bulk also to improve the nature of it. A bed l made will remain in a very profitable e for many years, and there are instances re the greater portion of a heavy, bad working garden has been gradually brought into capital condition by being first thus well prepared for and cropped with Asparagus.

Where it is not necessary or thought advisable to excavate the subsoil, the site for the bed may be bastard trenched, abundance of the various materials named being well mixed with the subsoil, and the lighter or finer substances stirred into the surface. In some instances it may be unwise to attempt improving the subsoil beyond breaking it up with digging forks, but in order to increase the depth of the surface; thus, whether raised beds are formed or not, much other suitable material must be added and well stirred in. In no case, however, ought the planting to be done before the spring. The sites may well be prepared during the winter, but if the plants are lifted and replanted before they have commenced to grow and to form fresh root-fibres, or while yet the ground is in a cold, wet state, the greater portion will either die or else make but a feeble start. Late in April or early in May is quite soon enough to plant Asparagus on comparatively heavy land, a fortnight earlier answering well under more favourable circumstances.

With regard to the injurious effect of lime upon Asparagus, we can only hazard an opinion, not having observed any very good or any very ill effects from its use. A light surfacing of newly slaked lime, say, at the rate of a bushel to every 15 square yards of surface, applied and lightly forked into a retentive, and for several seasons in succession heavily manured, soil would act beneficially rather than otherwise. Once in every five or six years would be ample, and if mortar rubbish was well mixed with the soil when the beds were formed no fresh lime ought to be given at any time. More likely than not the mischief was done by a liberal use of salt, this substance applied to heavy soils especially acting most injuriously, not a few failures being due to its indiscriminate use.]

Ridging vacant ground

The drenching season we have experienced far and wide since early June must have taught the majority of cultivators that the earlier this work is proceeded with the better, especially soil of a retentive nature, so that it may rid itself of superfluous moisture under the drying influence of wind and any sun that may be given us during the next few months. There is no reason, as far as my knowledge lays, why soils of a light and more porous soils should not be treated similarly; such exposure to all weathers, as we well know, tends to sweeten it, and many soils are over-fed with rich manure year after year which, if opened up to the elements for a time, will eliminate whatever weather may be in store for us.

On the other hand, there are hungry soils which would benefit by intermixing a little fresh loam, lime, wood-ash, or partly-decayed leaf-soil, while in the case of a more or less clayey nature would lay more open if something in the way of a strawy character from either the stable or cow-house could be worked in between the spits, whether it be two or more, whichever each case admits. We manure and dig our ground in the fall of the year as a rule, as labour is none too plentiful in many gardens for such work to be done after the shortest day has passed. Where it is otherwise the manuring of light sandy or stony soil in the early months would provide more food for the respective crops, as the goodness of manure put into the ground in autumn must in some seasons be washed out of existence by the time cropping comes round in the early spring. Avoid as much as possible the working of the ground while in a very wet state; it is uncomfortable for the men, they are lifting extra weight and cannot make the progress they would do under drier conditions. Ground dug with a few degrees of frost in or a drying wind presents the ideal opportunity of performing such laborious work.

For preference the ridges are best running north to south, as they get the maximum of sun in the short days ahead of us during the next couple of months or so, and ground so treated always works down most satisfactory after the winter's weather, whatever may be forthcoming. J. M.

Seakale and Chicory

Roots of these should be prepared and planted in borders or deep boxes in the Mushroom-house or other warm house where it can be kept in the dark. If the plants are dewed over occasionally the results will be more satisfactory; it must, however, be in the form of a light mist.

Cold pits and frames

During winter and the early spring months these are of untold value in any garden, be it large or small, as there are so many things they can accommodate which would be out of place in a heated structure. Their health would be undermined as well as unsightly in company of many other subjects that are greatly benefited by a little artificial heat during inclement weather, which would prove detrimental to the subjects mentioned below. Undoubtedly brick pits are a long way ahead of an ordinary wood frame, as they afford greater protection during long spells of severe frost, but seldom found in small gardens, hence the necessity of making the very best use we can of them in lieu of the former.

Space can, at least should, be made for a two or three light box, selecting a sheltered corner, but open to every ray of sun during the shortest days in front of us, and what better position could be found for old stools of early-flowering Chrysanthemums annually growing more in favour by those of us who love to see our garden gay and bright up to the end of October as this one has been, and the absence of frost up to the first week of November must add to their popularity. Now most of them are over, the stools should be carefully lifted with a little soil attached, shortening unduly long roots, keeping each variety separate and placed in the frame fairly close together, with 4 inches of light soil from the garden placed amongst the roots, shallow frames being the best for the purpose. Water in if thought necessary, and only put the lights on during wet or frosty weather, covering with mats or sacks when the latter threatens to be severe, when, towards March, heaps of cuttings should be forthcoming or the plants divided in April or early May. The ever sought for double or single Violet are at home in such structures, affording bunches of flowers throughout the winter away from the fog-laden towns or cities if set out in October and well attended to, giving abundance of fresh air in mild weather.

These shallow frames are excellent for wintering seedling Cauliflower, Parsley, and Lettuce plants, the one thing absolutely necessary being to keep them near the glass lights, frequent stirring of the soil, and abundance of ventilation on every favourable occasion, without which the plants quickly decay and become useless. These latter subjects require but little soil, 6 inches is ample for the rooting medium, warding off slugs by frequent dustings of slaked lime and soot.

J. MAYNE.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Outside Vine borders

These should now receive protection of some kind, especially those in which early Grapes are growing, as snow and excessive rains not only produce a sodden state of the soil, but keep the temperature of the latter very low. One can scarcely improve upon a good deep layer of newly-collected Beech and Oak leaves with a further thin layer of straw or Bracken to hold them in place, finishing off by placing corrugated roofing sheets over the whole surface in such a manner that all water is carried clear of the border. In the case of early Grapes this will be found very beneficial, but with later kinds it is of less importance.

Grapes in store

Maintain the temperature of the Grape-room at 45 degs. to 50 degs. and keep the bottles replenished with water as required, examine each bunch weekly and remove decaying berries, but, providing the bunches were properly finished before storing, there should be few such to remove, and no anxiety need be felt for their keeping.

Pruning late Vines

Having been thoroughly hardened, the pruning and cleaning of the Vines should be pushed forward. I prefer close pruning of healthy Vines, otherwise long, ugly spurs which protrude too far from the main rod are quickly developed. This, however, must be carried out from the commencement, as it is practically impossible to renew old spurs by cutting them hard back. Allow plenty of space for the full development of laterals, failure to do so will result in thin, congested, and half-ripened wood.

Hardy fruit trees

A good winter wash which may be applied with a knapsack or other sprayer is concentrated alkali, obtainable from most horticultural sundriesmen. A calm day should be chosen, as it is dangerous to allow the spray, however fine, to drift back upon the worker's face or clothes. The largest orchard trees may then be sprayed successfully, care being taken to wet every part of the tree; Lichen, Moss, and lurking insects will then be destroyed and the trees present a vastly improved appearance.

Loganberries and Blackberries

Remove all the old worn-out growths and the weakest of the new, retaining sufficient only of the best and strongest to furnish their various supports. Fifteen inches apart is quite near enough for these strong-growing subjects. With the pruning and training completed apply a good top-dressing of farmyard manure, forking it lightly into the surface at a later date.

Planting

Fresh plantations may be made of the above, and also of Raspberries, including some of the valuable autumn-fruiting varieties, of which Perpetual Superlative, Ameloire d'Congy, Surprise of Autumn, Merveille of four seasons, Perpetual d'Billard, and large Orange are precious kinds. Good rich land is advisable and plenty of moisture during the growing season.

Hardy Ferns

Many of these are so beautiful that a small collection, at least, should find a home in every garden. Partial shade is desirable for most of them, but not absolutely essential. Leaf-soil in abundance they all enjoy, but most of them will grow in good loam or well-worked garden soil. Those which appeal so strongly at the present time are the evergreen kinds, many of which are yard-high bushes of elegant plumose fronds. Most of these may, with safety, be planted at the present time.

Things to avoid

Do not tie newly-planted climbers out immediately they are planted; to do so is to partly throttle the plant, as the soil invariably sinks a few weeks afterwards, therefore leave the tying until later. Do not prune any of the forms of Pyrus japonica until after they have bloomed; and this applies to Jasminum nudiflorum, Chimonanthus fragrans, Hamamelis, Forsythias, Stachyurus, Corylopsis, Clematis alpina and C. montana, Ribes laurifolium, Cornus Mas, Nuttallia cerasiformis, and Staphyleas.

The wild garden

Many of the naturalised plants in this department will now present an untidy appearance, and should be relieved of their decaying foliage, and before further planting becomes possible the grasses, etc., natural to such places must be cut and cleared away. Groups of ornamental Brambles, wild Roses, and similar subjects may be judiciously thinned in order that the colonies of bulbs springing up from about their feet may be seen to advantage in their season.

Turnips

These are sweetest when drawn from the open ground, but at this season it is advisable to keep a small supply in the root store for use during wet and frosty weather. Keep up a constant supply of forced Seakale, Chicory, and Rhubarb by placing a limited number of roots in the Mushroom-house every 10 days. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

Starting Vines

Where it is decided to have ripe Grapes early in the season a start must now be made, if this has not already been done. Only moderate warmth must be allowed at first, a night temperature of 45 degs. to 50 degs. being about right. This can be gradually increased after growth is apparent. Maintain a rather moist atmosphere and see that the roots are never permitted to get dry, nor yet be kept saturated.

Winter Cucumbers

It is not at all easy to maintain these in health and fruitfulness. A steady temperature of about 75 degs. must be kept up, while moisture is also necessary if vermin are to be kept at bay. Do not permit overcrowding of the shoots.

Sow Tomato seeds

If ripe fruits are desired by the middle of May, seeds should be sown at once. It will be necessary to maintain a genial temperature approximating 60 degs., and the pots must be given a light, sunny position, close to the roof-glass. Careful watering, pricking off into "thumb" pots of sweet light compost as soon as fit to handle, and the potting on, as soon as necessary, are some of the main points in the culture of early Tomatoes.

Gloxinias

Tubers of these gorgeous warm-house sub jects that were dried off and put to rest earl may now, if desired, be potted or boxe using a compost of, mainly, leaf mould an sand. If set in a warm-house or pit the will soon start into growth. Young plant that were kept growing should be on shelv near the glass, and be very carefully watere

Bedding plants

Pots and boxes filled with rooted cutting of these subjects should be overhauled occa sionally, all decaying foliage and weeds bein removed and the plants turned, so that a may receive their fair share of light and ai Do not permit the soil to get dry, but as littl permit it to become saturated by too frequer doses of water.

Herbaceous Calceolarias

Few plants so soon resent warm quarte as do these, so every care must be taken t keep the young plants in a house or p where artificial heat is only used to exclu frost. Coolness and a rather moist atm sphere is what this plant requires, and, give these, very little trouble is entailed in the growth. Given these conditions, and bein carefully watered, there is not much fear c vermin, but to make certain in regard to the an occasional vaporising with nicotine wi ensure immunity from attack.

Cinerarias

These, too, require a cool house or pit t thrive well. Plants showing colour shoul not be given further supplies of stimulant but later batches that have well filled the pots with roots should receive a little wea liquid manure twice a week.

Work for stormy days

It is usual to have quite a number of ba days at this season, when outdoor work mu be allowed to stand over until there is a improvement. There is, however, no nee for idleness, many jobs under cover bein always available, and the performing of the now will greatly help at the busy seaso Tools of all kinds should be cleaned, shar ened (where necessary), and any broken r paired, if this be worth while.

Making and mending

Given the necessary tools and material any handy man can build decent cutting ar seed boxes, these being always in demand all gardens. Old boxes can be repaire birch brooms made, and stakes repointe where necessary, tied into bunches, ar stacked in a dry place, ready for use. A empty flower-pots should be scrubbed, grade and stored past, ready for spring work.

Lawn mowers

If in good running order, these can ve well be cleaned and overhauled at home, an one of average intelligence being able to di mantle and reassemble machines of ar make. Every part should be scraped (if ve dirty, boiled in an old iron pot), wiped car fully, and then well oiled, before being r placed. It saves much confusion if two box be used, into which the different parts a laid as they are taken from the machine one being used for all the right-hand piec and the other for those on the left.

Cleanse all glass-houses

This is other very necessary work that ca with advantage be carried out during b weather, and should be done thoroughl every part being scrubbed, including t flower-pots. C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

ALPINES

Patrinea palmata

THIS lovely plant is charming for the rock garden, where it usually thrives in soils of a moist nature.

In general appearance the flower is that f our native Centaury, with its abundance f flowers, but instead of pink clusters of lowers this plant bears showy yellow blos-oms, gracefully set off in its handsome lossy leaves.

It bears a loose head of flowers about inches high, which last a considerable time beauty, and will withstand full exposure to he sun if given plenty of water at the roots.

Not the least attractive feature about the lant is its mild fragrance.

It is particularly useful in consequence of oming into bloom during July, when other right colours are fading away.

The plant possesses graceful habit and ich beauty. It should be grown in broad asses in positions where a rich summer ffect is desired, for its beauty is of a showy rder.

In a moist place it thrives in full sun, nd in a nook embellished with the handsome eaves the effect is good, as it flowers on very bit of growth well raised above the eaves.

Those having moist places would find it n interesting plant to grow, while for moist ots by the side of a rill it is worth a place, e reflection of its yellow flowers in the ater adding greatly to its charm.

It may be grown well on fully exposed ots in deep loam kept moist during the dry eason. It is of such remarkable beauty at it may be used with good effect on the wer flanks of the rock garden, where the ck is suggested rather than exposed.

To get the best effect out of the plants it best to plant in broad masses; isolated amples, planted here and there, lose much their charm.

When well grown this plant will prove a lightful ornament of much beauty, and well serving the care of the rock gardener.

H. STEVENS.

Calaminthas

Calamintha alpina is a good plant, which ows from 6 inches to 8 inches high, and ves in July and August many violet white-ped flowers. A large plant is quite attrac-e and valuable in the border or rock gar-n. Still finer, however, is C. grandiflora, ich is more decumbent, and with larger wers of reddish violet. Both of these are asantly aromatic. Common garden soil and sunny position suit these Calamints quite ll. They may be raised from seeds or in-eased by division. S. ARNOTT.

Cyananthus lobatus

In Cyananthus lobatus we have one of the st alpine flowers from the point of view beauty, but it is seldom that one meets th it in the average rock garden of to-day. e truth is that it is not everyone who can ceed with this charming plant from the malayas, but where success is attained the ult is such as to gratify all who see the nt in bloom. It is of trailing habit, but not at all rampant, and its branches only end a short distance—rarely more than a t and frequently less—so that it is admir-ly adapted for the small rock garden. It s attractive leaves of a nice green and a mber of charming blue flowers, which re-nd one of a very refined and ultra-beautiful nca.

It may be raised from cuttings and also m seeds. Cuttings may be struck in summer, after flowering, and kept under glass until spring. Loam, peat, leaf-mould, and a little sand and grit form the best medium for cultivating Cyananthus lobatus on the rock garden. The position should be in sun and well sheltered. The ground must be well drained, and a great improvement in the plants will be seen if they receive a good soaking with pure water occasionally in all dry weather in late spring or summer. In some parts of the country old plants occasionally succumb to the winter, and it is advisable to keep one or two in reserve in a cold frame to replace any losses of this unusually charming rock plant. Plants may be purchased in pots at any season and planted out in suitable weather in spring, summer, or autumn. S. ARNOTT.

Corydalis ochroleuca

THIS pretty Corydalis is closely allied to the commoner plant C. lutea, often found growing on old walls, but not considered a true native. In fact, C. ochroleuca may be described as its nearly exact counterpart, differing only in colouring, for it has light-yellow flowers and pale-green foliage, whereas the bloom of C. lutea is a full yellow and the leaves are of a dull, rather leaden colour. In clear contrast to this C. ochroleuca has a distinctly distinguished and refined appearance. It is good for the joints of dry walling, especially just at the wall foot. When once established it is no trouble to keep, as it seeds itself freely. G. J.

Corydalis ochroleuca

Scabiosa pterocephala

This pleasing plant, frequently catalogued under the name of Scabiosa parnassifolia, does not appear to bulk largely in the affections of growers of rock plants and dwarf border flowers, yet it is not unworthy of some consideration, especially as it is an easy subject which does not require much attention from its owner. This is a great consideration for many who have little time to spare from the cares of business. It is a capital subject for covering spaces under taller plants or pockets in the rock garden, and it is also valuable as a low edging to borders of hardy flowers. It only grows from 4 inches to 6 inches high, and forms a mass of greyish foliage freely studded with flowers variously called "lilac-rose" and "purple-rose."

It is quite a pleasing plant, and, as it favours a dry place, there is not much difficulty experienced in finding a suitable position for it somewhere in the garden. Plants are inexpensive, but where a stock is desired seedlings may be raised with ease in the ordinary way adopted for other hardy perennials. Division is a ready method where only a few plants are required. Taking it all in all, Scabiosa pterocephala is more deserving of notice than numbers of more popular plants. S. ARNOTT.

The use of lime for flowers and trees

When potting Pinks and similar plants for window or greenhouse, add a goodly measure of old lime rubble to the soil. Old lime plaster, when finely pulverised and well mixed with the potting soil, suits admirably. Many other flowers grow better when treated with lime. It restores old and exhausted soils, if manured, to an active and healthy condition. Nearly all soils containing much humus respond to liming.

Antirrhinums, Wallflowers, and certain other flowers of the garden border rejoice in a calcareous soil. It is often the main secret in growing fine flowers. Lime can be applied at any season. Burnt lime shells (air-slaked) and ground lime may be applied to the flower borders at the rate of ½ lb. per square yard.

For potting purposes it is generally preferable to use old lime, or carbonate of lime.

Old lime rubble is a splendid material to put at the root of fruit trees, especially the stone fruits. It may also be mixed with earth compost and applied as a top-dressing in the fruit garden and orchard.

When fruit trees are being planted, it is a good plan to prepare a site for each tree by digging a pretty wide hole to the necessary depth. Place a good layer of old lime rubble over the subsoil, and tread it moderately hard. A sprinkling of leaf mould or fine decayed turf may be put over the lime, and among the rootlets, before turning in the excavated soil. J. W.

Aberdeen.

FRUIT GARDEN

Renovating old Vines

MANY years ago, on taking charge of a garden in the South of Scotland, I found that the Vines in two fair-sized houses were in a deplorable state, having been over-cropped and otherwise unskilfully treated. Although planted inside, the bulk of the roots were in an outside border, and this border was covered, to a depth of about 9 inches, with what could only be termed "muck." On making inquiries I found that, each autumn over a number of years, the border had been given a mulch of stable manure, which, during all that time, had never been removed. In wet weather to step on the border meant sinking over the ankles, so there was little wonder the poor Vines looked wan and sickly. Fortunately, I had had a good training in such work, and knew how to proceed. The Vines at that time had been planted about 40 years, and to lift bodily was out of the question, so I decided to give a generous top-dress of the best obtainable fibrous loam, and in this I was most fortunate; a field close at hand, and which had lain in pasture for many years, had recently been broken up and prepared for Turnips. Being rather rough, it had been well harrowed and all the pieces of turf carted off and placed in a heap. I have never seen finer material for the purpose, nor for potting. With this, a good supply of old mortar rubbish, a suitable quantity of bone meal, and some charcoal, I had about the ideal compost for my purpose. Beginning at one end of the border, I bared a portion, 6 feet wide from back to front, of the "muck," and then very carefully forked out the soil until roots were reached, which was some 9 inches down. Many of these were rotten, and not one fibre to be seen. Tracing out such healthy roots as were to be found, these were carefully laid aside, and a layer of the new compost laid down, on which to rest them. Each root was then laid out to its full length and slight notches made at intervals on the top sides, and a good handful of clean, sharp sand laid over each notch, before the rest of the soil was put in, and made nice and firm. About 4 inches from the surface a light dressing of Thomson's Vine and Plant Manure was evenly sprinkled and then the section made up to its proper level. The whole border was treated in the same way, always taking it in 6-feet sections.

This was done early in February, the vines being started away, gently, a week or two later. Taking care to leave only a light crop, a great improvement was noted the first season, while the following year both bunches and berries were getting to be of a decent size, and four years after the work was carried out I was able to take first prize, against seven competitors, for Black Hambros at Edinburgh Autumn Show. Of course, besides renewing the border as described, I gave twice, annually, a fair dressing of Thomson's Manure at starting time, and soon after the grapes were thinned, and also carried up young canes, and so gradually dispensed with the old original rods.

One house was all Black Hambro, the other a mixed lot. While the condition of these vines, when I started to renovate them, was extremely bad, there are plenty of others in the country only a trifle more satisfactory, and which could doubtless be brought to a satisfactory state by similar treatment.

C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

Canker in Apple trees

Some years ago some young Apple trees I had in my charge became badly affected with canker. The soil in which they were planted was of good depth, well drained, and consisted of a sandy loam of a rather heavy texture. In such a soil and with an abundance of light one could hardly imagine fruit trees being affected with canker under such conditions. Being at a loss to account for the infestation I decided to try the effect of allowing the trees free growth and stimulate them with an application of chemical manures. Pruning, beyond regulating and thinning of branches when necessary, was abandoned, and a sprinkling of a mixture of muriate of potash, superphosphate of lime, and bone-meal at the rate of 3 ozs. per square yard was applied to the roots and lightly forked in. The results were very satisfactory as the trees made a free and healthy growth and the wounds and scars ultimately healed over, and the fungus gave no further trouble. I give the information for what it is worth, as others who may have trees in a similar plight would, perhaps, like to make trial of the foregoing remedial measures in combating this destructive fungoid pest.

A. W.

Answers to Queries

Queries—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent, each should be on a separate piece of paper; the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*Readers who wish plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. Single, unripe, or deformed specimens are difficult to name. We do not undertake to name more than four specimens at one time.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Single Chrysanthemums to flower in December

(M. B. Y.-B.).—For orange colour choose Lavinia and Cleopatra. White is good in Dorothy Capp and White Model. Two of the best in pink are Molly Godfrey and Exmouth Pink.

Chrysanthemum caterpillar

(C. H. A. Robson).—The caterpillar sent in for examination is that of one of the Angle shades, namely, Phlogophora meticulosa, L. The caterpillar of this moth feeds upon many low-growing plants, and is often a trouble to Chrysanthemums under glass. If the caterpillars are numerous, spraying the plants with a good nicotine wash would clear them off, especially if applied as soon as the plants are housed. If sprayed at that period the caterpillars would be small and more easily killed. If only a few are present hand picking would be the cheapest method of control. A good sharp rap to the stem of each plant would probably cause the caterpillars to drop to the ground; if so, it would be the easiest way to find them. The caterpillar of this moth is variable in colour, and the others you mention are, perhaps, only varieties of the species sent.

Selection of Chrysanthemums

Please give the names of 15 good up-to-date early Chrysanthemums, five for each month, August, September, and October, for disbudding, to be grown in pots and put in a greenhouse; also Decoratives, five for October and five for November, not higher than 4 feet, for disbudding. Good colour, fair size, and, if possible, not less than nine flowers per plant for market purposes.

Burslem. HOMER.

[August: Mrs. Phil Page. This month is usually too early for satisfactory blooms, but Polly, Crimson Polly, and Yellow Polly may be tried. September: Almirante, Hollicot Yellow, Golden Almirante, Mayford White, September Glory. The above would be the better grown in the open ground. October: Blanche du Poitou, H. W. Thorp, Jean Pattison, Bronze Cranfordia, Gloriosa, Mayford Yellow. November: Romance, Mrs. Roots, Scarlet Sunshine, Uxbridge Pink, Golden Marvel, Mrs. R. F. Felton, the last rather tall.]

FRUIT

Apple canker

(H. L.).—The specimens sent are affecte with Apple Canker, caused by the fungu Nectria galligena. This disease is a com mon one amongst Apples, especially on cer tain varieties. As far as is known th fungus is a wound parasite, *i.e.*, it gains a entrance into the tree by means of wound caused by such things as Woolly Aphis frost cracks, leaf scars, and pruning. I seems clear that some of these wounds ar bound to occur in the normal growth of th tree, and hence effort should be made to re move all diseased tissue so that spores ar prevented. The control of Apple Canke consists in the cutting out of all disease material and getting it burned up at onc Old and badly-diseased trees would be bes grubbed at once unless they are bearing goo crops. Trees not so badly diseased shoul have all the cankers cut out, and all wound made should be painted over with grafting wax or white lead paint. In the ca c large branches the cankers can sometimes b cut out with a chisel, the wound coated a above, and the branch saved. Carry out a much of your ordinary pruning as you ca during the summer months; the pruning c sound tissue that cannot be done in summe should be left until just before the buc break in the spring. Spraying with lim sulphur at leaf fall in autumn and agai after pruning in spring would help to contr the disease by killing all loose spores and s prevent infections in new positions. Yo should write to the Secretary, Ministry c Agriculture and Fisheries, 10, Whiteha Place, London, S.W. 1, for a copy of Leafl No. 56. This leaflet will give you much us ful information with regard to Apple Canke

Pear scab

(Free State).—The specimen Pear sent f examination is affected with Pear Sca which is caused by the fungus Ventur pirina. This fungus affects leaves, woo and fruit of the Pear. When pruning yo trees an effort should be made to remove much of the dead and diseased wood as yc can; you will find this type of wood among the spur growth. All the diseased materi should be burned. The cutting out diseased material should be followed spraying operations; the first spraying shou be given immediately before flowering, usir

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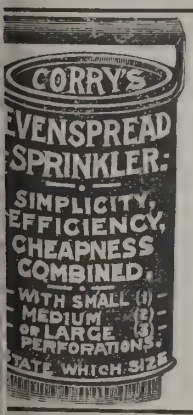

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1 gallon of concentrated wash added to 29 gallons of water. The trees should be given a second spraying as soon as all the petals have dropped from the flowers, the strength of the solution used should be as above; a third spraying should be given three weeks later. The spraying should be carried out on a still day and the solution applied in the form of a fine spray with a knapsack sprayer. Spraying should cease before the fluid begins to drip from the trees. Pear Scab affects the undersides of Pear foliage, and therefore an effort should be made to coat the undersides of the foliage with the fluid. This is not easy with wall Pears.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Douglas Fir diseased

(G. C. Thom).—The specimens submitted are affected with a fungus belonging to the genus Coniothecium. Whether or no this fungus is solely responsible for the damage we are unable to say from the material available. As far as we can ascertain there is no record of a Coniothecium attacking Douglas Fir in this Isle, but one has been recorded from Germany. Your problem can only be cleared up by a personal visit to the trees in question; this, for obvious reasons, we cannot undertake. You should make use of your local advisory service, which, being more or less on the spot, would be in a better position to help you. In the first instance you should send in specimens to the Director, North of Scotland College of Agriculture, Aberdeen, asking for advice as to the cause of disease and methods of control.

VEGETABLES

Brassica diseased

(H. Turner).—The specimens submitted for examination are affected with Cabbage Leaf Spot, caused by the fungus Mycosphærella brassicicola. This fungus attacks the foliage of most Brassicas, but is not a particularly common disease; on the other hand, if it becomes established in a garden it is difficult to control. We should advise you to take up and burn all plants badly affected; go over the others and remove affected leaves. Surrounding plants should be sprayed with a solution of potassium sulphide, using 1 oz. of the chemical to 3 gallons of water. Repeat the treatment until you have the disease under control.

ROSES

Marechal Niel Rose

I have a Maréchal Niel Rose, just recently potted into an 8-inch pot (not *ex* another pot), with about three shoots of moderate strength, some 3 feet in length. Since potting it has stood in the open, plunged in ashes. I should be very grateful for information as to when to prune it, how hard to prune it, and when to bring inside to a cool house. I may eventually plant it into a large box or prepared bed inside, but in the meantime I suppose it will take no harm in an 8-inch pot?

[You may move your plant indoors now, but the house must be kept perfectly cool, only frost being excluded. It is always advisable to have the soil fairly dry before the plants are pruned, so give no water for some days, and then cut hard back, leaving only three or four "eyes" on each shoot. Still keep quite cool and give no water until the soil is really approaching dryness. Afterwards give water only when the soil is showing signs of becoming dry.]

MISCELLANEOUS

School of gardening

(B. A.).—A new school of horticulture for young men is being opened at Pembury, Kent, where instruction is given in the general run of nursery work, including Roses, fruit trees, herbaceous plants, and alpines. We have inspected the nurseries, and have no hesitation in recommending them—there is accommodation for a limited number of men students, all of whom would be given sound commercial education in nursery work. Particulars may be obtained from Mr. N. I. Baggesen, Nurseries, Pembury, Kent.

Merodon equestris

I have been putting in some of the newer Daffodils this autumn, and shall be glad if you could give me any suggestions for the prevention of attack by the Narcissus Fly (Merodon equestris). I have seen the fly (with which I am familiar) in the neighbourhood, and would like to try preventive measures such as are applied in the case of Maggot on Cauliflower or Carrot Fly. Lifting the bulbs every year is rather laborious, and I am desirous of trying preventives if such is a practical idea. J. ARTHUR.

[To this inquiry Mr. F. A. Secrett, the Daffodil grower at Twickenham, kindly replies:—

Some very useful research work has been done lately at Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, Newton Abbot, on this fly, and also on Eumerus, which is known as the Lesser Bulb Fly. Of late years Eumerus has been responsible for more damage in Middlesex and West of England areas than Merodon. The following are the best methods of control, and, while one would not suggest they are 100 per cent. efficient, yet, if carefully carried out, very little damage is done by the flies. All beds should be kept well moved during the growing season. A small Buc hoe is the best tool for this purpose. As soon as the foliage has commenced to die down, the beds should be well raked in order to fill up all holes made in the soil by the season's growth. The rows should then be earthed up with about 2 inches of soil. The best deterrent is a mixture of precipitated chalk and green tar oil, using 1 part of green tar oil to 99 parts of precipitated chalk. This mixture should be dusted evenly over the soil. No damaged bulbs should be left about during the summer months unless they are put down as decoy heaps for the fly. In that case they should be burnt every four weeks. After lifting, bulbs should be taken into a drying shed, and not left in the fields to ripen. A very fine article on this subject appears in the "Bulletin of Entomological Research" for June, 1927, from which some of the information above is gleaned.]

NAMES OF FRUITS

We impress upon readers the importance of sending only good typical specimens for naming, and not less than two or three fruits of each variety.

T. H. B., Hartland Abbey.—Yes, Apple Waltham Abbey, raised at Waltham Abbey from seed of Holland Pippin. This excellent cooking Apple can be distinguished by its plump, roundish, light brown seeds.

J. O., Camberley.—3, Apple Golden Knob syn. Old Maid and Old Lady.

E. H. C., Chelmsford.—Apple Dutch Mignonne syn. Grosser Cassler Reinette.

GARDENING APPOINTMENT

Mr. W. GROOM, formerly head gardener to P. KOHN SPEYER, Esq., Old Quarry Hall, Bletchingly, Surrey, now head gardener to C. TURNER, Esq., Weir Courtney, Lingfield, Surrey.

Beautiful late Chrysanthemums

Apart from the wonderful display of Orchids at the last show of the Royal Horticultural Society of the present year, on the 13th inst., the most noteworthy exhibit was a display of late-flowering Chrysanthemums, representing both Japanese and single-flowered sorts.

The blossoms were beautifully fresh, of excellent form, and of quite remarkably good colour. This latter fact is probably due to iron in the soil and water of the district in which the plants were grown by Mr. A. G. Vinten, Balcombe, Sussex. The group as a whole was much admired, and rightly so. Readers will, doubtless, be interested to learn the names of some of the better varieties set up in the group. They were as follows: Japanese varieties, Balcombe Beauty, rich golden yellow, good either disbudded or in sprays; Baldock's Crimson, rich crimson, useful at Christmas; Tuxedo, an old favourite, colour orange-bronze; Golden Butterfly, bronzy yellow, very similar in form to the last named, and probably a sport from it; Miss Ada Brooker, a striking crimson with bronze reverse; Chestnut White, a glistening white, large flower, free and vigorous, one of the best late white sorts; Yellow Favourite, a fine canary-yellow sport from the well-known variety White Favourite (this variety was represented by large flowers of a highly decorative character); Exmouth Crimson, a dark crimson, good under artificial light; Monument, a beautiful large white sort (quite a good Japanese as shown on this occasion; although recently certificated as an incurve, it is a good decorative variety); and the well-known deep pink, Winter Cheer.

There were also two good incurves, viz.:—Mahogany, a handsome flower, inside of florets deep mahogany, with a lighter-coloured reverse; and Pioneer, a superb yellow of a beautiful tone of that colour, represented by large decorative flowers.

The single-flowered varieties were also excellent, viz:—Reginald Godfrey, almost scarlet, the flowers were of good form; this variety is regarded as one of the best late singles. Golden Absolute is a beautiful sport from the last named, the colour being golden yellow shaded bronze. Challenger is another beautiful variety, the colour being rich chestnut-red, with a striking gold disc. Susan is a rosy bronze sport from the well-known variety Molly Godfrey; it has stiff stems and good foliage. Another good yellow was Mrs W. E. Catlow, the colour being deep orange yellow, one of the best of recent introductions. There were many others, but the foregoing will give readers a very good idea of the beauty of this late display.

D. B. CRANE.

TRADE NOTE

Legilab plant labels

We understand that the makers of the above have increased production of both types of their No. 3 size labels in response to a fairly heavy demand for use with trees, shrubs, etc. This has enabled the labels to be produced more cheaply, and, although prices as advertised in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED remain the same, they can offer specially low quotations at present. This applies to No. 3 sizes only.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

Seymour and Anderson, Nazeing.—Border Carnations.

Lowe and Gibson, Ltd., Crawley Down.—Border Carnations and Bearded Irises.

E. P. Dixon and Sons, Ltd., Hull.—Fruit trees, Berries, Roses, alpines, bulbs.

GARDENING ILLUSTRATED

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Founded by W. Robinson, Author of "The English Flower Garden"

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Calanthes and How to Grow Them

Popular Orchids which respond to generous treatment and flower in December

ALTHOUGH these delightful winter-flowering plants belong to that great and beautiful family known as Orchids, they are often grown in quantity where no other member of the Orchideæ is considered. Therefore they may be termed, and rightly so, capital garden Orchids, and their value as cut flowers, pot plants for the dwelling-house, or as decorative subjects in a warm greenhouse during the dull period of the year cannot be over-estimated. The most popular is C. Veitchii, and it is interesting to note that this was one of the first hybrids to be put into commerce by that enterprising firm, the late James Veitch and Sons, of Chelsea, the pioneers of Orchid hybridisation. C. Veitchii produces long spikes of rose-coloured flowers, and a suitable companion is the pure white C. Harrisii. Others are Wm. Murray, the various forms of C. vestita, and C. Regneirii, a late-flowering species. When the bulbs are dormant is a good time to purchase a stock, and this is directly after the flower-spikes are cut.

For a few weeks the bulbs take a decided rest, when no water is needed, and at this period the temperature ought not to fall below 50 degs. Fahr. As the early spring signs of life will be apparent, then, if not already done, the bulbs are turned carefully out of their pots, all the old soil removed, and the roots cut back to half an inch of the bulb. Ordinary flower-pots or pans are filled to one-third of their depth with drainage material, over which is laid a thin layer of sam-fibre to secure a free outlet for water. The rooting medium consists of the best fibrous loam with most of the dust removed, and one part Osmunda fibre cut up fairly fine. If the loam is poor in quality a little rotted cow manure broken up small can be added with advantage. A 5-inch potful of crushed crocks or sharp sand should be incorporated with every bushel of the compost. An important point is to make quite sure that the mixture is made warm before potting begins, otherwise the young shoots will be chilled, and this is often the cause of damping in the early stages. The bulbs should be graded and the largest given a receptacle 5 inches or 6 inches in diameter, and the smaller ones pots in proportion to their requirements. It is not necessary, or even desirable, to grow all the bulbs singly, and a good plan is to make up a few pans, each containing several bulbs to form specimens for house decoration in the winter.

When potting, press the soil fairly firm, and when the operation is completed the new growth should rest upon the soil and not buried in any way. During the period of activity a temperature of 60 degs. to 65 degs. must be maintained, figures which, of course, can be exceeded with sun-heat, a more or less moist atmosphere kept up, and a thin shading provided when the sun is bright. A small Cucumber-house or a similar structure is a suitable place for Calanthes. In the early stages of growth careful watering is most essential or losses will be great, and the water must always be tepid, or the same temperature as the house. Directly the new bulbs are formed more water can be given, and weak liquid-manure once each week will be beneficial. Due attention is paid to ventilation, but air ought to be admitted with discretion, particularly during the early stages of growth. With the advance of the summer, however, the top ventilators can be opened several inches, and remain open till late in the afternoon, while the blinds should be removed directly there is no fear of the sun scorching the foliage. As the bulbs approach maturity the leaves will begin to turn yellow, gradually ripen, and finally fall. At this stage less water and less atmospheric moisture should be the rule, while a more airy temperature will help to ripen and consolidate the bulbs.

In a few weeks the flower-spikes appear, and at this period the soil is kept only just moist. After flowering, a season of repose is allowed, during which time no water is needed, but the temperature ought not to fall below 50 degs. Fahr.

T. W. B.

A house full of well-grown Calanthe Veitchii in December

Beautiful sprays of joyful colour at a time when flowers are most highly prized

Notes of the Week

Wart Disease of Potatoes Order

THIS Order requires the occupier or other person in charge of any land in which Wart Disease exists, or appears to exist, to notify the fact to the Ministry of Agriculture or to one of its Inspectors. An Inspector who visited a farm near Ormskirk in October last found Potatoes affected with disease in a crop growing on a 14-acre field. The existence of the disease had not been reported to the Ministry or to an Inspector, and proceedings were accordingly taken against the occupier. The case was heard at the Ormskirk monthly sessions on December 2nd, and the defendant was fined 10s.

Rose Flora

We are thankful to Professor F. Gnau, Secretary of the German Rose Society, for his correction of an error in a letter from our

correspondent " G. J." that appeared in our issue for October 22nd. In this it was assumed, from its close resemblance to some of the Roses in the old flower paintings, that Flora was a Rose of some antiquity, and older than the Ayrshires and Boursaults. Professor Gnau informs us that Flora was raised by a French firm, Veuve Schwartz, as lately as the year 1888, and is, therefore, of much more recent date than the Ayrshires, of which Thoresbrine, for example, appeared in 1840, and the Boursaults, derived from Rosa alpina, in 1829.

Hybrid Perpetual Roses

As the planting season for Roses is still with us it is as well to say a word in favour of the H.P.'s. I know full well the demand of the present day is for Hybrid Teas, which is not surprising when one comes to consider the many beautiful sorts in that section and the splendid range of colours. But I think the amateur, no matter how small his collection may be, should find a place for a few of the best sorts of H.P.'s. For instance, there is Hugh Dickson, with its fullness and glorious crimson-scarlet, Ulrich Brunner, with its lovely cherry-red, the glorious rosy-pink of Mrs. John Laing, and those fine old Roses, Victor Hugo and Captain Hayward. I am fully prepared to admit their flowering season is shorter, but I do not think they should be dispensed with on this account when one comes to consider their strong habit and the delightful fragrance of their flowers. I therefore urge all to plant a few that they may not become a vanishing race.

F. H.

Correspondence

Contributions to these columns are invited, but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by correspondents

Are Antirrhinums annuals?

I ENCLOSE a piece of stem of an Antirrhinum for your examination. The plant was alive when taken up, and to my knowledge over six years of age. Up to the present I have found no one (gardeners and otherwise) able to identify it. I wish to keep it as a curio. F. E. SAYERS.

Woking.

Difficulties with seeds

Looking through one of the earliest arrivals of the seed catalogues for the coming year, I was (once more) reminded of a very curious fact, and one which I can by no means explain. That is, when I personally sow seeds of Primulas of any kind, or of Grevillea robusta, the result is dire and unmitigated failure. I have divided the packets into two parts, one of which was sown by an apprentice lad and the other by myself. The seeds sown by the boy germinated excellently—those sown by myself might as well have been thrown into the furnace. This has not happened on isolated occasions; it is, and always has been, a regular occurrence. Nowadays I have given it up; someone else always sows the seeds of Primulas and of Grevilleas. Has anyone else found a like difficulty with any seeds, or am I merely " hoodooed " so far as these particular things are concerned?

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Planting a flower border

The advice given in the article entitled " Starting a Hardy Flower Border " (issue November 19th, page 717) is wrong from my point of view, and if we acted on it here we should make a mess of our garden. If we were to trench as " F. H." says we should get a lot of strong growth but very little flower. And then how are you going to make the borders bright with spring bulbs without blocking the way for summer flowers? You would spoil the bulbs if you took them up as soon as they are out of flower, and even then the other things would not be planted soon enough. The only satisfactory way is to have a spring garden.

Godalming. T. T.

Reducing the height of hardy perennial

Some hardy perennials, as is well known, are very exuberant in growth, and more so during a season when rain predominates, as was the case last summer. If they are not stopped they often grow to an unusual height, and this was demonstrated in the matter of Phloxes, Michaelmas Daisies, Shasta Daisies (Chrysanthemum maximum), King Edward VII., and other vigorous members of that family, and Helianthuses, to

Hard wood of an Antirrhinum stem
This stem is 2¼ inches across and is at least six years old

name only a few; yet how few of us think of interfering with their progress by stopping them in spring, although we have no diffidence in pinching out the shoots of early-flowering Chrysanthemums, equally hardy, that have been in quarters in the borders during winter.

I knew a grower of hardy plants who frequently resorted to the practice of pinching many of his plants back in May, as, by doing so, he asserted that he obtained a longer display of bloom, although individual flowers were not quite so large, his point being that many people objected to tall plants in their borders, and on this account left out of their arrangements a number of Michaelmas Daisies noted for their height who could have grown them if stopping had been resorted to. There may be a deal to be said in favour of the practice, but I do not think it is one which is generally acted upon. Yet why should not some of them be rendered bushy and of more medium height like we do with our Chrysanthemums? TOWNSMAN.

Apple wood

We are marking for cutting down some of the Apple trees that can best be spared among a number that were planted 25 years ago as bushes, and that have grown into low standards and are now too crowded. In case any readers are also doing away with well-grown Apples it may be well to remind them that Apple wood is the best for the heads of bittles, the heavy mallets that are used with wedges, and that if they have no use for it at home it might be a gift of some value to a local smith or wheelwright. G. J.

Pigeon manure

I envy " S. D." (page 790) his possession of a " quantity " of this most valuable substance. At one time I had the produce of a large pigeon-loft at my disposal, and the droppings of the birds were no mean asset in the manure question. Mixed with a similar quantity of dry soil, and stored under cover for six months, the resulting mixture was chiefly utilised for vegetable growing. Onions simply revelled in it—the finest bulbs I ever had being grown on a quarter well dressed with pigeon manure. All green vegetables respond to it in a marked manner; but it must be cautiously used, as, like poultry manure, it is of a highly concentrated nature, and, when too lavishly administered, is liable to defeat the intentions of the user. W. McG.

—— *Re* the notes on pigeon manure, issue December 17th, I have used this manure on my ground—heavy soil—for years, and find it far superior to all other manures, and would advise all who can procure it to do so. I know of no other manures which are so rich in ammonia. In " The Chemistry of the Garden " Herbert H. Cousins, M.A., F.C.S., gives the value of this manure thus:—

> " A ton would contain about 72 lbs. of nitrogen, 45 lbs. of phosphates, and 25 lbs. of potash, and its manurial value is about double that of dry hen manure, or eight times that of farm manure. An application of ½ lb. to 1½ lbs. per square yard is recommended."

Store, as you say, in barrels, and raise the barrels from the ground to keep out damp, placing an old dustbin lid on top to keep out wet; empty Grape barrels are just the thing for the purpose.

I may also add that pigeon manure kept for at least six months and used in a dry condition is an excellent fertiliser to add to potting soil when finally potting, say at the rate of one to twenty. A. H. MILLS.

Rose pruning

I agree entirely with " Old Hand " in his conclusions concerning autumn pruning and about unworthy Roses. The risks attached to autumn pruning are, surely, obvious, and more particularly in the case of some of the more delicate varieties, for it cannot be disputed that all Roses, and especially H.T. Roses, do not possess what may be called outstanding quality in respect of hardiness. As I wrote, some time ago, in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, it is long since I came to the conclusion that many of the present-day Roses are overrated. Induced by specimen blooms, and by a glowing eulogy of the variety, I planted a large bed of Golden Emblem. It was a perfect heartbreak right through the season and at the earliest possible moment the plants were scrapped and replaced by Mabel Morse. Other growers will, no doubt, be in a position to give further examples. By the way, my experience of Covent Garden tallies with that of Mr. Blair. It is, undoubtedly, a good Rose; what is more to the point, it is a good " doer," and has a fine erect habit. A bed containing eight dozen of Col. Oswald Fitzgerald, however, ran Covent Garden very

closely as a reliable dark Rose; and either, I think, surpasses General Macarthur, once an indispensable variety.

A SCOTTISH GARDENER.

Verbascums

Mr. Bakewell Smith's article on Mulleins will serve to draw attention to what is rather a neglected family. Of their value there is no doubt, and they are by no means difficult subjects, all of them being easily raised from seeds sown in spring, preferably with a little heat. Mr. Bakewell Smith's comprehensive list omits one which, I think, is a very desirable Mullein—V. olympicum. Like others, it is a stately plant, often producing spikes from 6 feet to 10 feet in height. These are closely packed with the characteristic yellow flowers; and, with its massive white woolly foliage, the variety is eminently adapted for use as a specimen plant in isolation, or for putting out among the dwarfer shrubs. V. olympicum is, I think, best when treated as a biennial.

S. G.

St. Brigid Anemones Creagh Castle strain

MRS. DOROTHY BUCKNALL, of Creagh Castle, Doneraile, Co. Cork, has been successful in raising a good strain of the showy St. Brigid Anemones that in Ireland flowers practically the whole year round.

Mrs. Bucknall writes on December 10th :—"It may interest readers to have some notes on the culture of St. Brigid Anemones. Here, where these flowers have been grown for a great number of years and very carefully selected, and where of late years I have taken the greatest care to select from only the very best flowers, I find that raising from seed is by far the most satisfactory method, but any ordinary seed will not give the most satisfactory results; it must be the very best. To have Anemones all the year round seed should be sown in February in seed pans, and at intervals up to April, and transplanted into beds where they are to flower. The best soil is a well-drained medium loam, which should be enriched with well-rotted farmyard manure. The Creagh Castle strain of Anemones has been in continuous bloom throughout the year, with the exception of the month of July, and are still blooming freely, notwithstanding some severe frosts."

Brunsvigia Josephinæ

As one who has grown this plant for many years, and also exhibited it in flower for my employer (Lieut.-Col. L. C. R. Messel) at the Holland Park Show in September last, may I add to the excellent advice given on p. 787? Being a somewhat rare plant, we purchased a few bulbs many years ago, with a view to testing its hardiness. At that time we had 150 feet by 20 feet of glass devoted to the preparation of shrubs and other plants in readiness for outside tests. Only sufficient piping was installed to keep out frost, in fact 32 deg. Fahr. was sometimes recorded in severe weather. In summer the ventilators at the top and sides remained open day and night. Except for the difference in temperature, the Brunsvigias were grown as advised on p. 787, and soon made large bulbs, flowering in September and annually ever since. The cool treatment probably causes the plants to flower in the autumn instead of earlier, and the foliage is in full growth during the winter, but does not seem in the least affected by the low temperature. As the bulb is of a large size, and the plant when in growth a gross feeder, a 10-inch pot is not too large, even in that it will become potbound in one season. We have never tested it in the open. Has anyone ever done so and with what result?

Nymans, Sussex. J. COMBER.

Winter Aconites not flowering

Several cases have come under my notice in recent years where winter Aconites have failed to flower, although showing plenty of foliage. Generally the reason for this may be traced to neglect to divide the roots every few years, and as a consequence they become congested and cannot ripen, and so fail to bloom. I had a similar experience through this, but after dividing the roots when the foliage had all died down, they showed an improvement the following season, and since then have not failed, because they have not been allowed to get thickly clustered. Most of us, I think, do not appreciate how important it is that this Aconite should have room for development, but it will be noticed by those who grow them that the outside roots on a bed bloom better than those in the centre which are overcrowded. Should this meet the eye of anyone who has had similar failures it is suggested that the remedy is division, but it is important to note that, until the foliage has died away, they should not be disturbed, and then, instead of planting them straight away, they will benefit by allowing them to remain out of the ground for a few weeks in a box of sand, taking care in the meantime not to expose them to the sun.

It is scarcely any use, I find, dividing Aconites while the leaves are green, as they invariably dwindle away, but, left until the foliage has gone and then lifted and aided in further ripening by being kept out of the ground for five or six weeks, they can be planted, and it will be found that most of them will flower the following year. They are such bright flowering plants in the early year, and bring with them such welcome patches of golden colour, that anything which can be done to grow them successfully should be tried.

Fortunately, Aconites are not fastidious as to soil, often to be seen growing in heavy ground, but I have found, if they can be given a medium texture, and in the autumn a little leaf soil mulched about their roots, they are grateful, and respond with plenty of blossoms.

W. F.

Nature's Cathedral

I did not go to church to-day,
But spent a quiet hour
Among the trees and blossoms where
God speaks through every flower.

Gaillardias

Gaillardias when planted in cold, heavy soils sometimes succumb during the winter, and it is not always wise to rest content with our present stock, but to ensure a supply of these very showy flowers in our garden by growing-on seedlings. They are plants which do best in a somewhat light and rich soil, and, so located, will continue from year to year as other perennials, and one may propagate from cuttings, inserting the latter in sandy soil in a cold frame in autumn. Seed can be sown in slight heat in the greenhouse in March, or in the open ground in May, or in a cold frame. The latter is preferable. As is known, Gaillardias are extremely showy in a garden, and never more so than when planted in groups. They stand dry weather as well as most plants, but I have found it a great advantage just before they bloom to mulch the surface with a little old manure, which does much to help conservation of moisture in a time of drought. If the soil is naturally heavy it should be lightened by the addition of road scrapings or coarse sand.

MIDLANDER.

St. Brigid Anemones, Creagh Castle Strain

To have flowers all the year round seed is sown in February and at intervals up to April

Narcissus Papyrus and Engleheart's White Rose

By G. H. Engleheart, M.A., F.S.A., V.M.H.

THESE were raised in the latter portion of some 35 years' work on Narcissi in general and the Poeticus in particular as my favourite. It would be difficult, or impossible, to give the precise parentage of either of these, because through all this long period I accumulated and worked with every obtainable fine variety of N. Poeticus, wild or cultivated, and the best of all this blood is incorporated in my strain. The first of my flowers to make a mark was "Horace," which still holds its place in the market—a cross between ornatus and Poetarum, and its red colouring passed into subsequent seedlings. Of the flowers illustrated "Red Rim" [page vii.] is noticeable for its rainbow-like eye of vivid scarlet and green, while "Papyrus" perhaps excels anything I have raised in stout, vellum-like quality of petal.

Some nine years ago I noticed in my field three or four Poeticus flowers showing a small "petaloid anther," *i.e.*, one or more anthers changing into a petal-like process. I intercrossed these flowers, thinking that a double flower might result from work continued through two or three generations. To my surprise the one cross produced a series of fully-double Poeticus, in the way of the old "Gardenia-flowered" double, but vastly superior. "Engleheart's White Rose" has the remarkable feature of a silvery whiteness much purer than its parents, or indeed than any Narcissus known to me. Both it and "Carnation" are some three weeks earlier than the old double.

[We are greatly indebted to Mr. Engleheart for the foregoing notes. His account of the raising of a fully double-flowered Poeticus will be followed with interest, particularly by the raisers of new Daffodils. The name of G. H. Engleheart will for ever be associated with the Daffodil. By skilful and painstaking hybridisation extending over 35 years he has been successful in raising many of the best forms known to-day. In recent years many of his new Daffodils have passed into the hands of Mr. F. A. Secrett, of Marsh Farm, Twickenham. Mr. Secrett has been showing these novelties in splendid form at the spring meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society. The flowers have aroused great interest and admiration among the lovers of the Daffodil. The exhibit of Poeticus and red-cupped varieties shown at Vincent Square on April 26th, 1927, received a Silver Gilt Medal, and comprised flowers of great merit. "Mayflower," a bold red-cupped Barrii, also received an Award of Merit as a show flower at this meeting. "Red Rim," which Mr. Engleheart adores for its "rainbow-like eye of vivid scarlet and green," is, so far as we know, the finest Poet that has ever been raised. It has a wonderful future as a market variety.]

Narcissus Papyrus

Received Award of Merit R.H.S., 1926, as a show and market variety. Also shown in April this year for a First Class Certificate and was selected for trial at Wisley. Exhibited by F. A. Secrett

This is a perfectly round Poeticus with strong parchment-like petals and a large red-edged crown. This flower makes a beautiful market bunch

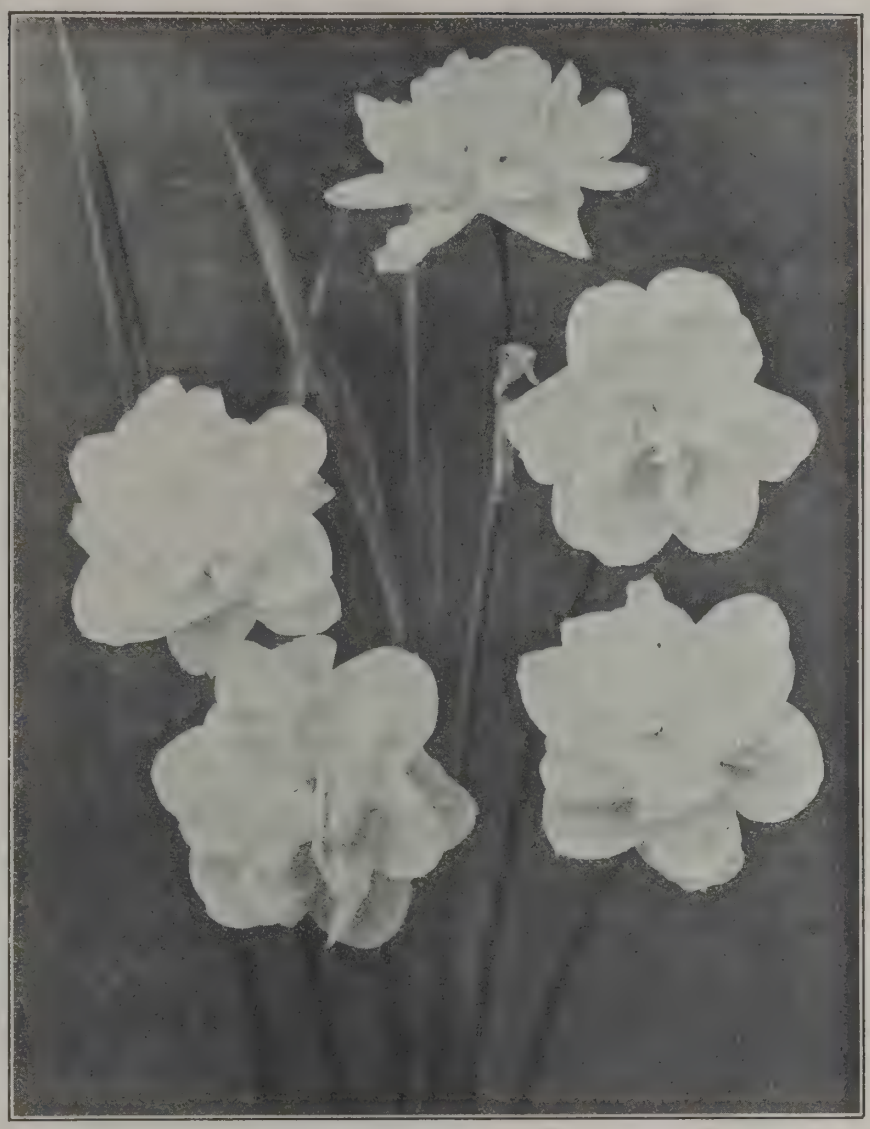
An Anti-tirade

WHAT is the use of kicking against pricks, as you do in your tirade against double flowers? (December 10th). You do well to call it a "tirade," inasmuch as, since tirades first were, there never has been a tirade that did not go beyond reason and overshoot the mark. I hold no brief for double flowers. I love all flowers, single or double, though with a difference. No flower is alien from my sympathy, except, perhaps, Groundsel and Chickweed; and even these I would gladly tolerate could they but "take a thought" and be less prolific. Also I have a profound respect for Nature, though, to say the truth, her ways are not beyond mending. No doubt she does her work, as a rule, superlatively well; though she does not deserve unqualified praise for that, since "in making one spoon she spoils so many horns." Still, allowing for her insensate waste, she can turn out charming things—single flowers amongst them. But, after all, her most notable achievement has been to produce a creature of sufficient intelligence to feel the charm of her charming things, and capable of conspiring with her to produce other new and charming things. Nature can make single flowers easily enough, but she requires man's collaboration to make them double—and, indeed, after they are made double, to keep them double, for if man held his hand for a single generation what would Chelsea be like 30 years hence, I wonder? In respect of plant life, as everybody knows, one of Nature's most important agencies in realising her intentions is her host of variously endowed insects, and, among other ephemerals, surely man takes the *pas*, since he is able to carry on plant modification, not mechanically and by accident, but "according to plan," his schemes of modification varying according to the taste and fancy of the individual. I have often given Nature a hitch myself, so I know. It all depends on what you want. Only make up your mind as to what you want, and the rest is easy and hopeful. You want, let us suppose, a new colour. So, often, does the painter; and he gets it by experimenting with various likely pigments on his palette. I do much the same myself when I want an orange Polyanthus. I mix and go on mixing till I get the right thing, though I may say that I have not, so far, got exactly what I want. Some people like to get a green edge to their Auriculas, or a white, or a grey—a thing unknown to unassisted Nature, for all her elaborate work with Alps and alpines. I do not cultivate this particular freak myself, though I dissolve in ecstasies when I see a really fine green-edge. Then there are Tulips. I am all for single Tulips myself—the Cottage and Darwin May Tulips for choice—for such gaudy blooms do not somehow seem in harmony with their environment in the cold atmosphere of early spring, with which Snowdrops and Crocuses are more in tune. Some people, especially Dutchmen, like to see their Tulips feathered and flamed like the clouds at sunset; and by conspiring

ith Nature—humouring the little tendencies which she is most prone, without hesitat-g, however, to cross her whims when these e not to the purpose—they produce the ose, the Byblœmen and the Bizarre, which compare with Solomon in all his glory ould be a fine compliment to Solomon. nd, as with colouring, so with doubling. n enterprising gardener, we will suppose, nds growing on the walls of Rochester or rundel Castle a plant of Dianthus Caryo-hyllus, a pretty enough thing—leaf, stem, nd bloom—as it comes from Nature's hand, it just a trifle thin, don't you think, and ot as decided in colour as it might be? ccordingly, Nature's intelligent son, the gar-ener, undertakes to improve his mother's andiwork, to multiply the petals of her mple flower, intensify its colour, and per-aps—who knows?—put more clove into its reath than it had before. Some persevering ork with the pollen brush and a course of erciless elimination, and in due time, be-old! as in the case of the Tulip, a regiment Selfs, Flakes, Bizarres, and Picotees, as ll and sweet as China Roses, beside which e Arundel great-great-great-grandparent ould look dowdy indeed. Of course, if u prefer the single flower, you may have and welcome. For myself, whose tastes u may possibly consider somewhat sophis-cated, I prefer the double, provided, of urse, that it is not a " burster "; and even is heinous vice I pardon to the Old Crimson consideration of its perfume. Most of the arnations one sees in gardens nowadays are uble, which would seem to show that there a general preference for doubles. If, how-er, you prefer single Carnations, there is need to despair. You have only to get packet of seed (the worse it is the better) nd sow it. When the plants bloom you ill have a mixture of singles and doubles— per cent. or 80 per cent., or even o per cent. of singles very possibly. What u have to do is to weed out any doubles, nsign them to the garden incinerator, and ere you are, with a bed of single Carna-ons of which anyone who likes that sort thing may well be proud. And I wish u joy!

Is there any use, do you think, in consider-g seriously the relative merits of single and uble Roses? I admire single Roses myself much as most people—not least the Briar the hedgerow, but most, perhaps, our tive Burnet Rose of a thousand thorns. e all admire single Roses nowadays in our veral ways, æsthetic or scientific. It is the oper thing to do. But in our honest oments our votes are for the doubles—aréchal Niel, Chateau de Clos Vougeot, eneral McArthur, and five hundred other eet and beautiful double Roses, which are the singles as sunlight is to moonlight.

You mention the double Snowdrop as one your particular antipathies. Well, this a free country, and you cannot be prose-ted for your likes and dislikes, though this ems to me almost actionable. Lovely as e single Snowdrop is, with its touch of een, and suggestive of all that is pure and ispotted in heaven or earth, if I must make choice between the two—which, fortunately, ere is no need to do in the case of this any other flower—I think—I am not quite re, but I think—I would have the double. has the modest, downcast look of the ngle, it is equally snow-white, has its little ches of green, in addition to which virtues has more substance (without any sugges-n of coarseness), lasts considerably longer, d is more noticeable and ornamental in the rder. However, I hope you will stick to ur exclusive partiality for the single Snow-op, and send me all your doubles. I will d room for them, though I have a fair pply already.



Narcissus Engleheart's White Rose

Received a Certificate of Preliminary Recognition as a show flower at the R.H.S., April 26th, 1927. Exhibited by F. A. Secrett

This is a silvery white double Poeticus and is a flower of perfect form. It was picked in the open on April 15th, 1926

Let me see, now. On what other double flowers have you pronounced your anathemas? You have mercifully forgotten two of the choicest, the double Periwinkle and the double Hepatica. You make great play with the poets, I notice, and, therefore, do you not think it was remiss on your part to forget the poet's flower of flowers, the Daisy? I am no poet myself, but I am prepared to give Chaucer and Burns "points" in respect of an affectionate regard for the "Dayes eie," the "modest crimson-tipped flower," that closes its fringed eyelids with the close of day and uncloses them at the peep of dawn. I love the single Daisy so much that I have a pious satisfaction in seeing it even on a lawn—that is, on my neighbour's lawn. But, much as I love the single Daisy in my neighbour's garden, I infinitely prefer the double in my own. Indeed, I have a very particular affection for the double Daisy—a greater affection than I can quite explain to myself by its undoubted beauty. I fancy it is a case of atavism, traceable back, very likely, to ancestors of the Stone Age who grew the double Daisy before the entrance of their cave. I have the Daisy in my blood—not, however, those huge crown-piece Daisies that ape Chrysanthemums—these have no part in my corpuscles—but the old cottage pink, and yet not pink either, or pink with a difference, the pink that blushes with a variable flush according to the eye's angle of incidence, changeable like the play of light on silk, or on a rock pigeon's neck. Then there is the albino form, pure and soft and pretty, but not with the same appeal in it, for me at least, as has the pink. The double quilled forms, too—Alice and Rob Roy—are, of course, delightful, and so is the dainty but difficult "Dresden China." Still, if you prefer single Daisies, have them by all means. They are plentiful enough, and your preference will be backed by a legion of poets.

By the way, as to the doubling of Rhododendrons, I cannot think these shrubs are in much danger of extensive reduplication. I know of only one double Rhododendron. The garden shrub for which of all shrubs (except Privet) I have the least liking is perhaps Rhododendron ponticum, of which the foliage is handsome enough, but the flower poor, washy, and anæmic. But this Rhododendron doubled is, I suppose, R. fastuosum, and what a handsome thing it is!

Of the various pretty double Primroses I will only say that I am watching day by day a vigorous plant of the "Pompadour" and longing for spring to give me blooms. If it flowers as I expect, I will send you a bloom, and then perhaps you will take your seat on the penitential stool and unsay your heresy about double Primroses. DUPLEX.

Achievemer

A REVIEW OF 1927

THERE was never an age when progress in horticulture made such rapid strides, and the Editor has set me a well-nigh impossible task in asking me to give anything like a comprehensive survey of the achievements of the past year. Much will have to be omitted. Some of the older readers of this journal will remember the time when enthusiasm chiefly hovered around the introduction of new plants from foreign climes. Nowadays we find excitement in the improved and perfected forms of old types.

HERBACEOUS AND ALPINE PLANTS

Delphiniums have shown a marked advance during the past year. At the Chelsea Show Blackmore and Langdon exhibited a new variety which was generally acclaimed to be the finest Delphinium ever raised. It is named Mrs. Foster Cunliffe and bears elegant spikes of delicate mauve shaded sky-blue, fully double. Three other notable achievements of this firm are Lady Augusta, Lady Elizabeth, and Lady Edith. This firm received the only two R.H.S. Gold Medals awarded for Delphiniums during 1927. The latter of these two exhibits was the largest display of these flowers ever staged in Great Britain. Hewitt and Co., Ltd., of Birmingham, is another firm which has been specialising in Delphiniums, and the following five novelties of their raising are of outstanding merit:—Clive Greaves (porcelain-blue), Desert Flower (salvia-blue with a brown eye), Hewitt's Superb (light mauve with brown eye tinged yellow at the edges), St. George (true Reckitt's blue with black eye), and Norah Phillips, which produces a tapering spike 6 feet high, of which more than two-thirds are smothered with deep blue and purple florets. Pæonies are also moving steadily forward to the road of perfection, and Kelway and Son, of Langport, have met with their usual success in the output of new varieties. It is to be regretted that the space at my disposal will not permit my naming all their novelties of this year. Globe of Light bears the true Kelway stamp. It resembles a huge Anemone-flowered Chrysanthemum with silvery-rose guard petals surrounding a crimped cushion of pale rose and yellow. Pride of Somerset is a deep crimson single variety. Kelway's Perfect Picture is a semi-double pure pink variety, and well deserves its name.

Two species of Meconopsis which were shown by Clarence Elliott, Ltd., created great interest. M. Baileyi (betonicifolia) was exhibited in their rock garden at Chelsea. It has marvellously blue flowers carried on 3 feet stems. M. simplicifolia has, likewise, flowers of a magnificent shade of blue. The beauty of both species is much enhanced by the satiny sheen on the petals, and the former kind has shown itself to be more or less of a perennial. Clarence Elliott, Ltd., also showed Phygelius capensis coccinea, the brilliant vermilion-scarlet flowers of which are a great advance on those of the type. Against a sunny wall this plant almost becomes a climber. Prince Rupert is the name of a handsome variety of Helleborus orientalis sent out by Barr and Sons. The outside of the petals is silvery-white and the inside is white, flushed green, and heavily stippled purple-crimson. Oliver and Hunter have shown some very interesting items in herbaceous and alpine plants. The new Tibetan Primrose, P. microdonta alpicola, earned well-merited approval when it was shown at Chelsea. It is a pale-yellow species and one of the best in the Sikkimensis group. The fringed Alpine Poppy, P. alpinum laciniatum, also found many admirers, as also did Mimulus Whitecroft Scarlet, which is probably the most beautiful of the dwarf Mimuluses, and, moreover, it is exceptionally hardy. In this firm's First Prize exhibit at Blackpool, the Giant Cowslip from Tibet, Primula Florindæ, carried fourteen flower stems on one stem. The distinct and rare Dracocephalum bullatum, also shown, responds well to moraine treatment. The purple flowers are borne on 6-inch stems, and the leaves are oval-shaped with crinkled veins. Isaac House and Son have shown two varieties of Scabious of sterling merit. One is Miss Willmott, which is said to be the best white ever raised, whilst Clive Greaves is a rich mauve variety, deepening with age. They have also sent out a new Border Pink named White Ladies, which was raised by Mr. Joseph Hodges. It is the whitest and most fragrant of all Border Pinks, is less inclined to burst than other varieties, and has a long flowering period. The same firm has made some stir with Verbena Bonariensis. This is a South American species apparently little known before in this country.

Delphinium Mrs. Foster Cunliffe

The outstanding performance of Mr George G. Whitelegg is deserving of special mention. His rock garden display at Chelsea Show, which gained the Sherwood Cup for the most meritorious exhibit, was the first occasion on which this coveted award has been given for a rock garden.

SWEET PEAS

Quite the usual number of Sweet Pea novelties have been put into commerce this year, and in spite of adverse criticism there has been an undoubted advance in the colour form, and vigour of growth. It is not possible to name them all, and the few varieties I have mentioned does not imply their superiority over those which have been crowded out. Ptarmigan and Blaze are two novelties raised by James Carter and Co. The former is a vigorous garden variety with pure white flowers, and Blaze is a glowing orange-scarlet Pea that is practically sunproof. Four new varieties of good substance have been introduced by Sutton and Sons. These are Brightness (glowing cerise flushed orange-scarlet, sunproof), Silver Sheen (lavender, suffused electric-blue, with a glistening sheen), Shell Pink (creamground daintily flushed shell-pink), and Purple Monarch (deep purple). The last-named is good for garden or exhibition, and withstands adverse weather conditions. One of the largest Sweet Peas ever raised is Robert Bolton and Son's Challenger. In colour it is a deep shade of rose with ivory margins to the standards and wings. From the same firm comes Susan, which has a cream ground suffused with delicate apricot-pink. Two novelties of distinction which received awards at the Scottish International Trials have been raised by Mr. J. Stevenson, of Wimborne. These are Nina, a deep rose pink variety producing fours and fives freely, and Glorious, which is probably the best cerise-coloured variety yet raised.

OTHER GARDEN FLOWERS FROM SEED

A bright scarlet Wallflower should be a welcome addition to the family, and Carters claim that a bed of their new Wallflower Scarlet Emperor, looks, at a distance, like a group of scarlet Geraniums. Their new Tom Thumb Ruby is a new type of miniature having a rather clearer shade than Ruby Gem. A Wallflower with fiery-orange flowers is sent out by Edward Webb and

of the Year

RST GREAVES, F.L.S.

Sons under the name of Fireball. Carter's Fairy Cup Petunia should prove a valuable addition to bedding plants. The flowers, though small, are borne erect, and the plants bloom so freely as to form a veritable carpet of bloom. They comprise a host of shades of rose and blue. Riviera Dawn is the

Pink Beauty Advance Dwarf Eclipse

Three forms of the dainty Primula malacoides shown by Messrs. Sutton and Sons

ame of Carter's new giant-flowered rompton Stock. This is a particularly ardy strain. A special Gold Medal was warded at Peterborough Show to Stark and on, Ltd., for their Ryburgh Hybrid Poppy. his strain transplants well and the flowers re in beautiful shades of pink and orange-almon. Two praiseworthy varieties of ntirrhinums have been evolved by W. H. impson and Sons, of Birmingham. C. H. lerbert is a distinct self-bronze in the tall ection and Aphrodite is a white variety of ood habit and substance in the medium sec-on. Sutton and Sons have introduced a ew Dimorphotheca named Lemon Queen. : has brilliant lemon-coloured flowers well t off by a blue-black central zone. Orange rince is the name of a new Eschscholtzia nt out by the same firm. It is a giant in abit with immense flowers of bright orange. utton's Dwarf Eclipse is the name of a new rimula in the Malacoides section. The ooms, which are larger than those of the pe, are of a pleasing shade of deep lavender-nk and the plants have an attractive dwarf abit. Sutton's two new Godetias, Double ell Pink and Double Rich Pink, will ake a useful addition to the range of lours of this beautiful annual. Suttons have received as many as 39 Gold Medals in addition to special awards during the year. During the past summer Edward Webb and Sons, Ltd., have been remarkably successful in their exhibits of flower novelties of their own raising.

Some noteworthy Irises raised by the late Mr. W. R. Dykes were shown at Chelsea this year. Those who attended this show will remember the small Iris Garden in which clumps were seen growing in natural conditions and all the specimens in this exhibit, which gained the Silver-gilt Banksian Medal, were raised by the late W. R. Dykes, with the exception of Iris albicans virginale. Six new seedling Irises, Akbar, Khama, Quernah, Britoness, Beltane, and Cupavi, raised by the same grower won the Silver Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Philip Runciman at the Iris Society's Show, also the Silver-gilt Medal presented by the Society. Mr. Dykes' new seedling Iris, Zaharoon, which won a Silver-gilt Medal, was considered the best bearded Iris of the year. It is a buff self suffused with a pale violet sheen.

BORDER CARNATIONS AND OTHERS

Lowe and Gibson have only introduced two novelties into commerce this year, and as this firm refrains from launching anything new unless it has exceptional merit, their two new Border Carnations are deserving of special mention. Florence Grisley is a variety which caused lively comment at the National Carnation Society's Annual Show at Vincent Square last July. Shown as a seedling it not only gained the highest honour awarded to a new variety, namely, a First-class Certificate, but it was also the first prize bloom in the seedling class and the premier flower of the whole show for yellow ground fancies. The colour is bright yellow strongly marked and edged rich crimson. The other variety is named Idwen and possesses an entirely new colour in Border Carnations, being a lurid copper ground with regular heliotrope stripes superimposed thereon. C. Engelmann, Ltd., of Saffron Walden, have maintained their reputation as Carnation specialists at the principal shows throughout the past season, including Chelsea, where they were awarded a Gold Medal. The following five novelties in the Perpetual-flowering class have been sent out by this firm and have met with unparalleled success:—Brenda, Dorcas, Evelyn, Palette, and Zorro.

GLADIOLI AND BULBOUS SUBJECTS

It is impossible to mention all the new named Gladioli that have been shown this year. Some of these are perhaps too similar to those which have already been put into commerce, whilst others have proved distinct and worthy enough to add to the bewildering host of named sorts. In a genus with so many different types and strains it is easy to understand that the Gladiolus family is becoming an extensive one. Kelway and Son, of Langport, have added their usual quota of new varieties during the present year. Marion Cran is one of their best novelties.

It is a Primulinus type, pale yellow, shaded rose and carmine. Kelway's Gold is a rich golden-yellow variety in the same class, as also is J. C. White, which has a creamy-white ground, tinted purple with a violet spot. In the large-flowered class Kelway's Perfect Peace is specially noteworthy. It is a pure white variety with a violet stripe. Mr. H. Prins, of Market Place, Wisbech, is a grower whose name will be associated with the Gladiolus in the near future. The Royal Horticultural Society have shown keen interest in his new type, which goes under the name of G. Prinsianus. This is a cross between G. Primulinus and G. Colvillei. It is a refined strain of graceful habit, and has an extensive range of delicate colours. G. Prinsianus has a free-flowering habit, and should prove useful to all who grow Gladioli for cutting purposes. In open competition at Blackpool this year Mr. Prins was fortunate in securing the Cup for Gladioli. Among his novelties that have attracted special notice are Lady Boreel, a distinct pale rose-pink variety with darker centre; Insulinde, bright red, yellow centre; and Burtonia, white ground with soft dark wine-red blotch on lower petals. The above three varieties belong to the large-flowering section. Barr and Sons, of Covent Garden, have received numerous Medals and Awards for their exhibits of choice Daffodils, Narcissi, and other spring-flowering bulbs. Their new Narcissus Snowsprite is a double Leedsii variety of special merit. It measures 3 inches across and has a broad snowy-white perianth and a centre filled with white florets shading down to pale primrose. It flowers much earlier than the double white Poeticus. Mr. W. A. Watts, of the Welsh Bulb Fields, St. Asaph, has had several Awards for new Daffodils of outstanding merit. Among these were Olwen, a Bicolor Incomparabilis, with flat, white, overlapping perianth and a pale-yellow crown; Peerless, buff perianth and orange cup; and Peggy Briscoe, an Incomparabilis with sulphur-yellow perianth and orange crown. Awards of Merit were accorded the late Mr. W. R. Dykes for Colchicum croaticum, collected by himself in Croatia; Crocus minimus (Dykes' variety); Crocus Imperati albus; and Iris pumila, var. Elenko, a reddish-violet variety.

BEGONIAS

Blackmore and Langdon staged some very fine Begonias at the Holland Park Show this year and were awarded the 60-guinea Coronation Challenge Cup for the best exhibit, which comprised the largest group of Begonias ever staged in this country. Their new variety, Sir Philip Sassoon, is probably the finest double variety ever raised. The immense, deep, perfectly-formed flowers are cerise-red. Corienta, another of their novelties, is said to be the largest Begonia ever put into commerce. The flowers are perfect in form and measure 8½ inches to 9 inches in diameter. The colour is a lovely shade of old rose.

ROSES

Benjamin R. Cant and Sons, Ltd., of Colchester, have been awarded many Cups, Gold Medals, and prizes for their wonderful displays of Roses during the current year. At the Chelsea Show they received a Certificate of Merit for their new variety, Hilda, which is a strong-growing Rose with full flowers of a salmon-pink colour, the reverse of the petals being carmine. At the National Rose Society's Show not only did this firm win the Chelsea Trophy, but they were awarded also a Gold Medal for their new seedling, Lady Forteviot, which has been described as a yellow, deepening to rich ruddy apricot. Henry Morse and Son, whose new Rose, Dr. E. Deacon, was so favourably commented upon last year, have contributed three new Hybrid Teas during the current year. Frank Neave is a mustard-yellow variety which is alleged to stand all weather conditions. Ronald Tooke is a sport from Col. O. Fitzgerald and is as near black as can be. Sarah Wright is a pink self and is a seedling of Ophelia and Emma Wright, having the habit and freedom of the former variety. Two noteworthy Hybrid Musk Roses have been raised by Mr. J. H. Pemberton. Felesia produces large clusters of pale pink blossoms which are specially desirable on account of their rich fragrance. Fortuna is a china-pink variety which won a Gold Medal on its first appearance.

Kelways' New Decorative China Aster

NEW DECORATIVE ASTERS

Messrs. Kelway and Son are to be congratulated for having introduced a group of Branching Asters in all the usual colours coming perfectly true to colour. The early section of this beautiful type will flower, if sown in the open in May, about the middle of September, and the late section towards the end of that month. The flowers are as large as the Kelway Aster, and are of most beautiful form, differing with very long petals. They grow 3 feet high, with flower stems 2 feet long. We cannot too highly recommend them for flora work. Two strains are offered under the name of Decorative Asters, one

Camellias are coming into favour again

Left: C. reticulata, large bright rose semi-double flowers *Right:* C. magnoliæflora, flowers white flushed with rose and of exquisite form

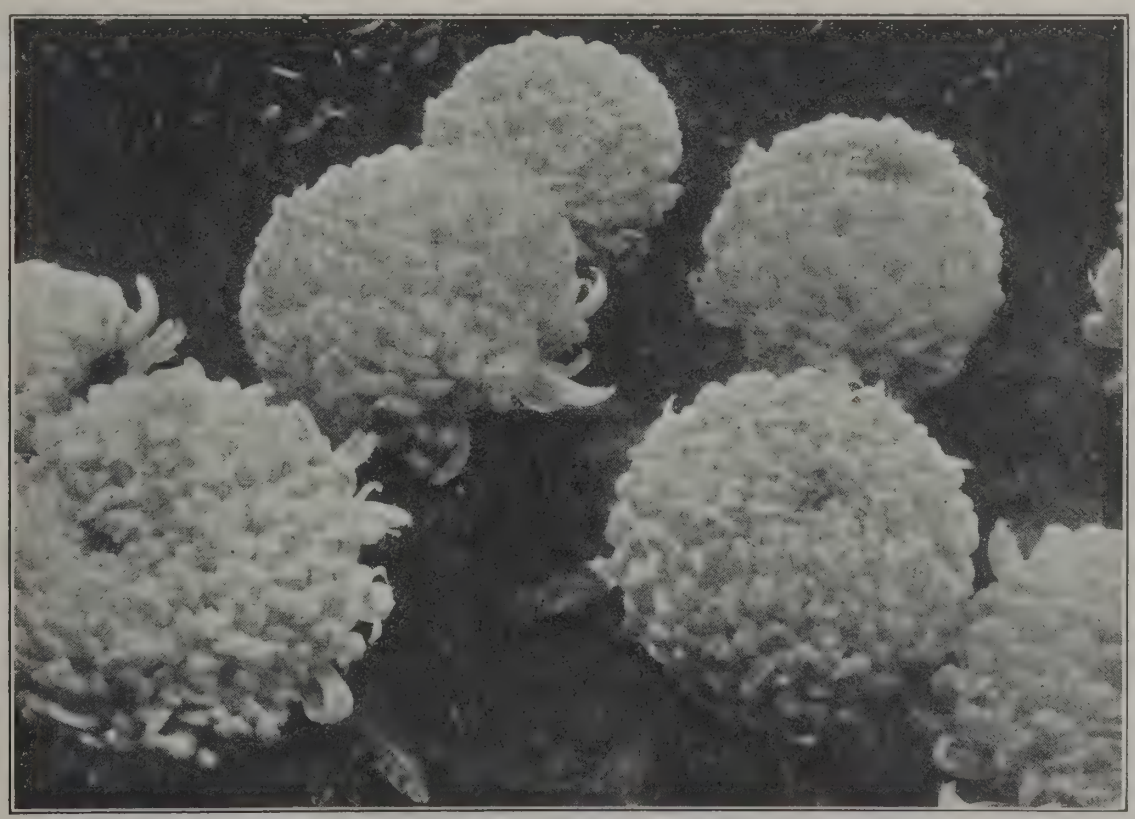
eek earlier than the other, and by the fol-ing names:—Ballet Girl, lovely carmine-; Festival, purple; Folk Dance, pleasing t blue; Meteor, crimson; Nymph, light ish-lavender; Purity, a giant white; ite, bright rose; Somerset Belle, Peach-som, most desirable; Venus, delicate pink; and Fantasies, mixed colours.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

eith Luxford and Co., specialists in ysanthemums and Carnations, have sent some fine new varieties of the former ng the year, and they have been awarded Gold Medals for their various exhibits. ial mention might be made of Chrysanthemum Monument (see illustration), Mrs. Keith Luxford (a large Japanese reflexing, colour terra-cotta with buff reverse), Sungold (large reflexing flowers, rich gold, shaded bronze), Aloma (Japanese incurved, deep yellow). Their new singles, which flower in November, are also varieties of great promise. Mr. H. Shoesmith, of Mayford, Woking, has also had considerable success with his novelties, several of which were given awards at the shows of the National Chrysanthemum Society and the R.H.S. Albion is a pure white decorative variety of great merit, whilst Gaiety is rightly considered to be the most handsome single crimson variety yet introduced.

HARDY AND HALF-HARDY SHRUBS

The firm of Robert Veitch and Son, of Exeter, are usually associated with interesting hardy and half-hardy shrubs, and chief among the new plants exhibited by them during the past season is Erica australis var. Mr. Robert, which is a beautiful white form of the well-known Erica australis. Another new plant that will be in much demand is Escallonia Iveyi, a natural hybrid between E. Exoniensis and E. montevidensis. This has large trusses of white flowers after the style of E. montevidensis, but favours E. Exoniensis in its hardiness. Other plants exhibited by the firm which have received an Award of Merit are Gaultheria Forresti, a



New Chrysanthemum Monument (First Class Certificate)

The outstanding Chrysanthemum novelty of the year—a large white incurved variety of perfect form and substance. Shown by Keith Luxford

dwarf shrub bearing attractive blue berries, and the pretty Kurume Azalea Kirin, with deep pink flowers.

A plant that is coming much into favour again now is the Camellia, and this is a speciality with Messrs. Veitch and Son, who send out many varieties both for greenhouse and for outdoor culture. The Camellia is much more hardy than is usually supposed. Many choice and little-known varieties were shown by the firm at Vincent Square in March, and among the most noticeable were Kimberley (single red), Mrs. Thompson (semi-double white), Lady Audrey Buller (pink), and Fred Sander (semi-double pink with frilled edges to the petals). Messrs. Veitch also grow the beautiful Camellia reticulata, which is such a striking feature in many Cornish gardens.

The new Raspberry, Exeter Yellow, exhibited recently and recommended for trial at Wisley, is certainly one of the best of recent introductions. It is a good cropper, throws up a good supply of strong canes, and is sure to be in demand when it becomes better known.

A NEW COTONEASTER

John Waterer, Sons, and Crisp, Ltd., have raised a new Cotoneaster which is probably the outstanding introduction in hardy shrubs in recent years. They have named it C. Watereri, and it is a vigorous shrub of semi-pendulous habit, bearing large clusters of red fruit which persist to the end of December. It is a cross between C. frigida and C. Henryi. Berberis Unique is another of their novelties. It is a hybrid of medium growth, and with large oblong fruits of a brilliant coral-red shade.

VEGETABLES

The special strains of vegetables shown throughout the country by Edward Webb and Sons have gained many Medals and Awards, and their imposing displays have excited the admiration of vegetable growers on many occasions. Although not new this year, such creations as Webb's Emperor Cabbage, Kinver Mammoth Longpod Bean, and Webb's Stourbridge Pea are all noteworthy achievements. James Carter and Co. have introduced an improved form of their Scarlet Emperor Runner Bean. It is called Emperor's Master, and was included in their Champion Gold Medal collection of vegetables at Shrewsbury (see illustration, page 819). The same firm have raised a large, smooth Tomato named Solid Giant. Carter's Rearguard Brussels Sprouts is the name of a new sort which is ready for use three weeks after the latest-known varieties. The following two new varieties of Potatoes, which have been certified by the Board of Agriculture as being immune from Wart Disease, are offered by Sutton and Sons: Glasgow Favourite is an oval Maincrop variety with shallow eyes and white flesh, and Perth Favourite has flattish, round, white-skinned tubers of exhibition form and white flesh of good table quality. Both the above are said to resist the Potato Disease well.

Sweet Peas: A Winter Retrospect

THE year is drawing to a close, and so the time has arrived when a retrospect of the season may be taken with advantage.

So far as this garden is concerned the year just ending may be recorded the best for a good many years and noteworthy for the introduction of several outstanding varieties —Queen of Roumania, Twinkles, Sybil Henshaw, and Mauve Beauty—which I will describe in the following notes.

Another pleasing feature was the successful return to one of my old favourites of days gone by, namely, Paradise Ivory. This grand old Sweet Pea was always a great favourite, and, chancing to see it listed in Messrs. Ryder's catalogue, I decided to renew acquaintance with it, and have no regrets at doing so, for though the flowers, of course, cannot compare in size with the modern varieties, it can still hold its own with many in respect to both vigour and freedom of flower, while the delicate ivory colouring and old-fashioned perfume are additional charms of no small value to the grower of flowers, who loves them for their grace and beauty, and not for their ability to win prizes in the show tent.

Before passing to the detailed notes on varieties I may say that they were grown in clumps and that, apart from some thinning-out of side growths and tendrils, they were allowed their own way inside wire-netting trainers; some were raised from seed, and the rest were procured as young plants from Mr. W. J. Unwin, Histon, Cambs. Germination in most cases was remarkably satisfactory. The seeds were sown in 5-inch or 6-inch pots, which were then placed in the conservatory in gentle heat until the seedlings started to come through, when they were transferred to a cold frame in order to prevent them from becoming drawn and weakly.

This year for Lobelia, Alyssum, Celery, Pansies, etc., a frame covered with Windolite was tried, with very good results. The seedlings seemed to thrive remarkably, while the frame was light and, consequently, easy to handle. How this glass substitute will wear under full exposure to the weather remains, of course, in my case to be proved, but so far it seems quite sound, and I have no hesitation in recommending a trial, for it should be as suitable for Sweet Peas as for half-hardy annuals. The manufacturers advocate painting with a special varnish supplied by them Windolite which is to be subject to the full force of the elements, and as this course was adopted I hope that a considerable span of usefulness will result. With this slight digression I will now return to the subject on hand, namely, notes on varieties, in the hope that they may be of some interest and even, possibly, of use to readers who may be unfamiliar with one or other of the sorts described, but I must add the somewhat hackneyed but ever necessary warning that there are different Sweet Peas for different gardens and districts. As already mentioned, one of the most outstanding Sweet Peas of the season was Queen of Roumania, a glorious rich pink on cream ground; the colour pales towards the margin of the standard, leaving a distinct band of almost cream. The plants are very vigorous and free-flowering, while for waviness and length of stem they are all that could be desired. Queen of Roumania should certainly be grown in every garden next summer.

Sybil Henshaw is a magnificent deep crimson bearing very large flowers. The standards have a metallic sheen that is both distinct and pleasing, while four-bloomed sprays are freely produced under ordinary garden cultivation.

Twinkles is an unique and beautiful Sweet Pea that opens up a vista of possibilities for the future. The colour may be described as cream ground veined and marked with scarlet, the back of the standard being heavily overlaid with the same shade. This Pea is reminiscent of the old marbled and flaked varieties that in recent years have fallen into disfavour. Popularity is ever fickle and uncertain, but in the writer's opinion it is a pity that the flaked and fancy sections do not receive more recognition, for there is surely room for them, and they afford a pleasing contrast to the selfs and Picotees. Mr. Unwin, by introducing Twinkles, has given a much-needed fillip to their revival and I would strongly recommend growers to give it a trial, and also Lady Gay, introduced by the same raiser in 1925, which is a vigorous grower of the same type, though hardly so bright and effective, the ground colour being white, marbled and flecked with deep rose-pink.

Tom Sykes was grown for the first time this season, and is a singularly bright and taking Sweet Pea. The colour may be described as glowing deep pink—approaching the shade of that beautiful single Rose Isobel—shading to pale pink, though this per picture does it but very scant justice. It seems a pity that a more attractive name had not been found for such a brilliant flower. Tom Sykes always attracts notice in a mixed bunch and gives a wonderful touch of colour in the garden.

In Mauve Beauty, Mr. Unwin has given us a really fine, vigorous, and free-flowering Pea, in a section hitherto not over-strong. The colour is pure and soft, with no trace of harshness, and it is an ideal decorative variety. Mauve Beauty should easily take the lead in the mauve section unless something startling is forthcoming from among the introductions for 1927, and I recommend it with confidence.

Grenadier, sunproof orange-scarlet, gives a fine touch of colour, but, like others of this class, it does not appear to be very free-flowering. It is well worth growing, however, and is probably the best of its colour, though Royal Scot runs it very close; while for a rather less vivid shade in the orange section, May Cowdy, may be included, and for garden and cutting, this variety is really more useful, as it is both vigorous and free.

Coming now to the standard varieties grown this season, I will first take the various shades of pink. Mrs. Charles W. J. Unwin and W. J. Unwin are two really fine sorts that differ only in ground colour, being respectively rich pink on white and cream. Both are now so widely grown that further description or comment is unnecessary.

Cecily, pale cream, and Picture, of deeper shading, are both old and tried varieties. The former is one of my favourites and is more refined than the latter, but both are excellent. However, in a small collection of half-a-dozen sorts I would now give Queen of Roumania preference.

Faerie Queen Improved is a very beautiful and rich pink-flushed variety of somewhat similar colouring to the newer Tom Sykes, though not nearly so vivid and striking.

Youth is a magnificent Picotee, white ground, edged rose, and easily takes the lead in its section. The flowers are freely produced on long stems, and for garden and indoor decoration it is ideal.

Warrior still holds its own in the maroon class, and except for a tendency to become short in the stem as the season advances it supplies all that can be desired in a dark Sweet Pea.

Royal Purple needs no description here, and is worth its place in any selection of six or more varieties.

Mrs. Tom Jones is still probably the brightest blue on the market, and is a good free-flowering sort, but alas! suffers badly

m shortness of stem, which spoils it for tting.

No pure white Sweet Pea was grown this ar, as for town gardens I find it more isfactory to rely on the creams and cotees.

I must not close these notes without menning that grand old crimson, Charity. It s had a long innings and is still worth its ce, but it will have to look to its laurels it is to withstand the challenge of Sybil enshaw.

Judging from the catalogues already reved there are a number of promising velties for 1928, but a description of them ist be left to another occasion or another n. I hope, however, that all readers will at least a few of them, as it gives an ded spice of interest to the season, even ough the results may not fully realise the pes raised by the catalogue description.

I will not give a definite selection of what consider the best out of the varieties deibed above, but will content myself with ommending all who have not tried them include the following three sorts in their for next season, namely, Queen of umania, Tom Sykes, and Twinkles.

Lastly, do not be tempted to buy cheap ds from unreliable sources, but rather port firms with a reputation to lose, even ough it may cost a little more to do so.

It should be remembered that inferior seed l mean a disappointing and wasted sea-n, which will be a poor return for the small ount of outlay saved. There is much th in the familiar saying, "Penny wise d pound foolish," and growers of Sweet as, as well as of other flowers, might with vantage take it to heart.

CECIL M. BAILEY.

VEGETABLES

Vegetables for market

N this neighbourhood Runner Beans are grown in a very simple manner. The seed is drilled in rows 3 feet apart, with a ger space between every two rows to ad- of easily gathering the produce. The nts are not allowed to run, but are kept the form of bushes from 18 inches to 2 feet height by boys or women, who go along rows from time to time and switch off tender-growing tops with sticks. I feel e that in ordinary years this is the only y by which any profit can be made from nner Bean culture. The cost of stakes a large field is great, added to which is labour of inserting and storing them en the crop is over. We know that high es have been obtained this year, as many ge breadths did not yield a Bean fit for rket until the early autumn months, but some years to come this vegetable is not ely to fetch so much in the London mars. At the ordinary market rates the tly method of staking cannot pay, and as raising the plants under glass, I cannot any advantage to be derived therefrom.

Runner Beans are only wanted when Peas over. All the time these are fairly cheap good Runners will go begging. It is, ed, the development of Pea culture that so materially lessened the value of nner Beans. Peas are so largely produced he north of England that their season of ity has been much extended. After the crops were done I have known as many 500 bushels come into Covent Garden in morning. As with all other things that e been found to pay well, the area de-d to this vegetable has been enormously eased, so that growers have to face over-duction as well as competition from a e highly esteemed esculent.

Emperor's Master, a Runner Bean of exceptional length and quality

Shown by Carter & Co.

(*See page 818.*)

TURNIPS.—Those who had good Turnips in August and September this year were very fortunate. At that time they realised a really first-rate price for a vegetable that costs so little to raise. The early-sown Turnips that proved of any value were, however, rare. In the majority of instances, after the young plants appeared they fell a prey to fly and beetle. The latter scourge seems, indeed, to have developed exceptionally potent powers of mischief. Unlike the fly, it comes as a thief in the night, and in less than a week will render a field of healthy young plants a desert waste. The way in which whole fields of healthy young plants disappear in a night or two is enough to discourage the cultivator, and there is, so far as I am aware, no remedy for this, the most formidable pest that the Turnip grower has to contend with. I know of places where the ground has been three times sown, and now there is but a sprinkling of plants on it. So irregular have been the early crops in this district that where they have done fairly well £8 10s. per acre has been given, the purchaser taking on himself all expenses incidental to marketing them. There is apparently a knack in sowing Turnips in a dry time, for whilst the generality of the growers hereabouts have scarcely any Turnips, one of the largest of them has had for a couple of months 20 hands constantly employed pulling the roots for market. This man has undoubtedly done remarkably well this year.

The great point in sowing is to get a fine surface, putting the harrows on the moment the ground is ploughed, keeping them at work until the seed is drilled in. In this way the seed gets the benefit of any moisture that may be in the soil, and the inch or two of fine mould acts as a mulch in helping to retain it until germination takes place. This is the method followed by the grower above referred to, and he seems to get crops when most people fail. Another important item is to have the ground in good heart. A plant will make progress in a dry time if there is plenty of food for it. In poor ground it gets stunted, and even the advent of a genial growing time will not induce free growth. There is, moreover, a vast difference in the appearance, and consequently marketable value, of quickly-grown Turnips of such that have taken much over the due time to bring to a selling size. A more plentiful supply seems now to be forthcoming.

CARROTS.—These have, owing probably to the comparative dearth of green vegetables, been in good demand during the autumn. In a general way it is of but little good sending Carrots to the London market before the middle of November. This year a good breadth of them in a fit condition in September was worth a good deal. What they will realise later on it is hard to say. Very much will depend upon the condition of the crops in the eastern counties. If they are only moderate, prices must average higher through the winter than has been the case for some years past, for the yield in this Carrot-growing country is very light. The fly took off a great percentage of the plants, and where they escaped the roots have not come to average size. The Essex Carrots are mostly grown on holding ground, and if growers can only get the seed to germinate well they are almost sure to get good roots. In times past it was useless to grow Carrots for market on heavy ground. Symmetry, length and colour constituted the points of excellence, and they can only be obtained in a sufficiently high degree on a certain description of light sandy loam. The long Surrey Carrot is, however, now no longer in much favour. For once consumers in London have exercised a wise discretion and recognised superior merits in the less attractive Intermediate, which is more tender and altogether of a better flavour. This is the kind that is exclusively grown in the eastern counties.

Sevenoaks. B. H.

Lettuce

Where there are empty frames on hand these can be made use of by lifting some young Lettuce seedlings from the garden and planting, 6 inches apart, in a light compost.

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK

Southern and Midland

Winter flowering Begonias

A number of the healthiest plants should be selected for the purpose of providing cuttings, but, instead of leaving them in the cool houses, after having been cut back, they should be placed on shelves near the glass in a house, the temperature of which is maintained at 60 degs. during the night. Water at the roots must be curtailed, although the plants should not at any time be permitted to become dust-dry, as this favours attacks by mite, which is fatal to good, healthy cuttings. Ply the syringe among the pots and dew the stools overhead twice each day, and plenty of cuttings—which should be freely inserted in sandy soil—will result.

Malmaison Carnations

Apply water to these during the next six weeks with extreme care; maintain the house in a fresh, airy, but not draughty, condition by careful use of the ventilators. Very little fire heat is necessary, but a slight circulation of warmth through the pipes during the night will prove beneficial. The staking and tying out of large specimens may be carried out, and, to prevent disfigurement by green fly secreted in the centre of the growths, fumigate the house once each month.

Shrubs and bulbs for forcing

With Chrysanthemums, Begonias, Poinsettias, etc., passing rapidly out of bloom, reliance for future cut flowers will have to be placed upon forced material, and shrubs grown or otherwise acquired for this purpose must be introduced to gentle warmth periodically. Wistarias, Prunus, Genistas, Lilacs, Azaleas, Narcissus, Tulips, Hyacinths, Anemones, Freesias, and Lily of the Valley are among the valuable subjects which freely respond to this treatment. Avoid excessive heat at all times.

Cyclamen and Primulas

A temperature of 50 degs. to 55 degs. will suit these plants admirably during their flowering period, a little air being admitted through the top ventilators at all times.

Peach houses

Up to the present date these are often full of Chrysanthemums, etc., which hold up the work of renewing condemned trees, but this must be no longer delayed if satisfactory results are to follow. All the soil containing condemned trees should be removed to a width of 3 feet from the base of the trees, and to a depth of 2 feet at least, and replaced with good turfy loam to which has been added a small percentage of old lime rubble and wood ash. This should be moderately firmed and allowed a little time to settle down before planting takes place. Push forward the cleaning of such houses and trees, dressing the latter after pruning has been carried out with Gishurst Compound, removing from its bed any brown scale as the dressing proceeds.

Hippeastrums

An examination of these will reveal a percentage already showing the tips of their flower scapes. Such bulbs should be placed in a house possessing a temperature of 55 degs. to 60 degs. The soil should be thoroughly moistened and the syringe passed over the crowns once each day. From this date others should be introduced in batches to maintain an unbroken supply of blooms.

Mixed shrubberies

These are often neglected until the strongest-growing subjects—which are generally those of the least interest—have overgrown those of a choicer nature. The present is a good time to check the exuberance of the former by a judicious thinning and shortening back, and at the same time attend to the evergreen background, where such exists, by reducing the forward branches which tend to drive those in front of them over paths, etc.

Bamboos

If we could choose the very best month for transplanting these graceful evergreens it would be May, but most gardeners are overwhelmed at that season with other important work. None, however, may hesitate to carry out planting of this nature at the present time, which, if carefully done, will prove successful. Lifted with a good ball of earth and transferred to well-prepared positions, working in a free supply of leaf mould and sand as planting proceeds will meet with success. Sheltered positions should always be chosen for these plants.

Manuring vacant plots

Take advantage of frosty mornings to get manure wheeled upon the vacant plots, and in order to keep the spade going in all except rainy weather spread this over the surface. Digging, trenching, and draining is now constant, as the more the newly turned earth is exposed to the influences of the weather the better will be the resulting crops next year. E. MARKHAM.

Gravetye Manor Gardens,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

Scotland

The seed order

The annual "deluge" of seed lists has set in, and a pleasant and profitable hour or two, on a winter night, may be spent going through these and selecting supplies for the season now opening. It is a great benefit to the seed merchant when orders are sent in early, and it is equally beneficial to ourselves, as there is no difficulty in getting every item ordered, whereas later in the season many of the kinds may be sold out, and there must inevitably be some delay in receiving such.

Seed-sowing

Even early in January several kinds of both flowers and vegetables require to be sown, if early and satisfactory returns are to be looked for. It is necessary, during the next month or two, to have command of suitable warmth for these seeds; so if this cannot be managed, it is better to defer sowing for a month or so.

Tuberous-rooted Begonias

With the necessary facilities, there is little trouble in raising these from seed, sowing before the middle of January, and giving a little care to the seedlings from the moment they germinate. Use light, sandy compost, placing it in an old iron pot, and baking before using on a strong fire for a few minutes, so as to destroy seeds of weeds and any animal life present. Being so very minute, the seeds must be handled with the utmost care, while the soil for the surface must be finely sifted. Do not, on any account, try to cover the seeds, only a small pinch or two of silver sand being sprinkled over the surface after the seeds are sown.

Streptocarpus

This is another fine thing that is easily raised from seed, and an early start is advisable. Treat in the same way as advised for the Begonia, in the earlier stages at all events. It, however, as a rule germinates quicker and grows faster in the early days of its existence.

Gloxinias to bloom the first year

By sowing seeds now nice plants can be had in late summer and autumn that will furnish some fine flowers after the old plants are past. Treatment similar to that required by the Begonia and Streptocarpus will suit the Gloxinia, the seeds being also very minute. Later they require more warmth than the first two named. All three will germinate freely in a temperature of 70 degs. to 75 degs. Dryness of atmosphere and soil must be guarded against.

Chrysanthemum cuttings

These root more readily after "the turn of the day," and full stocks of the decorative and single-flowered varieties should be secured as soon now as possible, while any shortage among the large-flowered Japs should be made good as soon as cuttings are available. Early batches should be potted off singly, as soon as ready, setting them on shelves close to the roof glass to prevent "drawing."

Hollyhocks from seed

If sown within the next ten days the plants will, as a rule, bloom the first year, and as some very fine strains are in existence there is no need for anyone who may admire this stately plant to deny himself the pleasure of cultivating what he requires in this line; and by using seedlings the worry and disappointment experienced in endeavouring to cultivate named varieties are obviated.

Carnation cuttings

The next few weeks is a very suitable time for propagating the perpetual-flowering Carnation, sturdy, short-jointed side shoots from the stems of the old plants making the best cuttings. Clean, 3-inch pots, filled with very sandy compost, and three cuttings dibbled firmly in round the edge of each, is a good medium for the purpose. Plunge the pots in a propagating bed, but strong heat must not be employed.

Large Onions

To obtain large bulbs for exhibition, seed should be sown before the middle of January in boxes filled with light, rich compost. Where only wanted for kitchen use, a week or two later will suit; and if the seeds are sown thinly no pricking off will be necessary, as the seedlings can be transplanted direct to their outdoor quarters in April.

Best wishes for 1928

The year just closing has been one of the most trying in the experience of even the oldest gardener, but the gardener, being an optimist always, is expecting great things of the coming year. And I heartily hope that all readers and fellow-contributors to these pages may have a very happy and prosperous New Year. *Au revoir!* C. BLAIR.

Preston House Gardens, Linlithgow.

ALPINES

Primula japonica

FEW must be the gardeners who require to be told how to grow Primula japonica, and yet it is not always made the most of. No stream should run idle through the wilder part of a garden, and no dyke, however necessary to drain flood water into the river, need give offence in its draining while this Primula is in cultivation. The sole condition of its happiness is moisture. Thus, if you have water in any form on your property, no matter in how straight a channel some well-meaning engineer has caused it to run, or how perpendicular Nature has made the banks that control it, you need only take pick and shovel and break the straight line into a more comfortable course, or dig down the inaccessible banks till you both widen the bed and get it flanked by easy but varying slopes. Dig in leaf mould as you go, and then come along with your young Primulas and drift and clump them between the places where you have left grass.

Some would say they could not raise a stock of seedlings large enough to provide for such mass planting, but the secret of easy propagation lies in immediate sowing. Select in the summer the shades you wish to perpetuate, since the well-marked colours are said to come fairly true—watch them—hover over them as the seed-pods mature—and clutch them from the parent stems the instant the seeds are ripe enough to shake out of the capsules. As soon as they are dry get them into pots, which should have been prepared in the ordinary way, except for erring slightly on the side of overmuch leaf mould. You have then done what you can, and giving them reasonable attention, may expect to see a good crop of seedlings in a few weeks. Should any or all, however, fail to germinate in the autumn, do not watch carefully over the pot until March and then in disgust discard it to make room for annuals, but rather watch with growing confidence as March wears on, since it is then that a second germination may be expected.

If, however, you have raised a batch of sturdy youngsters by the spring, you can plant them out in their masses in April, and look for a display of flower in the following season. One such planting, indeed, should give you the start you require, so that you will only need in future years to fill up odd gaps in the ranks of self-sown seedlings. Nor need you be disturbed if some get their feet into the water, since they will often establish themselves in such a position and wax fat and vulgar as a Cabbage.

The accompanying photograph shows them naturalised by the thousand in the Wild Garden at Wisley, and here, in a garden whose chief charm, perhaps, lies in its naturalised colonies of inhabitants that have really made themselves at home and consented permanently to settle down, the "Primula Wood" is a place beloved of all who know it in its glory, and means something more to its acquaintances than mere Primulas and a wood.

There is no water running through this, but the soil is a black woodland mould, kept cool and moist by a sparse peopling of Oaks and Silver Birches. Every year it is a carpet of pale-green rosettes, with here and there a great, fat, bulbous bud of Lilium giganteum. Then, in June, follows a sea of peering faces, crimson, white, salmon, and purple, and each twinkling with a yellow eye—faces small enough in themselves, but massed in rings, climbing one above another up the tall, slender poles of their stems, till each is like a swaying miniature pagoda. Then—tapering towers rising from a host of multi-coloured lances—the stout columns of the Lily stems thrust their white inverted fecunds 10 feet above the dark-green, lustrous blades.

This part of the wood is flanked on one side by Bamboos, but on the other Rhododendrons and Camellias give you glimpses of a stream with more Primulas, and if you go further through the garden you will find them allowed to roam at will, and with the darker, stronger-minded P. pulverulenta and the light-yellow bells of P. sikkimensis to take the margins of Lily-ponds by storm, and to fringe any stream they take a fancy to. This, in fact, is the ideal to be aimed at, since the perfect happiness of his plants is not only the hall-mark of the cultivator's success, but the secret of the real beauty of his garden.

Primula japonica naturalised by the thousand

Saxifraga Burseriana

Saxifraga Burseriana

THIS little gem will soon burst into flower. The crimson, unopened buds have a delightful effect as they emerge from the silvery tuft of foliage. The blossoms are borne singly on ruddy stems and are pure white when developed. The plant revels in full sunshine in sandy soil and spreads nicely over gritty interstices of warm sandstone. It is propagated by means of cuttings inserted in sandy soil in a cold frame or under a bell glass. H. STEVENS.

The water garden

SINCE the re-introduction of hardy herbaceous plants into the garden great attention has been given to Water Lilies, and where in former days there were but few varieties, we have now 50, if not more, all of which are useful. With few exceptions they are continuous-flowering, lasting from the commencement of June until late autumn. Many have a mistaken idea that they cannot be grown only where the owner of the garden possesses lakes, ponds and tanks, and running water. True, the strong-growing sorts grow quicker into large clumps when given a spacious piece of water, but most hardy Water Lilies may be grown in the small garden as long as it is not too confined and shady.

The water garden may be laid out in various ways. For the small garden I should advise the use of tubs only, such as petroleum barrels sawn in half, well burnt out to get rid of any traces of oil, which is deadly to all vegetation, and then sunk in the ground. A few barrels of this description sunk close together and the intervening spaces planted with moisture-loving plants would make a very interesting small water garden.

In these half-barrels nothing but the smaller-leaved sorts should be planted. To make the ground surrounding the tubs look more natural it should be undulated with some pieces of rock here and there, and planted with Ferns, etc.

If the space be sufficient the water garden might represent the foot of a small rockery, but the latter must not be so high as to obstruct the light.

In a spacious villa garden a few years ago I had the pleasure of seeing a water garden

made in a very inexpensive way. An excavation of an irregular shape of a small lake was made on the lawn about 2½ feet deep, and the bottom and sides made firm. The whole was then covered with two layers of thick felt-paper, the first layer being tarred before the other was put on, and coal tar used freely over all. This was allowed time to thoroughly dry and harden. I was assured the lake would not let any water through and would last for years, and so it has proved, for it is still in existence and a fine feature of a very beautiful garden.

The bottom of the lake should be covered with 6 inches to 9 inches of good garden soil. It may be filled with water first, and, having stood for a few days, it is ready for planting with aquatics, and at the end of the season will make quite a show.

On these lines a lake may be formed with the outlay of a few pounds, and will often make as good a show as the man who is able to spend hundreds of pounds on his lake.

For the small water garden I will give a small selection of plants. Nymphæa: N. odorata minor (white), N. odorata sulphurea (sulphur-yellow), N. helvola (small sulphur), N. pygmæa (small white), N. odorata rosea (dwarf pink), N. suavissima (pink), N. odorata rubra (deep rosy-red), N. Laydeckeri rosea (very free-flowering), Hottonia palustris (lilac-white flowers). The flowers of the above are raised out of the water with floating leaves.

As to the taller, more upright-growing plants I would name Pontederia cordata (blue flowers and lanceolate leaves), Orontium aquaticus (yellow flowers). If very tall plants are required I should advise planting Typha angustifolia and Sagittaria montevidensis. For floating plants, Azolla pinnata, A. canadensis, and Salvinia natans might be used.

As to the margin the following may be used:—The Royal Fern, both Osmunda regalis and gracilis, Iris Kæmpferi, Caltha palustris, Butomus umbellatus, Calla palustris, Menyanthes trifoliata, and many others.

When we come to the larger piece of water where space is not so much the object the smaller Water Lilies should be planted towards the margin in order that they should not be crowded out. In the centre plant such kinds of Nymphæas as the Marliac forms (purple, yellow, rose), N. Frœbelli, N. Andreana, N. Elisiana, and others. Other tall-growing plants are Typhas and Thalia dealbata, and for sheltered spots clumps of Arum Lilies.

For the margin tall and dwarf Ferns, Spiræa palmata, S. gigantea, and S. Aruncus Gunneras, Bambusas, Sarracenia purpurea, Cyprus longus, Iris Kæmpferi, Lilium superbum, Sagittarias, Arunda Donax, and many others.

In conclusion, I may state the best time for planting is spring and early summer, and let the plants be properly prepared and well established. F. H.

Violets

THESE modest but fragrant flowers are always appreciated, but probably never more so than during the present festive season, as with the prevailing fashion of substituting floral emblems for cards, Violets are in great request, as they form pleasing tokens of friendship and goodwill. For this purpose I have recently heard of high prices being offered for really good Marie Louise, prices which could not fail to leave the grower who could produce flowers in quantity a large margin of profit. My notes refer to the culture of Violets in private gardens. In these, Violets are generally plentiful during the autumn, but at the first approach of hard weather the flowers become scarce, and it is not until spring that they can be gathered again in quantity. Their failing to flower at this season may be due to several causes, but the chief one probably is in not properly preparing the plants from the first.

It is the usual practice about the month of March to divide the old plants, and these are dibbled out about a foot apart, in which position they remain until again removed to the frames. If the weather be favourable and the soil fairly good these may grow into good plants, but not such as are needed for continuous winter flowering. In the first place, plants which have probably been kept in darkness for days together owing to the thick covering required during severe weather, or those that have been grown in pits where fire-heat has been employed to protect them from frost naturally become weak, and when divided and planted outside often stand for weeks before they commence growing, or, worse still, are withered up by cold winds or scorched with bright sunshine. A better mode of raising really good strong plants that will flower throughout the winter is as follows: About the middle of September a sufficient number of good sturdy runners is selected, and these are pricked out into several inches of good loam and sharp sand at least 2 inches apart in shallow frames. They should be well watered and shaded for a few days, when they should be gradually exposed, the lights being removed when it is seen roots are forming. By the end of October these become sturdy plants, and with slight protection will withstand the hardest winter uninjured. Such plants can be lifted in the spring with good balls of earth and planted out with a trowel, and growth will commence at once. Frequent hoeing between the plants during the summer is very beneficial, and an occasional watering during dry weather with liquid manure will promote sturdy growth, and strong plants well set with bloom will be the result by the middle of September.

About three weeks before the plants are removed to the pit or frame they should be prepared by cutting round with a sharp spade about 9 inches or so from the centre of the plants; this will sever the longest roots, and if well watered young ones will form quickly, and each plant can be lifted with a good ball and placed in the winter quarters without a check. Water should be given to settle the soil, but shading is unnecessary. The fullest exposure should be given at all times in the absence of sharp frost or inclement weather. Undoubtedly the best place to winter Violets in is a brick pit, where just sufficient artificial heat can be turned on to keep out frost—and only that, as fire-heat is fatal to Violets. In such a position the plants need not be kept in darkness, as is often the case when in ordinary frames during severe weather like that experienced recently.

SOIL.—Violets grow freely in any ordinary soil, but where it is inclined to be light and poor the plants often suffer during the summer from attacks of red spider. In such cases a heavy dressing of well-decayed farmyard manure should be dug in during the winter, and liquid manure given to the plants several times during the summer. On the other hand, a soil that is naturally heavy and retentive of moisture, and which bakes hard during hot, dry weather, should be thrown up roughly in the autumn to enable frost and exposure to pulverise it, and in the spring it should receive a good top-dressing of spent Mushroom manure, leaf-mould, or refuse potting soil, which should be forked in before planting; while, should the situation be exceptionally cold and badly drained, raised beds may be formed with advantage, as in the case of Asparagus. Respecting the best variety to afford flowers at mid-winter, I prefer Marie Louise, and Neapolitan for spring work. There are several newer single varieties of great promise, but whether they surpass those named for flowering at this season I am not prepared to say, but I intend to give them a trial next season. I find it is a good plan to keep the surface soil lightly stirred, with an occasional dusting of some approved fertiliser. V. R. P.

TREES AND SHRUBS

A rare Daisy bush—Olearia ramulosa

THIS elegant shrub was in bloom at the end of November, when I was fortunate to make its acquaintance for the first time in a Sussex garden, where Hoheria populnea and Lapagerias, both growing against cool sheltering walls, were in full bloom, their beauty being remarkable so late in the year, the freshness and size of the waxy pink bells of the Lapagerias surpassing anything I have ever seen growing under glass. The wall upon which the latter were growing faces east, and at its feet were luxuriant bushes of the Chilian Desfontainea.

The Daisy bush above referred to might easily be mistaken—at a casual glance—for a graceful and refined Michaelmas Daisy, its slender, narrow leaves and little white flowers possessing that dainty aspect associated with a few of that large family. It was growing at the foot of a south wall, where it appeared to be perfectly at home. As such things are often difficult to locate, I might mention that it is listed by Messrs. V. N. Gauntlett and Co., Ltd., Chiddingfold, Surrey. E. M.

Vaccinium glauco album

A neglected shrub from the Himalayas is the above, which grows from 3 feet to 4 feet high. It is of rather erect habit of growth, with stout leaves, green above, and striking blue-white beneath. The subject of this note was carrying a crop of extremely handsome blue fruits, coated with white bloom, on November 20th, carried erect on racemes 3 inches long. This is quite an aristocrat among the Vacciniums, but requires shelter from biting winds. E. M.

Gaultheria perplexa

A prostrate little bush, tumbling over a rocky ledge, and not more than 4 inches high, the branches interlaced and absolutely laden with attractive, bright-pink, berry-like fruits. Such was the above, which I was delighted to see recently growing entirely in the open, and in an exposed position. It is a native of New Zealand, being found in hilly and mountainous districts of North and South Islands, whence so many lovely new shrubs and plants—which give great promise for our gardens—are being raised and tested by our leading authorities. E. M.

Michelia compressa

This is a very fine evergreen tree from Japan, and one rarely met with, even in the South, but it is of importance to planters who have not yet made its acquaintance. In its earliest years it forms a compact, yet graceful and shapely, shrub, laden with leathery glossy green leaves about 3 inches in length. This Michelia is closely allied to Magnolia, and forms a tree 40 feet in height, with a

runk 1 foot or more in diameter, according o Mr. W. J. Bean, in his "Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles." I have ot seen its flowers, which are said to be ½ inches to 2 inches across when fully ex-anded, Magnolia-like, fragrant, and pale ellow. E. M.

FRUIT GARDEN

The evil of overcrowding

AFTER pests and weeds, there is probably nothing that the fruit plantations and orchards of this country suffer from nore than overcrowding, and the reasons or this are several. In the first place, the olicy of planting for a quick return, with rees occupying the available space through oth permanent trees and fillers, is an ex-ellent one, and probably there are few nodern planters who would adopt a different olicy to-day. Life is too short to plan a lantation which will not occupy the land or twenty years, and so the temporary tree n the dwarfing stock (as it should be) which s procured at comparatively low cost is em-loyed. It gives a quicker return, and a nore reliable one. All goes well for twenty ears or more, until the trees cover the land nickly. Then comes the rub. It may be hat the fillers are returning better crops nan the others, or as we have often noticed, son has taken over a plantation from his ather. He has grown up with it, and in onsequence, has not noticed the gradual rocess of overcrowding. We have had such ons tell us (referring to plantations made ome thirty years previously) that "the old an planted these too thickly." The facts, f course, have been that the "old man" lanted correctly, and the son omitted to arry out his part of duly thinning them by ıking out every other tree, or row.

The dangers to the overcrowded plantations re manifold. Such places are seldom as uitful as they should be, and it frequently appens that they yield badly solely because their condition produced through over-owding. Quality fruit cannot be obtained, nd pests flourish in the plantation, which so thick that proper spraying operations annot be carried out. A decade or so ago e heard of the neglect by West Country owers of their orchards, but other parts of e country will soon have to look to it un-ss a state of affairs far more general and equently to be met with than might be sup-osed, is to affect the industry. It needs ecision and determination to cut out fruitful ees before the damage has been done. Then it is too late, it may take years to pair this damage, even if it can be re-edied.

More than once in his experience the aver-ge grower has "had the worst season for r" in his life. Professor F. V. Theobald, his work "The Plant Lice and Aphididæ Great Britain," states that after the first ood from eggs the female fly quickly attains aturity and commences to reproduce live ung in favourable weather at the rate of ven or eight per day for 20 days. These ewise mature quickly, and reproduce liv-g young; and the process continues until e final crop of pests is laid in the form of gs in autumn. It will be readily under-ood that with the almost impossible job of complete kill at each spraying, how quickly oods may multiply in overcrowded planta-ons where efficient spraying is the more fficult. The danger of the overcrowded antation is the greater because it is not parent to the majority of owners. Not only ve they perhaps grown up with them and not noticed the danger line long passed, but occasional crops of fruit, sometimes on one row and sometimes on both fillers and permanent trees, have disguised the importance of thinning out.

In plantations of Apples there has been a tendency for the increase of mildew during recent years. Mildew may at any time assume serious development, and the soft, enfeebled growths of trees overcrowded are naturally more susceptible to it. We are of opinion that the serious outbreaks of American Gooseberry mildew some 20 years ago were caused largely through the great number of old plantations covering them, aided by the system of growing the bushes on stools. It is the soft growth produced from the overcrowded bush (stool grown) that is first attacked by American Gooseberry mildew.

Let the grower who may suspect that his plantation has become overgrown take stock of the situation. If he has been in possession many years he knows probably the more fruitful rows. In some cases he may know definitely those which pay him less, but more frequently this is not clear, and he may have to decide which line he is going to sacrifice. Let him get busy, and the sooner the better. In some cases that are not chronic a severe thinning of branches, by cutting entirely away some 50 per cent. of them, more or less, according to the degree in which the trees are suffering, may meet the case for some years. In such instances, of course, it is necessary to remove those branches which overlap. The success of this method depends somewhat on the vigour of the trees. Where these are not growing very strongly it should be all to the good, but on the other hand, when they are already growing strongly the benefits are reduced.

The average life of a plantation on good dwarfing stocks (omitting, of course, the Dutch Paradise) is longer to-day than was thought possible some 30 years ago; but it is surely the right policy for a grower to look some years ahead and to plant occasionally fresh land against the time when his older plantations will pay to grub. Those who have young trees coming into profit will appreciate this point, for it is from such that our finest fruit is produced. Moreover, in the course of years the demand for certain varieties wanes. The choice of varieties to-day will vary much from that made 20 years ago. It is such points that the modern cultivator of to-day watches to his advantage. A worn-out plantation, be it Apple, Plum, and especially Pear on Quince, is not a paying proposition. It yields less, but costs a lot more to properly cultivate.

Silver Leaf disease

Plums that are susceptible

Silver Leaf or Silver Blight causes quite heavy losses among fruit trees in this country annually. Plums, and to a less extent Apples, suffer most, but the disease also affects Peach trees and Nectarines, whether grown in the open or under glass. Pear trees, on the other hand, are very rarely attacked, but there are entirely different kinds of plants, such as Laburnums and Horse Chestnuts, that may be devastated by the disease.

Silver Leaf can be recognised easily during the summer months by the fact that the leaves show a curious silvery or leaden sheen. First it appears in one branch, and later spreads throughout the tree. Sometimes an affected tree recovers, but more often the branches begin to die back, until ultimately the whole tree is killed. For a long time the cause of the disease was a complete mystery, but it is now known to be due to attack by a fungus. This fungus can only enter the tree through wounds, such as those made in pruning or by the breaking of branches. Once it has entered, the disease usually grows rapidly through the wood in all directions. Its progress is marked by a deep brown discoloration, which shows when a silvered branch is cut across. The fungus does not actually enter the silvered leaves, but its presence in the tree causes the upper skin of the leaves to become separated from the cells immediately below, with the result that air penetrates and makes the silvery appearance in the same way as the entry of air into a crack in a block of ice causes the formation of a white streak.

After one or more branches of the tree have been killed, the fungus begins to break out through the dead bark and forms flat purple-mauve coloured incrustations on it. These are really myriads of minute spores which break away and are carried by the wind to other trees. If they alight on bare cuts or wounds on a tree they usually germinate and start the infection afresh in that tree. There is an exception, however, in the summer months, when the tree is capable of forming a barrier of gum on top of an exposed wound so quickly as to protect it from the fungus. If a wound is more than three months old the fungus, likewise, has no power to enter through it.

Now these points are found to be of importance in combating the disease; there is no cure, and burning up infected wood, coupled with prevention of spread, becomes the only remedy. All dead wood bearing the purple-mauve incrustations should be destroyed as soon as possible. It is best done during the summer, when the fungus cannot easily infect other trees. In the Ministry's Silver Leaf Order of 1923 this burning must be accomplished by July 15th in every year. Where the dead wood on the trunk extends to the ground, the whole tree, including the root, must be burned, and the Order applies to the wood of any kind of tree; if allowed to multiply on these the spores of the fungus will be carried along to infect other trees and probably valuable fruit trees.

All pruning wounds and other unavoidable injuries to trees should be protected as soon as possible by soft grafting wax or a thick paint such as white lead paint. Tar or paints in a very liquid condition are found to be of no use for the purpose.

There is one other interesting point about this disease; all varieties, say of Plums, are not equally susceptible to it. Victoria and Czar are very much more so than Yellow Pershore, Rivers' Early, Prolific, Blaisdon Red, and Damascene, whilst Monarch, Purple Egg Plum, and Damsons are midway between the two sets and fairly resistant. This is a good point to know, for in planting young trees in a district where Silver Leaf is rife it is best to choose some other variety than Victoria or Czar.

Grafting the Grape Vine

In a recent issue I noted that information was being sought by a querist in regard to the grafting of a Vine.

In the reply given the method mentioned and described is, where circumstances admit of its being skilfully and carefully carried out, undoubtedly the best to adopt. The achievement of a successful result largely depends, of course, in having both stock and scion in a certain condition, and unless the grafting is done at the right moment the chances are that failure will ensue. As it is a somewhat difficult matter for any but the experienced to determine when the right time has arrived to effect the grafting, I therefore venture to think amateurs and those who

have had no previous experience in the grafting of the Vine would find that the alternative method, styled bottle grafting, would in their case be more likely to prove successful, as the risk of failure, if the operation is properly carried out, is reduced almost to a minimum, for the following reasons: In the method recommended and detailed in the reply to the querist both stock and scion are to a certain extent in a growing condition, or, in gardening parlance, "on the move." In bottle grafting both stock and scion are in a dormant condition, and there is, in consequence, no disastrous results to be apprehended from bleeding if after the working of the scion on to the stock it is properly bound on and enclosed with grafting wax. The latter then becomes thoroughly set and impervious before the vinery in which the stock is situated is started. The stock or stocks should be cut back at the time of pruning, and a spur left just above the point where the grafting is to be done, to provide growth to absorb the sap until such time that the growth on the scion appropriates it entirely. The scion should be sufficiently long enough to allow for a portion some 7 inches or 8 inches in length to project beyond the point where it has been attached to the stock. This should be inserted in a bottle kept filled with water, which will prevent the scion from becoming too dry, and perhaps perishing, in the interval between the actual grafting and the starting of the vinery, which is usually a period ranging from four to five weeks.

In conclusion, equally as good results in regard to growth can be obtained by the adoption of the one method as the other, as fine canes or rods are produced in the first season. A. W.

Answers to Queries

Queries—*Queries and answers are inserted in* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *free of charge if correspondents follow these rules: All communications should be clearly written on one side of the paper only, and addressed to the* EDITOR *of* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, *Bouverie House, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4. Letters on business should be sent to the* PUBLISHER. *The name and address of the sender are required in addition to any designation he may desire to be used in the paper. When more than one query is sent, each should be on a separate piece of paper; the name and address being added to each. As* GARDENING ILLUSTRATED *has to be sent to press some days in advance of date, queries cannot always be replied to in the issue immediately following their receipt. We do not reply to queries by post.*

Naming plants—*Readers who wish plants to be named should send fair examples of each—the stem, leaf, flower, or fruit. (Snippets of leaves and points of shoots are useless.) Not more than four plants should be sent in any one week by the same correspondent. Where more than one kind is sent they should be numbered. Of conifers the cones should always be sent.*

Naming fruit—*Several specimens in different stages of colour and size of the same kind greatly assist in its determination. Single, unripe, or deformed specimens are difficult to name. We do not undertake to name more than four specimens at one time.*

ROSES

Pruning Roses under glass

Will you kindly tell me the correct time to prune Roses under glass, and should they be pruned hard? The Roses are planted inside and the growths are tied to wires about 1 foot from roof. NEW FOREST.

[Roses growing under glass should be well thinned immediately their first burst of flowering is over—usually the end of May. This consists of the removal of all weak and worn-out wood. This admits light and sunshine to the remainder, which becomes harder and stronger in consequence. If the house is heated the Roses should be pruned finally about the end of January, when only sufficient growth—and this the ripest and best—to furnish the supports thinly should be retained, all weak growths being cut back to within four or five eyes of their base and the unripened tips of the remaining cut back to hard, sound wood.]

TREES AND SHRUBS

Propagating Box

(Regular Reader).—The cuttings you send are clean and healthy pieces of our native Box (Buxus sempervirens). Propagation is generally effected by means of cuttings of young shoots 3 inches or 4 inches long placed in sandy soil under a handlight in summer. These root in a few weeks' time, and should then be transferred to small nursery beds. In your present case we advise making the cuttings a little larger, placing them close together in lines on a cool border, the base of the cuttings being firmly inserted in sharp sand, and covering them with a frame sash, when a percentage should strike. They must not suffer from want of moisture at any time, and the soil about them must be made very firm.

Yew hedge grown over with Lichen

I have a Yew hedge about 4 feet in height, the weather side of which, facing west, is very much grown over with Lichen, with the result that the hedge is more or less bare on that side and the growth very poor. Can anything be done by spraying or other means to improve it, and, if so, when is the best time to treat it? A. GLADSTONE.

[About the first week in February spray the hedge with caustic alkali wash, which, with directions, is obtainable of all horticultural sundriesmen, or if you prefer to mix it yourself proceed as follows:—Dissolve 1 lb. caustic soda (98 per cent.) in 10 gallons of soft water. Wear an old suit of clothes and rubber gloves, as the solution is injurious to skin and clothing; also choose a calm day. This solution will probably yellow, somewhat, the remaining leaves for a time, but should cause no permanent injury; it will certainly clear the hedge of Lichen.]

Transplanting Hypericums, Lavender, and Rosemary

I have been told that Evergreens, such as Hypericums, Rosemary, and Lavender, should not be transplanted after September or before April. Is this the case? C. FORTH.

[The former may be transplanted at any time—except during very frosty weather—from October until the middle of April with perfect safety. Both Lavender and Rosemary, however, are more likely to pass through the winter safely if planted either in September or April, certainly not later than October, unless the plants are young nursery stuff, in which case Lavender may be planted throughout the winter, but not Rosemary.]

GREENHOUSE

Lapageria unsatisfactory

I have a Lapageria in greenhouse with very little artificial warmth, planted in tub containing loam, peat, coarse sand, and broken bricks, with 6 inches drainage provided. It is trained on south wall, and for a number of years grew and flowered very well, but within the past few years it has failed to make any headway, and no flowers. Leaves had a yellowish appearance. It was then planted out at foot of wall with a 8-foot drop from the ground-level on north side of wall. I was advised to lift it back end of last year from border on account of its condition, and the result from tub is worse than before lifted. Any information you may give me to re-establish plant will be received with pleasure. J. R. M. H.

[You have been interfering too much with your plant, the Lapageria being resentful of disturbance at the roots. With careful watering it may recover. This plant dislikes dryness at the roots, but, on the other hand, must not have the soil constantly saturated. As a rule, it is best planted in a border made up of three parts best fibrous peat, one part fibrous loam, and one part coarse sand. The addition of pounded bricks is helpful, and some pieces of charcoal are also beneficial. Thorough drainage is imperative. As you now have it in a tub it may be as well to leave it there, and in spring top-dress with the compost named above. Note, also, that the Lapageria must have shade during sunny weather.]

Seedling Zonal Pelargoniums

I have a lot of seedling Zonal Geraniums. The seed was sown last spring, but they have not bloomed yet. They are large and healthy plants, but have been crowded out and have run up tall and long-jointed. I have them now in pots in a cool house. Will you kindly tell me if they will be better there or in a cold frame? Shall I cut them down now or wait till early spring? Is it well to keep them quite dry? E. GROSE HODGE.

[The tips ought to have been pinched out when your plants had reached 5 inches in height, and the resulting side shoots likewise when about 3 inches to 4 inches long; bushy and stocky plants would then have been made. Your best procedure now is to cut the plants back to half their present height, keep them well up to the light in the cool house, and apply water very sparingly until the plants have broken and are growing freely again. Scarcely any water will be necessary for a time, but towards the end of January the plants may be lightly sprayed with tepid water once each day, providing the house in which they are growing does not fall below 50 degs.]

Solanum crispum Glasnevin Variety

Can you tell me in what way Solanum crispum Glasnevin Variety differs from, and is superior to, the type? This spring I saw some plants of the variety in pots and the blooms were paler in colour than in Solanum crispum. They may, however, have been grown under glass. B. C. THOMASSET.

Seend, Wilts.

[We have submitted this inquiry to Lady Moore, formerly of Glasnevin, who kindly replies:—

The late Dr. Moore, who died 1879, had Solanum crispum Glasnevin Variety at Glasnevin when Sir Frederick became Curator. Its origin is obscure. Its merits were always considered to be that it is a freer flowerer, a better colour (darker), and that it remains in bloom practically over the whole season. In most parts of Ireland it is hardy as a bush in the open. The plant is long-lived, the original one being still at Glasnevin. It is much darker in colour than the type, and Mr. Thomasset's plants must have been bleached under glass.]

FLOWER GARDEN

Removing the dead foliage from Hemerocallis flava

(C. Forth).—This may safely be removed at any time from the end of November to the

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end of March, but no harm will arise from allowing it to remain upon the plants a little later.

Cutting down "Sunshine" Lupins

When should "Sunshine" Lupins be cut down? I bought some 2-year-old plants last September and each had a good strong stem about 9 inches long left on. C. FORTH.

Cheshire.

[These should not be cut down until the last week in March, as they give a little protection to the crowns of the plants during the winter. This applies especially to plants which have been moved the previous autumn.]

FRUIT

Mildew on Vines

Would you kindly tell me, through the medium of your paper, the best course to adopt for mildew in Vines? It struck my Vines late in this past summer and affected the berries. If my vinery was clear of other plants I could use sulphur fumigating, but I cannot do that owing to having pot plants there. I wonder if there are other effective measures? CONSTANT READER.

[We see your difficulty in regard to fumigating with sulphur, but would it not be possible to remove the plants for a day or two while the Vines were at rest and then you could fumigate thoroughly and so destroy some, at least, of the mildew, and lessen the risk of an attack next season? If you cannot do this, the next best plan is to use dry flowers of sulphur, dusting the leaves liberally with this material. You can obtain from your seedsman a "Mysto" Powder Bellows with which to apply the fungicide. It is always advisable to apply the sulphur immediately the mildew is discovered.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Legal point

Eight weeks ago, while pulling on a rope attached to a wheelbarrow, I injured my right shoulder. This was done during working hours, and while doing work for the firm who own the nursery where I am employed. After the injury I worked two weeks, during which time I informed my employer, both agreeing that I should visit my doctor. For six weeks now I have been stood off work as a result of my injury. For five weeks I have been paid my usual wage, *i.e.*, 26s. 9d. (27s. 6d. minus 9d. insurance). For the sixth week I have been paid 19s. 2d. As it was an accident I do not receive National Health payment. So far I have paid my own expenses, including once to hospital for X-Ray and once up to London to see a surgeon at St. Thomas's Hospital. The doctors now decide that the injury is torn fibre of the capsule of the shoulder joint. From the previous week onward I have to attend hospital for electrical treatment. Railway fares alone were 7s. These I have paid myself. The point is this, can I claim my full wage, 27s. 6d., or must I accept only the workmen's accident benefits, 19s. 2d.? Also who is liable for the hospital fees, also expense incurred in attending same? Surely through an accident at work I am not expected to keep and clothe myself, pay my own travelling expenses, and also pay hospital fees on 19s. per week? R. S.

[You should see a solicitor at once and take the necessary steps to get an award and declaration of liability under the Workmen's Compensation Acts. That will cover all medical and other expenses.]

Books on the art of taking cuttings

(Tay).—"Plant Propagation" (Drury), 3s. 6d., obtainable from W. and G. Foyle, Ltd., 119, Charing Cross Road, London, and "The Propagation of Hardy Trees and Shrubs," by G. C. Taylor and E. P. Knight, 5s. 4d., obtainable from Messrs. Dulau and Co., Ltd., 32, Old Bond Street, London, W. 1. Either of these would help you.

Books on fruit and vegetable growing, and winter wash for destroying Woolly Aphis

(T. F. Crozier).—(1) "Handy Book of Hardy Fruits," 3 vols., each 7s. 6d., by E. A. Bunyard, or "Practical Fruit Growing," 10s. 6d., by Morton. (2) "The Vegetable Garden," 30s., by W. Robinson, or "Vegetables and Their Cultivation," 7s. 6d., by Sanders. Yes, Woolly Aphis and American Blight are synonymous. (3) The best winter wash for this destructive pest is made by dissolving 2 lbs. of caustic soda (98 per cent.) in 10 gallons of water. This should be applied with as much force as possible to the parts affected. In summer forcible spraying with paraffin emulsion is best. This should be mixed as follows: Paraffin (good burning oil), 2½ pints; soft-soap, ½ lb.; water, 10 gallons. Dissolve the soft-soap in boiling water and gradually add the paraffin, stirring the mixture meanwhile. Then churn it up by pumping it through a syringe for several minutes; add the rest of the water and stir before using. The affected parts of trees may also be painted with methylated spirit, which will kill all the Aphis with which it comes in contact. Although much is claimed for the preparation you mention we have no personal experience with it. The books are obtainable from W. and G. Foyle, Ltd., 119, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C. 2, and other booksellers.

NAMES OF PLANTS

H. G. S., Dorchester. — Sparmannia africana (African Hemp). The generic name is in honour of Dr. Andrew Sparmann (1748-1820), a Swede, who travelled in South Africa and afterwards accompanied Capt. Cook on his second voyage.

L. F. J.—The plant is an Aloe. It will thrive in an ordinary greenhouse, and cannot have too much light at any time. A suitable soil consists of open loam and peat, together with a small quantity of well-decomposed manure and old brick-rubble to ensure perfect drainage. Water, especially at this time of year, must be carefully administered. March is the best time to repot.

J. H. E., Tyrone.—1, Cotoneaster Simonsii; 2, Thuya gigantea; 3, Cornus alba; 4, Cedrus deodora.

W. H. M.—1, Gesneria Orange King; 2 is a hybrid of Anthurium Andreanum, and of white form; 3, Euphorbia splendens; 4, Nidularium fulgens.

ENQUIRIES

Phyllocactus Dr. Bois Duval

Miss Helen Enderby, "Nga-We," Shottermill, Haslemere, writes:—Can anyone tell me where I can purchase a plant of Phyllocactus Dr. Bois Duval, recently described in these pages? I should also be interested to know something of its origin.

Wanted Humogen

I would be much obliged if you could tell me where I can obtain a supply of bacterised Peat (Humogen).—A. WHITE, *The Moorings, Sunderland Point, near Lancaster.*

CATALOGUES RECEIVED

Ed. Webb and Sons, Ltd., Stourbridge.—Bulbs, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Tulips, Anemones, Freesias, Begonias, Crocuses, Lily of the Valley, Irises, Liliums, bulb bowls, Delphiniums, Clematis, Honeysuckle, Sweet Peas, Roses, Berries, Gladioli.

Geo. Jackman and Son, Woking.—Roses, hardy plants, alpine plants.

Laxton, Bros., Bedford.—Fruit trees and small fruits.

C. Gregory, Chilwell, Notts.—Roses, fruit trees, ornamental trees and shrubs.

E. W. Gurden and Sons, Headington Hill.—Hardy herbaceous plants.

Daffodil Irish Queen

The Daffodil sent to the Royal Horticultural Society's Trials by Mr. Watts under the name of "Mavourneen," and which received an Award of Merit this spring for garden decoration has now (since that name is pre-occupied) been named "Irish Queen."

END OF VOLUME XLIX.

Gardening ILLUSTRATED

FLOWERS · FRUIT · VEGETABLES · BEES · GARDEN DESIGN
TREES & SHRUBS · THIS WEEK'S WORK IN THE GARDEN

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DOWNER'S LUPINS Order now for autumn delivery.—DOWNER, 1, Drayton Manor Nurseries, Chichester.

ARTINDALE'S Illustrated Catalogue of Beautiful Hardy Flowers on application.—WM. ARTINDALE & SON, Nether Green, Sheffield.

NEW DAFFODILS.—If you are interested in my choice new varieties mentioned in this paper write to—W. A. WATTS, The Welsh Bulb Fields, St. Asaph.

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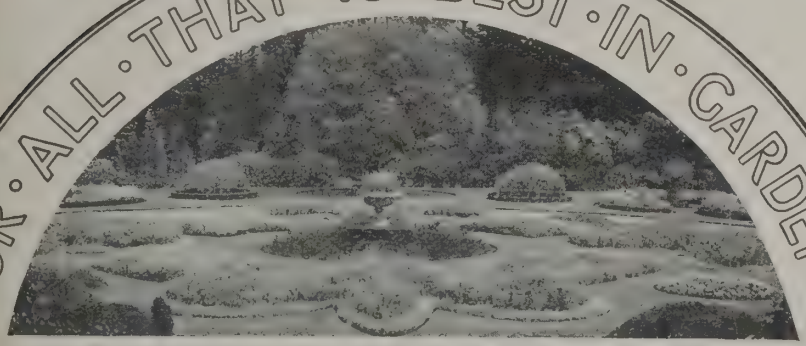

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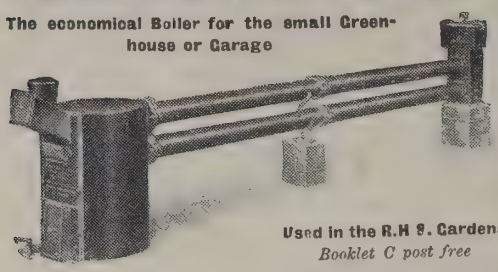

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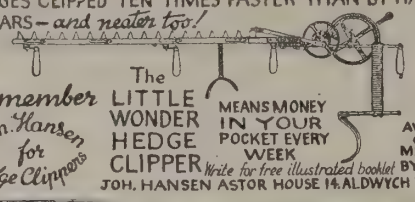

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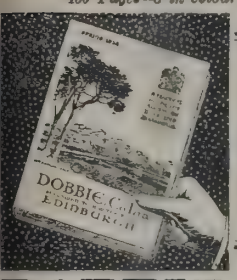

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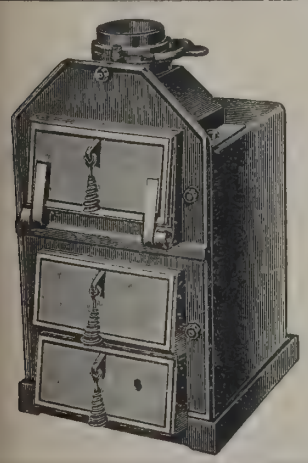
ROSES, BUSH in varieties such as **Betty Uprichard, Frau Karl Druschki, K. of K., Los Angeles, Ophelia, Padre, etc.** 10/- per dozen.
LOGANBERRIES, magnificent trees. 1/4 each; 12/- per dozen.
FRUIT TREES, etc., all in stock.

All orders under 20/- must include 1/- for part postage.
Ask for our magnificent and most complete book, "GLADIOLILAND," richly illustrated, full of advice.

MONTBRETIAS
in 10 named varieties, the most beautiful colours, 1,000 bulbs in 10 separate packets, 15/- per 1,000

PRINS
H. PRINS, F.R.H.S. (Dept. G.I.), WISBECH, CAMBS.
'Phone: 316 Wisbech. 'Grams: "Prins, Wisbech"

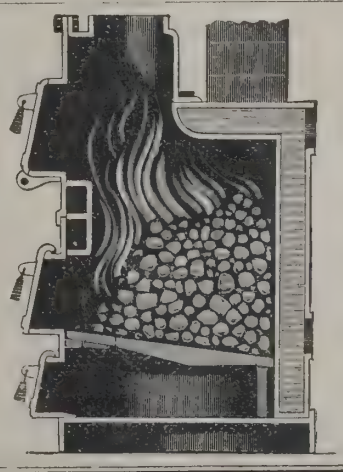


THE **GARAGE KOKE**
WROUGHT STEEL BOILER
IDEAL for
GREENHOUSE or GARAGE

Being rectangular it is specially adapted for building in wall. As it is Wrought Steel (not Cast Iron), there is no liability to crack through frost.

Dimensions: 25 ins. high, 14 ins. wide, 14 ins. front to back.

Particulars from all Heating Engineers, or:
T. BALMFORTH & Co., LTD., LUTON



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For all the **latest** and **most beautiful** :: varieties, see the Raiser's list ::

ERNEST BALLARD, Colwall, Malvern

GARDEN LOVERS

Write for Catalogues of
PROTHEROE & MORRIS'
• HORTICULTURAL SALES •
MONDAY · WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
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FRESH SEED

of MECONOPSIS BAILEYI, PRIMULA FLORINDÆ, LILIUMS, and other Choice Plants.

Catalogue free on request.

OLIVER & HUNTER,
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We send you

50 DAHLIAS, mixed
50 BEGONIAS, „
50 GLADIOLUS „
50 „ (Primulinus) mixed
100 MONTBRETIAS, mixed
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Packing free and carriage paid for £1

Messrs.

A P. VAN KESTEREN & SONS
Bulb Growers, **LISSE, HOLLAND**

BASKETS & HAMPERS
Wicker Chairs and Tables

Write for Catalogue to—
Orsett Basket Works,
ORSETT, GRAYS, ESSEX

Largest Manufacturers of Flower Pots in the World

By Appointment

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST

SPECIAL POTS
for Roses, Vines, Clematis, Orchids, and Chrysanthemums.

Fancy Fern Pans
Bulb Bowls
from 4d. each.

No Waiting!
All orders executed the same day as received.

State quantity of each size required, and have Carriage Paid quotation, or write for Illustrated Price List.

Richard Sankey & Son, Ltd.
Royal Potteries
BULWELL, NOTTINGHAM

FOGWILLS GREAT ONION-GROWING COMPETITION

The following Prizes are offered for the HEAVIEST and BEST-SHAPED TWO ONIONS grown from FOGWILLS GUILDFORD CHAMPION ONION SEED, supplied during 1928. The price of the Onion Seed is 2/- per packet, post free

1st Prize - £4 and Gold Medal. 2nd Prize - £2 and Silver Medal
3rd Prize - £1 and Bronze Medal

For full particulars see our 1928 Catalogue of 'Best-Result' Seeds post free on request.

The winners of the 1927 Competition were:

1. **Mrs. FARNHAM, Wormley, Godalming**
2. **Mr. T. C. SADLER, Willinghurst, Shamley Green**
3. **Mr. A. J. BUCK, Lypiatt Park Gardens, Stroud**

FOGWILLS SEED HOUSE Established over 70 years **GUILDFORD**

Gold Medal ROSES

THE CHILWELL COLLECTION

Blossom	Lady Inchiquin
Betty Uprichard	Lord Lambourne
Clarice Goodacre	Los Angeles
Col. O Fitzgerald	Louise Criner
Doris Traylor	Mabel Morse
Emma Wright	Madame Butterfly
F L. Izzard	Mrs. H. Bowles
General McArthur	Mrs. H. Morse.
Golden Emblem	Mrs. H. Balfour
Hortulanus Budde	Queen Alexandra
Independence Day	Shot Silk
John Henry	W. F. Dreer

Any 6 of the above for **7/6**; 12 for **14/-**; or 24 for **27/-**
Packing and Carriage Paid for C.W.O.

FRUIT TREES

Well grown and shaped clean trees, that will bear fruit immediately.

Allington Pippin	James Grieve
Bramley's Seedling	Lane's Prince Albert
Barnack Beauty	New N. Greening
Cox's Orange Pippin	Newton Wonder
Encore	Pott's Seedling
Ellison's Orange	Worcester Pearmain

Any of the above for **3/6** each; 3 for **10/-**; 6 for **20/-**; or the 12 for **39/-**
Packing Free and Carriage Paid for C.W.O.

Full Descriptive List on Application.

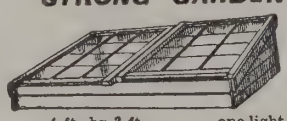
C. GREGORY, BRANCH NURSERY, STAPLEFORD
Old Close Nurseries, CHILWELL, NOTTS.

VAPORITE

KILLS INSECTS IN THE SOIL.
Of all Seedsmen.
STRAWSON CHEMICAL CO., LTD. 79, Queen Victoria St. London, E.C.

EDGELL'S of RADSTOCK Near BATH

STRONG GARDEN FRAMES



Selected well seasoned tongued and grooved Red Deal. Glazed with best 21 oz. glass.

4 ft. by 3 ft.	one light	£1 16 0
6 ft. by 4 ft.	„ „	£2 15 0
6 ft. by 4 ft.	two light	£3 10 0
8 ft. by 6 ft.	„ „	£5 5 6

Other sizes at proportionate prices.
Smaller make of ⅞ in. "Interlock" Weatherboard.

3 ft. by 2 ft.	£1 2 0
4 ft. by 2 ft.	£1 7 0

EDGELL'S GREENHOUSES

Strongly made in sections, roof included, and erected before dispatch, with bolts for bolting together.
Staging, also 21 oz. English made glass cut to sizes included,

9 ft. by 6 ft.,	£15 6 0
10 ft. by 7 ft.,	£17 9 6
12 ft. by 8 ft.,	£19 19 0

carr. paid.

Made by Skilled Workmen. **Tenant's Fixture**

For Cheaper Houses see List.

EDGELL'S Buildings have proved by test to be the best
Send for our New Catalogue of Portable Buildings of every description, post free

Established in Radstock 35 years
W. & A. EDGELL, Ltd., 17, Radstock, near Bath

PEARSON'S RELIABLE SEEDS

Our Seed Catalogue is now ready. It contains very select lists of vegetable and flower seeds, *at strictly moderate prices.* Sent free to anyone mentioning this paper.

J. R. PEARSON & SONS
LIMITED.
LOWDHAM, NOTTS.
Estab. 1782

F. A. SECRETT

of

MARSH FARM, TWICKENHAM

begs to announce that during the Season of 1928 he will be prepared to distribute to a limited extent some of his new varieties of Narcissi, which will include :—

PAPYRUS

Award of Merit, R.H.S., 1926. A fine late Poeticus, with circular perianth of pure white and well-coloured eye. Petals have a texture resembling parchment.

MAYFLOWER

Award of Merit, R.H.S., 1927, for show purposes. A great improvement on "Firetail." Has a large, solid milk-white perianth with overlapping segments. The crown is large, with an intense scarlet rim, shading to orange.

WIDE WING

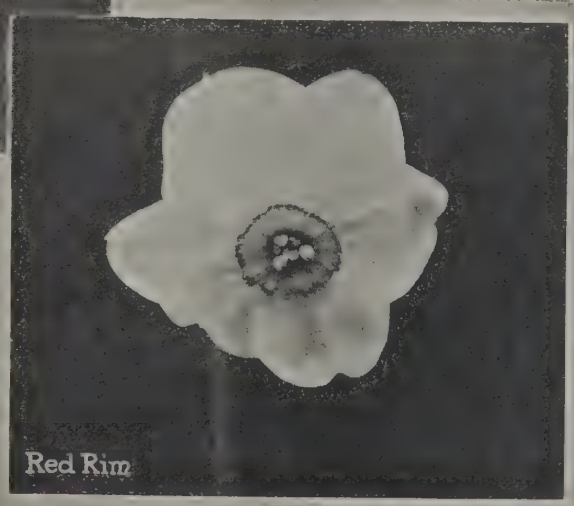
Award of Merit, R.H.S., 1925. The perianth of this Poeticus variety is paper white, and the pale yellow corona has a narrow but well-defined margin of orange-scarlet. It is a splendid forcer.

ENGLEHEART'S CARNATION

Perfection of form and its light primrose colour has given this flower a Carnation-like appearance, which is unique.

RED RIM

First Class Certificate, R.H.S., 1926. A splendid Poeticus variety. Has a pure white perianth of good round shape and a broad, flat corona with a definite bright red rim shading away to green and yellow. It forces well.



He will also offer a few Unnamed Seedlings, in the Poeticus and Barrii Classes, which were exhibited at Vincent Square this last season.

An opportunity of viewing these flowers on the Farm should not be missed by *bona fide* buyers.

F. A. SECRETT, MARSH FARM, TWICKENHAM, MIDDX.

SEEDSMEN TO H.M. THE KING

20 GOLD MEDALS, 7 SILVER CUPS, and 11 SILVER-GILT MEDALS to Carters Vegetables and Flowers during 1927.

QUALITY & CONFIDENCE

Everything associated with the soil, including the human element, is of necessity conservative.

The minimum unit of time, where the soil is concerned, is at least a year, and often several years, covering a rotation of crops.

As a Seed House, we are now approaching our centenary, and in the long stretch of years since James Carter & Co. first offered Seeds to the public, down to the present day, we have consistently been improving the QUALITY of our Seeds and consistently winning the CONFIDENCE of our clients.

CONFIDENCE in the Seed Trade is a vital factor. If one purchases any ordinary commodity, they may suffer a temporary disappointment, but if one purchases garden seeds which do not come up to expectations, then the disappointment lasts through an entire season.

To find a parallel for the past disagreeable and sunless season, we have to hark back to the year 1879.

Our records show that in that year we made a very special effort to harvest seeds of the highest QUALITY. We have done the same in the past season, and as a result, can promise our clients with every CONFIDENCE, seeds of the highest possible QUALITY.

Write for Illustrated CATALOGUE "Garden and Lawn," TO-DAY post free.

Carters TESTED SEEDS

Seedsmen to H.M. the King

RAYNES PARK, LONDON, S.W.20

TOOGOOD'S SEEDS

have an unrivalled reputation for quality extending over 100 years

They are

The Best that Grow

The 1928 Edition of our profusely Illustrated

CATALOGUE

OF

New and Best Flavoured VEGETABLES

The Most Beautiful FLOWERS

AND

Everything for the Garden

is Gratis and Post Free to applicants.

WRITE FOR YOUR COPY NOW

TOOGOOD & SONS, Ltd.

SOUTHAMPTON.

Seedsmen to H.M. the King. and Growers of "Better Crop" Seed only

Established 113 years.

ROSES

Before ordering see our Illustrated Catalogue, post free, containing "The Old Rose Garden" collection 12 British grown plants on Briar, 12/6 carriage paid.

Benjamin R. Cant & Sons, Ltd.,

The Old Rose Gardens,

Established 1763. COLCHESTER

BLACKMORE & LANGDON'S

SOW NOW to Bloom in July and August

NOVELTY BEGONIA "Fascination"

A delightful frilled single Picotee, with ground colour of yellow or white, brightly edged with crimson or pink. Most striking! Seeds, 2/6 per packet.

Other World Renowned BEGONIA SEEDS (Over 100 Gold Medals)

DOUBLE

None can equal this for quality, size, and lovely form and colours of flowers .. .. per packet 2/6 & 5/-

FIMBRIATA PLENA

Double frilled, very pretty .. .. 2/6 & 5/-

SINGLE

Of wonderful size and form .. .. 1/-, 2/6 & 5/-

FRILLED SINGLE

A beautiful selection .. .. .. 1/-, 2/6 & 5/-

CRESTED SINGLE

Very fascinating .. .. 1/-, 2/6 & 5/-

HANGING BASKET

A grand novelty, very graceful .. 1/6, 2/6 & 5/-

GLOXINIA

Seed, mixed in most beautiful selection of colour .. .. 1/6, 2/6 & 5/-

For Prices of Tubers of above and other Specialities, write for Illustrated Catalogue and mention this paper.

BATH

What are the MOST POPULAR ROSES?

My catalogue list of **Roses** is compiled in my **clients' order of preference.** The first 25 names in order of **popularity** are as follows:—

1st. Mme. Butterfly
2nd. Betty Uprichard
3rd. Gen McArthur
4th. Christine
5th. Los Angeles
6th. Emma Wright
7th. Mrs. H. Morse
8th. Etoile de Holland
9th. Hadley
10th. Rev. F. Page-Roberts
11th. Ophelia
12th Lady Pirrie
13th. Covent Garden
14th. Mme. Abel Chatenay
15th. Henrietta
16th. Golden Emblem
17th. Mrs. H. Bowles
18th Mme. E. Herriot
19th. Sovereign
20th. Hugh Dickson
21st. The Queen Alexandra
22nd. Independence Day
23rd. Lady Hillingdon
24th. Frau Karl Druschki
25th. Miss C. E. van Rossen

The above popular collection is offered for 33/-.

Packing and carriage free. Cash with order only.

For other moderate price collections see "MY FAVOURITE ROSES AND WHY," by R. Murrell. The most universally read catalogue. Post free on application to:—

ROSE ACRE ROSE NURSERIES

SHEPPERTON-ON-THAMES

In times of stress

or anxiety, when nerves are on edge, there is no more soothing or calming influence than that exerted by good tobacco. Nor is there any better tobacco for the purpose than—

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT

WHITE LABEL 11D. Per Oz.

MILD & MEDIUM STRENGTHS 1/0½ Per Oz.

NCT226

Merit in Horticulture

It would be difficult to eclipse the list of Awards of Merit, Certificates, Diplomas, and Medals awarded to

KELWAY & SON

The Royal Nurseries, LANGPORT

for Hardy Plants and Gladioli. The firm commenced to produce and exhibit novelties early in the '60's. From 1871 to the present the Awards of Merit for Gladioli, Pæonies, Delphiniums, Pyrethrums, Lupines, Gaillardias, etc., run into hundreds, and the Medals and Diplomas total 400, all direct awards to KELWAY & SON, the actual raisers, growers, and distributors of the plants shown by them.

Estd. *1851*

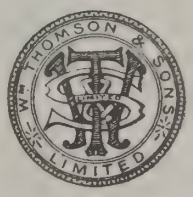
PRICE LISTS ON DEMAND

Indispensable in the Garden

THOMSON'S MANURES

On the market for over 50 years, they still hold first place for QUALITY and RESULTS. They are safe, sure, and lasting. The direct result of many years' practical experience in gardening, they stand unrivalled at the present day for all Garden Crops.

WRITE FOR OUR BOOKLET—POST FREE ON REQUEST



Prices — **VINE, PLANT, AND VEGETABLE MANURE**—a Perfect Food—1 cwt., **30/-**; 56 lb., **16/-**; 28 lb., **9/-**; 14 lb., **5/-**; 7 lb., **3/-**; tins, **1/3** and **9d.** **SPECIAL TOP DRESSING MANURE**—an excellent stimulant—56 lb., **17/-**; 28 lb., **9/6**; 14 lb., **5/6**; 7 lb., **3/-**; tins, **1/3.** **Carriage paid on 28 lb.** and up.

SOLD BY NURSERYMEN & SEEDSMEN EVERYWHERE

Or from Sole Makers, WM. THOMSON & SONS, LTD., TWEED VINEYARDS, CLOVENFORDS, SCOTLAND.

SITUATIONS VACANT & WANTED

Advertisements are accepted in this section on the following terms:—

2/6 for 3 lines (7 words per line), and 6d. for each succeeding line.

Three insertions for the price of two.

Cash must accompany order.

"I had two offers from very good places in answer to my advertisement in 'Gardening Illustrated.' I have taken your paper for twenty years but was not aware what a successful medium it was for situations until now."—A. S. P. (Chelmsford).

"It has been my good fortune (as the result of my recent advertisement in 'Gardening Illustrated') to have offered to me the post of Head Gardener and General Outdoor Manager of the —— Gardens."—E. S. (Huntingdon).

TO SECURE

The Position for the Gardener

or

The Gardener for the Position

Use the pages of

"GARDENING ILLUSTRATED"

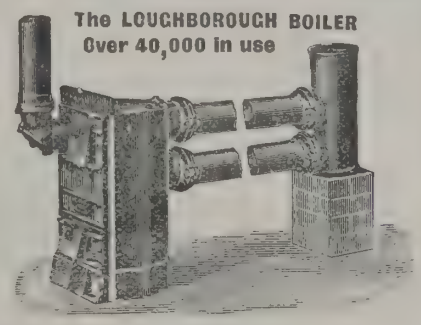
HORTICULTURAL GLASS

Glass cut to any size. Write for prices. *Mention Paper.* All Glass is sent from my warehouse carefully examined as to soundness and quality before dispatch.

J. B. ROBINSON, Glass and Builders' Merchants, 31, MOOR LANE, CRIPPLEGATE, E.C.

36 Years' Advertiser in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED.

The LOUGHBOROUGH BOILER
Over 40,000 in use

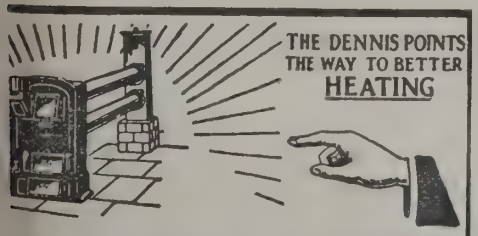


The high reputation of this Boiler for efficiency and economy is still unrivalled.

Easy to fix, easy to manage, and most economical in fuel, it is the ideal Boiler for the Amateur's Greenhouse.

For reduced prices of Boiler and Complete Apparatus see New List (L.B. 27) free on application.

MESSENGER & CO., LTD.,
LOUGHBOROUGH, Leicestershire
London Office: 122, Victoria Street, S.W.1



FOR GREENHOUSE GARAGE OR WORKSHOP.
ILLUSTRATED LISTS POST FREE.

THOS. W. ROBINSON, L^TD
DENNIS PIPE WORKS,
STOURBRIDGE.

SALE

Secure NEW YEAR GIFTS now at Reduced Prices

SALE

Select from the following Exceptionally Low Priced Offers for Immediate Despatch

1927 BARGAIN LIST SENT FREE

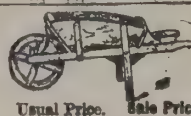
ROUND TOP RUSTIC ARCHES.

No. 1. Special Offer 5,000 superior make Round Top Rustic Arches, made in two sections to bolt together at top, bottoms of posts tarred. Height 8 feet.

	Usual Price	Sale Price
3′ 6″ path	10/6	9/6
4′ ,, ...	13/6	12/-
4′ 6″ ,, ...	17/6	16/-
5′ ,, ...	22/6	20/-
5′ 6″ ,, ...	26/6	24/-
6′ ,, ...	33/6	30/-

GARDEN BARROWS.

Strong Oak or Ash Frame, planed elm body. Size, 2 ft. 9 in. at top, 2 ft. wide, 1 ft. 2 in. deep. Reliable 18-in. wood wheel, ¼ in. iron tyre.



	Usual Price.	Sale Price.
250 only, to clear...	23/6	20/-
50 only, to clear...	28/6	25/-
Tops for either of above	7/6	6/6

GARDEN FLOWER BOXES.

Very useful for plants, shrubs, etc. Strongly made. Treated inside and out with stop-rot, nut-brown colour.

	Usual Price.	Sale Price.
12″ square ...	4/9	4/3
15″ ,, ...	5/6	5/-
18″ ,, ...	6/6	5/6
21″ ,, ...	8/6	7/-
24″ ,, ...	10/6	9/-

HEAVY MAKE RUSTIC ARCHES

Height 8 feet.

	Usual Price	Sale Price.
4′ path	5/9	5/-
4′ 6″ path	8/9	7/9
5′ path	11/6	10/-

GARDEN LIGHTS.

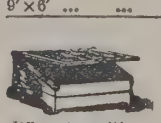
		Usual Price.	Sale Price.
Unglazed.	3′×2′ ...	3/9	3/-
,,	4′×3′ ...	4/9	4/-
,,	5′×3′ 6″ ...	6/9	6/-
,,	6′×4′ ...	7/9	6/6
Glazed & painted	3′×2′ ...	7/6	5/6
,,	4′×3′ ...	9/6	8/-
,,	5′×3′ 6″ ...	13/6	12/-
,,	6′×4′ ...	15/6	14/-

RUSTIC SUMMER HOUSE. No. 18.

This House is very roomy and attractive in appearance. All Rustic material is peeled. Back fitted with hollow bottom seat. All stained inside and out. Supplied from stock in following sizes:

	Usual Price	Sale Price.
5′×3′ 6″	£5 10 0	£5 0 0
6′×4′	£6 10 0	£5 15 0
7′×5′	£9 0 0	£8 0 0
8′×5′	£11 10 0	£9 10 0
9′×6′	£14 0 0	£12 0 0

SEED FRAMES.



These Frames are very useful for preserving seeds and bulbs against frost; are made of tongued and grooved boards and very warm. The light is hung at back, and can be opened to different positions. Glazed 21-oz. glass. Two coats paint. 3 ft. long, 2 ft. wide. 150 to clear. Usual Price, 13/6. **Sale Price, 10/-.**

RUSTIC GARDEN SEATS.

Well made from selected material.

	Usual Price.	Sale Price.
(Bark on). In natural wood.		
4′ long ...	9/6	9/-
5′ ,, ...	14/6	13/6
6′ ,, ...	18/6	17/6
Bark off, stained, and varnished.		
4′ long ...	14/6	13/6
5′ ,, ...	18/6	17/6
6′ ,, ...	24/-	22/6

RUSTIC ARMCHAIRS to match.

Bark on. Usual Price, 8/6 **Sale Price, 6/6**

Bark off, stained and varnished.

Usual Price, 10/6. **Sale Price, 9/6**

CHEAP SPAN ROOF SHED NO. 27.

Specifications as No. 7, but with ¾-in. floor and single door. Fitted lock and key.

Size	Usual Price	Sale Price
5′×3′ 6″	£3 18 0	£3 10 6
6′×4′	£4 5 0	£3 16 6
7′×5′	£5 10 0	£4 18 6
8′×6′	£6 2 6	£5 10 0
10′×7′	£9 5 0	£8 7 6
12′×8′	£12 5 0	£11 1 6

SPAN ROOF GROWING OR FORCING HOUSE.

This is a cheap form of Growing House. It is well made in sections, good tongued and grooved boards on base, flat lattice staging on each side of doorway, good lock and key for door, all necessary iron work for Ventilators, with glass 21 oz. for glazing. The woodwork is painted one good coat, plainly marked for re-erection.

Size	Height	Usual Price	Sale Price
7′× 5′	7′	£5 16 6	£5 5 0
8′× 5′	7′	£6 12 6	£5 17 0
9′× 6′	7′	£7 18 0	£7 0 0
10′× 7′	7′ 6″	£8 10 0	£7 10 0
12′× 8′	8′	£10 12 0	£9 10 0
15′× 9′	8′	£16 0 0	£14 0 0
20′×10′	9′	£19 0 0	£17 0 0
25′×10′	9′	£23 4 6	£20 10 0
50′×10′	9′	£44 10 0	£39 10 0

BANK POULTRY HOUSE.

500 in stock ready for immediate dispatch. Made in complete sections, constructed of strong framing, covered planed, tongued and grooved boards. Up and down sliding shutter as shown, hen exit at side.

Size	Height	Usual Price	Sale Price
5′×3′	4′	£1 8 6	£1 5 0
6′×4′	4′	£1 14 0	£1 10 0
7′×5′	4′ 6″	£2 16 0	£2 10 0
8′×6′	5′	£3 16 0	£3 8 0

Floors, usually 7/6, 9/-, 14/- and 18/6. **Sale Price 6/6, 8/-, 12/- and 15/-.**

RUSTIC FENCING. Special Offer of 800 Panels of Rustic Fencing, complete with posts. Must be cleared—room wanted.

REDUCED PRICES

Panels	Length.	Height	Price per Panel.	Gates to match, 3 ft. wide, complete with fittings
210 ...	8 ft. ...	2 ft ...	5/6 ...	9/6
150 ...	8 ft. ...	3 ft. ...	9/6 ..	12/6
180 ...	8 ft. ...	4 ft. ...	14/- ...	16/-
100 ...	8 ft. ...	5 ft. ...	19/6 ...	20/-.
160 ...	8 ft. ...	6 ft. ...	24/6 ...	25/-

We strongly advise you to order this line early as same cannot be repeated when stock is cleared.

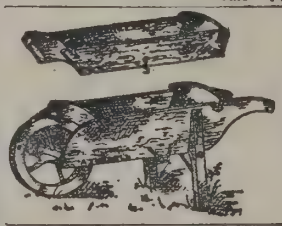
SPECIAL OFFER 21 OZ. GLASS:

	Usual Price 100 sq. ft.	Sale Price	Usual Price 200 sq. ft.	Sale Price
9″×7″	15/3	13/9	26/-	23/3
10″, 12″×8″	15/3	13/9	26/-	23/3
14″×9″	15/9	14/3	26/6	23/9
12″, 14″×10″	16/3	14/9	28/6	24/6
14″, 16″, 18″, 20″, 22″, 24″×12″	20/9	18/9	37/6	33/9
16″, 18″, 20″, 22″ and 24″×14″ ...	21/9	19/9	39/6	35/3
18″, 20″, 22″, 24″×16″	22/3	20/-	40/6	36/6
20″, 22″, and 24″×18″	23/3	20/9	41/-	37/-

LINSEED OIL PUTTY.

1cwt., ½cwt. and ¼cwt. Usual prices	19/-,	10/6,	5/6
Sale Prices	17/-,	9/6,	5/-

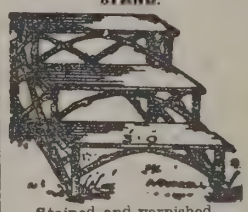
GARDEN BARROWS. WITH TOP.



Made from best 1″ Elm, with Oak legs and wheel. Well braced up as illustration.

Usual price ... £2 0 0
Top plus 10/-
Sale Price ... £1 7 6
Top plus 6/6

RUSTIC FLOWER STAND.



Stained and varnished.
5′ long. Usual Price, 17/6 **Sale Price 12/6**
4′ long. Usual Price 21/6 **Sale Price 15/6**

RUSTIC TABLE.

Made from best Rustic Hardwood, Bark off. Stained and varnished.
2′ square. Usual Price, 14/6 **Sale Price. 12/6**
3′×2′. Usual Price, 18/6 **Sale Price, 16/-**

AMATEUR SPAN-ROOF GREENHOUSE.

These Greenhouses are made specially for Amateurs, at nominal figure, thereby coming within the reach of those who require a strong but not expensive structure. Can be erected by any handy man in a few hours. The framework is substantially constructed of Red Deal, the lower part being filled in with good, sound tongued and grooved match-boarding, painted one coat of good oil colour. Supplied with all necessary ironwork and stages for each side of house. Complete with 21-oz. glass for glazing.

Size	Usual Price	Sale Price	Size	Usual Price	Sale Price
7′×5′	£6 6 0	£5 5 0	15′× 9′	£17 2 0	£14 5 0
8′×5′	£7 2 6	£5 15 0	20′×10′	£24 14 0	£19 10 0
9′×6′	£8 4 0	£7 5 0	25′×10′	£30 12 6	£25 0 0
10′×7′	£9 18 0	£8 15 0	30′×12′	£39 9 0	£36 0 0
12′×8′	£12 17 0	£10 17 6			

GARDEN FRAMES

Made of best 1-in. tongued and grooved boards, have necessary parting pieces and runners for Lights, which are 2 in. by 2 in. and fitted with iron handle. Glazed with 21-oz. Glass and all woodwork painted two coats

	Usual Price.	Sale Price.
4′×3′	£1 5 6	£1 2 9
6′×4′	£1 17 6	£1 14 3
6′×4′, 2 Lights	£2 6 6	£2 2 0
8′×6′, 2 ,, ...	£3 7 6	£3 1 0
12′×6′, 3 ,, ...	£5 0 0	£4 10 0
16′×6′, 4 ,, ...	£6 6 0	£5 13 6
20′×6′, 5 ,, ...	£7 10 0	£6 15 0
24′×6′, 6 ,, ...	£9 2 6	£8 3 6

Do not pay high prices for your frames made from 1¼ in. boards. We can supply at the following low prices. Frames made of 1¼ in. tongued and grooved best quality boards, complete as above.

	Usual Price.	Sale Price
4′×3′	£1 10 0	£1 7 0
6′×4′	£2 2 0	£1 18 0
6′×4′, 2 Lights	£2 14 0	£2 9 0
8′×6′, 2 ,, ...	£4 7 6	£3 18 6
12′×6′, 3 ,, ...	£5 10 0	£4 19 0
16′×6′, 4 ,, ...	£7 5 0	£6 10 6
20′×6′, 5 ,, ...	£8 8 0	£7 11 0
24′×6′, 6 ,, ...	£10 2 6	£9 2 6

Compare these prices with other makers.

No. 7 PORTABLE MOTOR HOUSE.

Constructed of strong framing covered with ⅝-in. tongued and grooved boards, roof boarded and felted, 1-in. boards for floor and strong joists. Windows fixed, glazed 21-oz. glass, doors hung on strong butts and fitted Tower bolts and lock and key.

	Height	Usual Price.	Sale Price.
8′× 6′	7′ 6″	£6 5 0	£5 15 0
9′× 7′	8′	£8 17 6	£7 17 6
10′× 7′	8′ 4″	£11 5 0	£10 0 0
12′× 8′	8′ 4″	£14 0 0	£12 0 0
14′× 8′	8′ 7″	£16 10 0	£14 0 0
15′× 8′	8′ 7″	£18 5 0	£15 5 0
16′× 9′	8′ 9″	£20 12 6	£18 10 0
18′× 9′	8′ 9″	£22 15 0	£20 10 0
20′×10′	9′	£26 10 0	£24 0 0
20′×12′	9′ 4″	£31 5 0	£28 0 0
24′×12′	9′ 4″	£35 5 0	£32 0 0

RUSTIC POLES.

Suitable for Pergolas, Fencing, Tree Stakes, Etc.

Size	Usual Price Per doz.	Sale Price Per doz.	Size	Usual Price Per doz.	Sale Price Per doz.
7′×2″	5/-	4/6	12′×3″	16/6	14/9
7′×2½″	6/-	5/3	8′×4″	14/6	12/9
8′×2½″	8/-	7/3	9′×4″	16/6	14/9
8′×3″	9/6	7/6	10′×4″	18/6	16/6
9′×2½″	9/6	7/6	8′×5″	20/-	18/-
9′×3″	11/6	10/3	9′×5″	24/-	21/9
10′×2½″	10/6	9/6	10′×5″	26/-	23/6
10′×3″	13/6	12/-	12′×5″	28/6	26/-
12′×2½″	12/-	10/9	14′×5″	30/-	27/6

GARDEN EDGING.

Plain. Usual price 5/- per 100 ft. **Sale Price 4/6 per 100 ft.**
Treated. Usual price 6/- per 100 ft. **Sale price 5/6 per 100 ft.**

VILLA RUSTIC SHELTER

A very attractive and useful House. Constructed from planed, tongued and grooved boards and substantial framing. Roof covered best quality Bitumen Felt, making same quite waterproof. All Rustic work of well-seasoned material. Removable Seat at back. The whole stained and varnished inside and out. Made in sections for easy transit and erection.

	Usual Prices	Sale Prices
6′×4′	£4 5 0	£3 10 0
7′×4′ 6″	£6 10 0	£5 0 0

A. TURRELL & SONS (Dept. G.I.), FOREST HILL, S.E.23

(2 Minutes Forest Hill Station, L.B. & S.C. Railway)

Phone : Syd. 1268. SHOWYARD OVER QUARTER MILE LONG. Established 75 years.

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